

# TREDEGAR TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Civic Meeting of Council held in the Council Chamber,  
Bedwellty House on Wednesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> April, 2019 at 6.00 p.m.**

**Present: Councillors H. Trollope (Chair)**

**E. Jones  
T. Smith  
A.E. Tippings  
M. Cross  
D.W.A. Howells  
G. James  
D. Jones  
K. Phillips  
P. Prosser  
D. Rowberry  
J. Thomas  
S. Trollope  
M. Turner  
B. Willis  
I. Woods**

**In Attendance: Town Clerk – Ms. C. Price**

**391) Apologies: Councillors A. Jones and S. Rees**

**392) Declarations of Interest**

The Chair reminded Members to make their declarations as and when necessary.

**393) To receive Mayor's report, as appropriate**

- The Chair had been pleased to attend the Hywel Francis book launch, which had been a lovely night, with people outside of Blaenau Gwent (e.g. Newport, Merthyr) attending, putting Blaenau Gwent on the map. He extended thanks to Councillor A.E. Tippings in facilitating the event and promoting Bedwellty House and Park.
- The Chair extended thanks for funding raised via the Aneurin Bevan pictures; he had attended the opening of Ebbw Fach Community Group (paintings etc.) on Friday, and had been more than privileged; it was a brilliant event and the ukulele group had given a very good performance.
- He had attended one of the Mayoral highlights of the year on Saturday - forty years of the Blaenau Gwent Otters; he had offered a donation not to have to do the dance, "Sex Bomb", but this had been rejected! Forty years of this Club was unbelievable, and he

had been delighted by the enthusiasm of the adults, who had completely enjoyed themselves. Agreed: letter of congratulations to be sent.

The Leader echoed comments, thanking Councillor Tippings for making the Book Launch possible; however, he noted it was ironic that the Town Mayor of Tredegar had to attend events, as the Local Authority no longer had a Civic figurehead. He therefore believed it should be highlighted that residents wanted to see a Champion representing Blaenau Gwent.

Members who attended the Blaenau Gwent Otters sincerely supported the comments made in respect of the event.

### **394) Grants:**

#### **a) To receive and consider grants to Sporting and Cultural organisations**

Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod – Request for funding towards the cost of the annual musical event being held the first week of July.

**2012/13 Nov'12 CQ No. 503 £50.00: Approved. (To be noted in Mayor's diary)**

Tredegar Angling Club – Request towards the costs with improving pathway and more trees to encourage wildlife.

**2018/19 Sept'18 CQ No. 949 £200.00: Approved.**

Tredegar Horse Show – Request towards the running costs of their annual event held at Tredegar Recreation Ground.

**2018/19 April'18 CQ No. 849 £200.00: Approved.**

Vale View Allotments – Request towards the costs of securing and strengthening the back entrance gate and fencing.

**2018/19 Sept'18 CQ No. 952 £200.00: Approved.**

**b) To receive and consider grants to Churches & Chapels (s.137) - Grants as of 1.4.17 now max £300.00 (before awarding a grant Council must be satisfied the grant is being given for non-religious purposes with the building being for community use) - None Received.**

### **395) Correspondence**

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| 1) BGCBC | a) Organising an event: Advice for event organisers.<br>Tuesday, 14 <sup>th</sup> May, 2019 at 6.30 p.m. South Wales Ambulance Service, Ty Coch Way, Cwmbran.<br><br>- Noted; forward to Councillor M. Turner. |
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*Councillors T. Smith and B. Willis declared an interest in the following item and took no part in discussion or voting thereon.*

- b) List of General Licences Applications week ending 22.03.2019.
- 1) Tredegar Orpheus – Variation of a Designated Premises Supervisor.
  - 2) L.J. Andrews – New Personal Licence.
- Noted.

2) One Voice Wales                      Consultation: Consideration of proposals to amend the Public Audit (Wales) Act 2013. Consultation closes 03.05.2019.

- Noted.

3) Institute of Welsh Affairs                      E. Shepley Re: Your Council's contribution to Understanding Welsh Places. Requesting information to be used as part of their new website.

- Noted; forward to Councillor A.E. Tippings.

4) Abertillery & Llanhilleth Community Council                      JCLC meetings:  
i) Quarterly meetings in the future; next meeting Wednesday, 17<sup>th</sup> April, 2019 at 11.00 a.m. Council Chamber, Brynmawr Town Council, please urge representatives to attend.  
ii) Copy of email from BGCBC Andrew Parker to say a Clerks' meeting will be held 16.04.2019 followed by two workshops in May.

- Noted; forwarded to appropriate TTC representatives.

Councillor M. Cross arrived at this juncture (6.16 p.m.)

5) Cllr T. Smith                      Miners' Memorial update.

- The information provided had been very clear and informative, this had subsequently been placed in a statement on TTC Facebook page. A meeting had been held Friday with the THI, whereupon it had been made clear to Mr. Sullivan the direction of TTC, i.e. that Council would support the provision of a plaque, but no intention of looking at memorial gates.

