

TREDEGAR TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held remotely via Microsoft Teams / hybrid on Wednesday, 17th November, 2021 at 6.30 p.m.

Present: Councillors G. James (Chair)

**S. Rees
T. Smith
A.E. Tippings
M. Cross
D.W.A. Howells
D. Jones
E. Jones
K. Phillips
D. Rowberry
H. Trollope
S. Trollope
G. Walters
B. Willis**

In attendance: Clerk – Ms. C. Aherne

198) Apologies. Councillors P. Prosser, J. Thomas and M. Turner

The Mayor informed Council of the sad loss of the father of Councillor Jacqueline Thomas, a former Town Councillor, who had always conducted himself in a really lovely manner and dressed like a 'pin on paper'; Council wished to pay tribute. The thoughts of Council were with Jacqueline, Mark and family at this time.

Agreed, Clerk to send a letter of condolence: Council observed a Minute silence as a mark of respect.

199) Declarations of Interest

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

200) 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 Sub-Committee be approved:

- **Events Sub-Committee 17th November, 2021**
 - Christmas Lights switch-on**
 - Steps refurbishment – it was agreed that two bottles be purchased as thanks (expenditure approved to a maximum of £40.00)
 - Entertainment – agreed; gift voucher each for Soloist and Compère

- Christmas poster winner – agreed; to purchase personalised Christmas cards and mug, plus a tub of sweets
- Christmas window competition; expenditure agreed – 1st £50.00, 2nd £30.00 and 3rd prize £20.00
- Expenditure approved in thanks for stage provision - £50.00

201) To consider a Schedule of Accounts for payment in November 2021

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

- Cheque No. ***214: The breakdown of the cheque related to the retirement gift agreed, Christmas Lights switch-on expenditure and the application fee for the Temporary Street Trading Consent. The RFO would be investigating the possibility of acquiring a prepaid card for TTC, rather than a debit / credit card as such provision would not be in line with Council's Standing Orders, for such miscellaneous expenditure in the future.
- Cheque No. ***215: this related to expenditure incurred for the provision of refreshments at the Top House.

There being no further queries regarding the Schedule of Accounts, presented items were approved for payment; the RFO thereupon sought approval of additional payments for later ratification for the Christmas lights switch-on event requirements, which were agreed. The transfer of funds, as approved by Council, would be undertaken in the presence of the appropriate Member and Town Clerk, which was noted accordingly, and the RFO asked that the four signatories liaise in respect of signing of the cheques for payment.

The RFO reminded Members to contact the office in respect of any outstanding Member's Allowance forms. Also, in respect of seeking the services of a new Internal Auditor for the forthcoming financial year, the Officer confirmed a number of other community / town councils were in the same position and the RFO had therefore contacted the Local Authority, who had relevant knowledge and expertise in such Legislation, outlining the current requirements of Council.

In respect of the recommendations of the Internal Auditor, and as outlined in the Auditor's Report 2021 / 2021, the Budget Working Group would meet to review the 2021 / 2022 Budget, which would roll into the budget-setting process for the next financial year. Should Members wish to submit any potential projects for consideration in respect of 2022 / 2023, as part of the budget-setting process, to notify the RFO in order to avoid depletion of the Council's General Reserves.

Members recognised the need to proceed with the budget-setting process, but highlighted there could be a new administration in place following the forthcoming elections, however Council would work together as one body. The RFO confirmed that the proposed transfer of monies to Smart Cymru Credit Union had been deferred; also, a request had already been received to consider potential works to the Memorial gates, Bedwellty Park. The Officer said the point of the budget-setting process was to ensure Council set a true, accurate and lawful budget and this was an ideal opportunity to consider additional sources to ensure continuation of services or to increase the precept. Council needed to be mindful if the precept was not increased, the new administration may find themselves in a position where Council would be unable to continue to operate and, therefore, sufficient funding was needed.

In response to a question raised relating to the scope of projects for Council, the RFO confirmed that Council had agreed to focus on the continuation of current services, concentrating on projects for the benefit of the community and that were sustainable. Throughout the previous budget-setting process, Members had made clear that Council would not be taking on responsibility for any additional services, but would continue to monitor such services.

A Member thanked the RFO for the update, and supported the need for Council to ensure services were continually improved on and proved sustainable, and that Council had agreed not to enter into any more service provision.

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

- a) Finance and Staffing Sub-Committee – 4th October, 2021**
- b) Civic Meeting of Council – 6th October, 2021**
- c) Events Sub-Committee – 7th October, 2021**
- d) Events Sub-Committee – 20th October, 2021**
- e) Performance Review Sub-Committee – 20th October, 2021**
- f) Ordinary Meeting of Council – 20th October, 2021**

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

203) 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.

