

TREDEGAR TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held via Microsoft Teams / hybrid
Wednesday, 15th September, 2021 at 6.30 p.m.**

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

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

122) Apologies. Councillors S. Rees, M. Cross, A. Jones, E. Jones and K. Phillips

123) Declarations of Interest

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

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

Members provided feedback on the following virtual and physical events:

- **KWT Seminar**

KWT had updated their policy establishing a new committee ‘Caru Cymru’; over 1,000 litter campaigns in addition to Local Authority campaigns; individual and small groups sign up for litter-picking equipment; if more than five, join as a community group; next launch in autumn to target litter free areas;

Scheme to adopt a 2km stretch of highway; launch of local trails, identifying best practice; dealing with roadside litter – broken glass, cigarette butts, fast-food litter, etc., with a number of volunteers undertaking the work and reporting feedback.

Summer campaign ‘Make memories’ not mess’;

Dog fouling launch initiative – 7th October, 2021: looking at animal health, everybody should be cleaning up after their pet and looking after the local area ‘bag it and bin it’; local events throughout November; January ‘walk your dog’ month.

Litter prevention plan and local authorities have local action plans (copy available from Local Authority and Welsh Government). Infrastructure pros / cons – bin provision, difference

between urban design, misuse of litterbins, e.g. household waste, dumping rubbish next to bins in woodland areas rather than using local recycling centre, etc.

Plastic litter campaign – discourage community from single-use plastics and Welsh Government 'Beyond Recycling' Strategy - repair and re-use.

- Consultation on local taxes for second homes / self-catering accommodation

The report of Dr. Simon Brooks had been received, which had proven interesting. The Consultation was attempting to ensure social needs of local communities and in keeping of the Welsh language balanced against tourist accommodation - 1.8 of all dwellings in Wales; this varied massively throughout tourist areas. His personal advice to the Consultancy document was that Blaenau Gwent was not anywhere near the level for Regulations needed, in increasing Council Tax for these priorities, and did not feel that the Local Authority was in a category for such a response to advocate Council Tax for second home ownership or self-catering properties.

Councillor D. Rowberry joined the meeting at this juncture (6.40 p.m.)

- RBL

Limited to eighty in the Church, consider holding service outside St. George's Church on grassed area; keen to hold Parade; Gwent Police / BGCBC not offering support due to lack of staff (Civil Contingency Officer contacted RBL)

Preferred Option:

To hold a short service at the Town Clock followed by a parade to the Park; Option 1 would require a road closure around the Clock - Steve Hughes and staff from Bedwellty House happy to support the road closure

Twenty-minute service to start at 10.00 a.m.; Portable PA system provided by 2167 squadron to use at Clock, will need electric supply from the Clock; Tredegar Town Band "Marching Band" to lead parade

TTC to provide PA system and Gazebos at the Park and provide 500 Order of Service sheets

The Moose providing the catering / buffet - but the parade to disperse at the Park

Band to lead off to 'front of house' and disperse after service to avoid a large gathering at the Moose

Poppies to be put on Lampposts around the Clock, The Circle, Morgan Street and through the Park to the war memorial (TTC)

Road signs – the road signs were stored at The Recreation Ground (TS/Clerk/RFO would undertake stock check).

A Member supported the RBL event, however he stressed the importance of promoting the event in the public domain; he also enquired if it was intended to 'buy-in' the PA service, the Leader confirmed that this was the case as Town Council not have the required equipment. There would only be a short service at War Memorial and depending on restrictions, if needed, arrangements could be scaled back.

A Member referred to road closures: Abertillery and Llanhilleth Community Council were scheduling training and, with the turnaround of Councillor and staff, proposed that joint training be undertaken, as this would be useful for the new Councillors following the election in May.

It was agreed that the recommendation of the Public Facilities Sub-Committee be approved:

- **Public Facilities Sub-Committee - Wednesday, 15th September, 2021**

It was unanimously agreed that the request for the siting of a bench in the Sirhowy Community Garden be approved, in principle, subject to developing an appropriate Policy to address the concerns / issues raised.

125) To consider a Schedule of Accounts for payment in September 2021

The RFO spoke to the report and explained that the bank reconciliations were available for Members to view. The RFO referred to the proposed payments at the July meeting of Council, to be made during August recess, now confirming the actual figures as reported, which were ratified accordingly.

- Konica and OVW – expenditure approved.
- Smart Cymru (Nantybawch) – cheque written back following a period of six months, due to an issue relating to signatories, but would be re-issued once resolved, as ring-fenced funding allocated via the In this Together grant.

The RFO requested that the Leader and Deputy Leader contact the office in respect of signing cheques for payment, as written confirmation had yet to be received that the new updated mandate was in place.

There being no further queries regarding the Schedule of Accounts, presented items were approved for payment. Transfer of funds, as approved by Council, would be undertaken in the presence of the appropriate Member and Town Clerk, which was noted accordingly.

In conclusion: the RFO reminded Members to return their forms, indicating whether or not wishing to claim the Member's Allowance of £150.00; a meeting of the Budget Working Group would be convened; as reported following the meeting with Senior Members / Chair of Finance, staff and Internal Auditor, this would be the final year that the Internal Auditor would be working on behalf of the Town Council, as he would be retiring – the external auditors, nor OVW, would make a recommendation of internal auditors for town and community council use.

