

TREDEGAR TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held remotely via Microsoft Teams on Wednesday, 21st April, 2021 at 6.30 p.m.

Present: Councillors E. Jones (Chair)

**D. Jones
T. Smith
A.E. Tippings
M. Cross
D.W.A. Howells
D. Rowberry
J. Thomas
H. Trollope
S. Trollope
M. Turner
G. Walters
B. Willis**

**In attendance: Clerk – Ms. C. Price
RFO – Ms. A. Edwards**

257) Apologies. Councillors G. James, A. Jones, K. Phillips, P. Prosser and S. Rees

258) Declarations of Interest

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

259) To receive any verbal recommendations of all Sub-Committees / Working Party held prior to this meeting of Council

It was agreed that the following recommendations of the Performance Review Sub-Committee, held on 21st April, 2021, be unanimously approved:

- Budget against Actual: meeting of the Budget Working Group to be convened; and Clerk to pursue completion of pollarding works to allotment trees
- Revised Reserves: 'Accommodation' Reserve to be reinstated
- Asset Register: RFO to ascertain ownership of statue located at Sirhowy community garden and liaise with Members to build a more detailed database
- Grants, new applications: RFO to contact groups to ascertain accessibility to Microsoft Teams
- All reports recommended for approval, with thanks extended to the RFO for all reports presented.

260) To consider a Schedule of Accounts for payment in April 2021

The RFO spoke to the report and explained that the bank reconciliations, valid to date, were available for Members to view on request.

- **Aneurin Leisure Trust** – the RFO relayed the financial information requested in support of the grant application, whereupon the full amount was approved for payment accordingly.

There being no further queries regarding the Schedule of Accounts, presented items were approved for payment. The RFO asked that the four signatories liaise in respect of signing of the cheques for payment and the transfer of funds, as approved by Council, to be undertaken in the presence of the appropriate Member (remotely) and Town Clerk, which was noted accordingly.

261) To receive and adopt the following Minutes of Council:

- a) **Public Facilities Sub-Committee – 3rd March, 2021**
- b) **Publicity Sub-Committee - 3rd March, 2021**
- c) **Civic Meeting of Council - 3rd March, 2021**
- d) **Events Sub-Committee - 17th March, 2021**
- e) **Ordinary Meeting of Council - 17th March, 2021**

It was agreed that, for points of accuracy only, all Minutes presented be moved en bloc as a true record.

262) Chair to sign Minutes - at earliest opportunity in accordance with WG Legislation and Guidance

To be duly signed by the Chair, adhering to safety regulations and relevant restrictions, at the earliest opportunity – Chair to liaise accordingly.

263) Correspondence

- 1) One Voice Wales
 - a) Re: Annual Membership renewal. Will feed comments into the next NEC meeting for their attention as the OVW / SLCC event would not be the appropriate forum for discussion.
 - Noted.
 - b) BGCBC Second call for Candidate Sites and further information.
 - Circulated prior to Council for Members consideration; noted.
 - c) Welsh Government. Community Asset Transfer: research with the third sector, local authorities and community & town councils. Link to published document

- Noted.
 - d) Ministerial Advisory Forum on Ageing (MAFA): Welsh Government Race Equality Action Plan, consultation.
 - Circulated prior to Council for Members consideration; noted.
 - e) Introduction to Corporate Landlord, free event on 29.04.2021 at 1.00 p.m. to 4.00 p.m.
 - Noted; Public Facilities Sub-Committee Chair welcome to attend, if available.
- 2) Insp. Pigeon
- a) Anti-social behaviour: Aware of issues at The Arches and patrols are being conducted. Also arranging a meeting to discuss issues such as fires throughout the Blaenau Gwent Community.
 - Noted; the Leader had pursued these issues with the appropriate Officer also.
- 3) Aneurin Bevan University Health Board
- S. Squire Re: Accident & Emergency provision and other issues. Letter from Judith Paget responding to concerns raised.
- Circulated prior to Council for Members consideration: Clerk to respond to ABUHB ensure Cwm Taf UHB were aware of informal arrangements in place.
- 4) Health & Safety concerns:
Town Clock Project
- i) Cllr T. Smith: Asking for concerns, raised to him by a Member, to be passed to G. Adams Construction for a response.
 - ii) G. Adams Construction: Response to Health & Safety concerns and associated H&S plan / RAMS / site operating procedures.
 - Circulated prior to Council for Members consideration.

The Leader noted this concern had been received via another Member; he thought the response appropriate from G. Adams Construction, and was not sure what could be done further regarding the scaffolding now in place, other than to ensure this was taken down responsibly.

A Member referred to Health and Safety Legislation, and said this was not correct, and referred to numerous complaints from residents of the carrying of poles one-handed. A Member supported the concerns regarding health and safety and felt the question needed to be answered.

A frank exchange of views thereupon took place, whereby the language used by a Member and attitude towards a Colleague was highlighted.

