

# TREDEGAR TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Civic Meeting of Council held remotely via Microsoft Teams  
on Wednesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> March, 2021 at 6.30 p.m. (6.40 start)**

**Present: Councillors E. Jones (Chair)**

**D. Jones  
T. Smith  
A.E. Tippings  
M. Cross  
G. James  
K. Phillips  
S. Rees  
M. Turner  
G. Walters  
B. Willis**

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

**209) Apologies. Councillors D.W.A. Howells, A. Jones, P. Prosser,  
D. Rowberry, J. Thomas, H. Trollope and S. Trollope**

## **210) Declarations of Interest**

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

## **211) To receive Mayor's report, as appropriate**

The Mayor said she had attended a Twinning meeting via Zoom when she had met the new Mayor and new members of committee.

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

Consideration was given to the following recommendations, which were approved accordingly.

### **Tredegar Public Facilities Sub-Committee – 3<sup>rd</sup> March, 2021**

- Deighton playing field / Sirhowy Community Garden: the Lease stipulate the ninety-nine year period only and the break out clause, allowing for a ten-year period for review, be removed.
- Refurbishment of the public conveniences be presented to Council for approval of expenditure to seek tenders.
- The new shopping precinct owners be contacted to explain the lease had expired, asking if a new lease could be drawn-up based on the previous one; and
- In the interim, Town Council to seek an extension to the current lease, e.g. a notice to occupy or confirmation that current arrangements still in place.

## Publicity Sub-Committee – Wednesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> March, 2021

There were no formal recommendations; however, the following actions would be undertaken:

- Actions to be undertaken, with a view to updating website
- Publicity Sub-Committee to be convened immediately prior to April meeting of Civic Council
- Clerk to liaise with House Manager regarding refurbishment / relocating Town Council noticeboard
- Investigate any financial support available for provision of a scrolling message screen.

### 213) Grants:

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

Tredegar Twinning Association - Any financial assistance received would be used towards the general administration costs incurred for the promotion of the association to grow membership numbers and to put on events in preparation for the next French visit in 2023.

**2018/19 Feb'19 CQ No. 762 £200.00: *Approved accordingly.***

#### 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

### 214) Correspondence

- 1) BGCBC
  - a) M. Hopkins Re: Traffic Management Concerns, Tredegar. Update on works and future potential proposals if funding is secured.
    - Noted; although issues continued with traffic flow, Members recognised this could be due to the age of the traffic signal system and may not be resolved satisfactorily at this time. It was suggested however that, should Blaenau Gwent CBC be successful in obtaining funding for a new traffic management system in this area, 'filter lane' provision would improve traffic flow, as vehicles from alternative directions would not be an issue.

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

- b) Establishing a new Welsh-medium Primary School in the Tredegar / Sirhowy Valley. Statutory Notice in respect of the proposal, objections by email / writing to be received by 29.03.2021.

- Clerk to provide response to Consultation, utilising feedback of the presentation to formal meeting of Council.

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

- c) i) List of Licensing Applications, week ending 12.02.2021
- ii) List of Licensing Applications, week ending 19.02.2021.
- a) Bedwellty Park Bowls Club – Vary Designated Premises Supervisor.
- b) Lidl - Vary Designated Premises Supervisor.
- iii) List of Licensing Applications, week ending 26.02.2021.
- a) Lidl – Temporary event notice, sale of alcohol Easter Bank Holiday.

- Noted.

2) Cllr A.E. Tippings

Report back on meeting held at the Clock with the Contractor on 26.02.2021.

- The Member had met the Contractor on site to check the electrics. All of the flood lights were beyond repair – Contractor to propose a solution that would floodlight the Clock at night and change colour by remote control. Electrician to return Monday to carry out further checks. The paint colours were all available and the gloss finish would provide a longer life. Contractor to also look at options around the edge of the wall to prevent the soil spillage; either a concrete cap or pavers. Keys were retained; to be returned Monday.

3) **PUBLICATIONS**

Aneurin Bevan University Health Board Vaccination Update, issue 6 and issue 7 – added to website & Twitter; One Voice Wales Webinar invitation re: Second Homes, developing new policies in Wales 04.03.2021 – ***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*

## 215) Planning:

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

ii) 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**

<b>App. No.</b>	<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Proposal</b>
C/2021/0024	Tracey Ann Jones 29 Bryn Pica Tredegar	Single storey side extension, 29 Bryn Pica
<b>No objections</b>		
C/2021/0035	Mr. P. Jenkins 12 Bryn Meadow Close Tredegar	Raised outdoor seating area with balustrade and retractable canopy, Tennis and Bowls Pavilion, Bedwellty Park
<b>No objections</b>		
C/2021/0038	Mr. M. Steed The Nook Harford Street Tredegar	Application for Reserved Matters relating to access, appearance, landscaping, layout and scale for residential development (outline C/2018/0361) at Former Calvary Pentecostal Church, Sycamore Avenue.
<b>No objections</b>		

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

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

A Member had recently visited Bedwellty House and informed Council that Aneurin Leisure was considering use of pop-up rain covers for outdoor sitting, which appeared really functional. Also, Bedwellty House was to be utilised as a Vaccination Centre to support the GP surgery, two days a week.

