

TREDEGAR TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Civic Meeting of Council held via Microsoft Teams / hybrid on
Wednesday, 6th October, 2021 at 6.30 p.m.**

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

In attendance: Clerk – Ms. C. Aherne

138) Apologies. Councillors **A. Jones, D. Jones, D. Rowberry, J. Thomas**
and **M. Turner**

139) Declarations of Interest

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

140) To receive Mayor's report, as appropriate

The Mayor had visited Mr. Edward Jones on his 100th birthday, presenting chocolates, biscuits and a card on behalf of Town Council; the gentleman had been pleasantly surprised.

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

It was agreed that the following recommendations of the Sub-Committee meetings held prior to Council be approved:

▪ Finance and Staffing Sub-Committee - Monday, 4th October, 2021

Town Clock, electrical wiring: seek to waiver Financial Regulations and the quotation approved, subject to receipt of a specification of works for the following reasons –

- The contract was just above the amount whereby estimates were required;
- G. Adams Construction Ltd. had undertaken excellent work in refurbishing the Clock and, therefore, the quality was a known factor; and
- Necessary works could proceed without further delay.

Kickstart Scheme: Council progress with the Kickstart application process and recommend that the hours of RFO be increased to twenty-two hours per week to assist the Clerk in

managing the office workload and training provision.

▪ **Internal Audit Work Programme 2021 / 2022 - Tuesday, 5th October, 2021**

Senior Members, the Chair of Finance and Staffing, and staff had met with the Internal Auditor to discuss the proposed Internal Audit Work Programme and any other areas Council wished for review.

▪ **Site Meeting: Public Facilities Sub-Committee - Tuesday, 5th August, 2021**

- The Chair said approximately five / six Members had visited to inspect the toilets and it was generally considered the work carried out had been undertaken in an acceptable manner; however, he believed that the painting of the heaters and light fitting had been included in the initial specification and asked this detail be checked.
- One Member had expressed disappointment in respect of the cleanliness of the toilet pans and floor. The Chair said that it should be taken into account that these toilets had been in use for four hours prior to that meeting and not supervised. The stains on the floor were historical as the tiles were at least fifteen years old. Personally, he was proud of this facility, which had been in constant use for the past seven years without complaint; and, on reflection, the Chair considered that the invite to attend should have been extended to every Member of Council. As this was a site meeting and no Officer in attendance, notes had been taken by an elected Member.
- One suggestion received was in respect of the sale of chinaware stored in the upstairs area, which had been relocated from the container at The Rec (GJ had offered to clean the chinaware prior to sale). It was suggested this storage area was in need of sweeping.
- The gates were badly in need of welding, but he understood the workload of the fabricator was not allowing for this work to be undertaken at this time.
- A Member had suggested the downstairs storage and supplies area required tidying and a review of space available to secure the more expensive items of machinery. Also, suggested that a toilet brush be provided in each cubicle.
- The signage above the door was inadequate and a new toilet sign was needed as a matter of urgency.
- All actions in respect of cleaning had been passed to the Cleaning Operative; however he wished to commend the operative on his work that he undertook.
- A Member said he was more than pleased with the work carried out, particularly as the facility was free to the public for use; he highlighted that the works to the exterior had been to better-manage cost, pointing out that the building was in the ownership of the Shopping Precinct, and perhaps the owners should be looking to contribute.
- The contractor had provided additional paint supply in case the operative needed to touch up any areas, e.g. if subject to graffiti.

Members' feedback to the update in respect of the site meeting was as follows:

- Thanks extended to the Contractor for their excellent work to the toilets and the Town Clock; the public toilets now looked in the same condition as seven years previously when Town Council took on responsibility.
- Invite extended to all Members to visit and view the superb job on completion.
- There had been a lot of preparatory work due to flaking and other issues and the paintwork looked lovely – one concern was to avoid posting information on the walls / doors using cellotape to prevent damage.
- Concerns raised regarding the cleanliness of the toilet pans as faeces present; the Member was not happy with the cleaning of the actual toilets. The Member had offered to help the operative with undertaking a deep cleanse, another Member also offered to join her if needed.

