

TREDEGAR TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held in the Council Chamber,
Bedwellty House on Wednesday, 17th 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
A. Jones
K. Phillips
P. Prosser
S. Rees
D. Rowberry
J. Thomas
M. Turner
B. Willis
I. Woods**

In Attendance: Town Clerk – Ms. C. Price

By invitation: PCSO Paula Blunt, Heddlu Gwent Police

420) Apologies: Councillors D. Jones and S. Trollope

421) Declarations of Interest

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

422) Invitation extended to Inspector Amanda Thomas and PS Neil Pigeon to discuss any issues of concern

PCSO Blunt was in attendance; the Officer expressed the apologies of Inspector Amanda Thomas, who had been called to a meeting, and PS Neil Pigeon. As the PCSO was the only Officer on duty within Tredegar at that time, it was agreed that she may leave, and any issues be referred to the Inspector accordingly.

Councillor S. Rees joined the meeting at this juncture (6.08 p.m.)

Members thereupon raised the following areas of concern:

- Car parking in general

- Fountain Inn – vehicle parked in bus stop at Troed y Gwair in early hours of the morning, resulting in ASB (playing music, drug use); update on what action being undertaken; Members considered this an important building
- Incidents over Bank Holiday – general ASB, e.g. throwing eggs – would have been helpful to be apprised of the proposed action programmed for the Bank Holiday weekend
- Stockton Way – groups of youngsters intimidating, need police presence during summer months, effecting business, people scared to visit the town centre – intimidation, swearing, etc.
- Police had a duty to contact owner of the Punch House, although boarded up was broken into daily, located next to business establishments. There was obviously still a power supply, as there was a TV on site. The owner no longer lived in Tredegar and unfortunately appeared not to care of the ongoings. Members considered some form of action could be taken (e.g. Enforcement Officer / Environmental Health), and that a strongly worded letter was needed. Concerns were also raised in regard to the number of young people going back and fore the premises, some in school uniform.
- Traffic police needed in the armoury hill area, cars were racing at Thomas Ellis Way
- ASB in relation to mountain fires and motorbikes: a Members said there was no comprehensive policy to deal with such nuisance. Another Member said that whilst filming was being undertaken in Trefil approx. thirty / forty motorbikes were in the area and this had effected walkers, horses and small children. Members were concerned that such behaviour would deter people from visiting Trefil and was also causing damage

It was agreed that the Clerk write to Inspector Thomas in respect of the concerns raised.

423) To receive verbal recommendations of the Finance; i. Events; and, ii. Performance Review Sub-Committees held immediately prior to this meeting

The following were recommendations of Sub-Committees held 17th April, 2019, to be presented to Council for ratification and subsequent approval:

- Finance and Staffing Sub-Committee –
 - RFO to liaise with the recommended Company to offer the contract for design and print of The Bevan Festival brochures for 2019.
 - RFO to seek tenders for the provision of the Christmas Lighting provision for Tredegar town centre in accordance with previous provision and the amendments agreed.
 - Quotations be sought in respect of Insurance Renewal for a period of one, three and five years.
- Events Sub-Committee –
 - No current recommendations, with actions ongoing.
- Performance Review Sub-Committee –
 - Budget Against Actual figures to the 31st March, 2019: recommendations were noted and agreed accordingly
 - Revised Reserves, as at 31st March, 2019 were accepted accordingly
 - The Asset Register, as at 31st March, 2019, was approved accordingly

424) Accounts: to consider a Schedule of Accounts for payment in April 2019

The RFO spoke to the report and explained that the bank reconciliations were available for Members to view. Members thereupon raised the following points for consideration:

