

# TREDEGAR TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Council held in the Council Chamber,  
Bedwellty House on Wednesday, 1<sup>st</sup> May, 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  
D. Jones  
K. Phillips  
P. Prosser  
S. Rees  
D. Rowberry  
J. Thomas  
S. Trollope  
M. Turner  
B. Willis  
I. Woods**

**In attendance: Clerk – Ms. C. Price**

## **001) Apologies.**

The Leader clarified that the agenda had been streamlined to accommodate the AGM process and therefore only urgent items of business had been presented for consideration.

## **002) Thanks and Appreciation by Councillor H. Trollope, Mayor 2018 - 2019.**

The Mayor extended his thanks to Council; he expressed apologies for his Consort, Jean, who was unable to attend as she was currently out of the country but who also had sent thanks for the support of Members of Council. The Mayor voiced his appreciation to Members, the Clerk and the RFO, who had done a tremendous job; special thanks to his wife, Sharon; to all those Councillors who had helped with his charity event on Saturday, organised by Trinity and Travis – it had been an excellent night, raising £600.00 for his Mayoral Appeal. He extended thanks to the Deputy Leader for the monies raised at the churches event and for proceeds to his appeal through the sale of the Aneurin Bevan artwork on sale at Tredegar Library. Finally, he referred to advice of his Colleague 'to be careful as the year goes quickly and before you know it, it's over'.

A Member congratulated the Mayor, he considered he had an exemplary year and had successfully raised funding for his Mayoral charities. It was a special honour to be called upon as Mayor of Tredegar and he knew Ellen would follow suit. There was a challenging year ahead, but he was certain Ellen would continue in her normal manner – with a smile.

**003) To Elect a Mayor to serve until the Annual Meeting of Council 2019.**

A Member proposed that Councillor Ellen Jones be nominated as Mayor. She had known Ellen for some time through the Labour Party and she had served the community of Sirhowy diligently and in her own style. Ellen was a beautiful person – inside and out and, for this reason, she had no hesitation in nominating Ellen Jones for the role of Mayor for 2019/2020.

This nomination was seconded with the above sentiments fully endorsed.

There being no other nominations, Councillor Ellen Jones was thereupon unanimously elected to the role of Mayor.

**004) Declaration of Acceptance of Office by the incoming Mayor.**

**At this point, the Chain of Office will be handed over and the Consort's Chain will also be exchanged. Gifts / flowers will be given to incoming and outgoing Consort.**

At this point the Chain of Office was presented to the Mayor; Mayor received the acceptance of Office, which was duly signed in the presence of Council.

The newly appointed Mayor, Councillor Ellen Jones, thereupon stood as Chair of the meeting.

**005) To receive any communication the Mayor may wish to lay before Council.**

Councillor Ellen Jones was pleased to accept the role of Mayor; she thereupon thanked Members for their faith in her to undertake this role and invited Members and guests to join her at the Civic Reception, following the meeting, when the Mayoral Appeal would be announced.

**006) To Elect a Deputy Mayor to serve until the Annual Meeting of Council 2019.**

A Member proposed that Councillor David Jones be nominated to the role of Deputy Mayor. David worked tirelessly for The Moose International, who raised record amount of monies for charity and he was sure he would show the same commitment to Council.

There being no other nominations, Councillor David Jones was thereupon unanimously elected to the role of Deputy Mayor: Deputy Mayor received the acceptance of Office, which was duly signed in the presence of Council.

**007) To Elect a Member as Leader of Council until the Annual Meeting of Council 2019.**

A Member said that it was a great pleasure to nominate his Ward Colleague, Councillor Tommy Smith, to continue in the role as Leader, as he had for a number of years, and had done an excellent job.

The nomination was duly seconded, and Councillor Smith appointed. A Member thanked Tommy for being Leader for the past year and would continue and build on the good partnership-working undertaken.

Councillor Smith thereupon accepted the role of Leader and thanked all his Colleagues in giving him the opportunity to serve as Leader of the Council for another year. The previous year had been challenging and he extended thanks to his Colleagues for their support – particularly in respect of events – for instance celebrating the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the NHS, which really placed Tredegar on the map, and promoted the area throughout 2018.

