

# TREDEGAR TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held in the Council Chamber, Bedwellty House on Wednesday, 18<sup>th</sup> September, 2019 at 6.00 p.m.**

**Present:** Councillors **D. Jones (Chair)**  
**T. Smith**  
**A.E. Tippings**  
**D.W.A. Howells**  
**G. James**  
**A. Jones**

**In attendance:** Clerk – **Ms. C. Price**  
RFO – **Ms. A. Jones**

**161) Apologies.** Councillors **E. Jones, M. Cross, K. Phillips, P. Prosser, S. Rees, D. Rowberry, J. Thomas, H. Trollope, S. Trollope, M. Turner, B. Willis and I. Woods**

## **162) Declarations of Interest**

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

## **163) Town Centre Wi-Fi for Tredegar: Regeneration Projects Officer (BG), Dave Ware to address Council outlining a proposal in respect of providing the Wi-Fi**

The Chair extended a welcome to the Regeneration Projects Officer, who thereupon provided a brief background in respect of providing free Wi-Fi access throughout Tredegar town centre.

- The Local Authority / Regeneration Team had an opportunity through European Programme to access funding of 15,000 Euros through the Venture Scheme for Wi-Fi for small towns and cities
- The application had been successful to install the hardware for the Wi-Fi
- Tenders had been sought earlier in the year and awarded to 'Pinnacle'
- Other avenues of funding were being pursued
- A period of eighteen months was allowed, from awarding of funding to installation, in order to reclaim the voucher
- Installation would provide access points linking venues throughout the town, enabling free access to a full Wi-Fi connection
- Unfortunately, the proposed Brexit date of 31<sup>st</sup> October, 2019, could cause issues on implementation of the project – funding could not be reimbursed after 1<sup>st</sup> November, 2019 however the deadline could be extended to January 2020 and this would allow implementation to proceed. If the deadline was not extended and the UK exited the EU,

this opportunity would be missed

- Maintenance of the system would be approximately £1,000 per annum and it was hoped funding could be made available via the Townscape Heritage Initiative, as the majority of the initial funding would be used on hardware
- Lamppost columns could not be utilised; preferred use would be CCTV columns, as issues could arise in respect of water penetration
- Shop owners may be willing to contribute following the three-year Scheme to carry on the service permanently to attract visitors to the town centre – the Officer would be liaising with local businesses
- Gwent Shopping Centre had expressed an interest in joining the Scheme, if technically feasible – the Officer suggested associated issues would not be insurmountable
- Updates in respect of GDPR regulations were quite stringent in respect of security to ensure the service would not be misused
- Should '5G' be introduced following the installation, the service would not be affected and remain '4G'

The Chair said that Council was supportive, in principal, and access points could be considered on various buildings, as the scheme could increase buoyancy in the town, and this would be welcomed.

The Council thanked the Regeneration Projects Officer for attending and informing Members of the proposed scheme; the Officer thereupon left the meeting at this juncture.

#### **164) To receive any verbal recommendations of the Civic Sub-Committee**

The following recommendations of the Civic Sub-Committee were presented for consideration and approved accordingly:

- Aneurin Leisure Trust: It was unanimously agreed that the annual grant of **£1,000.00** be recommended for approval;
- Tredegar Arts and Trefil RFC: A further Civic Sub-Committee be convened to invite, as appropriate, representative groups not in attendance.

#### **165) Communications Radios: to receive report of the RFO**

The RFO spoke to the report, which contained information collated in respect of the proposed purchase of communication radios, as requested by Council. The Officer outlined the various options for Members' consideration, highlighting the following:

- an annual license would be required upon purchase
- in order to recoup the cost incurred, this would cover a nine / ten-year period
- components, such as the battery, dependent on quality, would require replacing during that period
- current practice of hiring the radios, resulted in no depreciation or delivery costs incurred

Council thanked the RFO for a most comprehensive report; however, Members considered purchasing the communication radios was not viable at this time.

## **166) Accounts: to consider a Schedule of Accounts for payment in September 2019**

The RFO spoke to the report and explained that the bank reconciliations were available for Members to view.