- Shopping Precinct – it was noted that the water charges, rates, utilities, etc. could be substantially more than the grant awarded by Blaenau Gwent CBC. The new owners were looking forward to working with Council: it was therefore agreed that an invitation be extended to a future meeting to receive a presentation.
- Presentation Awards Evening – Members welcomed the success of the recent event, acknowledging the opportunity to recognise such well-deserving members within the community, e.g. Tony Gregory Award.
- Public Conveniences – Members raised a query in respect of the £10,000 allocated for public conveniences, (Ebbw Vale, Brynmawr and Tredegar), and asked for a breakdown from the Officer, querying if the remainder was allocated to Ebbw Vale (i.e. £6,000). A response had not been forthcoming and it was therefore agreed that the Clerk write to Matthew Perry for a meeting to discuss the grant available. A Member considered it inappropriate that Non-Domestic Rates of £1,400 was levied for the public toilets and considered the TTC should be exempt, particularly as Council was taking responsibility of a Local Authority service. Council was informed that only charitable companies were currently deemed exempt.
A Member said the criteria was needed in respect of how monies were allocated; the Chair said that allocation was based on monies received by Blaenau Gwent CBC through advertising boards.
- Period Poverty Funding, write to BG ask of policy in place

425) To receive and adopt the following Minutes of Council:

- a) Finance & Staffing Sub-Committee - 4th March, 2019;**
- b) Heritage Sub-Committee - 6th March, 2019;**
- c) Events Sub-Committee - 6th March, 2019;**
- d) Civic Meeting of Council - 6th March, 2019;**
- c) Civic Sub-Committee - 20th March, 2019;**
- d) Ordinary Meeting of Council - 20th March, 2019**

It was agreed that all Minutes presented be moved en bloc as a true record, with any matters arising to follow.

426) Matters arising from the Minutes

Heritage Sub-Committee - 6th March, 2019

- Memorial plaque – Mining industry: met with Coalfields Regeneration to discuss gates, explained that TTC willing to support project of plaque, agreed proposal but would not run with gates, Mr. Sullivan insisted there was currently no memorial to miners in Tredegar. There was a meeting next Thursday, hopefully a further update could be given following that meeting.

Suggestion: stone-like memorial, school could be possible site for location or the Post Office, Commercial Street (the owner had indicated support and would allow any unveiling) of the stone and plaque. Concerns were raised if individuals were collecting

funds, official fund-raising would have to be properly constituted/structured. The Chair confirmed that it had been agreed in the meeting to set up a fully constituted group, with a designated bank account and proper officers, or via another constituted group, e.g. Business Forum.

- Bomber crash memorial: funding opportunities available through the Armed Forces Covenant Fund, however monies allocated had to be spent within a twelve month period. As the anniversary was next December, Council could continue with preparatory work.

Civic Meeting of Council - 6th March, 2019

- Dragon weathervane: image circulated to progress.
- Civic Awards presentation evening: Council extended thanks to House staff, the event had went well and the food excellent. It was a pleasure to recognise individuals of all ages - both great and small.

427) Chair to sign Minutes

Minutes approved were duly signed by the Mayor in the presence of Council.

428) Correspondence

- 1) BGCBC
 - a) Leader, Cllr N. Daniels: response in respect of the Community Asset Transfer process and comments in respect of the Charter
 - Members queried the rationale to compiling a new Charter, and also why this was not deemed a legal document.
 - b) M. Howland:
 - i) Non-Domestic Rates – Charitable and Discretionary Relief
 - ii) list of facilities and clubs who had taken control as of 1st April
 - Noted.
 - c) Paul Miles: ABUHB presentation following consultation exercise regarding proposals for Health and Wellbeing Centre, Tredegar
 - Noted; forward to Members.
 - d) C2BG: Response re: BG Period Equity, classed as a Freedom of Information request
 - Noted.
 - e) Planning: survey of people who use the services of the Planning Department
 - Clerk to complete survey.

Councillors T. Smith and B. Willis declared an interest in the following item and took no part in discussion or voting thereon.

- f) List of Licensing applications week ending week ending 05.04.2019 and 12.04.2019.
 - 1) The Loft – Temporary Event Notice on Sat. 13th April – Sun. 14th April, 2019
 - 2) Coral, 7 The Circle Tredegar – Application to transfer premises licence
 - Noted.

