

TREDEGAR TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Civic Meeting of Council held in the Council Chamber, Bedwellty House on Wednesday 8th January 2020 at 6.30 p.m. (7.00 p.m. start)

Present: **Councillors E. Jones (Chair)**
 T. Smith
 A.E. Tippings
 M. Cross
 D.W.A. Howells
 G. James
 A. Jones
 K. Phillips
 S. Rees
 D. Rowberry
 J. Thomas
 H. Trollope
 S. Trollope
 M. Turner
 G. Walters
 B. Willis

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

311) Apologies. **Councillors D. Jones and P. Prosser**

312) Declarations of Interest

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

313) To receive Mayor's report, as appropriate

The Mayor said that December had proven busy and she had attended the following:

- BG Otters Christmas Party, which had been a treat – unfortunately, the Mayor had not presented their grant cheque at that event but this had now been forwarded on; £1,300.00 had been raised by the Miners' Heritage Group, by way of a raffle, for memorial gates; the Mayor had donated a turkey to the Community Centre, which had been received by a person in need; she had met with the Parson of the Catholic Church, who was in charge of six different churches and had attended Mass in her Mayoral role. Unfortunately, the Mayor had missed presenting a cheque for the Trefil on Saturday, 21st December, but was pleased to now be in a position to present cheques for three groups in this area. Finally, the Mayor's Christmas visits to Residential and Care Homes undertaken on Christmas Eve had gone extremely well.

314) To consider the exclusion of the Press and public by virtue of the matters to be discussed under the provisions of the LGA 1972 Schedule 12A

Moved, the meeting was closed to the public.

315) To receive the verbal recommendations of all Sub-Committees held prior to this meeting of Council

It was agreed that the following recommendations presented to Full Council be approved accordingly:

Events Sub-Committee – 8th January, 2020

- Appropriate delegates to pursue ongoing actions;
- Approval of expenditure to submit an application for a Special Road Closure Order for the V.E. celebrations on Saturday, 9th May, 2020.

Performance Review Sub-Committee – 8th January, 2020

- proposed virements, outlined in the recommendations within the report, were agreed to mitigate the projected overspends at year-end;
- observations in respect of budget headings and funding allocated, as circulated to all Members, to be relayed to the RFO for amendment, and presented to Council for approval.

316) To re-open the Meeting to the Public

Moved, the meeting was re-opened to the public.

317) Grants:

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

Future Now Tred Fest – Any financial assistance received would be towards the production costs, such as equipment hire, associated with organizing this music competition which will be held over several weeks at various venues in Tredegar

2018/19 Oct'18 CQ No. 978 £200.00: *Approved accordingly.*

Tredegar Business Forum – Any financial assistance received would be used towards the costs of purchasing a new watering butt and potentially two more water resistant planters.

2016/17 June'16 CQ No. 407 £250.00

They are asking if Council will consist this application as a Special grant and they will be submitting another grant form in shortly : Approved that the application be considered as a 'Special' grant and that funding of £500.00 be agreed accordingly. Proviso to include that any promotional literature outline the sponsorship of TTC and that the contractual employee be allowed use of the water planters to maintain the Town Clock surround.

Urdd Gobaith Cymru – Any financial assistance received would be towards the costs of staging this event which in 2020 will be held in Denbighshire. Urdd members from each area win their way to compete at this National Event.

2018/19 March'19 CQ No. 774 £100.00: *To be deferred, further information requested in respect of participants.*

Wales Air Ambulance – Request for funding to help them extend their service hours to enable them to operate 24 hours a day 365 days a year. In the past 12 months there were 49 missions in Blaenau Gwent.

2018/19 March'19 CQ No. 776 £200.00: Approved accordingly.

b) To receive and consider grants to Churches & Chapels (s.137)

None received.

318) Correspondence

1) BGCBC

a) M. Howland Re: Tredegar Recreation Ground.
Response to consultation query.

- Members expressed concern, as it was not felt that two emails could be viewed as consultation. Also, Town Council had indicated Members would reconsider the position if the relationship broke down between the four groups.