- The Officer referred to the additional payments made during August recess, subject to formal ratification of Council, which were approved accordingly.
- Christmas Lighting - a meeting of the Finance and Staffing Sub-Committee had been held on 30th July, 2019, whereupon delegated powers had been given to the 'top 4' senior Members to approve expenditure on receipt of the revised schedule and the first payment made accordingly.
- Attic Web - the Officer said that a change was required in respect of the method of payment for this account. A brief discussion ensued regarding the various methods of electronic payment available, whereupon it was agreed that the RFO liaise with a view to establishing a Standing Order (e.g. monthly / quarterly), as appropriate.
- Town Clock - tenders had been received in respect of the proposed project and would be presented to the Finance and Staffing Sub-Committee for consideration on Wednesday, 25<sup>th</sup> September, 2019.
- The cheque agreed as a donation in honour of the late Councillor Peter Waldron had been 'written back' as it had not been banked.
- The cheques in respect of the prizes awarded by Town Council to the Comprehensive School had been forwarded to the School in readiness for the Presentation Awards ceremony.
- The RFO sought approval of the amended total for transfer of funds, subject to the funding awarded to Life Leisure by the Civic Sub-Committee and approved by Council, which was agreed accordingly. The Officer also asked if Council would like to consider approving the cheques for funding raised in the Kidney Wales 'Walk for Life' and Armed Forces Day events to be presented by the Mayor: it was agreed this be considered by the Events Sub-Committee accordingly.

There being no further queries regarding the Schedule of Accounts, all presented items were approved for payment. Transfer of funds would be undertaken in the presence of the appropriate Member and Town Clerk, which was noted accordingly.

The RFO left the meeting at this juncture.

## **167) To receive and adopt the following Minutes of Council:**

- a) Finance and Staffing Sub-Committee - 3<sup>rd</sup> July, 2019**
- b) Civic Sub-Committee - 3<sup>rd</sup> July, 2019**
- c) Events Sub-Committee - 3<sup>rd</sup> July, 2019**
- d) Civic Meeting of Council - 3<sup>rd</sup> July, 2019**
- e) Finance and Staffing Sub-Committee - 17<sup>th</sup> July, 2019**
- f) Performance Review Sub-Committee - 17<sup>th</sup> July, 2019**
- g) Ordinary Meeting of Council - 17<sup>th</sup> July, 2019**
- h) Finance and Staffing Sub-Committee - 30<sup>th</sup> July, 2019**

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

## **168) Matters arising from the Minutes**

### **Civic Sub-Committee – 3<sup>rd</sup> July, 2019**

- Recreation Ground: Members requested an update in respect of the current situation.

### **Events Sub-Committee – 3<sup>rd</sup> July, 2019**

- Events: agreed, that the comment in respect of only three Members 'running around', be removed, as there had been more Members stewarding the event.

### **Civic Meeting of Council – 3<sup>rd</sup> July, 2019**

- Deighton playing field: Council asked that feedback be sought following the event organised by Greg Morgan.
- 'Defibrillators' Working Party - awaiting information requested in order to present recommendation to Council for consideration and approval, as appropriate.
- Crime Prevention Panel: Clerk to forward contact details of the nominated representatives, as the Members had received no notification of meetings to date.

### **Performance Review Sub-Committee - 17<sup>th</sup> July, 2019**

- War Memorial: there had been unwanted attention to the memorial which had resulted in some staining but no damage to the stonework. It was noted that cleaning was scheduled in October, however, in the agreed maintenance programme.

### **Ordinary Meeting of Council - 17<sup>th</sup> July, 2019**

- 'The Lodge' Working Party: Clerk to progress.
- Letter of congratulations to Queen's Honours List recipients
- Mining Disaster Memorial Plaque: details of the amended wording had been sent to the Group for consideration. The Leader highlighted that he was the nominated Council representative to liaise with the Group.
- The planning application submitted to the Local Authority in respect of development of the former Job Centre had been withdrawn.
- Armed Forces Covenant: Clerk to pursue.
- The successful funding awarded to Parc Bryn Bach was noted accordingly.

## **169) Chair to sign Minutes**

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

## **170) Correspondence**

1) Cllr I. Woods

Resignation letter.

- Council considered the letter of resignation, noting the Member's reasons outlined therein; the resignation was accepted accordingly.

It was agreed that the Clerk undertake the necessary process in contacting Blaenau Gwent to advise that there was a vacancy within the Council, with a view to either an election or co-option appropriately, and the Labour Group representative be informed.

