

# TREDEGAR TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Civic Meeting of Council held via Microsoft Teams / hybrid on Wednesday, 6<sup>th</sup> April, 2022 at 6.30 p.m.**

**Present:** Councillors **G. James (Chair)**  
**S. Rees**  
**A.E. Tippings**  
**D.W.A. Howells**  
**A. Jones**  
**D. Jones**  
**K. Phillips**  
**P. Prosser**  
**J. Thomas**  
**H. Trollope**  
**S. Trollope**  
**M. Turner**

**In attendance:** Clerk – **Ms. C. Aherne**  
KS Placement – **Miss B Flowers**

**336) Apologies.** Councillors **M. Cross, E. Jones, D. Rowberry, T. Smith and B. Willis**

## **337) Declarations of Interest**

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

## **338) To receive Mayor's report, as appropriate**

The Mayor had visited the Heads of the Valley Stationers, presenting a 'Town Clock' clock and letter on behalf of Tredegar Town Council - and personally presenting a bouquet of flowers - on Thursday, 17<sup>th</sup> March, 2022, who had been really pleased and thanked Council very much.

The Mayor had attended the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Operatic Society in the Sports Centre, in a personal capacity; it was a wonderful concert, featuring wonderful voices: agreed, letter of congratulations to be sent.

## **339) To receive any verbal recommendations of all Sub-Committees / Working Party held prior to this meeting:**

No Sub-Committee or Working Party meetings had been held prior to Council.

## **340) Correspondence**

*Councillor K. Phillips declared an interest in Item 1)iii. and took no part in discussion or voting thereon.*

1) BGCBC

i. Weekly list of Licensing Applications, week ending 11.03.2022.

ii. Weekly list of Licensing Applications, week ending 18.03.2022.

1. A & J Local Store – full variation of premises licence.

- Members were aware of residents' objections to the increase in hours due to anti-social behaviour; however, it was noted that the shop had been subject to refurbishment.

iii. Weekly list of Licensing Applications, week ending 25.03.2022.

1. Queen's Ballroom – application to transfer the premises licence.

iv. Weekly list of Licensing Applications, week ending 01.04.2022.

1. Dukestown Workingmen's Club – application for a new premises licence for films, indoor sporting events, boxing events, live music, recorded music, performance of dance and supply of alcohol.

2. The Mountain Air Hotel – application to vary the designated premises supervisor (DPS).

- A Member asked that a letter of congratulations be sent to the former stewards on their retirement.

3) Cllr T. Smith

a) Diane Summerfield is asking if Tredegar Town Council will handle the road closure for the Classic Vehicle Day on 18.06.2022.

- A Member said he had been involved in the process of revitalising the car show and confirmed the Forum was looking for advice regarding the Road Closure. Clarity was needed what help was being asked of Town Council, i.e. whether help to complete the application or to advise: the Member would liaise with the Forum to ascertain.

b) Diane Summerfield is asking if Tredegar Town Council would open the Clock on the day of the Classic Vehicle Day, as previously done.

- A Member suggested that due consideration was needed in respect of the Coronavirus and restricted space in the base of the Clock; also, at least six volunteers needed.

- 4) Thank you:
- a) Heads of the Valley Stationers, confirming retirement from the 31.03.2022 and thanking Council for the support and custom over the years.
  - b) Ty Hafan, Thank you card for donation.
    - Noted.

#### 5) PUBLICATIONS

BGCBC Roadworks report, week ending 25.03.22; J. Karn Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum Agenda held on 21.03.22; BGCBC Roadworks report, week ending 01.04.22; Communicorp Clerks & Councils Direct April 2022, issue 260; BGCBC Roadworks report, week ending 08.04.22; BGCBC Ukraine Crisis Response information; P. Jones Law Commission report on Regulating Coal Tip Safety in Wales; OVW Community Ownership Fund; OVW Manifesto for The Future; R. Cox Caerphilly County Borough Council ISA Scoping Report Consultation begins 23.03.22 & ends 27.04.22; BGCBC Town Council Noticeboards have been upgraded.

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

#### 6) AGENDA

None received.

#### 341) Planning:

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

- ii) a) List of planning applications received in week 11
- b) List of planning applications received in week 12
- c) List of planning applications received in week 13

b) **Verbal report of the Planning Committee if any** None received.

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

<b>App. No.</b>	<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Proposal</b>
C/2022/0062	Mr. T. Powell 31 Lakeside Nantybwh Tredegar	Proposed attached garage to the side of the house, 31 Lakeside.
<b><i>No objections</i></b>		
C/2022/0072	Mr. S. Cooper 13 James Street Tredegar	Proposed two storey extension to rear of property, 13 James Street.
<b><i>No objections</i></b>		

C/2022/0074 Mr. W. Steed Proposed dormer bungalow,  
c/o Agent Mr. P. Rolley Plot Adj. to 1 Scwrfa Road.  
Fulmar Close  
Lavonock Park  
Penarth

**Observations:** As long as any vehicular access would not impact on the School, Members had no objections and felt the development would, in fact, enhance the area.

C/2022/0080 Mr. L. Moon Single storey dwelling, single  
1 Ashleigh storey garage, two storey triple  
Church Street garage with domestic store  
Tredegar above and single storey annexe,  
Land Adjacent to Bryn Rhosyn.

