

TREDEGAR TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Civic Meeting of Council held remotely via
Microsoft Teams / hybrid on Wednesday, 2nd June, 2021 at 6.30 p.m.**

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

In attendance: Clerk – Ms. C. Price

026) Apologies. Councillors J. Thomas and M. Turner

027) Declarations of Interest

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

028) To receive Mayor's report, as appropriate

None to receive at present time.

029) 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.

030) Grants:

Thanks received from Tredegar Twinning Association.

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

(under the provisions of the Local Govt. Miscellaneous Provision Act 1976 s.19 and Local Government Act 1972 s.137)

Tredegar Angling Club - Any financial assistance received would be used towards the day to day running costs of the club.

2020/21 Nov'20 CQ No. 082 £200.00: *Approved accordingly.*

In response to a question raised, the Clerk confirmed that groups could apply once a year, at any point during the financial year from 1st April to 31st March.

b) To receive and consider grants to Churches & Chapels (s.137) - 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.

031) Correspondence

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

1) BGCBC List of applications received, week ending 28.05.2021.

i) The Fir Tree – Variation of Designated Premises Supervisor.

- Noted.

2) One Voice Wales a) Learning lesson from the community-led response to Covid-19 in Wales survey; and

b) Children's Commissioner For Wales: Summer of Fun. Compiling a webpage of planned activities that children and young people can access for free this Summer. Asking for any events that match the criteria are forwarded to them for inclusion on the webpage.

- Circulated prior to Council for Members consideration: Noted.

3) Open Doors Registration for annual Open Doors extended to 31.07.2021.

- Noted; to be re-agendaed for consideration in July.

4) Pennant Walters Mynydd Carn-y-Cefn Wind Farm proposals: Early engagement consultation 26.05.2021 to 04.07.2021.

- Noted.

5) Integrated Wellbeing Network Public Engagement Opportunity: Satellite Radiotherapy Centre Development Satellite Radiotherapy Centre Development - Aneurin Bevan University Health Board (nhs.wales)

- Circulated prior to Council for Members consideration: Noted.

6) PUBLICATIONS

Aneurin Bevan University Health Board Vaccination Update, issue 18 & 19 – added to website & Twitter; IWN, Welsh Government funded project, Dangos: Free training and support for frontline workers, raising their awareness about benefits and other financial help for people in need. Training is via a free online session, plus information pack and access to free detailed eLearning about welfare benefits; Communicorp Local Councils Update Issue 251 June 2021; GAVO, Blaenau Gwent Sustainable Food Newsletter May 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

032) Planning:

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

ii) a) List of planning applications received in week 18.

b) List of planning applications received in week 19.

c) List of planning applications received in week 20.

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/2021/0139	Mr. M. Price 51 Tynewydd Tredegar	Proposed hard-standing with associated retaining walls and railings, 51 Tynewydd.

Observations: *traffic calming concerns, two entry points on junction on busy road, clarity to be sought from Highways Officer; concerns regarding impact on highway safety; travel by heavy lorries; access to children's play area.*

C/2021/0143	Mr. D. Morgan 3 Gelli Close Tredegar	Replacement bay window, 3 Gelli Close.
No objections		
C/2021/0141	Mrs. T. Langford Penrhyn Farm Trefil Road	Formation of a 20m x 40m all-weather outdoor horse arena for private use, Penrhyn Farm, Trefil Road, Trefil.
No objections		
C/2021/0150	Mr. D. Morgan Foundry House Graham's Yard Tredegar	Two storey extension and porch to front elevation (kitchen & bedroom) Foundry House, Graham's Yard.
No objections		

C/2021/0149	Mr. & Mrs. H. Street 70 Charles Street Tredegar	Two storey side extension, 70 Charles Street.
	No objections	
C/2021/0152	Mr. P. Morgan 7 Cwm Glas Tredegar	Construction of boundary wall and fence, change of use of land to garden (to include increase in levels), 7 Cwm Glas.
	No objections	
C/2021/0154	Mr. K. Flanagan 52 Tynewydd Tredegar	Proposed hard-standing with associated retaining wall and railings, 52 Tynewydd.
	Observations: <i>traffic calming concerns, two entry points on junction on busy road, clarity to be sought from Highways Officer; concerns regarding impact on highway safety; travel by heavy lorries; access to children's play area.</i>	
C/2021/0159	Mr. J. Harrison 15 Lindsay Gardens Tredegar	Construction of a single storey rear elevation extension, 15 Lindsay Gardens.
	No objections	

d) To consider other planning matters None received.

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

- Bedwellty House and Park – a Member said he had visited the House to take afternoon tea; this had been enjoyable to be able to sit outside and outdoor heaters had been provided for visitors.
- Parc Bryn Bach – a Member welcomed the provision of the new Mini Golf area.