A Member said the Clerk was the responsible Officer for such matters on behalf of Tredegar Town Council. She said that Members had a Code of Conduct to abide by, and expressed her disappointment of the language and name calling within this formal setting.

It was suggested by another Member this could be a matter for the Monitoring Officer / Standards Committee.

A Member expressed concern, he did not believe that, as a formal meeting, this was the appropriate place for such an exchange.

The Leader said that he had read through the documents sent by G. Adams Construction, which he reiterated he considered an appropriate response, and that the Clerk had main responsibility in respect of operational matters.

A Member highlighted the need to show respect for Colleagues; he agreed with the concerns raised that the contractors may not have abided by Health and Safety rules, but considered that, when Town Council was made aware, took appropriate action immediately and requested that written feedback be received.

Another Member said possibly errors in judgement had arose in undertaking the work and perhaps a warning would suffice in relation to any breach in contract.

In conclusion, the Clerk confirmed that a comprehensive response had been received from G. Adams Construction with supporting documentation received, e.g. detailing health and safety requirements in the Risk Assessment Management plan, which had not been circulated to Members but would be retained on file in the office.

Councillors J. Thomas and M. Turner left the meeting at this juncture.

- 5) Integrated Wellbeing Network Opportunities to create a Tiny Forest with Keep Wales Tidy: end of April deadline.
- Noted; forward to Councillors D. Jones and A.E. Tippings.

6) PUBLICATIONS

Aneurin Bevan University Health Board Vaccination Update, issue 12 – added to website & Twitter; Summer range brochure from Blachere; Integrated Wellbeing Network, Community Consultation Grant for the Race Equality Action Plan for Wales; Aneurin Bevan University Health Board Vaccination Update, issue 13 – added to website & Twitter; Brecon Beacons National Park Authority Community Update Spring 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.

264) Planning:

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

- ii) a) List of planning applications received in week 12
- b) List of planning applications received in week 13

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

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

C/2021/0079

Mr. H. Walters
HD Developments Ltd.
57 Harford Gardens
Tredegar

Construction of 8 new industrial units (B2 use class) in 4 blocks of two together with alterations to access road, parking and

services, HOV Hub, Crown Industrial Estate, Dukestown.

No objections - *welcome the new business / development as a new enterprise bringing jobs into the town.*

C/2021/0085	L. & S. Thomas Derwen House Church Street Tredegar	Works to extend existing extension and to include the raising of the roof and other external alterations and garden building comprising a bicycle / storage / office / playroom, Derwen House, Church Street.
C/2021/0089	Ms. K. James 54 Glyn Terrace Tredegar	Raise the height of existing single storey rear extensions, infill flat roof extension and adaptations and proposed new garage to rear, 54 Glyn Terrace.
C/2021/0090	Mr. J. Beattie 4 Cwrt Pen-y-Twyn Tredegar	Retention, conversion of a garage to a dining room 4 Cwrt Pen-y-Twyn.
C/2021/0095	Mr. P. Denner Dan-y-Bryn Pochin Villas Tredegar	Proposed detached motorcycle store and playroom, Dan-y-Bryn, Pochin Villas.

d) To consider other planning matters:

Deferred from meeting of Council of 7 April, 2021, for Members to further peruse application:

C/2021/0068 Hutchinson UK Ltd., Star House, 20 Grenfell Road, Maidenhead - Proposed 20m Phase 8 monopole C/W wrapround cabinet at base and associated ancillary works, Beaufort Road.

*Observation: everyone uses mobile telephones and internet, not as obtrusive as initially thought - therefore, **No objections.***

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

- Dog fouling, Nine Arches – a Member said there was a significant issue in this area and concerns needed to be forwarded to Blaenau Gwent CBC; she suggested residents should be made aware that the Local Authority was Independently run and should be contacting their Independent Councillors.
- Litter picking, town centre – a Member said that the TTC operative should not be taking responsibility for cleaning up the town, as this was the remit of the Local Authority, and Tredegar residents paid their taxes to Blaenau Gwent; she referred to the upcoming Senydd and County Borough elections and felt residents should be made aware of the responsibility of the Independent Members and should be directing complaints to them.

A brief discussion ensued regarding the appropriateness of any political discussion in a formal setting; however, it was emphasised that the cleaning operative wore Hi-Viz protective wear branded with the Tredegar Town Council logo, and undertook litter

picking in addition to his other duties to ensure he was active throughout his working hours. Also, Members would want constituents to direct their complaints to *any* Councillor, not just Independent Members.

- Armed Forces Covenant – a Member said there was a grant available of £1,000.00 for any organisation to apply for in respect of ‘contact with / celebrating with’ Armed Forces. Although it was unlikely that any sort of Armed Forces event could proceed for the current year, funding could be used for a digital celebration, e.g. for those people in our town who served in the armed forces, listing people and where served, older residents, etc. and a gallery to be launched.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 7.55 p.m.

_____ Chair