Members were aware of comments made on Facebook, and Councillors H. Trollope, T. Smith and K. Phillips had been in attendance at the meeting.

6) Martin Jenkins

Re: Bedwellty Park Bowling Green and Tennis & Bowling Pavilion – objection to the planned asset transfer.

- The Chair said that County Borough Councillors had received a list of all community asset transfers, as elected Members, which had been implemented on 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2019. Therefore, any decision was out of the control of TTC and completed through appropriate procedures. He therefore envisaged that Mr. Jenkins' views were put forward at that time. He was aware that the control of these grounds had been allowed under a licence and still remained in the ownership of 'Tredegar'.

A Member said that unfortunately it appeared that the decision had been made and was being dealt with through the Local Authority; it was therefore deemed that the TTC would not be able to support objections following a decision being reached.

Another Member highlighted that the gentleman had wanted it noted that he had objected to this transfer and the reasons why.

It was agreed that Council re-agenda the matter for the Ordinary Meeting of Council on 17<sup>th</sup> April, 2019.

7) D. Hughes

Quote for the fitting of a safety brake on the public conveniences roller door.

- Members believed Abletouch had undertaken the initial installation and enquired why this safety brake had not been fitted at the time.

8) Planning Aid Wales

Planning Training for Town Councillors, Tuesday, 9<sup>th</sup> April, 2019 at Llangynidr Village Hall from 6.30 p.m. to 9.00 p.m.

- Noted; forward to TTC Planning representatives.

9) E. Cooper

Poster for Mayor's Appeal Concert 27.04.2019 – ***added to website/noticeboard***

- Noted.

## 10) PUBLICATIONS

BGCBC Roadworks report week ending 29.03.2019 & 04.04.2019;  
Communicorp Local Councils Update Issue 227 April 2019.

- ***distributed to Members***: Received.

## 11) AGENDA

None received.

*Councillor B. Willis declared an interest in the following item and took no part in discussion or voting thereon*

### 396) Planning:

a) **To consider an Officer's Report (if received)** None received.

b) **Verbal report of the Planning Committee if any** None received.

c) **To consider Planning Applications submitted for Council's observations**

| <b>App No</b>               | <b>Applicant</b>   | <b>Proposal</b>  |
|-----------------------------|--|--|
| C/2019/0060                 | Mr. A. Waldron<br>Waldron Commercials Ltd.<br>29 Tafarnaubach Ind.<br>Estate<br>Tredegar | Creation of hardstanding for the parking of vehicles and siting of portacabin to be used as welfare office for security and staff; area enclosed with 1.8m fencing in keeping with existing perimeter fencing; installation of security lighting and CCTV poles; change of use of Unit 29 from general industrial to mixed use commercial, vehicle repair / servicing / testing workshop – land adjacent to and Unit 29 Tafarnaubach Ind. Estate |
| <b><i>No objections</i></b> |  |  |

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| C/2019/0062 | Mr. P. Woodward<br>13 Western Crescent<br>Tredegar | Replacement detached bungalow<br>13 Western Crescent. |
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***No objections***

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| C/2019/0066 | Mr. M. Betty<br>Tai Calon Community<br>Housing<br>Solis One, Blaina | Construction of 260 household<br>refuse and recycling stores with<br>landscape screening, land at<br>St. George's Court. |
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***No objections***

A Member queried if TTC representatives had attended any site meetings and regarding location; Council were informed that the location had been set.

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| C/2019/0067 | Mr. D. O'Leary<br>Rock Valley<br>Rassau Road<br>Ebbw Vale | Construct new dwelling, Plot 12<br>Arches Close. |
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***No objections***

**d) To consider other planning matters – None received.**

**397) Updates regarding Bedwellty House and Park - any issues to have been previously reported direct to the House Management personally**

- Concerns raised in respect of damage, which had been an issue over the last few months; in respect of the fountain, issues had been resolved and work had been undertaken to replace the four fountain heads in the area of the pond; the statue was due to be placed Monday. Also, on Sunday between 7.00-8.00 p.m., after the House had closed, a small group of young males entered the pond and stamped on these fountain heads – all had been working; the Police had been involved. Members considered that it was heart-breaking that such mindless vandalism was occurring in Bedwellty House and Park. It was agreed that the Clerk write to the Aneurin Leisure Trust to indicate TTC support, and share information, if appropriate. A Member was aware of ASB during filming in Park, which apparently were a group of boys from the Brynmawr area.