034) 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** – the Association had agreed to hold an outdoor meeting, but this had been curtailed due to weather conditions; the photo competition was being promoted and also the art exchange, with the distribution of a leaflet.
- e) **Pen Bryn Oer Community Fund** – every successful applicant had been notified and a press release would be issued shortly.
- f) **School Governing Bodies** – *Bryn Bach Primary*: now proceeding with the selection of a new Headteacher, as current Head now undertaking a Senior post with the Local Authority and the appointment would be undertaken shortly. *Deighton Primary*: the position of new Headteacher had received a good response with forty-seven applications received and the School had now appointed a male teacher, which was considered

positive as more male role models were being sought in the Primary sector. *Georgetown Primary*: the Member had now received his DPS check to sit on the Governing Body. *Glanhowy Primary*: awarded 'School of the Week' by the South Wales Argus.

g) Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum – the Forum had met last week but due to restricted numbers allowed, the Member had not received an invitation to attend.

h) Blaenau Gwent CAB – No meeting

i) Tredegar / Ebbw Vale Crime Prevention Panel – Remove

j) Tredegar Business Forum – Councillors J. Morgan and H. Trollope had met with the appropriate BG Officer to discuss the provision of three new planters in the town and to undertake a walkabout with BG Members and Business Forum representatives.

k) VVP / Tredegar Heritage Initiative – some problems had arisen in relation to the former town hall, with the original contractor no longer being used; the process proved more complicated with a Listed Building and use of public funding – three estimates were required and appropriate contractors were in short supply with the proper accreditation. Estimates had been sought in respect of the heads and stone sills in front of the building and, unless replaced properly, all interior works would be affected. Water ingress had been detected and therefore complications; also, payments and finance issues raised with the Member, who was pleased to confirm any issues had now been authenticated; unfortunately, any delay factor would add to the cost.

Another Member added that he wished to commend the renovation works undertaken to the Town Clock, which he considered 'tip top'.

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

- Land at Tynewydd – a Member said there was a grassed area of land opposite houses in Tynewydd, which she understood the Local Authority should cut each year. The Town Councillors representing the Ward brought this to the attention of BGCBC each year to be cut. Unfortunately, two individuals had been noted releasing their dogs on the area, which was used by parents for children to play in safety.
Agreed: Council to write to Blaenau Gwent requesting that the area be included in the rota for the Grass-cutting Maintenance Programme.
- Highways issue, Trefil – works undertaken to a gas main had resulted in the footpath being dug up and lost along Trefil road; this was a grassed footpath that pedestrians could use. There was now an issue as individuals had to walk in the road, which was really dangerous. It was believed the company undertaking the work had become bankrupt.
Agreed: Council to write to Blaenau Gwent asking of their intention in addressing this issue.
- Area where fly-grazing had been an issue with horses on the land, could be an area for wildflowers, etc. and therefore remove the problem of fly-grazing.

To receive and consider the following Item which in the opinion of the proper officer, is/are an exempt item(s) taking into account consideration of the public interest test and that the press and public should be excluded from the meeting (the reason for the decision for the exemption is available on a schedule maintained by the proper officer).

036) Public Perception: to provide an opportunity to discuss the roles, responsibilities and functions of Council.

A Member had asked that this matter be agendaed for consideration of Council, as comments made on social media by the public indicated a need to publicise what was within the remit of the Town Council, outlining the role of the Council and its' functions. He said greater clarity was needed and suggested that the website could inform and signpost the public to the appropriate party, e.g. the Local Authority for planning issues.

Following consideration, Members made observations and provided feedback, as follows:

- The Town Council website and designated Facebook page outlined the responsibilities of TTC; however, a Member stressed the importance of utilising FB appropriately, with statements presented on behalf of Council as a whole, not as individuals. Another Member said Council should be working on what was best for the town and Members should be unified, working together as a group.
- Members had no issue with promoting all the work undertaken by Town Council.
- Issues not relating to Town Council should be signposted direct to appropriate authority and not discussed by Council; a Member suggested that all Members should be in the position to advise on the responsibilities of Town Council and refer matters under the remit of Blaenau Gwent.
- Members needed to take any opportunities to attend training provided to broaden scope of knowledge.
- Recognised that communication of differing roles of Town Council and Local Authority had always proven problematic. A Member felt a section was needed on the website, identifying roles and signposting individuals to the appropriate authority, e.g. Planning and Licensing – Local Authority.

It was therefore agreed: Council to undertake a review of the website and other social media; to convene a meeting of the Publicity Sub-Committee to progress, with an invite extended to all Members to attend.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 7.35 p.m.

_____ Chair