

TREDEGAR TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Civic Meeting of Council held in the Council Chamber, Bedwellty House on Wednesday, 4th March, 2020 at 6.00 p.m.

Present: Councillors E. Jones (Chair)

**D. Jones
T. Smith
A.E. Tippings
D.W.A. Howells
G. James
A. Jones
P. Prosser
D. Rowberry
H. Trollope
S. Trollope
M. Turner
G. Walters
B. Willis**

In attendance: Clerk – Ms. C. Price

383) Urgent Item of Business

Prior to consideration of the formal agenda, the Leader provided the following update:

Following a meeting with the Internal Auditor, Members had agreed to set up a Working Group consisting of Senior Members (Top 4), plus one additional representative – nominating Councillor Gerran Walters, and the Sub-Committee Chair of Finance, in order to look at all financial aspects of the Council. This would include consideration of the current precept, Reserves and all Earmarked Reserves, retained by Council and report back; in the first instance to the Finance and Staffing Sub-Committee, and quarterly reporting through the Performance Review Sub-Committee, working with the Clerk, RFO and the Internal Auditor.

The proposed course of action was thereupon approved accordingly.

384) Apologies. Councillors M. Cross, K. Phillips, S. Rees and J. Thomas

385) Declarations of Interest

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

386) To receive Mayor's report, as appropriate

The Mayor said that all grant recipients had been invited to attend the Presentation Awards Evening immediately following Council.

387) To receive any verbal recommendations of all Sub-Committees / Working Party prior to this meeting:

It was agreed that the following recommendations of the Events Sub-Committee held 4th March, 2020 be approved accordingly:

- Blaenau Gwent Rhythm and Ukulele Group: agreed that the Group be offered £150.00 for a one-hour performance, in line with the fee provided for Summer Bandstand concerts
- It was agreed that Senior Members (Top 4) and the Chair of Events would meet Monday, 9th March, 2020, to discuss issues delegated for consideration.
- Due consideration needed, as to what procedures should be put in place, should Council need to cancel forthcoming events in accordance with 'General Updates' Central Government directive.

388) Grants:

Thanks from Wales Air Ambulance Charity.

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

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

Oak Football Club - Any financial assistance received would be used for the costs of matches which includes hire charges, referee's fee and other associated costs

2018/19 May'18 CQ No. 861 £200.00: Approved accordingly.

St. John Ambulance - Any financial assistance received would be used towards their ongoing development and training.

2018/19 Feb'19 CQ No. 039 £500.00: Approved accordingly.

Councillors E. Jones and T. Smith declared an interest in the application and took no part in discussion or voting thereon

Sirhowy Community Centre Ltd. - Any financial assistance received would be used for the costs of running their coffee mornings and food banks.

2018/19 Feb'19 CQ No. 765 £200.00: Approved accordingly. Council commended the excellent work being undertaken by the Community Centre.

Tredegar Business Forum - Any financial assistance received would be used for the general administration costs towards delivering all their projects.

2016/17 June'16 CQ No. 407 £250.00

***2019/20 Jan'2020 CQ No. 974 £500.00 *Special Grant for planters:**

A grant in the sum of £200.00 was *Approved accordingly.*

Tredegar Camera Club - Any financial assistance received would be used for the costs of running their Club i.e. rent, guest speakers.

2018/19 Nov'18 CQ No. 995 £200.00: Approved accordingly.

Tredegar Decoupage Group - Any financial assistance received would be used for the costs of running their classes, recently received several ladies referred to them from Social Services to help combat loneliness and anxiety.

2018/19 March'19 CQ No. 790 £200.00: Approved accordingly.

*Councillor M. Turner declared an interest in the following applications ** and took no part in discussion or voting thereon*

** Tredegar & Rhymney Golf Club - Any financial assistance received would be used towards the redecoration of the Club and locker rooms.

2016/17 Jan'17 CQ No. 536 £200.00: Approved accordingly.

** Cock of the North, Tredegar & Rhymney Golf Club - Any financial assistance received would be used to replace the winter mats for the Cock of the North matches.

2017/18 Nov'17 CQ No. 723 £200.00: Approved accordingly.

** Veterans Club, Tredegar & Rhymney Golf Club - Any financial assistance received would be used to replace the damaged lockers and café area, incurred as a result of break-ins.

2016/17 Jan'17 CQ No. 537 £200.00: Approved accordingly.

