

TREDEGAR TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Civic Meeting of Council held remotely via Microsoft Teams
on Wednesday, 7th April, 2021 at 6.30 p.m.

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

In attendance: Clerk – Ms. C. Price

238) Apologies. Councillors M. Cross, A. Jones, P. Prosser and G. Walters

239) Declarations of Interest

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

240) To receive Mayor's report, as appropriate

The Mayor had nothing to report at this time.

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

Publicity Sub-Committee – 7th April, 2021

- There were no formal recommendations to be reported to Council; however, staff would meet with the website provider in the first instance to discuss undertaking the actions proposed.

242) Grants:

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

Aneurin Leisure Trust - Any financial assistance received would be used towards the purchase of a branded gazebo, which will be utilized at events throughout the Trust venues.

2019/20 Sept'19 CQ No. 906 £1,000.00: Council approved the offer for the TTC logo to be branded on the gazebo; however, Members asked that the price of the gazebo be provided for the RFO, as if the amount was of a lesser value, that balance could remain in the Aneurin Leisure pot for a future event, e.g. such as the workshops previously held in the Library: *Approved accordingly, subject to receipt of the foregoing.*

Tredegar Business Forum - Any financial assistance received would be used towards the annual planting of the sixteen railing planters and four hanging baskets sited throughout town.

2019/20 Jan'20 CQ No. 974 £500.00 (Special) & 2019/20 March'20 CQ No. 999 £200.00: *Approved accordingly.*

Tredegar Junior Netball Club - Any financial assistance received would be used towards the purchase of outdoor equipment and additional playing bibs to prevent sharing to be in align with Covid restrictions.

2019/20 July'19 CQ No. 876 £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)

Trinity Spiritualist Church - Any financial assistance received would be used towards the purchase of a new microwave, kettle and carpet for the kitchen and tearoom.

2017/18 March'18 CQ No. 834 £300.00: *Approved accordingly.*

243) Correspondence

- 1) BGCBC
 - a) A. Watkins Re: Grounds maintenance quotation. Anticipating returning to full level of cuts, Council need to confirm if they wish to accept that or require reduced level again this year.
 - As previously discussed: in order to proceed, and with a view to the good value and quality of service provided by the Local Authority over recent years, Council agreed to waiver TTC Financial Regulations and approve the quotation received accordingly.

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

- b)
 - i) List of Licensing Applications, week ending 12.03.2021
 - ii) List of Licensing Applications, week ending 26.03.2021.
- a) New Premise Licence for supply of Alcohol – Tredegar Post Office.

- Noted.

2) One Voice Wales a) Consultation: Local authority power to trade. The Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 gives qualifying local authorities a general power of competence. Authorities may use the general power to do things for a commercial purpose. Consulting on Regulations which require authorities to prepare a business case before using the general power in this way and on the proposal that community council eligible to exercise the general power be provided a power to trade in their ordinary functions.

- Forward to all Members via email.

b) Letter from Julie James, M.S. Re: Implementation of the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act.

- Forward to all Members.

3) Wales Audit

D. Evans Re: Audit notice and requirements for 31.03.2021. Letter from Adrian Crompton (Auditor General for Wales) informing Councils that the new audit arrangements for community and town councils have been deferred for one year.

- Changes to new audit arrangements and highlighting a backlog in completion of audits – audits for almost 200 councils had not been completed for 2019-2020; however, the Clerk confirmed that Tredegar Town Council had met all original audit deadlines, adapting arrangements to adhere to Legislation accordingly.

4) Aneurin Bevan
University
Health Board

Thank you letter for donation to Breast Unit Fund
- added to website

- Noted. A Member had spoken with the organiser; the group was trying to raise £200,000 and the Member highlighted there was a 'Donate' button on the website for the fund.

- 5) Residents' Letters
- a) C. Smith. Complaining about motor-cross bikes at Ton Fewd Farm: Seeking further clarification as to what Town Council will be doing to help resolve this ongoing matter.
 - Council was working closely with BG Colleagues and a recent operation had identified approx. 50 vehicles, issuing 'on the spot' fines and legal action being pursued through the Courts. Clerk to liaise with Head of Planning BGCBC to ensure appropriate wording for response.
 - b) S. Davies. Asking if Council would consider planting a tree for every person in Tredegar who has lost their life to the Covid-19 pandemic.
 - Respond thanking constituent for idea and confirming Council considering a number of commemorative options, for implementation at the appropriate time; to be referred for consideration of the Heritage Sub-Committee.

