

TREDEGAR TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Civic Meeting of Council held in the Council Chamber, Bedwellty House on Wednesday, 4th September, 2019 at 6.30 p.m.

Present: Councillors H. Trollope (Chair)
A.E. Tippings
M. Cross
D.W.A. Howells
G. James
A. Jones
K. Phillips
P. Prosser
S. Rees
D. Rowberry
S. Trollope
M. Turner
B. Willis

In attendance: Clerk – Ms. C. Price

141) Apologies. Councillors E. Jones, D. Jones, T. Smith, J. Thomas and I. Woods

142) Declarations of Interest

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

143) To receive any verbal recommendations of the Events Sub-Committee held prior to this meeting:

The Chair of the Events Sub-Committee provided feedback on recent events and a brief update in respect of the forthcoming Remembrance events and Christmas Lights switch-on.

The Deputy Leader also provided a brief update on the proposed Cairn memorial in response to a question raised.

Open Doors event: opening of Town Clock – the Clerk reminded Members of the event to be held this Saturday, 7th September, 2019 - 10.00 a.m. until 12.30 p.m., stewarding provision was required.

The following proposals / expenditure were thereupon recommended to Council for approval:

- **Cairn walk, T2520 memorial site, Trefil** – Clerk to seek tenders for provision of transport.

- **Remembrance events** – approval of expenditure to J Cotton Audio for sound equipment provision; and Lamp-post poppies, order 50 to replace those unusable due to weather damage and re-useable cable ties to be purchased.
- **Christmas Lights switch-on** – Clerk to submit application for a Special Event Road Closure Order; procure services of St. John Ambulance to provide emergency medical cover; hi viz coats to be ordered for new Members and hire of radios agreed.

All expenditure approved accordingly, subject to delegated powers of 'top 4' Senior Members on ratification of costings incurred.

144) Grants:

Thanks from Bobath Children's Therapy Centre Wales, Gwent Defibbers, Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum and St. George's Mothers Union.

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

Councillor K. Phillips declared an interest in the application and took no part in discussion or voting thereon

Cymru Creations – Any financial assistance received would be used to purchase new equipment to enable young people of all abilities to participate in the free film making classes.

2017/18 Nov'17 CQ No. 721 £200.00: Approved accordingly.

Georgetown District Community Association – Any financial assistance received would be used towards the costs of necessary maintenance such as painting, damp proofing and servicing of the boiler.

2018/19 Sept'18 CQ No. 947 £200.00: Approved accordingly.

Southend Allotment Association – Any financial assistance received would be used to continue with the ongoing paths work.

2018/19 July'18 CQ No. 917 £200.00: Approved accordingly.

Southend Beekeepers Association – Any financial assistance received would be used to purchase stakes/timber to erect a winter quarters apiary.

2018/19 March'19 CQ No. 788 £200.00: Approved accordingly.

Councillor A.E. Tippings declared an interest in the application and took no part in discussion or voting thereon

Sirhowy Woodlands – Any financial assistance received would be used towards the purchase of a forestry winch required to extract trees.

2018/19 July'18 CQ No. 916 £200.00: Following discussion: it was proposed that a Special Grant of £500.00 be awarded to support the Sirhowy Woodlands with this worthy project and the tremendous work undertaken by this group.

Upon a vote being undertaken, it was therefore *Approved that a Special Grant of £500.00 be awarded.*

b) To receive and consider grants to Churches & Chapels (s.137) - Grants as of 01.04.2017 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.

A Member raised a concern in respect of previous discussion, whereby he believed it had been agreed that Churches and Chapels would no longer be required to complete an application to receive funding. The Clerk confirmed this had been subject to discussion previously but had not been agreed by Council.

It was therefore agreed that this matter be agendaed for a future meeting of the Policy Sub-Committee, for consideration.

145) Correspondence

- 1) BGCBC
 - a) D. Arnold. Updated Charter of Common Agreement.
 - Members felt the document needed strengthening, particularly in respect of consulting with the Town Council. Following consideration, it was agreed that the draft Charter be forwarded to all Members and agendaed for next meeting of Council.
 - b) D. Ware Re: Town Centre Wifi for Tredegar. Request to attend Council meeting 18.09.2019 to discuss project and costings.
 - Noted: agreed to invite the Officer to attend the next meeting of Council to address Members.
 - c) A. Watkins: Response to query regarding grass cutting Deighton playing field.
 - Noted.
 - d) H. Hunt re: CCTV, explaining procedure in reporting incidents and monitoring within the Community Safety Hub / Ebbw Vale police station
 - Council was informed that the CCTV cameras were now operational. Local Authority Members had been invited to Newport to view how the system functioned. A report would be presented in respect of upgrading undertaken. Council referred to a near-fatality within Tredegar and emphasised that a commitment was needed from the police for CCTV provision to contribute to funding. (Clerk to write to Blaenau Gwent seeking an update on the new cameras in operation.)
 - e) K. Rees Re: BT proposed removal of telephone boxes. Responses by 25th October, 2019.

