

TREDEGAR TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Civic Meeting of Council held remotely via Microsoft Teams on Wednesday, 13th January, 2021 at 6.30 p.m. (6.40 start)

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

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

151) Apologies. Councillors A. Jones, P. Prosser, and M. Turner

152) Declarations of Interest

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

153) To receive Mayor's report, as appropriate

The Mayor had no report, as yet; however she asked that Members take a moment to reflect on the past year.

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

It was agreed that the following recommendations presented to the Civic Meeting of Council be approved accordingly:

Finance and Staffing Sub-Committee – 6th January, 2021

- The proposals of the Budget Working Group be agreed and placed before Council for approval; and
- That three body cameras be purchased, for the Cleaning Operative and staff, to be worn whilst working in the public domain.

Performance Review Sub-Committee – 13th January, 2021

- Add £1,000.00 to Mayor's Parlour budget heading

- Remove £18,825.39 for Town Clock from 2020 /2021 budget and Estimated 31st March, 2021 expenditure, as expenditure now related to 2021 / 2022
- Accommodation – £21,520 to be returned to General Reserves (agreed not to proceed with project relating to The Lodge / alternative premises, particularly with Covid situation, no longer financially feasible or practical with current resources)
- Devolved Services reserves – movement of £20,000 from Earmarked to General Reserves (Council would not be taking on any more devolved services from the Local Authority, no longer financially feasible or practical with current resources)
- Smart Cymru – agreed for a transfer of £10,000 for the financial year 2021 / 2022.

155) Grants:

Thanks from Tredegar Angling Club & Sparkle (South Wales) Ltd.

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

- None received

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

In response to a question raised, the RFO confirmed the following organisations had completed an application form and been awarded grant funding in the current financial year: Bedwellty Park Bowls; Georgetown Community Centre; Kidz'R'Us; Oak Football Club; Stocktonville Senior Citizen; Tredegar Angling Club; 2167 Tredegar ATC; Tredegar Camera Club; Tredegar Orpheus Male Voice Choir; and Sparkle (South Wales) Ltd.

The RFO would email Members the list and again reiterated that, where Members were aware of groups in the community in need of funding, to direct the groups to the office for an application form to be sent.

156) Correspondence

- 1) BGCBC
- a) D. McAuliffe Re: Precept 2021/2022. Precept requirement is to be submitted no later than 31.01.2021.
- Noted.

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

- b) M. Bennett Re: Weekly Lists. Response to query relating to supermarkets seeking additional permission in respect of alcohol sale when stringent restrictions are in place on public houses; and

c) List of Licensing Applications, week ending 25.12.2020.

- Noted.

2) One Voice Wales

One Voice Wales Postponement of local government by-elections: Bringing on new Regulations preventing the holding of by-elections in February.

- Noted.

3) Inspector
S. Underwood

Re: Abuse & intimidation. Will be speaking with Neighbourhood Team to review what is happening, contact those affected and deal as required.

- Noted; request meeting with the Inspector, seeking his observations on delegation; Council proposed Senior Members and Councillor G. James, with an invite extended to V. Brewer (BGCBC). A Member also asked that one PCSO be invited to feedback on the frontline of the service.

4) G. Adams
Construction

Re: Clock Project

i) Late March start is possible, invoicing will be April – Contractor requests a date in March please

ii) Revised cost for project.

- Members noted the increase in the contract for the works to the Town Clock, whereupon the following information was requested:

- Assurances / guarantee on the work undertaken on completion
- was this a 'Fixed Price Contract'
- Breakdown of the 5% increase

On receipt of this information, Members agreed that it would be prudent for a small delegation of representatives to meet with the Contractor to discuss the contract.

5) Abertillery &
Llanhilleth
Community
Council

Richard leaving the post of Clerk 31.12.2020 and Steve will be Acting Clerk until a replacement is recruited in the new year.

- Agreed that a letter of congratulations be sent.