**398) Delegates: to receive and consider reports from Delegates to Outside Bodies and the recommendations of Sub-Committees / Working Parties:**

- a) Joint Committee of Local Councils** – meeting to be held shortly
- b) Gwent Valleys One Voice Wales** – No meeting
- c) One Voice Wales Larger Councils and AGM** – No meeting
- d) Tredegar Twinning** – not many had attended and the meeting had been inquorate. In respect of the Quiz – the TTC team had taken 2<sup>nd</sup> place and received a Certificate.
- e) Pen Bryn Oer Community Fund** – meeting to be held in May
- f) School Governing Bodies** – Bryn Bach Primary School: policies had been approved, not only Health and Safety but in respect of the defibrillators TTC had donated – these had been concise and easy to read; the Governing

Body was pleased with the transformation of School grounds since the new Head had been in post. The car park was secure, and children now relocated from demountables to the main School buildings; the wellbeing dog had a remarkable effect on the wellbeing of the schoolchildren – particularly those who struggled with reading, autism, etc. A Member had visited Raglan Farm Park – he suggested School Governors could encourage their pupils to visit, highlighting there was a discount available for school trips, promoting tourism in our locality.

Deighton Primary School: the Headteacher was leaving to undertake another role, it was therefore agreed that Mr. Gough be honoured with an award at the Presentation Evening ceremony immediately following the meeting of Council.

A Member had travelled to Ireland, whereupon school children of Deighton Primary School had been on the aeroplane; they had been impeccably behaved and a joy to the other passengers.

**g) Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum** – still pursuing grant funding to archive library, with match-funding of £500.00 in place.

**h) Blaenau Gwent CAB** – Clerk to ascertain if in operation.

**i) Tredegar / Ebbw Vale Crime Prevention Panel** – a Member queried of police surgeries; Council said that the Police Community Support Officer, Mike Davies, had always been willing to attend a Surgery when asked and suggested he could be invited to attend Stocktonville Community Centre.

**j) Tredegar Business Forum** – a meeting had been convened prior to the meeting of Council; there had appeared to be a breakdown in communications, as only four businesses had attended. Members had met with representatives in respect of discussions regarding town centre planting, i.e. whether to continue and discussions relating to funding. Last year, the wooden planters needed to be removed, before anyone was injured. Currently, there was 38 lampposts decorated but the Business Forum was looking to cut this number considerably, and would ascertain costing over the next couple of days. Plants were currently supplied by Bedwellty House, but there would be a considerable reduction to the quote from the previous year and TTC had been asked to make a contribution; this would not be a significant amount of money. Council agreed, in principal, when costings were known and on the proviso that the plants were regularly watered.

**k) VVP / Tredegar Heritage Initiative** – the Chemist required snagging, if not done, to ‘write off’ and receive no further funding; TA hopefully open in July, Members of the Committee invited to visit May, work uncovered historical use of being former Town Hall; present owners progressing with work, e.g. bistro, micro-brewery, function room, etc.

4/5 The Circle, bridal shop being bought by partners of the Cambrian, frontage more in line with current provision. 10 The Circle close to beginning, estimates received. Hair Salon, frontage to be refurbished. One issue in respect of the children’s café; Castle Street – Poppy’s to become a butchers (near completion). Present owner of The Loft, seeking grant funding to repair roof and revamp frontage – intended as a family integrational centre.

Welsh Government was in favour of the regeneration and the owner of the Shopping Precinct was supportive. The Member complimented Blaenau Gwent Officers for their diligence, particularly during challenging times, in raising the profile of the town and, hopefully, attracting new businesses. The Centre at Sirhowy was nearly finished, with Ministerial visits planned, as appropriate.

The Chair offered the thanks of Town Council to Councillor Cross for his stewardship as Chair of that Committee, and suggested that when Welsh Government looked to best practice, South East Wales would be highlighted. He added that he could only support

The Loft if confirmed as an integrational centre.

### **399) Matters of Local Interest or Concern (by prior notice)**

▪ *Reminder : Presentation Evening immediately following this meeting of Council*

- Town Clock Weathervane – two requests received by a Member requesting update. Response: on two separate occasions, the current Light provider had visited with two different lifts, but had been unable to safely undertake the work. The Heritage Sub-Committee had met and agreed to the repainting of The Clock using scaffolding; the RFO had been asked to seek tenders, with works to be undertaken September.
- Arthur Summerfield – agreed that the gentleman be presented with an Aneurin Bevan plate in recognition of sixty-two years' service to the town.
- Aneurin Bevan University Health Board – write to Health Board in respect of a South-East Wales hospital, i.e. Nevill Hall, using a corridor for patients, which had now been classed as a 'Ward'.
- Tredegar Town Band won the Welsh title for 12<sup>th</sup> time, taking a clean sweep of all trophies on offer, qualified for National Final and 2020 Euro Final in Estonia – Dewi Griffiths awarded Best Cornet and, Best Instrumentalist, awarded to Ian Roberts.
- Wales Business Awards – 'Seren' Cafe – awarded best use of Welsh in Business and Highly Commended for 'Small Business'.
- St. John Ambulance – pursue meeting to discuss the situation that had arose previously in respect of emergency medical provision for an event organised by Tredegar Town Council.
- It was noted that Councillor S. Rees had extended apologies for missing the April Civic Meeting of Council as he had not received his agenda.
- Members extended their condolences on the passing of Mr. James Meyrick.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 7.12 p.m.

\_\_\_\_\_ Chair