Council compared the consultation to that received in respect of Sirhowy Woodlands, which was considered an effective, formal consultation process. Council emphasised that TTC should be consulted through a formal consultation process on all asset transfers and therefore considered the Town Council had not been consulted with on this occasion. A Member felt that Town Council had been treated with disdain.

It was therefore proposed that a meeting be requested with the Officer to explain if the consultation process had changed.

Taking into account no proper consultation had taken place, Members felt that the Local Authority had not adhered to the Town & Community Councils' Charter in place; and, following clarity sought of the BG Legal Officer that the Charter was not a legal document, Members agreed to dispense with the Charter and not sign the recently reviewed / amended Charter with the Local Authority.

Agreed: Officer and Executive Member to be invited to meet with Senior Members (Top 4).

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

b) L. Sage Re: Sirhowy Woodlands, Community Asset Transfer application, **response by Friday 10.01.2020.**

- Upon a vote being undertaken, it was agreed that Council was supportive in principal, dependent upon confirmation of the appropriate Group being approved for transfer.
- c) Cllr J. Morgan Re: Bedwellty House museum artefacts. Raising concerns regarding disposal of items previously held in storage at Bedwellty House.
- A Member said that items had been deposited from Blaenau Gwent CBC in to Bedwellty House, as part of a community project to set up a Blaenau Gwent Museum.

A number of items were placed into storage in the former Abertillery Leisure Centre and a release of assets was carried out under the guidance of the Heritage Officer. All registered museums received an offer to take those artefacts on board and anything not registered was disposed of: this was a Blaenau Gwent-wide project. In respect of the ongoing project, a request had been received for artefacts from the former hospital to be returned to the new Health Centre.

The Member said that she had responded to the request referred to in the correspondence, regarding artefacts for 10 The Circle, in her role as a BG Officer fully explaining where they were and those to be returned to the Health Centre. At that time, unfortunately Tredegar Museum had not been a registered museum and therefore items had been offered to others in Blaenau Gwent.

A Member said he was aware of the request, which was in respect of the proposed Medical Aid Heritage Centre and were looking for any items linked to the health centre, or with links to medical aid, to form part of an interactive exhibit as a visual aid.

Another Member expressed concern that he was unaware that items had been disposed of and felt TTC should be informed as the custodians of items, such as the dentist chair, pushbike, etc. and referred to other items which should be in storage.

Agreed: item to be referred to the Blaenau Gwent Destination Manager.

- d) D. Arnold Re: Strategic Equality Plan formal consultation. **Responses by 22.01.2020.**
- Noted; forward to all Members.

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

- e) List of Licencing Applications, week ending 27.12.2019
- 1) M.J. Meats – Temporary Street Trading.
 - 2) M.J. Meats – Permanent Street Trading.
- Noted.
- 2) One Voice Wales
- a) Wales & V.E. Day 75: Nation's Toast to the Heroes of WWII.
 - Noted.
 - b) Buckingham Palace Garden Party: Invitation to current (outgoing) Chairperson. **Response by 12.00 noon Friday, 31st January, 2020.**
 - Agreed: Councillor Ellen Jones to attend as outgoing Mayor.
- 3) Cllr A.E. Tippings
- a) Maud Davies birthday 25.05.2020. – **Do we know address and definite age?**
 - Council were saddened to hear that Ms. Davies had passed away over the Christmas period and expressed condolences.
 - b) Press release "Lost Voice on the Mend" Clock fault.
 - Councillor A.E. Tippings to follow up press release.
- 4) Royal British Legion
- Thank you for the £500 donation. Please note they have stated in letter donation to Poppy Appeal, but Council letter requested donation to go direct to Tredegar Branch.
- Letter in response to ask that monies be returned in order to forward to approved recipient.
- 5) T. Theobald
- Request for payment upfront for the defib to be despatched – **Council to approve a cheque to be issued now, rather than at Schedule of**

Payments on 22.01.2020, if they wish to receive the defib asap.

- Expenditure approved accordingly, to be sent prior to Schedule of Payments, in order to progress.

6) K. Preston

Glad Members enjoyed visit to Senedd.

- Noted.

7) T. Collins

Well done for the town and Clock Christmas Lights, it was a pleasure to see them when driving through the town.

- Noted.