The Chair of Public Facilities considered it would be disrespectful to the Cleaning

Operative for Members to undertake his work and he felt the Operative undertook his duties really well and he did not agree with the comments on the condition of the toilets. Another Member concurred with the comments of the Chair that it would be disrespectful for Members to undertake the duties of an employee and there could be associated implications.

142) Grants:

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

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

2167 Tredegar & Rhymney Squadron RAF Air Cadets - Any financial assistance received would be used towards the cost of holding an 80th Anniversary Reunion evening for past & present cadets.

2020/21 Nov'20 CQ No. 083 £200.00: Agreed accordingly.

Bedwellty Park Bowls Club - Any financial assistance received would be used towards the cost of purchasing essential items such as table cloths, mugs etc which will be used for functions held at the pavilion.

2020/21 Nov'20 CQ No. 077 £200.00: Agreed accordingly.

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

Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum - Any financial assistance received would be used towards the cost of producing/printing their journals.

2019/20 June'19 CQ No. 843 £200.00: Agreed accordingly.

Friends of Bedwellty Park Society - Any financial assistance received would be used towards the cost of various gardening items such as bulbs, fertilizer, compost.

2019/20 March'20 CQ No. 011 £200.00: Agreed accordingly.

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

Stocktonville Senior Citizens Welfare Association - Any financial assistance received would be used towards the cost of refurbishing the kitchen and a new cooker to enable current/future groups to be able to use that facility.

2020/21 Nov'20 CQ No. 081 £200.00: Agreed accordingly.

Tredegar Camera Club (Tredegar & Ebbw Vale) - Any financial assistance received would be used towards the purchase of a new digital projector.

The Clerk highlighted the following information provided by the RFO:

N.B. Last year, Council was made aware of the amalgamation and agreed a grant payable to Tredegar Camera Club for one-year only. The basis for that decision was that, due to Covid restrictions, the group had not been able open a joint / rename their bank account nor were Council able to meet with this group to discuss the amalgamation. Bank account presented this year remained as Tredegar Camera Club, therefore Council may wish to defer a grant until they have met with this group.

2020/21 Nov'20 CQ No. 084 £200.00: Agreed accordingly, as Members were aware that groups had needed to amalgamate to continue operating, particularly following Covid restrictions, and recognised that Tredegar residents were members of this Club.

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.

143) 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
- a) List of applications received, week ending 17.09.2021.
 - i) Little Role Play – Temporary Events Notice, 2/3.12.2021.
 - ii) Bryn Bach Parc – Temporary Street Trading 14.09.2021 to 15.10.2021.

- Noted.

- 2) One Voice Wales
- Open Consultation on proposed guidance on “Principles of Good Administration” and “Good Records Management”, closes midnight 1st November 2021.

- Noted.

- 3) Alun Davies, MS
- Re: Tredegar General Hospital, time capsule. Response to Council’s letter.

- Noted: a Member had been in touch with the M.P. and the Museum would be given an opportunity to display the items prior to the Centre opening in a few years and would be retained by the Museum until a decision was made.

- 4) C. Rundle
- Re: Remembrance Sunday. BGCBC have agreed to apply for necessary road closures.

- Noted: a Member had attended a meeting of the Safety Advisory Group in a local authority capacity; Blaenau Gwent had applied for all eight road closures in the County Borough, the appropriate Officer had agreed to write to the Highways Division to implement closures. No issues had arisen in respect of current plans.

- 5) A.E. Tippings
- Harvest Services in Horeb Chapel, Trefil will take place at 6.00 p.m. on 10th October, 2021, all are welcome. The Flower Festival, in Horeb Chapel, will be a thank you for everyone that helped us and our communities through the pandemic – ***If Council wishes to sponsor a floral display at***

£30.00, or make a contribution to their appeal, approval is required.