- 2) One Voice Wales
 - a) BG Revised Local Development Plan – Diary Marker
Issues and Vision Workshop – Tuesday, 14th May, 2019, 9.30 a.m. to 1.00 p.m. at the General Offices, Ebbw Vale
 - b) Agenda and papers: Gwent Valleys Area Committee, Tues. 30th April, 2019 at 7.00 p.m., Pontypool Community Council, Pontypool
 - c) Payments to Members of Community and Town Council. Implementing the Determinations of the IRPW
 - Noted; forward document to Members.

- 3) Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales
 - i) Confirmation of final stage of their review on electoral arrangements for Blaenau Gwent
 - ii) Review of the Electoral Arrangements for the County Borough of Blaenau Gwent Boundary Commission - Final Recommendations Report (two copies)
 - Noted; Members queried how this would impact on town community councils. There was a Cross Party Discussion Group including Blaenau Gwent Councillors.

- 4) Aneurin Bevan University Health Board
 - i) Response to request for update in respect of new Health Centre for Tredegar
 - ii) Response from Sue Squire, Chief Executive's office confirming response in full ASAP
 - Literature was disseminated in Tredegar Library.

A Member said he was disappointed with communication with the delegate of that Body, following the meeting with Architects, no further communication had been received since staff had left the Health Authority. Information had been circulated to residents' homes informing them of an event on 16th May, 2019.

In respect of Park Row Health Centre, residents in the vicinity had great concerns of the effect this would have on Market Street and how the continued use of Health Centre would fit together. However, residents welcomed the work being done and in respect of retaining features, but had concerns regarding access.

It was noted that a local pharmacy had invested monies in the regeneration works in Tredegar. Council was aware that the Health Board had invited eight local pharmacies to tender and Nelson Pharmacy had won the bid.

Agreed: Councillors M. Turner and J. Thomas to draft appropriate letter on behalf of Tredegar Town Council.

- 5) Gwent Police
- a) Call-handling response re: Police / environmental issues, Trefil
 - Noted; awaiting response.
 - b) Inspector Amanda Thomas
Apologies and explanation for being unable to attend Presentation Evening
 - Noted.
 - c) PC Karina Williams Harm Prevention/ Licensing
Response re: concerns the Loft and advising Cllr Mandy Moore **not** TTC Member
 - Noted; a brief discussion ensued regarding the content therein.
- 6) Chair / CEO GAVO
- Lord Lieutenant of Gwent inviting submission of bids for visits by the Princess Royal to Gwent between 1st Sept., 2018 and 31st Jan., 2020
- Noted; it was agreed to submit Armed Forces Day and Aneurin Bevan Day.
- 7) TTC Members
- Responses to correspondence from Martin Jenkins and relating to Community Asset Transfer 1st April, 2019 – Sporting Facilities, list of facilities and Clubs
- Noted. Mr. Jenkins was inaccurate in the content of his letter, as this was a lease and not an asset transfer. These organisations had not wanted to take on responsibility for sporting

grounds but had been forced to by Blaenau Gwent CBC. A Member considered the town would be far poorer for the loss of such facilities, and would not be opposed to the handover of the Bowls Club as he believed the Club would make good of this responsibility.

A Member expressed concern in respect of some of the wording used as, although currently leased, could be sold in the future and that was also Mr. Jenkins' concern.

The Chair said the ground could not be sold and appropriate documentation was retained by Blaenau Gwent CBC. Also, sporting organisations had been informed by Blaenau Gwent that, as of 1st April, 2019, any sporting venues not considered under asset transfer would be closed. The Bowls Club had worked hard for that Pavilion, which he considered the best ground in S.E. Wales, and would not support going against that asset transfer, the majority of which were leased on a nil or peppercorn rent basis.

A Member commended the Club for taking on this asset and wished other clubs and organisations were as supportive.

Any concerns of Mr. Jenkins in respect of process should be referred back to Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council.