- It was agreed to support retention of the telephone kiosk in the Cefn Golau area.
- f) M. Jones forwarded SE Wales email from C. Coff Re: Deighton School Governor vacancy. Two vacancies, Sharon is currently the Town Council representative and it will be necessary for Town Council to put her name forward at a Town Council meeting for re-appointment in October 2019.
- Agreed: Councillor S. Trollope be nominated to be re-appointed as School Governor.
- g) D. Griffiths: Invite to town/community councils and RBL reps to attend BG Event Safety Advisory Group meeting on 17.09.2019 at 2.00 p.m., Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale to discuss Armistice Day Parades.
- Noted; invite passed to Leader and Deputy to attend, with appropriate RBL representation.
- h) M. Howland Re: Coalfields Regeneration Managing Community Buildings workshop on 18th September at Llanhilleth Institute, 10.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m.
- Noted; to be placed on TTC website.
- i) Y. Tovey – Copy of email sent to Borough Councillors asking for financial support to an individual, aspiring snooker player.
- Council was unable to approve financial support for an individual due to Financial Regulations; Clerk to write and explain.

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

- j) i. List of Licencing Applications, week ending 19.07.2019
 1) Application for variation Designated Premises Supervisor – The Cambrian.
- ii. List of Licencing Applications, week ending 26.07.2019
- iii. List of Licencing Applications, week ending 02.08.2019
- iv. List of Licencing Applications, week ending 09.08.2019
- v. List of Licencing Applications, week ending 16.08.2019

1) Temporary Event Notice 25.08.2019 –
Tredegar Recreational Grounds.
vi. List of Licencing Applications, week ending
23.08.2019

- Noted.

2) One Voice Wales

- a) New Governance and Accountability: A Practitioner's Guide Wales 2019 – ***copied to RFO and Internal Auditor;***
- b) AGM and Annual Conference Saturday, 5th October, 2019, booking required at £90.00 per delegate – ***forwarded to relevant Members;***
- c) Revised Model Financial Regulations; and
- d) Blaenau Gwent Replacement Local Development Plan Update.

- Noted

- e) Legal Topic Note: Financial Assistance to Churches.

- Noted; agenda for due consideration by the Policy Sub-Committee.

- f) Major spatial planning survey, invite to planner / Cllr / developer / citizen to participate - ***deadline 30th September, 2019***

- Noted; forward to Planning representatives.

- g) Our Valleys, Our Communities, Our Stations: engagement events with Transport Wales – Merthyr Tydfil 12.9.2019 and Ebbw Vale 10.10.2019.

- Noted

- h) Launch of the Older People's Commissioner for Wales Facebook page.

- Noted; place on TTC Facebook page.

- i) Consultation Events: National Strategy for Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management in Wales, 12-week consultation launched 24th June, 2019; and

- j) Wales Audit Office's Good Practice Exchange Programme 2019 / 2020.

- Noted

- k) Long Forest Project: Free App for Community Councils to survey hedgerows.

- Noted; forward to scouts, schools and air cadets, for information.

3) BDO

Notification of clear 31st March, 2019 audit – ***Notice of Audit Conclusion and relevant sections of Annual Return have been displayed on website plus noticeboard; BDO emailed to confirmed Notice is on display.***

- Noted, the Annual Return was approved and accepted by Council; this was welcomed and thanks extended to the RFO.

4) Planning
Inspectorate

Information Only: Land between B4256 and Charles Street, Abertysswg. Determination of fee.

- Noted.

5) Welsh Government

Application by Elgin Energy ESCO Ltd. for proposed 30mw solar park, access and ancillary development at Wauntysswg Farm, Abertysswg: Welsh Minister's decision letter.

- Although concerns had been raised by both the Town Council and Local Authority, and the Planning Inspectorate recommended refusal of the application; unfortunately, the decision had been overturned at Minister level.

6) Welsh Blood
Service

Jasmine Williams wishes to meet with Council to discuss news ways of spreading the important of giving blood to the community.

- Noted; Leader and Deputy Leader would be pleased to meet and discuss.

7) Gwent Police

- N. Pigeon: Response to drone request for Trefil.
- PC Nick Thomas: Response regarding land at Trefil - quad bikes/off-road vehicles; unrestrained animals; use of drones, etc.

- Members expressed disappointment that no progress was being made and that previous protocol put in place was no longer in practice. Following a brief discussion, it was agreed that Councillors K. Phillips and A.E. Tippings meet with the Police officer on behalf of Council.

