

TREDEGAR TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held via Microsoft Teams / hybrid on Wednesday, 27th April, 2022 at 6.30 p.m.

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

In attendance: Clerk – Ms. C. Aherne
RFO – Ms. A. Edwards
KS Placement – Miss B Flowers

352) Apologies. Councillors S. Rees, M. Cross, K. Phillips, P. Prosser, D. Rowberry and G. Walters

353) Declarations of Interest

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

354) 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 be approved:

- To approve the report in respect of the Budget against Actual, period to 31st March, 2022.
- To approve the Revised Reserves as at 31st March, 2022.
- To approve the Asset Register.

355) To consider a Schedule of Accounts for payment in April 2022

The RFO spoke to the report and explained that the bank reconciliations, valid to date, were available for Members to view upon request, which was noted accordingly.

- Approved: revised Accounts for payment in March 2022 (for information only), being the final expenditure for the year-end; and
- The April Schedule of Accounts was approved for payment.

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.

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

- a) Events Sub-Committee - 2nd March, 2022**
- b) Civic Meeting of Council - 2nd March, 2022**
- c) Events Sub-Committee - 16th March, 2022**
- d) Ordinary Meeting of Council - 16th March, 2022**

It was agreed that all Minutes presented be moved en bloc as a true record with any matters arising to follow.

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

Minutes approved were duly signed by the Mayor in the presence of Council.

358) 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) Weekly lists of Licensing Applications, week ending 08.04.2022.
 - i) The Little Theatre, Transfer a Premises Licence.
 - Noted.
 - b) I. Cole, Mother / Toddler Parking in Gwent Shopping Centre: no update as of yet, however any proposal will require a small survey and lining drawing.
 - Noted.
 - c) Veterans Association Falklands War Memorial & Fund-Raising TAB 2022, request for support in raising £20,000 to help Bladder & Bowel UK and Hospice of the Valleys.
 - Noted; other groups had sought sponsorship which Town Council had been unable to

support, so it was not considered appropriate to agree to this request; however, an invitation could be extended to the Armed Forces Day event for fund-raising.

- d) Code of Conduct Training Session held online via MS Teams on 11.05.2022 at 9.30 a.m.-12.30 p.m.

- Noted;

2) One Voice Wales

Celebrating Rural Wales Event, invitation to attend the event on 9th–10th June at Royal Welsh Agricultural Society Showground, Builth Wells.

- Noted; this would prove beneficial for the newly appointed Members.

3) Deighton Playing Field

- a) H. Morris, Trefil RFC request to attend a Council meeting to discuss marking the Deighton Playing Fields for use of training.

- b) G. Thomas, FC Tredegar request to meet with Council to discuss options available for use of the Deighton Playing Fields.

- Council had previously liaised with the users of the playing field, over a number of years, inviting representatives to form a committee to manage the facility. It was considered a good idea for others to take on such responsibility.

A Member suggested a meeting of the Public Facilities Sub-Committee was needed with feedback to Council and perhaps meet with each group individually for discussion.

Members recognised that the Public Facilities Sub-Committee could possibly consist of different Members and therefore suggested this be deferred until the end of May.

A brief discussion ensued regarding the immediacy of the need for pitch markings in order to accommodate more effective use of the facility and it was considered that Council should support these groups as much as possible.

It was therefore agreed that the pitch markings be approved temporarily for one month, subject to review following the meeting of the Public Facilities Sub-Committee, and subsequently meeting with group representatives.

- 4) E. Field Pryor & Rickett Silviculture request to attend a Council meeting to provide a short presentation on woodlands and woodland creation in Wales.
- Noted; defer until after the Elections, a Member suggested that Council may wish to invite Sirhowy Woodlands to the meeting also.
- 5) L. Price Thank you for the Christmas Lights gifts; and
6) R. Lydon Thank you for participating in World Parkinson's Day.
- Noted.

7) PUBLICATIONS

BGCBC Roadworks report, week ending 15.04.22; BGCBC Additional Roadworks report, week ending 15.04.22; ABUHB Winter 2021/22 Patient's Voice News Bulletin; BGCBC Roadworks report, week ending 22.04.22; BGCBC Roadworks report, week ending 29.04.22; Communicorp Clerks & Councils Direct May 2022, issue 261; BGCBC Free residential weekends for Service children; ABUHB Info about hospital visiting, 50+ webinar planning & living with dementia survey – **forwarded to all Members**; OVW Introducing the National CPR & Defibrillation Manager; IWN Wellbeing information: Smoke Free Environments, Telephone Befriending & Environmental Volunteering in Bryn Bach Park – **forwarded to all Members**; OVW Planting for pollinators booklet – **forwarded to all Members**; OVW South Wales Regional Engagement Team Weekly Bulletin – **forwarded to all Members**; OVW Press Release: Ramblers Cymru Spring; Brecon Beacons National Park Authority Tourism Times Spring 2022 – **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.

359) Planning:

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

- ii) a) List of planning applications received in week 14
- b) List of planning applications received in week 15
- c) List of planning applications received in week 16

b) Verbal report of the Planning Committee, if any

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

App. No.	Applicant	Proposal
C/2022/0084	Mr. L. Phillips Glan Yr Afon Dukestown Road Tredegar	First floor rear extension, raising of roof to main house and insertion of front dormers, balcony to rear and porches to front and side elevations & associated alterations, Glan Yr Afon.
	No objections	
C/2022/0094	Mr. A. Jones Ty-Heulog 25 Ashville Tredegar	Two storey side extension, Ty-Heulog, 25 Ashville.
	No objections	
C/2022/0095	Mr. J. William 15 St. Deinols Close Pengam Blackwood	Outline planning permission for 4 detached properties, Site of Former Ironsides Club, Queen Victoria Street.
	No objections	
C/2022/0103	Blaenau Gwent CBC General Offices Steel Works Road Ebbw Vale	Proposed new Welsh Medium Primary School, incorporating a new drop-off area facility, staff parking, bus turning including multi-use games area, and relocation of the existing playground, Playground and Land adjacent to Chartist Way.

