

TREDEGAR TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Civic Meeting of Council held remotely via Microsoft Teams on Wednesday, 2nd December, 2020 at 6.30 p.m.

Present: Councillors E. Jones (Chair)
A.E. Tippings
D.W.A. Howells
G. James
K. Phillips
S. Rees
J. Thomas
M. Turner
B. Willis

In attendance: Clerk – Ms. C. Price

116) Apologies. Councillors D. Jones, T. Smith, M. Cross, A. Jones, P. Prosser, D. Rowberry, H. Trollope, S. Trollope and G. Walters

117) Declarations of Interest

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

118) To receive Mayor's report, as appropriate

The Mayor said she had attended Armistice events held, i.e. the Remembrance service and at the memorial benches, to lay wreaths on behalf of Council.

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

No Sub-Committee or Working Party meetings had been held prior to Council.

120) Grants:

Thanks from Tredegar Orpheus Male Voice Choir and Tredegar Camera Club.

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

Sparkle (South Wales) Ltd. - Any financial assistance received would be used for the outreach groups they are creating for the Blaenau Gwent Community – nine referrals live in the NP22 area. Two groups – Little Stars for children aged 0-4 years and Play Clubs for children aged 5-11 – designed to promote communication, self-esteem, motivation, and independence whilst experiencing a variety of play activities including specialized multi-sensory.

No previous grant/donation given to this Charity.

Members fully supported the work within communities to support vulnerable children and welcomed the support in this area. *It was approved that a grant of £100.00 be awarded.*

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)

- None received

121) Correspondence

1) BGCBC

a) M. Howland Re: Deighton Field and Sirhowy Gardens. Potential break clause.

- A Member suggested that the appropriate Sub-Committee needed to consider all the information received from Blaenau Gwent CBC. The Clerk said that the wording in the Clause was quite generic at this point, but the Officer would always advise Council to fully consider any asset before a decision was reached, having a duty of diligence and responsibility to the community, e.g. look at land surveyor reports to fully assess possible / associated risk.

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

b) List of Licencing Applications, week ending 27.11.2020.

i) Temporary events notice, sale of alcohol 19th to 24.12.2020 – Lidl's

- Noted.

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

c) Next Tourism Generation Competition – **added to website and Twitter**

- Noted; forward to Councillor K. Phillips.

- 2) One Voice Wales
- a) Members' survey report.
 - Noted; forward to all Members via email.
 - b) Civic Participation Officer vacancy with Disability Wales, closing date 11.12.2020.
 - Noted; forward to Councillors J. Thomas and H. Trollope.
- 3) Welsh Government
- Discretionary Expenditure Limit 2021/2022: Appropriate sum under Section 137 will be £8.41 per elector.
- A Member suggested the information be referred to the RFO if impacting upon the Council's budget; however, it was clarified that Council ensured that expenditure remained far below the threshold permitted.
- 4) SLCC
- Membership renewal due from 01.01.2021 – **Council to approve**
- The Clerk confirmed the membership renewal was an annual cost of £208.00 for 2021; it was unanimously agreed the expenditure be approved accordingly.
- 5) Abertillery & Llanhilleth Community Council
- Community Council Representative at Bro Helyg Primary school: Abertillery have filled the post for the past few years, asking other Councils to now take up the Governor role and to agree a rota for this position going forward.
- Councillor J. Thomas expressed an interest in the Governor position; Clerk to liaise with EAS accordingly.
- 6) Cllr Tippings
- Re: Christmas Online. Email from Louby Lou confirming she is unable to hold an online event for Town Council.
- Noted; Clerk confirmed this was due to capacity not lack of interest.
- 7) Sight Cymru
- Offering free virtual awareness raising sessions on eye conditions and the barriers people face in access the community; also launched their Sight Loss Friendly Organisations scheme and asking if Council wishes to participate.
- To be invited to future meeting of Council.

8) Aneurin Bevan
Community
Health Council

“Feeling Forgotten? Hearing from people waiting for NHS care and treatment during the Coronavirus pandemic” report.

- Noted; forward to all Members via email.

9) PUBLICATIONS

BGCBC Roadworks report week ending 04.12.2020; Communicorp Local Councils Update Issue 246 December 2020.

– ***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

122) Planning:

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

ii) a) List of planning applications received in week 47

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/2020/0272	Mr. S. Seaward 36 Harford Gardens Tredegar	Removal of existing rear conservatory and replacement of single storey utility room, 36 Harford Gardens.
<i>No objections</i>		
C/2020/0274	Mrs. E. Samuel 31 St. James Park Tredegar	Second storey extension above double garage and conversion of double garage for annexe accommodation, 31 St. James Park.
<i>No objections</i>		

Councillor G. James declared an interest in the following application and took no part in discussion or voting thereon

C/2020/0276	Mr. D. Hillman The Gables Charles Street Tredegar	Proposed residential site of 20 dwellings and associated works, land adjacent to Ashvale Sports Club, Griffiths Gardens.
<i>No objections</i>		

(Forward to Councillor M. Turner, for information)

C/2020/0278

Mr. A. Morris
25 Bethel Avenue
Tredegar

Construction of garage,
25 Bethel Avenue

No objections

d) To consider other planning matters – None received.

123) 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 noted that, from Friday, Bedwellty House would be closed again; this was a concern for the hospitality sector and Council supported Aneurin Leisure throughout this closure and managing staffability.

124) 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 – No meeting**
- e) Pen Bryn Oer Community Fund – the successful applicants were now aware of monies to be received and the Member confirmed all funding for Tredegar had been allocated.**
- f) School Governing Bodies – School Governing bodies were struggling with pupil / teacher numbers due to isolating and doing their best to operate safely. *Bryn Bach Primary*: to meet the next week; *Glanhowy Primary*: closed**
- g) Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum – No meeting**
- h) Blaenau Gwent CAB; and**
- i) Tredegar / Ebbw Vale Crime Prevention Panel – the Clerk had attempted to make contact to ascertain when meetings were held for representatives to attend.**
- j) Tredegar Business Forum – No meeting**
- k) VVP / Tredegar Heritage Initiative – No meeting**

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

- Free Wi-Fi for Tredegar – in response to a query, the Clerk confirmed that a Blaenau Gwent Officer had made a presentation to Council in respect of the provision of free Wi-Fi for Tredegar town centre, to ascertain interest of Council to provide financial support; however, this was sought in principal as the project progressing was dependent on certain circumstances, i.e. relating to Brexit.

The project had since been confirmed and Tredegar Town Council had agreed to a commitment of £2,000 per year for two years. A Member was aware that installation of equipment had commenced but was not aware if the Wi-Fi was live / active as yet.

The Member welcomed the information and said that, when the launch date was known, this should be promoted accordingly. Another Member was aware that the Homepage was to be released soon, inviting individuals to submit links to their splash page.

- T2520 Bomber crash site '80th anniversary' – wreath to be laid next week to commemorate in line with Legislation, adhering to Covid-19 guidance: if any Member wished to participate, to liaise with the Clerk accordingly. It was agreed that the Deputy Leader purchase an appropriate wreath and liaise with the RFO for reimbursement.
- Sirhowy Woodlands – sale of wreaths, Thomas Ellis Way, 12th December, 2020 from 9.00 a.m. to 12.00 noon; for Members' information.
- Highways concerns re: traffic lights outside the Post Office, Tredegar Town Centre – the lights were not allowing sufficient vehicles through at any one time, which was resulting in a tailback through the town. Clerk to liaise with BGCBC to investigate with a view to monitor / amending timing of traffic lights.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 7.24 p.m.

_____ Chair