8) War Memorial
Restoration Co.

- Request to complete survey on their work.
- Noted; Clerk to complete.

- b) Letter confirming first maintenance visit on Memorial and findings.
 - Noted. Discussion ensued regarding unwanted attention by an individual in respect of the War Memorial. Clerk to liaise with respective parties to ascertain what could be done to protect both the monument and the safety of the individual in question.

9) Tredegar
Fabrications

Quotation for repairing Deighton Fields fence.

- The information had been provided to TTC at the request of Members.

It was agreed that the quotation be used as a specification to seek two further tenders and presented for consideration by the Tredegar Public Facilities representatives.

10) K. Cross

Introducing herself as Service Lead for the Integrated Wellbeing Networks in Blaenau Gwent and would like to meet with Council to discuss how we may be able to work together.

- Noted: agreed to invite the Officer to attend a future meeting of Council.

11) Data Cymru

Planning Officers' Society for Wales town and community council summary report.

- Noted.

12) GAVO

- a) Invite to annual BG Volunteer Achievement Awards: Thursday, 17th October, 2019 at Llanhilleth Miners' Institute, 6.30 p.m. (shortlisted: Angel Lilly) – **two guests**

- Noted; Mayor and Consort to attend.

- b) Notice that Chloe's Community Cupboard nomination was unsuccessful on this occasion – volunteer to receive a Certificate of Recognition / note from judging panel.

- Noted; a Member said that Ryan Probert had also been shortlisted for an Acting Award: agreed, letter to be sent.

- c) The Gannet Foundation, inviting Gwent Charities to apply for grant aid.

- Noted; to be placed on TTC website.

- 13) A. Collyer-Watts The Bee Initiative. Asking would a Councillor like to become their Patron.
- Councillor M. Turner nominated and agreed accordingly.
- 14) R. Lane Congratulations on a brilliant summer band concert season.
- Noted; to be placed on TTC website.
- 15) A. Murphy Upbeat Radio wants to participate in Xmas Lights switch on.
- Noted; forward to Councillor M. Turner to liaise.
- 16) S. Davies Offer to film Tredegar 'THIS-IS' video. Request for funding and allocation of Councillor to take part to accompany whilst filming.
- Noted; a Member was aware of previous work undertaken and considered it as basic but interesting. Agreed, to ascertain costs, forward to Councillor K. Phillips to liaise.
- 17) Brecon Beacons National Park Authority Become a Brecon Beacons National Park Ambassador course (24.09.2019).
- Noted.
- 18) Utility Alliance Requesting to do energy audit on our behalf – ***N.B. Currently Utility Aid (identified at the OVW/SLCC conference) are undertaking an audit on our behalf.***
- Noted.

19) PUBLICATIONS

Out of Date Publications are available in the office for viewing.

BGCBC Roadworks report week ending 06.09.2019; Comic Relief Community Fund in Wales – two workshops: Newport 03.09.2019; and, Crumlin 25.09.2019; GAVO Voluntary Voice Summer 2019; Communicorp Local Councils Update Issue 231 August 2019; GAVO Weekly boost: Various events posters – ***added to website***; Communicorp Local Councils Update Issue 232 September 2019; Hospice of the Valleys Newsletter Autumn / Winter.
 – ***distributed to Members***: Received.

20) AGENDA

None received.

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

146) Planning:

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

- ii) **a)** List of planning applications received in week 28.
- b)** List of planning applications received in week 29.
- c)** List of planning applications received in week 30.
- d)** List of planning applications received in week 31.
- e)** List of planning applications received in week 32.
- f)** List of planning applications received in week 33.
- g)** List of planning applications received in week 34.
- h)** List of planning applications received in week 35.

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

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

App. No.	Applicant	Proposal
C/2019/0178	Mr. M. Edwards Prestbury Charles Street Tredegar	Four semi-detached houses, land adjoining Glashafen, Charles Street.

***Forwarded to C&W Members, response by Thursday 08.08.2019.
No objections***

C/2019/0179	Mr. & Mrs. A. Cotton 16 Elmwood Grove Tredegar.	Construct single storey extension to create sunroom at the rear of existing property (replacing the existing conservatory), 16 Elmwood Grove.
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***Forwarded to Georgetown Members, response by Thursday
08.08.2019. No Objections***

C/2019/0180	Mrs. A. Rodley Girl Guiding Gwent 9 Tredegar Drive Undy, Guide Hall Shop Row, Magor	Remove basal epicormics growth and small branches up to 3m on height from 3 lime trees covered by TPO BG44, Tredegar.
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***Forwarded to C&W Members, response by Thursday 08.08.2019. No
Objections***

C/2019/0185 Mr. N. Griffiths Two storey rear extension, 19
19 Pembroke Street Pembroke Street.
Tredegar.