A Member provided a brief background in respect of the applications received relating to Tredegar & Rhymney Golf Club; whereupon, following a brief discussion, Councillor G. James abstained from the voting process.

b) To receive and consider grants to Churches & Chapels (s.137) - Remains a grey area with regards to legality of financial support to religious buildings/activities – 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)

Central Baptist Church - Any financial assistance received would be used to carry out repairs incurred from the recent storms and they also need to renew the heating systems.

2018/19 March'19 CQ No. 778 £300.00: Approved accordingly.

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

Horeb Chapel - Any financial assistance received would be used to purchase a new dehumidifier.

2018/19 March'19 CQ No. 779 £300.00: Approved accordingly.

Sardis Chapel - Any financial assistance received would be used to renew internal woodwork and to install exterior lighting.

2018/19 March'19 CQ No. 780 £300.00: Approved accordingly.

It was proposed that Council refrain from awarding any further Special Grants until the financial review had been undertaken.

Upon a vote being undertaken, this was agreed accordingly. Councillor M. Turner abstained from the voting procedure.

389) Correspondence

1) BGCBC

a) Trees Cutting:

i) D. Assinder. Suggesting S. Ambler at £100.00 per tree.

ii) C. Engel. Need a TPO application completed, and contractor is £100.00 per tree; therefore £700.00

iii) M. Perry. Suggests S. Ambler and asking shall he instruct him to continue.

- It was agreed that these works needed to be carried out for health and safety reasons; by S. Ambler at the agreed cost of £500.00, as confirmed by M. Perry in an email received 26th February, 2020.

b) S. Smith Re: s.106 agreements. Response to query.

- Noted.

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

c) J. Engel Re: Seren Café. Planning Policy Section identified that the site has not been used as a café since 2006 and has been used for a number of alternative uses.

- A Member disagreed with the explanation, as the premises had been used as a Cybercafe in 2008.

d) Welsh Government announcement: £4.5 million funding into sport over the next two years in a bid to encourage people to lead more active lives.

- Congratulations to Tredegar Comprehensive School on the work undertaken to the 3G pitch; thanks were also extended to Councillors J. Morgan and H. Trollope.

e) D. Arnold Re: PSB Adaption Project Inception meeting diary marker.

Invitation to the Blaenau Gwent Climate Change Adaption Project inception meeting at Newtown Community Centre, Ebbw Vale – Wednesday, 11th March, 2020 at 2.00 p.m.

- Noted; Councillors T. Smith and A.E. Tippings would attend, if available.

f) K. Walkley-Jones: Deighton Primary had an amazing day at the Clock, thank you.

- Noted; thanks were extended to the Museum also, for accommodating the pupils.

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

g) i) List of Licencing Applications, week ending 14.02.2020

ii) List of Licencing Applications, week ending 21.02.2020

- Noted.

- 2) One Voice Wales
- a) Innovative Practice Annual Awards Ceremony 26.03.2020. Booking form and agenda, £55.00 per delegate.
 - b) One Voice Wales / SLCC Joint event 20th May, 2020 at Village Hotel, St. David's Park, Ewloe. £80.00 (+VAT) per delegate.
 - c) Register your defibrillator on The Circuit.
 - d) i) Mid & West Wales Development Officer, permanent contract, 20 hours per week, closing date for applications 17.03.2020.
ii) Policy Officer, permanent contract, 10 hours per week, closing date for applications 17.03.2020.
- Noted.
- 3) Hospice of the Valleys
- Invite to attend a special event celebrating the achievements of their supporters over the last twelve months, Wednesday, 25th March, 2020 at 4.30 p.m., The Welfare, Ebbw Vale RFC, Eugene Cross Park. *RSVP by Friday, 6th March, 2020.*
- Noted; Clerk to attend, if available.
- 4) Torfaen County Borough Council
- Pension employer meeting Wednesday, 8th April, 2020 at 2.00 p.m. Civic Centre, Pontypool. *RSVP by 6th March, 2020.*
- Noted; RFO welcome to attend.
- 5) GAVO
- National Lottery community fund advice sessions: Ascertaining interest for sessions.
- Noted; Councillor G. James expressed an interest.
- 6) Woodland Trust
- Prepare for Tree Charter Day 2020.
- Noted.
- 7) B. Davies
- Complaining about the height of the new fence being installed by Tai Calon in Peacehaven.
- For the attention of Tai Calon Community House and the Planning Department (BG).