- Noted: proposed that a contribution of £30.00 be made to the appeal, whereupon the expenditure was approved unanimously.

6) Welsh Youth Parliament

The second Welsh Youth Parliament Election Campaign 2021.

- Noted: to be placed on TTC website.

7) PUBLICATIONS

BGCBC Roadworks report, week ending 24.09.2021; Aneurin Bevan University Health Board Vaccination Update, issue 36, 37 & 38 – **added to website & Twitter**; BGCBC Roadworks report, week ending 01.10.2021 and 08.10.21; OVW, Farmer & Landowner survey: Our living trails, closing date 15.10.21; BGCBC Community Hubs poster – **Twitter/website/noticeboard**; BGCBC, Pen Y Cwm School Decision Notification, in connection with the proposal to extend the capacity from 120 to 175 with effect from September 2021; Communicorp Local Councils Update Issue 255 October 2021; OVW Publication of new Technical Advice Note (TAN) 15 & Flood Map for planning. – **distributed to Members**: Received.

8) 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

144) Planning:

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

- ii) a) List of planning applications received in week 35.
- b) List of planning applications received in week 36.
- c) List of planning applications received in week 37.
- d) List of planning applications received in week 38.
- e) List of planning applications received in week 39.

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/2021/0266	Mr. I. Waite 12 Elmwood Grove Tredegar	Two storey detached house with integral garage, land adjacent to 3 Aneurin Rise.

No objections

C/2021/0268 Mr. W. Draper
Coed Hirgan Farm
Crown Avenue
Proposed single storey extension to side elevation of property, Coed Hirgan Farm, Crown Avenue.

No objections

C/2021/0270 Mr. R. Williams
2 Vale View
Tredegar
Proposed extension on top of existing kitchen for additional bedroom, 2 Vale View.

No objections

C/2021/0273 Mr. A. Freeman-Lewis
St. Michele
Old Duke Road
Tredegar
Alteration and extension (change 1-bed bungalow to 3-4 bed dorma bungalow by enlarging the existing roof space to accommodate 3 additional bedrooms, internal stairs and conservatory). Retrospective application, St Michele, Old Duke Road.

No objections; the development proposed was quite a large extension: however, as southward facing, should not impact on the property next door; therefore, no objections but Council would support the neighbours if objections were received.

C/2021/0240 Mrs Davies
33 Park View
Tredegar
Proposed two storey rear extension, 33 Park View.

No objections

d) To consider other planning matters – None received.

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

- The community garden next to the Ice House was looking lovely, with the introduction of the new David Austin 'Nye Bevan Rose', and Members commended the hard work Friends of Bedwellty had carried out. The Chair supported the comments and said that work was commencing to the pagoda the following week.

146) 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 – Next meeting 19th October, 2021**
- b) Gwent Valleys One Voice Wales – No meeting**
- c) One Voice Wales Larger Councils and AGM – Members unable to attend due to other commitments**

d) Tredegar Twinning – preparations underway for visit scheduled for October 2022, as Summer considered too soon, and would be a pleasant change of year and an opportunity for the risk of Covid to reduce; organising a ‘get together’ in November / Christmas to bring the Twinning groups back together.

e) Pen Bryn Oer Community Fund – No meeting

f) School Governing Bodies – Bryn Bach Primary: interviewing for the post of Headteacher but unable to provide update as yet.

g) Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum – meetings had changed from a Friday to Mondays; work ongoing regarding the journal, preparations for Christmas dinner celebration.

h) Blaenau Gwent CAB – No meeting

i) Tredegar / Ebbw Vale Crime Prevention Panel

j) Tredegar Business Forum – No meeting

k) VVP / Tredegar Heritage Initiative – No meeting

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

- None received.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 7.15 p.m.

_____ Chair