Thanks were expressed to the Member and it was agreed that a letter of appreciation be sent.

2) BGCBC

- a) Re: Tredegar Health & Wellbeing Centre.
- i) A. Jones. Council's Estates Department are dealing with this matter and will respond in due course. Reassurance, that as Monitoring Officer, she will not condone any proposal which is unlawful.
- ii) L. Horner. Update regarding area of land forming part of Bedwellty Park.
- Concerns were again raised in respect of the proposed sale of land; Friends of Bedwellty had also expressed these same concerns. The Member would not wish to impact upon the development but a long-term lease, such as 99 years, could safeguard the Park and ensure no precedent was set.
- Members were encouraged to view the relevant plans, as per the invitation of the Team Leader – Estates and Valuation; however, it was noted the final decision lay with the Charities Commission.
- b) D. Arnold Re: Hate Crime Awareness Week 12<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> October, 2019, West Gwent Community Project Funding Application.
- Noted; pass to House Manager, as Aneurin Leisure may wish to host an event.

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

- c) List of Licencing Applications, week ending 13.09.2019
- 1) C. Rickwood – Personal Licence
- Noted.

3) One Voice Wales

- a) Environment Wales Act 2016: Community & Town Councils duty under Section 6 to prepare and publish a plan setting out what it proposes to do to comply with the duty to Maintain and Enhance Biodiversity within their current work areas.
- Noted; pass to 'Tredegar Live' for consideration.
- b) News from Carnegie UK Trust.
- Noted.

4) K. Preston

- Alun Davies, A.M. wishes to attend a Council meeting and requests potential dates.
- Invite to formal meeting of Council.

- 5) Aneurin Bevan Health Board
- a) N. Wood Re: Update on Tredegar Health & Wellbeing Centre.
- Noted; Council supported the development, other than the sale of land within Bedwellty Park, as previously discussed, which should be retained and allowed as a lease only.
- b) “Building a Healthier Gwent” workshop dates and link to survey – **added to website**
- Noted; circulate to Members via email.
- 6) Cllr Smith
- Image of damage to War Memorial.
- Noted; agreed cleaning to be undertaken as part of the Council’s maintenance programme.
- 7) Cllr A Tippings
- Link to BBC News: Aberfan anniversary, school pupils to hold silence.
- Noted; Schools may be interesting in participating, Clerk to forward information accordingly.
- 8) Cllr R Abbas
- Link to You Tube for the video of “Building Musical Bridges” celebration held on 20.07.19 celebrating the Birth of The Báb
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BRf4oFyhWj0&feature=youtu.be>
- Noted.
- 9) G. Meredith
- Asking whether Council would consider inviting Wendy Jane to sing at this year’s Christmas Lights Switch On Event.
- Noted; refer to Events Sub-Committee.
- 10) Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum
- Heritage Day event, Saturday, 19<sup>th</sup> October, 2019 at 10.00 a.m., Brynmawr Social Club – **added to website**
- Noted.
- 11) GAVO
- a) Call for Local Committee Nominations and Applications 2019, deadline for nominations 09.10.2019.
- b) Invitation to AGM Thursday, 7<sup>th</sup> November, 2019 at 9.30 a.m. Llancaiach Fawr.
- Noted.
- 12) Crown Paints
- D. Delaney offering services of Crown Paints to work with contractors on Clock.

- Noted; a Member asked that the RFO contact the individual to ascertain if there would be a charge for services; if advice would extend to other paints other than Crown and if the same was pertinent to Crown only. Members suggested, if Town Council showed a preference to one product, to ensure this would adhere to financial regulations.

- 13) Planning Aid Wales
- a) Hard copy of the draft National Development Framework which is the major planning consultation launched in August by the Welsh Government, *responses by 1<sup>st</sup> November, 2019*. Details of training services available from Planning Aid Wales.
  - b) Invitation for one representative to attend the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration at the Senedd on 15<sup>th</sup> October, 6.15 p.m. to 8.00 p.m.

- Noted; forward to planning representatives.

- 14) R. Taylor-Davies
- The Valleys that Changed the World networking meeting 6<sup>th</sup> November, 2019 at 10.00 a.m. Fourteen Locks Canal Centre, Rogerstone.