The Leader said that Council had experienced the tragic loss of one of its Members and he wished to pay tribute to Councillor Peter Waldron, who had made a mark on this Council, and also the loss of a further two Members in office. He therefore looked forward to working with the three newly appointed Members in 2019/2020, particularly in respect of the forthcoming calendar of events, including Armed Forces Day and The Bevan Festival / Aneurin Bevan Day, and the Christmas Lights display that was currently out to tender. There were a number of projects proposed for 2019/2020, including the repainting of the Town Clock and restoration of the War Memorial.

The Leader thereupon wished the Mayor well for her forthcoming term in office as, he was sure Members would agree, Tredegar Town Council was leading the way forward throughout Blaenau Gwent.

Finally, he commended Council on the standstill precept for the tenth year, bearing in mind whilst taking on responsibility for Local Authority services, such as the public toilets and playing fields, which would have been lost to the community. Members should be proud of these accomplishments of Tredegar Town Council again this year.

Leader received the acceptance of Office, which was duly signed in the presence of Council.

### **008) To Elect a Member as Deputy Leader of Council until the Annual Meeting of Council 2019.**

A Member proposed that Councillor Alyson Tippings be nominated to the role of Deputy Leader, as she was a lovely lady and dedicated Member of Council, and she was pleased to support this Member as she considered that Town Council could not have a better Deputy Leader. The nomination was duly seconded, as Members considered she had been excellent in this role for a number of years and could continue to be called upon to do so. Councillor Alyson Tippings was thereupon appointed as Deputy Leader.

The Deputy Leader thanked her Colleagues for electing her to this role and emphasised that she was only as good as the team supporting her – not only in this Chamber but also in the town. She was full of pride for the work carried out, not only of Town Council but the people of the town, referring to the Presentation Award evenings and she never failed to be amazed what wonderful people lived here in Tredegar.

Deputy Leader received the acceptance of Office, which was duly signed in the presence of Council.

**009) To approve that the Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Leader and Deputy Leader are ex-officio Members of all Council Committees and Sub-Committees with voting rights.**

This was agreed unanimously.

**010) To receive and confirm the Standing Orders of Tredegar Town Council:**

All Members were reminded that this document formed part of the Councillor pack received at the point of signing their Declaration of Office.

This was agreed unanimously.

**011) To receive and confirm the Financial Regulations of Tredegar Town Council.**

All Members were reminded that this document formed part of the Councillor pack received at the point of signing their Declaration of Office.

This was agreed unanimously, as approved by the previous administration.

**012) To appoint Barclays Bank plc as the Council's Bankers (existing).**

This was agreed unanimously, as approved by the previous administration.

**013) To Authorise the Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Leader and Deputy Leader of Council, with the Clerk and RFO, to sign cheques on behalf of Tredegar Town Council.**

This was agreed unanimously, as approved by the previous administration.

Members were reminded that the Clerk and RFO would only sign cheques in the case of an emergency, once proper approval had been gained from the other four signatories listed.

**014) To consider any Urgent correspondence.**

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

- 1) BGCBC
  - i) List of General Licences Applications week ending 22.03.2019.
    - 1) Tredegar Service Station – Variation of a Designated Premises Supervisor.
  - ii) List of General Licences Applications week ending 26.04.2019.
    - Noted.
  
- 2) J. Price

Tredegar Health Centre: Asking whether Town Council has ownership of a property that could be utilised on a temporary basis in the case of a major incident.

  - Noted that unfortunately Tredegar Town Council had no accommodation available.

3) PUBLICATIONS - Deferred to the Ordinary Meeting - Noted.

4) AGENDA - Deferred to the Ordinary Meeting - Noted.

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

**015) To consider any Urgent Planning Applications**

**a) Officer's report**

- i) List of planning applications received in week 16.
- ii) List of planning applications received in week 17.