8) Kidz R Us Invite to attend next show "A slice of Saturday night" either Friday, 20th March or Saturday, 21st March, doors 7.00 p.m. Will reserve a table free of charge if attending.

- The Mayor and Leader expressed an interest in attending on Saturday, 21st March.; the Deputy Leader would prefer the Friday night but would be happy to be flexible, depending on availability.

9) PUBLICATIONS

BGCBC Roadworks report week ending 28.02.2020 & 02.03.2020; Communicorp Local Councils Update Issue 237 March 2020 and Clerks & Councils Direct March 2020 Issue 128 – ***distributed to Members***: Received.

10) AGENDA

None received.

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

390) Planning:

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

ii) a) List of planning applications received in week 06.

b) List of planning applications received in week 07.

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/2020/0053	Mr. R. Singh Peter Barnes & Associates Rhys House James Street Ebbw Vale	Retrospective application for an external store, Family Shopper, Park Place.
<i>No objections</i>		
C/2020/0056	Mrs. C. Braga 1 Fair View Tredegar	Proposed domestic garage to side of dwelling and retention of front entrance porch and boundary fence, vehicle gates, 1 Fair View.
<i>No objections</i>		

C/2020/0057	Mr. Williams c/o AbleTouch Joinery Derwen House Commercial Street Tredegar	Installation of new shop front, pull-out awning and alterations to front elevation, including new windows to upper floors; proposed ground floor rear extension with roof terrace at first floor to serve first floor flat; alterations to doors and windows to rear of property, 6 The Circle.
No objections		
C/2020/0062	Mr. & Mrs. Spear David Spear Commercials Car Show Room Crown Business Park Road, Tredegar	Change of use of land to form part of existing car show room with new vehicular entrance and security fencing, Car Show Room, Crown Business Park Road.
No objections		
C/2020/0064	Mr. & Mrs. Spear David Spear Commercials Car Show Room Crown Business Park Road, Tredegar	Proposed security fencing, Car Show Room, Crown Business Park Road.
No objections		

d) To consider other planning matters – None received.

391) Updates regarding Bedwellty House and Park / Parc Bryn Bach - any issues to have been previously reported direct to the House Management / Aneurin Leisure personally

Members said that work commencing on the playground at Parc Bryn Bach was pleasing to note.

392) 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** – the meeting had been held Monday; unfortunately, the House had been closed so the Association had needed to use a different venue. The Secretary had written to the Moose to use as the host venue at 12.00 noon on the Saturday and enquired, if a charge was levied, would Town Council contribute. It was noted that funding of £300.00 had been awarded for the Mayor's Reception, as the contribution of Town Council; Leader to liaise with the Secretary accordingly.
- e) Pen Bryn Oer Community Fund** – the deadline was 11th March, 2020 for applications.
- f) School Governing Bodies** – *Tredegar Comprehensive*: awarded 'Green' for the fourth consecutive year. Highway issues: concerns were expressed in respect of parking in the vicinity of the gates and roundabout when collecting pupils, however it was acknowledged the parking was for Sports Centre users also. *Bryn Bach Primary*: appointed a new Deputy Headteacher, Mr. Oliver, who was starting in September. *Glanhowy Primary*: had

a vacancy for a classroom teacher position and was to meet on 12th March to discuss.

g) Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum – No meeting

h) Blaenau Gwent CAB – No meeting

i) Tredegar / Ebbw Vale Crime Prevention Panel – a Member suggested a Tredegar-only forum was needed.

j) Tredegar Business Forum – the Business Forum had requested a meeting with the Highways Department BGCBC to discuss the likelihood of undertaking the new parking provision throughout the town centre; following the previous meeting last March: no feedback had been received.

k) VVP / Tredegar Heritage Initiative – properties around the Circle were progressing well, i.e. No. 10 and the NCB; work starting on property next to the Cambrian; next project to be The Punch House and Martins; application being submitted to Welsh Government in respect of the shopping precinct and Commercial Street – Officers were confident that funding would be approved.

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

- *Reminder : Presentation Evening immediately following this meeting of Council*
- Highways concerns re: parking, new Hospital development. A Member referred to an assurance that no heavy goods lorries would be travelling along Market Street during the development; this was not being adhered to. He therefore suggested that Town Council should write, requesting a site meeting with the Ward Councillors, as he was concerned on health and safety grounds that someone could be injured.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 7.06 p.m.

_____ Chair