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

- a) Tredegar Public Facilities Sub-Committee - 6th July, 2021
- b) Civic Sub-Committee - 7th July, 2021
- c) Civic Meeting of Council - 7th July, 2021
- d) Tredegar Public Facilities Sub-Committee - 13th July, 2021
- e) Performance Review Sub-Committee - 21st July, 2021
- f) Ordinary Meeting of Council - 21st July, 2021
- g) Tredegar Public Facilities Sub-Committee - 4th August, 2021
- h) Finance and Staffing Sub-Committee - 4th August, 2021

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

127) 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.

128) Correspondence

- 1) BGCBC
- a) BG We Want survey closes 30.09.2021, Gwent PSB Wellbeing Assessment Version 1 (snapsurveys.com) – added to Twitter
 - Noted.
 - b) L. Winnett Re: Baby loss awareness week, turning buildings pink / blue throughout 9th to 15th October. Asking Council to consider being involved.
 - If works to the Town Clock were completed, TTC would light the Clock tower.
- 2) One Voice Wales
- Save the Date 03.11.2021: Welsh Government Tax Conference. Respond by 22.09.2021 to confirm attendance
- Noted.
- 3) Mr. & Mrs. Thomas
- Thank you for the Diamond Wedding flowers.
- Noted.

Councillors T. Smith and A.E. Tippings declared an interest in the following item and took no part in discussion or voting thereon.

- 4) Public Conveniences
- a) Grantscape Application query, Pen Bryn Oer Wind Farm Community Fund: cannot fund retrospective applications, funding decisions circulated late November; seeking further information on relationship / contractual agreement with shopping centre; confirmation of the number of volunteers in relation to the delivery of this project.
 - Noted; it was agreed that Council proceed with the project without delay and the application be withdrawn.
 - b) S. Parry Redecorating of the Public Conveniences: Start date 20.09.2021, leave disabled toilets open whilst ladies / gents work being undertaken which should be completed in one week.
 - Noted; approved accordingly.
- 5) Communicorp
- Clerks & Councils Direct renewal notice, £75.00 – Council to approve
- Noted: it was unanimously agreed the expenditure be approved accordingly.

- 6) Aneurin Bevan University Health Board Nye's Community Champions: looking for community people to help share key messages – added to Twitter
- Noted; forward to Councillor J. Thomas.
- 7) RBLI Shop Details on displaying a Tommy and their significance.
- Noted.
- 8) Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum Agenda for meeting 20.09.2021 at 10.00 a.m. Tredegar Library.
- Noted.
- 9) GAVO Participatory Budgeting voting events taking place 19.09.2021 (week earlier than previously proposed), 54 projects to choose from – links available in email.
- Noted.

10) PUBLICATIONS

PUBLICATIONS One Voice Wales, Electoral Reform Newsletter August 2021; BGCBC Roadworks report, week ending 10.09.2021 and 17.09.2021; Aneurin Bevan University Health Board Vaccination Update, issue 34 & 35 – added to website & Twitter; ABUHB Spotlight on Diabetes newsletter, issue 5; OVW Cymru'n Cofio Wales Remembers final publication link; Communicorp Local Councils Update Issue 254, September 2021 and Clerks & Councils Direct Issue 137, September 2021; OVW Building more low carbon homes: free webinar for Public sector, 21.09.2021, 10.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m.; OVW Older People's Commissioner for Wales Newsletter Sept 21

– ***distributed to Members***: Received.

11) AGENDA

Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum meeting Friday 21.02.2021 at 10.00 a.m. Tredegar Library – **available for Members**: received.

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

129) Planning:

- a) i) **To consider an Officer's Report**: None received
- ii) **List of planning applications**: None received
- b) **Verbal report of the Planning Committee, if any**

c) To consider Planning Applications submitted for Council's observations

App. No.	Applicant	Proposal
C/2021/0257	Mr. A.E. Williams 2 Greenmeadow Ebbw Vale	Creating two new one -bedroom flats by sub-dividing the existing first floor with a change of use of the ground floor offices to a single one-bedroom flat and a care support office. To include relocating window openings together with dedicated on-site parking; 2-3 Morgan Street.
No objections		

C/2021/0260	Mrs. S. Williams 28 Castle Street Tredegar	Provide retractable awning to existing shop front, 28 Castle Street.
No objections		

d) To consider other planning matters J. Engel Re: C/2021/0103 Former Job Centre. Application deferred until October Planning Committee, any comments needed to be submitted by 21st September, 2021.

The following feedback / observations were received:

- As statutory consultees, Tredegar Town Council had received written objections from the public via social media
- Objected on grounds of impact on the community - wished to support the objections submitted by the Police, as the police force had needed to apply for increasing the number of Officers due to issues at a similar development in Morgan Street, and the main factor being the impact on the Little Theatre located directly opposite
- Members required sight of the Business Case; and
- Parking - there were car parks located in the surrounding area, but concern was expressed should on-street parking occur, as located in the vicinity of the Fire Station.

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

- Two Civic nominations were received and approved accordingly; Member to complete the nomination forms on visiting the office.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 7.28 p.m.

_____ Chair