- 8) Cllr H. Trollope
- i) Letter from ABUHB re: Tredegar Health and Well-being Centre
 - ii) Response, thanking RFO for clarification on grants awarded to allotments
- Noted.
- 9) Cllr T. Smith
- Response to query of Cllr I. Woods in respect of timing of Council meetings
- Noted.
- 10) Cllr A.E. Tippings
- Tredegar in Bloom: suggested categories
- Following a brief discussion, it was agreed that three categories be agreed for the current year with a view to building on the event in the future. Councillor A.E. Tippings to liaise with Clerk.
- 11) Dwr Cymru
Welsh Water
- Notification of water leak at Gentleman's Toilet, Gwent Shopping Centre

Welsh Water : Leak to be repaired within 28 days of the date of Notice or liable to prosecution

- Noted; Leader was liaising and a meeting had been convened for Tuesday.

12) Brecon Beacons National Park Authority

Planning survey re: Planning service received 01.04.2018 – 31.03.2019

- Clerk to complete survey.

13) Thank you:

Siloam Baptist Chapel
Urdd Gobaith

Thank you for £300.00 donation

Thank you for contribution of £100.00 towards the National Eisteddfod Cardiff

Hospice of the Valleys
Teenage Cancer Trust
Tredegar Decoupage Group

Certificate of Sponsorship of £250.00 and thank for card

Thank you for donation of £100.00

Thank you card

- Noted.

14) PUBLICATIONS

BGCBC Road works report week ending 12/04/2019 & 19/04/2019; ABUHB Local Health News; Connect – activities at Llys Nant y Mynydd Nantyglo and Wesley House Brynmawr; GAVO - Torfaen Voluntary Alliance job vacancy; Gwent Event Safety Workshop – 14 May 2019, 6.30 p.m., Vantage Point House; IRP on Community and Town Councils in Wales Final Report.

15) AGENDA

None received

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

429) Planning:

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

- ii) a) List of planning applications received in week 13
b) List of planning applications received in week 14
b) List of planning applications received in week 15

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

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

App No

C/2018/0323

Applicant

Mr. B. Jones
c/o Planning Agent

Proposal

Detached dwelling, vehicular access and parking, land adj. Sunnyrise, Merthyr Road

No objections

C/2019/0073 Mr. D. Martyn Two storey rear extension,
19 Maes Morgan 19 Maes Morgan
Tredegar

No objections

C/2019/0077 Mr. Craig Maggs Extension to existing production
NMC UK Ltd. facility
Tafarnaubach
Industrial Estate
Tredegar

No objections

C/2019/0081 Mr. S. James Single storey rear extension to
21 Harford Gardens existing provide enlarged kitchen
Tredegar NP22 4QX and new lounge

No objections

d) To consider other planning matters – None received.

430) Matters of Local Interest or Concern (by prior notice)

- Petition: 'Brompton Place' to make 'through road – refer to Cllr John Morgan – Councillor A.E. Tippings pointed out there was opposition previously because of through route to lower Peacehaven.
- Transforming of Town Centre – a Member had attending the presentation of the three Architect firms and informed of the winning bid. Congratulations were extended to Officers, Amy Taylor and Bridget Powell. Members welcomed all opportunities for interested parties to discuss Tredegar and its' heritage.
- Tredegar Angling Club had raised concerns in respect of Cefn Golau pond, following a meeting with the Coalfields Regeneration Trust, when they had been informed the Club had no right to apply for funding due to a change in ownership. The Club had not been made aware that Cefn Golau pond and the surrounding area had been sold to a private company. The Club had unfortunately been unable to find documentation that supported the right to fish; therefore, clarification was needed as the Club wished to undertake a project.
- Mayor's Charity event – Travis and Trinity would again be performing for the Mayor at his charity event on Saturday at Tredegar Rugby Club.
- Walk for Life – Sunday, 28th April, 2019; sponsorship forms available.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 7.45 p.m.

Chair