Forwarded to C&W Members, response by Thursday 08.08.2019.

No Objections

C/2019/0189 Mr. Lloyd Two storey side extension and
Sunny Rise rear conservatory, Sunny Rise,
Merthyr Road Merthyr Road.
Tredegar

Forwarded to Sirhowy Members, response by Thursday 12.08.2019.

No Objections

C/2019/0195 PCI Pharma Services A new pharmaceutical
23 - 24 Tafarnaubach containment facility and ancillary
Ind. Estate infrastructure works (e.g. chillers),
Tredegar extended service yard and new
car park including associated
engineering / land upgrading
works. It is proposed that the car
park is built at the top of the site on
previously unused land, 23-24
Tafarnaubach Industrial Estate.

Forwarded to Sirhowy Members, response by Thursday 12.08.2019.

No Objections The development was needed and considered well overdue

C/2019/0203 Mrs. C. Cooke Parking place for heavy goods
Intrado vehicles with associated
Castle Street workshop / office building (unique
63 / 69 Cardiff Road use class), building comprising of
Taffs Wells 6 starter business units (81 use
class), new vehicular accesses
and associated parking, land
adjacent to unit 27 Tafarnaubach
Industrial Estate.

Forwarded to Sirhowy Members, response by Thursday 12.08.2019. It was highlighted the development could be accessed from the Rhymney Bridge direction to the Industrial Estate, rather than the School and consideration could be given to a temporary weight limit restriction in line with pupils arrival / departure. **No Objections, in principal.**

C/2019/0209 Mr. M. Winstone Lift crown of Sycamore tree
Ty Ffynnon (covered by TPO BG81) to 6m
Union Street above ground level at entrance
gate, Ty Ffynnon, Union Street.
No Objections Tredegar

d) To consider other planning matters – None received.

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

- War Memorial – adverse attention from an individual, which needed to be monitored;
- Thanks to staff for co-operation throughout summer events, particularly during a really busy period for the House
- Proposed Health and Wellbeing Centre development - lease / sale of land

148) 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** – No meeting
- b) Gwent Valleys One Voice Wales** – No meeting
- c) One Voice Wales Larger Councils and AGM** – No meeting
- d) Tredegar Twinning** – following a recent incident, the Leader and Deputy Leader had met with the Chair to discuss a way forward in resolving the situation. The Association had applied for grant funding available to assist cultural exchange, which had been unsuccessful. A series of events were being planned to raise funds, linking into the Rugby World Cup, e.g. providing a cooked breakfast for those watching the game.
- e) Pen Bryn Oer Community Fund** – deadline October
- f) School Governing Bodies** – Tredegar Comprehensive: awards presentation evening to be held on 18th September, 2019
- g) Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum** – No update
- h) Blaenau Gwent CAB** – No meeting
- i) Tredegar / Ebbw Vale Crime Prevention Panel** – nominated representatives had still not received any notification of meetings
- j) Tredegar Business Forum** – No meeting
- k) VVP / Tredegar Heritage Initiative** – 10 The Circle purchased by the Coalfields Regeneration Trust, partial use designated to Aneurin Bevan due to historical association and would be an integral part of increasing footfall; grant funding in place, awaiting final estimates. NCB, architectural survey carried out in town centre, taking into consideration ecological / environmental factors; interest from Coalfields, could be offshoot of aforementioned works; urgent progress needed, a few issues with the architect but discussions ongoing with the client. TA would be opening shortly and announcement imminent in respect of Sirhowy Community Centre. Members were encouraged to visit the TA.

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

- Unauthorised stationing of a caravan at the rear of the Museum / Library at The Circle, Tredegar. Previously, the Council had been informed that there was no action available to the Local Authority to resolve this matter.
Following a brief discussion in respect of the background to this longstanding matter, Members therefore requested that a copy of the notice issued by Caerphilly County Borough Council, be forwarded to Blaenau Gwent CBC asking if the Authority could now take similar steps for the removal of the afore-mentioned vehicle.
- Update requested on Health and Wellbeing Centre, e.g. number of Doctors available / will be appointed. Concerns were expressed that those under twelve years of age would no longer be able to have blood tested in the surgery and would be sent to A&E at Ysbyty Aneurin Bevan; alternatively, Nevill Hall Hospital or even Ystrad Mynach. Clarity was needed: agreed, Clerk to write; *also*
Concerns again raised in respect of sale of land within Bedwellty Park, rather than

subject to a lease: Clerk to pursue.

- Proposed Members' visit to the National Assembly for Wales: Clerk to write to Alun Davies, A.M., seeking suitable dates.
- Nomination received for the Lindsay Bryan Memorial Sports Award, which was agreed accordingly

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 8.00 p.m.

_____ Chair