**b) Verbal Report of the Planning Committee - None received**

**c) Applications - None received**

**d) Other Planning Matters - None received**

*Councillor E. Jones declared an interest and therefore took no part in discussion or voting thereon.*

**016) To set the Mayor's Allowance (£1,315.00) and to authorise payment of the allowance.**

A discussion ensued regarding the Mayor's Allowance and method of payment; it was considered this should be the decision of each Mayor and based on the individual's personal circumstances.

This was agreed unanimously.

*Councillor T. Smith declared an interest and therefore took no part in discussion or voting thereon.*

**017) To set a Leader's Allowance, as per the Ordinary Meeting of Council on 16<sup>th</sup> March, 2016, not exceeding £500.00.**

This was agreed unanimously.

**018) To appoint a Civic Committee (all Members of Council).**

This was agreed unanimously.

**019) To appoint ALL MEMBERS OF COUNCIL to the Performance Review Committee to meet quarterly.**

This was agreed unanimously.

**020) To confirm the following Sub-Committees and to appoint Members to serve on them until the Annual Meeting of Council 2019.**

The following Committee list was available to all Members at the meeting and unanimously agreed.

**a. Civic Sub-Committee – 9 Members**

Councillors T. Smith (Leader) (Chair), E. Jones (Mayor), D. Jones (Deputy Mayor), A.E. Tippings (Deputy Leader), D. Howells, K. Phillips, D. Rowberry, J. Thomas, H. Trollope

**b. Events Sub-Committee – 9 Members**

Councillors M. Turner (Chair), E. Jones (Mayor), D. Jones (Deputy Mayor), T. Smith (Leader), A. Tippings (Deputy Leader), A. Jones, K. Phillips, J. Thomas, H. Trollope

**c. Heritage Sub-Committee (encompassing Bedwellty House and Park, the Assembly Room Picture Gallery, Tredegar War Memorials and Tredegar Town Clock) with plenary powers up to £500.00 – 10 Members**

Councillors T. Smith (Leader) (Chair), E. Jones (Mayor), D. Jones (Deputy Mayor), A. Tippings (Deputy Leader), M. Cross, D. Howells, A. Jones, P. Prosser, S. Rees, H. Trollope

**d. Finance & Staffing Sub-Committee – 9 Members**

Councillors H. Trollope (Chair Finance), M. Turner (Chair Staffing), E. Jones (Mayor), D. Jones (Deputy Mayor), T. Smith (Leader), A. Tippings (Deputy Leader), D. Howells, D. Rowberry, J. Thomas

*Due to the nature of this Sub-Committee, the role for one Chair was very demanding; it had been agreed therefore to split the two representative chairing roles of the Sub-Committee*

**e. Appeals Committee – 6 Members**

Councillors M. Cross (Chair), G. James, A. Jones, P. Prosser, S. Trollope, B. Willis

**f. Policy Sub-Committee - All Members of Council**

Councillor E. Jones (Mayor) (Chair)

**g. Community, Youth and International Sub-Committee**

Councillors A.E. Tippings (Deputy Leader) (Chair), E. Jones (Mayor), D. Jones (Deputy Mayor), T. Smith (Leader), G. James, S. Rees, H. Trollope, S. Trollope, I. Woods

**h. One Voice Wales Climate Change Adaptation Programme**

Councillors D. Jones (Deputy Mayor) (Chair), E. Jones (Mayor), T. Smith (Leader), A. Tippings (Deputy Leader), A. Jones, S. Rees

Members were reminded this was a Working Party and anyone who was interested or wished to contribute were welcome.

**i. Tredegar Public Facilities**

(To incorporate Tredegar W/C Facilities the Deighton Playing fields and Sirhowy Community Garden,)

Councillors B. Willis (Chair), T. Smith (Leader), A. Tippings (Deputy Leader), H. Trollope, M. Cross, A. Jones (Reserve).

**j. Planning**

Councillor P. Prosser (Sirhowy Ward); A. Jones (Reserve)

Councillor K. Phillips (Georgetown Ward); I. Woods (Reserve)

Councillor M. Turner (Chair) (Central & West); D. Howells (Reserve)

Councillor T. Smith (Leader) (Reserve Member).

Members were reminded to call into the Office to view the planning applications prior to the Meeting.