- Noted; Councillor A.E. Tippings would be attending under her BG role.

- 15) Tree Charter
- Tree Charter Day 30<sup>th</sup> November and free trees available to plant on that date.

- Noted; forward to 'Top 4'.

## 16) PUBLICATIONS

Ville D'Orvault, Orvault & Co Sept/Oct 2019 issue 25; BGCBC Roadworks report week ending 13.09.2019 & 20.09.2019; Communicorp Clerks & Councils Direct September 2019 issue 125 – ***distributed to Members***: Received.

## 17) AGENDA

Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum Agenda meeting Friday, 20<sup>th</sup> September, 2019 at 10.00 a.m. Tredegar Library – **available for Members**: received.

## 171) Town and Community Councils Charter: to receive feedback of Members on the draft Charter

The Leader said that the Charter had been considered by the nominated Town and Community Consultation representatives; Members observations had been taken on board and the document revised.

The Charter had then been circulated to Members of Tredegar Town Council - observations had been received from Councillor Mark Turner, who had been given the appropriate response, and Councillor Alyson Tippings. The Member thereupon briefly outlined her observations, which was considered accordingly, i.e. the columns should mirror each parties' responsibility. She felt the Charter had been 'watered down' on specifics and directed by the Local Authority rather than the Town Council; the Member therefore expressed concern in respect of the style and specificity.

It was noted that currently town and community councils were not instructed to adhere to legislation in respect of the Future Generations Bill, although the Local Authority wanted the four Town/Community Councils to evidence any such work being undertaken in their communities.

The Leader said that some of the same concerns had been expressed by the representatives, i.e. the Local Authority having direct involvement in the town and community councils' budget-setting process and also the lack of consultation in respect of planning, such as Members not attending planning site meetings, and it had been agreed that Town and Community Councils would be allocated a slot to speak on applications at meetings of the Planning Committee. He confirmed that the Charter had been adopted by all of the three remaining Councils.

It was therefore agreed that Tredegar Town Council adopt the Charter.

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

## **172) Planning:**

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

**ii) a) List of planning applications received in week 36**

**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/2019/0234	Mr. A. Arnold Mountain Ash Inn Abertysswg Road Abertysswg Tredegar	Change of use from public house to a residential house only, Mountain Ash Inn Abertysswg Road, Abertysswg, Tredegar.

***No objections***

C/2019/0237	Mr. A. Walker Aneurin Bevan University Health Board	Outline application for demolition Tredegar Health Centre, partial demolition of Tredegar General Hospital and erection of a new Class D1 Health and Wellbeing Centre including revised access, car parking, landscaping and ancillary works (all matter aside from access reserved), Tredegar General Hospital and Tredegar Health Centre, Park Row.
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***No objections***



C/2018/0249 Mr C Hind  
6 Is-Fryn  
Rhymney.

Change of use of land to residential curtilage erection of detached garage and new front boundary wall and gates, land adjacent to No. 1

***No objections***

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

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

- Contact to be made with Pierre Cornlouer in respect of arrangements for Armed Forces Day
- Councillor Mark Turner had requested that the planning application in respect of the proposed development for the Health and Wellbeing Centre be emailed to him; the Clerk explained that planning applications were now received via an electronic system, but she would forward the information, if possible.
- Safety Advisory Group: Officers had met with the Royal British Legion and town / community councils, whereupon concerns had been raised in respect of roles and responsibilities in relation to the Armistice Day Parade.  
The position of Tredegar Town Council, this was a RBL event with the support of Council. Police would be withdrawing services from next year, and the SAG meeting informed RBL branches they would have to take on more responsibility. Local Authority organised event in Ebbw Vale. therefore, clarity was needed in respect of co-ordination for the other towns in the County Borough.
- The Lodge, Bedwellty Park: Members were informed that Town Council would be eligible to apply for funding in respect of this building.
- Trefil Flower Festival, 6<sup>th</sup> October, 2019: to be held at Horeb Chapel, the theme would be 'giving'. People were invited to sponsor individual displays with the proceeds given to a charity. It had therefore been agreed this would be the Mayor's Appeal.  
A donation of £40.00 was thereupon approved in order to provide a Town Council floral display.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 8.10 p.m.

\_\_\_\_\_ Chair