**Observations:** Concerns were raised regarding the size of the development and Members asked that an assurance be given that the development be wholly residential and not have any industrial usage.

**d) To consider other planning matters** – Application C/2022/0050: Proposed change of use of a D1 Gospel Hall to a C3 residential property. Response from Planning Officer of Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council to concerns of Council: Noted.

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

- A Member welcomed the progress of the Wellbeing development at Parc Bryn Bach and it was nice to see the structure was near completion.

**343) 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, scheduled 19<sup>th</sup> April, 2022.
- c) One Voice Wales Larger Councils and AGM** – No meeting.
- d) Tredegar Twinning** – The meeting had been cancelled.
- e) Pen Bryn Oer Community Fund** – Meeting held, results to be released in one month.
- f) School Governing Bodies** – Bryn Bach Primary: the School had received their second Estyn curriculum pre-inspection and had been impressed with the interventions the School were undertaking, which would be used as best practise within the All-Wales report. Glanhwy Primary: involved in the Arts Council of Wales project, whereby children were learning about the history of their town from the last Century to date – the children had asked questions, e.g. in respect of the Town Clock, and the level of participation had been fantastic. Tredegar Comprehensive School: the School was doing everything in their power to address rising Covid numbers, looking at Year 11 within the School environment undertaking blended learning, in order to keep pupils safe and minimise the effect of Covid.
- g) Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum** – Meeting held; unfortunately the Member had been unable to attend but the Forum was very active undertaking visits throughout the Borough and holding Easter events.
- h) Tredegar Business Forum** – The Forum was pro-active; a list of forthcoming events was to be circulated in the near future.

**i) VVP / Tredegar Heritage Initiative** – Tenders had been sought for the work to continue to the former town hall and a new person had recently been appointed.

Councillor S. Rees joined the meeting at this juncture (7.05 p.m.)

### **344) Matters of Local Interest or Concern (by prior notice)**

- Public Conveniences – a Member was happy to continue opening the toilets when he was able but was experiencing difficulty on occasion due to work commitments; therefore, a solution needed to be found long-term. Fresh Active had provided assistance in opening the toilets once / twice recently and this partnership could work really well for Council; however, there was a need to put appropriate arrangements in place, e.g. health and safety.

Another Member pointed that the walkway had been unlocked overnight and youths had congregated there; she suggested there was a need for three keyholders to cover all eventualities, which was agreed.

Concern was expressed that no cover had been provided recently when the cleaning operative had been on leave; this was the main reason that the cleaning duties had been delegated to an external contractor, rather than Council employing an individual direct. Members expressed deep disappointment regarding the lack of / poor service provided by the cleaning contractor, which was unacceptable.

- Thanks – firstly, the Member referred to BGCBC refurbishing the noticeboards, considering the Authority had undertaken a really good job, and appreciated the use of magnetic fittings rather than pins. ‘Thanks to all of you for the last five years’, stating it had been a rollercoaster experience but considered, as a collective, had all worked well together for the people of Tredegar. To those who had decided not to stand ‘thanks very much’ and he looked forward to working with all those returning after the Election.
- Deighton playing field – a Member referred to a request by Trefil Rugby Club to place line-markings on Deighton field. The Club had tried to book The Rec. but unfortunately there was always a reason why the Club could not use it. The Club also worked closely with Ironside. There was a considerable fee to book the Sports Centre; he emphasised the request was not in relation to erection of posts but marking only of a rudimentary pitch, and asked that Council give permission to mark the pitch, suggesting this would also enhance community usage.

A Member said he would support in principle; he was aware of problems experienced by the Club during winter months. Also, Council had tried to get a group from these organisations to manage themselves, pursuing that on numerous occasions. He suggested that, when re-marking, the Club rotate the area used to avoid bare patches. It was suggested that, for health and safety reasons, the youngsters could move away from the fencing. Members said that Rugby was part of the community, and support should be given to preserve the sport.

Another Member suggested that Council needed to think of possible wider upset, e.g. football teams in Ebbw Vale had to forfeit matches due to a lack of facilities. There were more rugby teams than football already having access to their own pitch. Previously, the reason why Council had decided not to allow marking on there was to avoid giving any one team predominant access, and Members needed to reflect on what this would mean in a wider case. Trefil / Tredegar Ironsides Rugby teams already had access to a pitch. The Member confirmed there would be no spectators, with the

line-markings used for training purposes only, not matches.

Following discussion, it was: agreed, in principle, with an invite to be extended to the appropriate Sub-Committee.

- Council Meetings – the Clerk asked would Members prefer to hold Council the 20<sup>th</sup> or 27<sup>th</sup> April, due to the Easter period, to ensure the meeting would be quorate, agreed: to hold the Ordinary Meeting of Council on 27<sup>th</sup> April, 2022; Annual Meeting of Council, agreed: 11<sup>th</sup> May, 2022, following the Election.

No Elections would be required in the Tredegar area as the 'seats' were uncontested; six nominations had been received in Sirhowy, three for Georgetown with one vacancy, two in Central and West with six vacancies. Therefore, Co-option would need to be considered at the Annual Meeting of Council in respect of nominations.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 7.50 p.m.

\_\_\_\_\_ Chair