- 6) Cymru Hearts Parish & Town Councils £200 grant available.
- Funding towards replacement batteries / pads would be welcome; however, training requirements had previously been met by the Chair of Gwent Defibbers, who was an asset to Council and the community, and Members wished to continue with his expertise.
- 7) Men's Den Men's Den Blaenau Gwent gatherings on Wednesdays, details of forthcoming Zoom meetings.
- To be placed on TTC website, Facebook and Twitter; forward to Councillors E. Jones, S. Rees, H. Trollope and M. Turner.

8) PUBLICATIONS

One Voice Wales SE Wales RET update Winter 2020 newsletter; Integrated Wellbeing Network History of vaccination sessions via Teams on 21.01.2021 and 28.01.2021 – added to Twitter; Communicorp Clerks and Councils Direct January 2021 Issue 133; J. Parker Wholesale catalogue Spring 2021.
 – ***distributed to Members***: 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

157) Planning:

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

- ii) a) List of planning applications received in week 49.
- b) List of planning applications received in week 50.
- c) List of planning applications received in week 51.

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/2020/0229	Mr. & Mrs. Edwards 8 Walnut Close	Change of use from agricultural to domestic garden including 1.8m timber. boundary fence (Retention), 8 Walnut Close.
No objections	Tredegar	

d) To consider other planning matters – None received. In response to a question raised, the Clerk confirmed that the consultation document in respect of the Welsh-

medium Primary School was an agendaed Item for consideration at the next meeting of Council.

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

None received.

159) 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** – Next meeting 19th January, 2021
- c) **One Voice Wales Larger Councils and AGM** – No meeting
- d) **Tredegar Twinning** – French visitors had again asked to return in Easter, however Twinning members had decided not to pursue the invitation to Wales, as communities were still in lockdown and residents were nervous to host families due to the pandemic. Twinning was looking to undertake online activities in place of the visit.
- e) **Pen Bryn Oer Community Fund** – No meeting, however funding was again open for applications
- f) **School Governing Bodies** – N/A
- g) **Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum** – Suspended until further notice
- h) **Blaenau Gwent CAB; and**
- i) **Tredegar / Ebbw Vale Crime Prevention Panel** – the Clerk would continue to try and ascertain when meetings were held for representatives to attend.
- j) **Tredegar Business Forum** – No meeting
- k) **VVP / Tredegar Heritage Initiative** – No meeting

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

- 100th Birthday – Council was informed of a 100th birthday of a Tredegar residential home resident in February; it was agreed that flowers be sent on behalf of the Mayor and Members of Council.
- Sincere condolences were extended to the family of Rowley Morgan, locally known as the Chair of the Medical Aid Society, on their loss; it was agreed that a letter be sent.
- Bevan Festival – the WAWI committee, a group celebrating west Indians in this country, were fulfilling a significant role in the forthcoming NHS celebrations. A website had been established and asked that Tredegar Town Council submit items referring to the history of Wales / West Midlands as the birthplace of Aneurin Bevan and the cradle of the NHS. GAVO were on board, assisting in the development of a constitution and governance document. The proposed Hidden Hero Covid-19 Awards Ceremony in Tredegar, to be held the Monday following Bevan Day, with a VIP Royal guest to present was unlikely to proceed. The Group was exploring establishing an online event, as unfortunately they were not in a position to hold a big celebration.

- Hospital donations – a Member informed Council that the monies received by the Cefn Golau Tenants and Residents had been used to purchase toiletries for patients at Nevill Hall Hospital, Ysbyty Tri Chwm and Ysbyty Aneurin Bevan, who had offered their thanks for the support. It was the Member's intention to offer such support to the Grange also.

Another Member asked if it would be appropriate for Council to write to the A.M. and M.P. seeking support and outlining any concerns. Following a brief discussion, the Member was advised that any letter of political content should first be considered by Labour Group for appropriate discussions to take place.

It was therefore agreed that Tredegar Town Council award a grant of £250.00 to purchase toiletries for patients; Clerk to liaise with appropriate Member accordingly.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 7.47 p.m.

_____ Chair