8) PUBLICATIONS

BGCBC Roadworks report week ending 27.12.2019 & 10.01.2020; Ville D'Orvault, Orvault & Co Jan-April 2020 Issue 27; J. Parkers Wholesale Catalogue Spring 2020; Aneurin Bevan Community Health Council Patients Voice News Bulletin Issue 36 Autumn 2019; Communicorp Clerks & Councils Direct January 2020 Issue 127 – **relevant item copied for Member.** Received.

9) AGENDA

None received.

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

319) Planning:

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

- ii) a) List of planning applications received in week 50.
- b) List of planning applications received in week 51.

b) Verbal report of the Planning Committee, if any

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

App. No.	Applicant	Proposal
C/2019/0351	Mr. Fosters Hille Educational Products RBS Unit 27 Rassau Industrial Estate Ebbw Vale	Variation of Condition10 of planning permission C/2007/0730, Former BKF Plastics Ltd, Ashvale Works, Fair View.
	No objections	
C/2019/0352	Mr. Morse 19a Dorian House Tynewydd, Tredegar	Replace and enlarge conservatory at side of property, 19a Dorian House, Tynewydd.
	No objections	

C/2019/0330 Mr. M. Young
Dragon Recycling Solutions
Unit 4 Heads of the Valleys Ind. Estate
Rhymney

Proposed change of use of existing buildings from Education and Training centre to B2 Industrial Use for the recycling and recovery of WEEE (Waste Electronic and Electrical Equipment) and associated materials and products, Unit 2 Tafarnaubach Industrial Estate, Tredegar.

No objections

C2019/0353 Mr. A. Walker, ABUHB
C/o Ms. R. Lees
RPS Planning and Development
2 Callaghan Square,
Cardiff

Prior notification of intention to remove 6 whitebeam; 1 ash, leyland cypres and common alder, land within Tredegar Health Centre and land within Bedwellty House & Park

No objections

C/2020/0001 Mr. L. Moon
Ashlea, Church Street
Tredegar

Proposed detached garage, Ashlea, Church Street

No objections

d) To consider other planning matters - None received.

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

- A Member expressed concern of the deterioration to Parc Bryn Bach and requested that this be included on the agenda for updates also; which was agreed accordingly.

321) 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 – due to the Local Authority not adhering to the current Charter in place, and the confirmation of the Legal Officer (BGCBC) that it was merely an agreement between town / community councils and could be broken, it was unanimously agreed that Tredegar Town Council withdraw from the Charter and the Quarterly Liaison Committee meetings accordingly.

b) Gwent Valleys One Voice Wales – No meeting

c) One Voice Wales Larger Councils and AGM – No meeting

d) Tredegar Twinning – Orvault visiting from Thursday, 16th April, 2020; Inter-Committee meeting to be held on the Saturday at 10.30 a.m.; request made to open the Town Clock on 18th April; Mayor's reception to be held in the Bowls Club (drinks' reception and nibbles); soiree at Venue 1; Sunday lunch at the Tredegar Arms then departing on the Monday.

Members were invited to provide accommodation to the French visitors in their homes, with an opportunity to then visit France on the next visit.

e) Pen Bryn Oer Community Fund – rollover funding support would be distributed as widely as possible between Tredegar applicants.

f) School Governing Bodies – Primary Schools were looking to reduce hours by one full school day; Deighton Primary had already implemented this practice. This was being undertaken in consultation with parents and would be reviewed after two terms; it was considered this would be beneficial to staff.

g) Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum – a trip had been arranged for Llancaiach Fawr and St. Henydd Memorial Garden / Gelli Gaer.

h) Blaenau Gwent CAB – no meeting

i) Tredegar / Ebbw Vale Crime Prevention Panel – a Member had contacted Ryan Hill, as TTC representatives were still awaiting to be notified of acceptance on to the Panel.

j) Tredegar Business Forum – no meeting.

k) VVP / Tredegar Heritage Initiative – Members were pleased to note the scaffolding had now been removed from 10 The Circle.

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

- Congratulations extended to Trinity Cooper; her performance on The Voice was tremendous and the community of Tredegar was proud, as a whole.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 8.15 p.m.

_____ Chair