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

- c) P. Jenkins. Email, Raising her concerns regarding five sites in Tredegar being considered as halfway houses for ex-offenders – **forwarded to Cllr Walters & Borough Members as info.**
 - Planning matters was under the remit of the Local Authority and not appropriate for discussion of Town Council. The concerns related to a Data Protection issue and elected Members could not legally share such information with voters, as this would be against the law. A Member asked that Colleagues undertaking a dual role as County Borough Councillors ascertain the number of sites in other towns throughout the County Borough and was advised that such an issue should be raised direct, as an individual, with their own Ward Member.
- d) C. Wakeham. Raising concerns about anti-social behaviour under the bridge and along the footpath by Arches Close. They have experienced stone throwing, fires, drinking and foul language throughout the day and going into the early hours of the morning. Also raising concerns over the mess and dog fouling problems. Asking if Council can help.

- Forward to Community Safety Officers BGCBC and Police for attention; the Leader confirmed that he had also spoken with BG Officers on the matter as a Ward Member for that area.
- e) J. Jones. Dog fouling / cleanliness Georgetown area. Have telephoned BGCBC three times and logged two online reports but no action has been taken to resolve the ongoing problem or clean up the area. Asking for Town Councillors to raise this issue and look for some solutions such as dog fouling bins and signs.
 - Respond informing constituent this would be under the remit of the Local Authority and provide details of the County Borough Members for that Ward.

6) PUBLICATIONS

Armed Forces Day, 100 days to go; One Voice Wales Countryside Code refresh 2021: final wording; Aneurin Bevan University Health Board Vaccination Update, issue 10 & issue 11 – **added to website & Twitter**; One Voice Wales, Policy Announcement: Compulsory Purchase. Letter for consideration from the Minister for Housing and Local Government regarding the publication of the Welsh Government's Compulsory Purchase Order Manual; ABUHB Patients Voice News Bulletin – **added to website**; One Voice Wales, New Welsh Government Climate Change Newsletter March 2021 – **forwarded to Sub-Committee Members**; Communicorp Local Councils Update Issue 249 April 2021.

– **distributed to Members**: Received.

7) **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

244) Planning:

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

ii) List of planning applications received in week 9

List of planning applications received in week 10

List of planning applications received in week 11

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/2021/0054 No objections	Mrs. M. Jones 3 Cwm Rhos View Tredegar.	Rear single storey kitchen and bathroom extension (reduced from previous consent 2021) 3 Cwm Rhos View.
C/2021/0059 No objections	Mrs. M. Trace Ardwyn Villa Poplar Road Tredegar.	Ash / oak trees 4m reduction to south east lateral branches over boundary wall; crown clean to remove dead, diseased, defective, and crossing branches, 8 Elmwood Grove.
C/2021/0062 No objections	BGCBC Civic Centre Ebbw Vale.	Co-working office hub, Visitor Centre, Bryn Bach Park.
C/2021/0068 Deferred: circulate via email to Ward Members for further consideration.	Hutchinson UK Ltd. Star House 20 Grenfell Road Maidenhead.	Proposed 20m Phase 8 monopole C/W wraparound cabinet at base and associated ancillary works, Beaufort Road.
C/2021/0073 No objections	Mr. D. Coffey 65 Charles Street Tredegar.	Proposed bay window and extended roof covering, 65 Charles Street.

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

245) 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 received complaints in respect of the play area at Parc Bryn Bach, which had promoted 'quiet time' but this was not being respected: report to Manager.

246) 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** – Meeting to be held 20th April, 2021.
- c) One Voice Wales Larger Councils and AGM** – a Member had been invited to participate in a Sub-Group in respect of defibrillator provision, and suggested a case study on what Town Council had achieved / ask that Officers compile a précis.
- d) Tredegar Twinning** – No meeting.
- e) Pen Bryn Oer Community Fund** – No meeting.
- f) School Governing Bodies** – *Bryn Bach Primary*: good presentation received by the recently appointed Deputy Headteacher on coping with Covid restrictions; *Deighton Primary*: working closely with Cefn Golau Together and Chloe’s Cupboard in relation to vouchers for school uniform provision, working with all interested parties.
- g) Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum** – Suspended until further notice.
- h) Blaenau Gwent CAB**
- i) Tredegar / Ebbw Vale Crime Prevention Panel** – Panel disbanded.
- j) Tredegar Business Forum** – No meeting.
- k) VVP / Tredegar Heritage Initiative** – meeting week last Friday.

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

- ‘Correspondence’ – lengthy items to be sent electronically prior to meeting, for Members to raise any issues / comment at Council.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 7.48 p.m.

_____ Chair