Observations: Members raised a number of concerns in respect of the proposed development, i.e. lack of / no public consultation with the residents in the immediate and surrounding areas (as Members understood that such consultation had to be undertaken by law), e.g. Dukestown Road, St. Luke's Road and Armoury Hill; relocation of the play area currently used by the local children; no traffic calming measures included within the planning application.

d) To consider other planning matters - C/2022/0051 Two storey side and rear extension with single storey rear extension and roof terrace and patio area, Hughes Cottage, Merthyr Road, Tafarnaubach, Rhymney. **No objections** to the proposed build, however, concerns raised in respect of the substantial removal of soil on site and possible reprofiling, and subsequent construction traffic transporting materials through the site.

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

- Beaufort Road; increased volume and speed of traffic – there had been a number of fatalities on this highway and it was proving dangerous for pedestrians to cross; residents had complained of missing buses, due to being unable to cross safely. It was agreed that Council request a site investigation to be undertaken to look at pedestrian access as a matter of urgency.
- Public Conveniences – a concern had been raised that the toilets had not been opened on Good Friday over the Bank Holiday weekend; also an incident on one occasion when Fresh Active had forgotten to unlock the toilets initially. Therefore, there was a need to find a long-term solution for the unlocking of the toilets when the Member keyholder was

unavailable. Agreed; refer to the Public Facilities Sub-Committee.

- Councillor David Howells said that having been on Council for eighteen years, it was time to step down. It had been a privilege to represent the people of Tredegar and he particularly proud of what we had done over the years, for example, over the last twelve years with Armed Forces Day, Aneurin Bevan Day and Festival, Deighton playing field and the toilets. Also the Cenotaph and the Town Clock, and year-on-year improving the Christmas Lights of the town, and the work every Councillor had done for the town, for no payment. He had enjoyed himself on the Council, which had been like a family – and like family, do have disagreements – and after all was sorted, it was beneficial to the residents for these disagreements. He had made plenty of new friends on Council and in the community.

“Thank you all and I wish Council and the staff the best for the future.”

Members thereupon paid credit to Councillor Howells, who had been a credit to Central and West, and to the other Members not standing in the forthcoming Election. He considered this one of the best terms since becoming a Councillor in 2004, with more work done in this time to help the people of Tredegar.

Well done to Councillor Tommy Smith, as Leader, and Councillor Alyson Tippings as Deputy Leader. To all – Tommy Smith, David Howells and Bernard Willis – a credit to the Council, ‘Thank You’.

Councillor David Jones said he had thoroughly enjoyed his time as Councillor, particularly the refocus during Covid, extending thanks for the camaraderie and the experience.

Councillor Tommy Smith echoed the sentiments expressed by Members, he extended his thanks to all Members and staff. It had been a privilege to serve as a Member, as Mayor, and Leader since 2014; he offered thanks to Councillors Bernard Willis, David Howells and David Jones – “Thanks for all you have done”. He extended ‘well wishes’ to all returning Members and the very best for the future and said if he could be of any support to Tredegar Town Council. He wished all Members well standing for the forthcoming Elections on 5th May and a “Thank you” to the Chair for the last year, as chairing was not always easy.

A Member wished to thank Members, considering this sad and emotional, as an end of an era for many:

Thanks to Bernard Willis, although crossing swords on occasion, for his wry sense of humour and service to Town Council, lots of work in respect of public facilities, advice and knowledge, public toilets and other facilities in Tredegar – wishing him a happy retirement.

To David Jones, for marking her homework with his ‘red’ pen and the knock on the door, a great Governor at Bryn Bach Primary and was always happy to help out at events, providing a great service to this Council.

To David Howells, the longest service to the people and now retiring. He had been a loyal Member, and one of the key things being his local knowledge and having his finger on the pulse - although standing down, he could continue to feed back news. He also had been a Governor at Bryn Bach Primary and supportive of Town Council Governors, doing an amazing job in primary schools.

To Councillor Malcolm Cross, who was unfortunately poorly at present. For his excellent local knowledge, particularly historical elements of the town, and supporting activities; for being Governor on both Bryn Bach Primary and St. Joseph Primary Schools; and always being there to help, particularly in transporting the steps and road signs. The

Member wished him a speedy recovery – “Thank you for your service.”

To Tommy Smith, her ‘wingman’ for the past five years, as many would not realise the work he done; virtually every day liaising with the Clerk and as the first point of call. This was not easy as he did not drive and needed to walk to town or get a lift. “Thank you very much for what you do in the Council.”

The Mayor said ‘thank you all very much for your time’ and how much time Members needed to spend with each other; it had been a “great pleasure working with you all”.

- A Member presented a nomination for an Award for consideration of Council, which was agreed accordingly – the Member would complete the Nomination Form required and return to the Clerk to be retained.

The Mayor wished those retiring all the best and, for the forthcoming Elections, the best of luck. There being no other business, the meeting closed at 7.35 p.m.

_____ Chair