It was agreed that each Ward could select a Chair to present that Ward's observations at Town Council meetings, if they wished to do so.

**k. Publicity Committee – NEW Committee**

Councillors S. Trollope (Chair), E. Jones (Mayor), D. Jones (Deputy Mayor), A. Tippings (Deputy Leader), S. Rees, M. Turner, T. Smith (Leader) (Reserve).

**The Chair of Committees and Sub-Committees to be elected at the first Meeting of that Committee / Sub-Committee and to serve until the Annual Meeting of Council 2019.**

**021) To confirm the appointment of Mr. S. Bees as the Internal Auditor until the Annual Meeting of Council 2019.**

Confirmed; this was agreed unanimously.

**022) To appoint Members to serve on the following outside bodies:**

The following Committee list was available to all Members at the meeting and unanimously agreed.

**a. Joint Committee of Local Councils**

Councillors T. Smith (Leader), E. Jones (Mayor), D. Jones (Deputy Mayor), D. Howells; Ms. C. Price (Clerk); Councillor H. Trollope (Reserve)

**i. Gwent Valleys One Voice Wales**

Councillors T. Smith (Leader), E. Jones (Mayor), J. Thomas, Ms. C. Price (Clerk); Councillor M. Cross (Reserve)

**ii. One Voice Wales Larger Councils and AGM**

Councillors T. Smith (Leader), A. Tippings (Deputy Leader), E. Jones (Mayor), M. Cross, H. Trollope.

**b. Tredegar Twinning Association**

Councillors T. Smith (Leader), E. Jones (Mayor), A. Tippings (Deputy Leader), S. Rees; Ms. C. Price (Clerk).

**c. School Governing Bodies**

i) **Bryn Bach Primary** - Councillor D. Jones

ii) **Deighton Primary** - Councillor S. Trollope

iii) **Georgetown Primary** – (Vacancy)

iv) **Glanhowy Primary** – Councillor A. Jones

v) **St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Primary** - Councillor T. Smith

**d. Blaenau Gwent CAB**

Councillors E. Jones (Mayor), H. Trollope (Reserve)

**e. Tredegar and Ebbw Vale Crime Prevention Panel**

Councillors G. James, P. Prosser

All Members were encouraged to attend the Bi-Monthly meetings

**f. Tredegar Business Forum**

Councillors T. Smith (Leader) and H. Trollope

**g. Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum**

Councillors P. Prosser, T. Smith (Leader), B. Willis, K. Phillips (Reserve)

**h. Allotment Association**

Councillors A. Jones (Chair), E. Jones (Mayor), D. Jones (Deputy Mayor), T. Smith (Leader), A. Tippings (Deputy Leader), I. Woods, K. Phillips (Reserve)

- i. **VVP / Tredegar Heritage Initiative**  
Councillor T. Smith (Leader).
- j. **Pen Bryn Oer Community Fund**  
Councillor T. Smith (Leader), A. Tippings (Deputy Leader).

**023) To agree the presentation of the Aneurin Bevan Prize, the Peter Morgan Jones and Michael Foot Awards, in conjunction with Tredegar Comprehensive School.**

For the new Members of Council, it was explained that the Aneurin Bevan Prize was awarded for science; the Peter Morgan-Jones for arts / crafts and encompassing music; and the Michael Foot for literature. For each, a cash prize was given, and the winners were presented with a trophy, which remained displayed at the school.

This was agreed unanimously.

**024) To agree the presentation of the Tony Gregory Award.**

For the new Members of Council, it was explained that Tony Gregory (deceased) was a former Councillor, who had very much supported the community, helping people reach their goals and was a champion of young people; he supported youngsters who may have gone astray and those lesser academic achievers to help them bring out/learn skills within the community.

The award was for a young person who had made a difference to their life and criteria had been established; past recipients and their achievements were highlighted.

This was agreed unanimously.

\*\* Members asked that the schools be informed that adequate notice was required for the Awards evening.

**025) To confirm the pattern and timings of Meetings of Council:**

These were confirmed as unchanged and thereupon agreed.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 6.31p.m.

\_\_\_\_\_ Chair