204) 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
 - i) List of applications received, week ending 29.10.2021
 - ii) List of applications received, week ending 05.11.2021.
 - 1) Temporary Event Notice, sale of alcohol extended one hour 18th to 24th December – Lidl

- Noted.

- 2) One Voice Wales
 - a) Welsh Defibrillator fund: opportunities for SaLC Partners.
 - b) Consultation on inquiry into second homes, closes 14.01.2022
<https://business.senedd.wales/mgConsultationDisplay.aspx?ID=434>
 - c) Criccieth Town Council shortlisted for Prestigious 2021 Creative Lives Awards. Asking for votes
 - d) Launch of the National Framework for the Delivery of Bereavement Care in Wales.

- e) Draft Corporate Joint Committee (General) (Wales) Regulations 2022: Consultation on next set of general regulations, closing date for responses 22.12.2021.
- f) Community Wealth Building: Awareness Raising Event 30.11.2021 at 10.00 a.m.
 - Noted; the funding opportunities in respect of defibrillator provision was welcome (promote via Facebook / Twitter).

3) Boundary Commission for Wales

Public Hearings: Dates / venues throughout January and February 2022.

- Noted.

4) P. Woods

Re: Remembrance Day Parade. Thanks for response, enjoyed the day and hopes next year the Parade will be bigger; he has already secured the Dukestown Club for their group after next year's Parade. Anything they can do as a Veterans Group, let them know.

- A Member said how lovely the event had been with such a large number in attendance, supported by the Veterans' Group, who had also provided details of access for minibus provision for future years. The Group had also participated in the parade and service on Remembrance Sunday. The Member said there was a need to check the condition of the lamp-post poppies on return, to ascertain any need for repairs or ordering replacement of the same.

It was suggested that a meeting could be convened with all interested parties going forward to discuss future arrangements in respect of Armistice events.

5) PUBLICATIONS

PUBLICATIONS IWN newsletter November 2021 – website; BGCBC Roadworks report, week ending 12.11.2021 & 19.11.2021; Aneurin Bevan University Health Board Vaccination Update, issue 43 – added to website & Twitter; War Memorials Trust Bulletin Number 91 November 2021; Communicorp Clerks & Councils Direct November 2021 Issue 138; Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum Minutes October meeting, next meeting 15.11.2021; Older People's Commissioner's Newsletter November 2021 – ***distributed to Members***: Received.

6) 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.

205) Planning:

a) i) To consider an Officer's Report (if received)

ii) a) List of planning applications received in week 44

b) Verbal report of the Planning Committee, if any

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

App. No.	Applicant	Proposal
C/2021/0329	Mr. A. Jenkins Rhyd Developments Abergavenny	Construction of 3 new detached dwellings served by new shared driveway with parking. Provision for 2 cars on each plot and including landscaping and services as well as offsite highway improvement works, land adjoining Park Hill, Park Hill, Tredegar.

No objections

C//2021/0330	Mr. A. Williams Crickhowell	Variation of Condition 1 for planning permission C/2020/0121 which is for two detached dwellings with detached garages, new access and associated works, Plot 1 adjoining Ty Croeso, Whitworth Terrace.
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No objections

d) To consider other planning matters

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

- Tredegar Police Station (for information) – the Member had downloaded the App which had shown the Police Station was open; on visiting, she had encountered a PCSO, who had been very rude, informing the Member the Station was not open, and stating rudely that the App was incorrect and she was unable to take any information, provide a Log number or relay a message to any patrol cars.
- Closure of premises – a Member referred to the possible closure of Bethaniah Chapel, the Gospel Hall and James Street Community Centre – all of which were in the Georgetown area, which would prove a great loss.
- The Chartist Walk – a Member highlighted the desecration of the area due to four-wheel drive vehicles, which was now proving difficult to walk the route from the quarry to the cave. This was proving hazardous to sheep / horses on this land due to vehicles causing a disturbance at night. * Action: write to Natural Resources Wales, Police, Blaenau Gwent CBC, M.P. and M.S.
- Mother / Toddler parking, Gwent Shopping Precinct – mothers had expressed concern in respect of difficulty opening their car door once parked in order to access their child. Following a brief discussion it was therefore;
Agreed: Clerk to write to Head of Highways, BGCBC.

A Member raised a point of order in respect of raising additional Matters of Local Interest, asking if this would set a precedent, as previously Members had been unable to raise issues without prior notification to the Mayor. The Mayor stated that she did not wish to set a precedent but would allow the matter to be raised on this occasion only.

- Surplus crockery – a Member suggested this could be donated to the Museum for sale in order to raise funds. Clerk advised this needed to be checked before agreeing in respect of legality in accordance with Financial Regulations.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 7.37 p.m.

Chair