Another Member expressed disappointment as to the re-allocation of funding initially awarded to Parc Bryn Bach – this money had been allocated to the Garden Festival, when unable to utilise at Parc Bryn Bach, and had now been spent throughout Blaenau Gwent. He said that only a very small amount of the funding had been spent in the Tredegar area, with the majority allocated to Abertillery and Blaina. A Member clarified the funding had not been utilised at Parc Bryn Bach as the water supply was inadequate to meet the needs for the proposed activity. Council agreed, however, that transparency was needed as to how money was re-allocated; it was agreed, therefore, that the Clerk write to the Local Authority.

## **217) 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** – a consultation meeting had taken place to discuss the proposed budget papers of the Local Authority for the forthcoming financial year.

**b) Gwent Valleys One Voice Wales** – No meeting.

**c) One Voice Wales Larger Councils and AGM** – at the recent meeting, discussion had ensued regarding defibrillator provision. The Chief Executive of OVW, Lyn Cadwallader, had invited Tredegar Town Council to the SALC meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> March, 2021 at 10.00 a.m., Councillor Tippings would be willing to speak, if Council wished. A Member said that there was currently an offer to purchase a defibrillator for £250.00. It was suggested Council could consider such provision in the Trefil area in the future.

**d) Tredegar Twinning** – a really good online meeting had taken place; Members had met the new Mayor / new Councillors and a positive level of support had been extended. The French representatives had proposed the next visit for 17<sup>th</sup> April, 2022; however, Tredegar Twinning had proposed the following year (2023), as virtually every household who hosted visitors had received a vaccination jab.

Proposed Topic: images by under and over sixteen years old; Panel winner to participate in art exchange, with the artwork being exhibited for one year, and a similar exhibition event around the exchange by the French counterpart.

Each Christmas, Council presented a small gift, traditional to Wales.

The Member had promoted the Cymru Creations Film Festival and forwarded the appropriate links.

Bryn Bach Primary: modern languages initiative shared with other primary schools in the cluster; unfortunately, only one teacher had wished to engage.

The French Twinning had responded with their own agenda; however, suggestions had appeared to be taken on board; Members felt that it had been the right decision to delay the visit until 2023; the next meeting would be held September, Twinning were to meet more regularly, i.e. two per year.

**e) Pen Bryn Oer Community Fund** – No update.

**f) School Governing Bodies** – No meetings.

**g) Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum** – Suspended until further notice.

**h) Blaenau Gwent CAB** – No meeting. The Clerk had identified a contact, who would be pleased to provide appropriate data and include Council on their mailing list.

**i) Tredegar / Ebbw Vale Crime Prevention Panel** – No meeting. The Clerk had spoken with a Panel representative, who said that there were no meetings being undertaken and, when lockdown restrictions eased, the Town Council representatives were welcome to contact her.

**j) Tredegar Business Forum** – No meeting.

**k) VVP / Tredegar Heritage Initiative** – Next meeting 18<sup>th</sup> March, 2021.

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

- Illuminating Town Clock in memory of loss of life due to Covid-19 – a request had previously been raised with Council to light the face of the Town Clock 'yellow'. A Member had liaised with the appropriate party, who accepted TTC was unable to illuminate the Clock face on 23<sup>rd</sup> March, 2021 as scaffolding would be in place; however, it was the hope that, in the future, Town Council would be able to accommodate such requests. It was suggested therefore that Town Council could support the display of Yellow hearts – e.g. promote within Schools, utilise a local

business (such as SmartSignz) for a design, display on Facebook and Twitter.

The Member had therefore asked the Local Authority if Town Council could floodlight the Aneurin Bevan Stones; which was supported accordingly.

- Traffic Management: Health and Wellbeing Centre development – a Member said he had been asked, within his dual role as a County Borough Councillor, to take up a complaint against Blaenau Gwent CBC. He had therefore spoken to the appropriate Head of Service; the Officer informed him she had no recollection of emails from either Councillors M. Turner or J. Thomas. He understood that the complaint related to traffic management in Market Street, when residents were apparently informed that it had been promised vehicles for the development would travel along Park Row.

A Member responded that not all vehicles accessed the development via Park Row, and heavy lorries were travelling down Market Street. He had asked the Health Authority to invite representation from the Local Authority (Highways), who had only attended one meeting.

It was clarified that the Officer would have no powers in preventing such vehicular access, as there were no weight restrictions in respect of this highway. Previous correspondence had stipulated that parking for the development would be on The Recreation Ground, as car parking would be closed off for visitors to the surgery / hospital. The Member said that issues had not just arisen in Market Street, but also Park Row; Registration numbers for these vehicles had been provided to the site, i.e. relating to parking on double yellow lines / parking irresponsibly. Although residents wanted this facility, concerns had been expressed there had been no input relating to traffic management into Market Street.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 7.38 p.m.

\_\_\_\_\_ Chair