

TREDEGAR TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Council held remotely via Microsoft Teams / hybrid on Wednesday, 11th May, 2022 at 6.00 p.m.

Present: Councillors J. Thomas (Chair)
A.E. Tippings
M. Turner
G. Badham
P. Cornlauer
A. Jones
E. Jones
K. Phillips
P. Prosser
D. Rowberry

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

001) To Elect a Mayor to serve until the Annual Meeting of Council 2023.

Declaration of Acceptance of Office by the incoming Mayor.

(Chain of Office to be handed over and Consort's Chain to be exchanged, if applicable.)

A Member proposed that the election of Mayor be deferred: to be considered by the full complement of Members on appointment of filling the vacancies arising from the recent Election. Therefore, in the absence of the outgoing Mayor 2021 / 2022, Councillor Jacqueline Thomas was nominated as Chair of this meeting, which was agreed unanimously.

002) Apologies. Mrs. G. James (outgoing), Mr. S. Rees (outgoing) and Councillor G. Walters

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

003) Thanks and Appreciation to the Mayor 2021 – 2022, Councillor G. James.

The outgoing Mayor had to submit apologies and had asked, therefore, the Clerk to read the following communication:

'I would like to thank all the Town Councillors for giving me the privilege of being Mayor of Tredegar in the past year. Although it wasn't too busy, I must say I enjoyed myself, going to the various organisations where I always had a wonderful welcome and all of them were grateful for the Town Council's support.

I would also like to thank our wonderful staff for their support, all things considered, they do a fantastic job. Well done ladies!

This year has been a difficult year with regards to my health, as my legs don't carry me very far so I was unable to help out with various activities as well, which I have done over past years. So it's time to step back and hopefully some younger person will take my place on the Council.

So I wish you all well and keep the good work up of Tredegar Town Council.'

There being no nominations for election to the role of Mayor, this appointment was **DEFERRED**.

004) To receive any communication the Mayor may wish to lay before Council.

Not applicable.

005) To Elect a Deputy Mayor to serve until the Annual Meeting of Council 2023. (Chain of Office will be given to the incoming Deputy.)

There being no nominations for election to the role of Deputy Mayor, this appointment was **DEFERRED**.

006) To Elect a Member as Leader of Council until the Annual Meeting of Council 2023.

A Member said that it was a pleasure to nominate her Colleague, Councillor Alyson Tippings, to the role of Leader.

A Member said that he had abstained from the voting at Group-level, as he had been unhappy with the information provided in respect of the reasons for the immediate need to appoint a Leader.

A brief discussion ensued regarding the information provided at that meeting, whereby clarity was sought from the Clerk; the Officer confirmed that the appointment of a Leader would not impact on the financial operations of the Council, neither BACs nor payroll, also there were seven signatories on the Council's bank mandate, four of whom remained following the recent Election, available to sign cheques.

The nomination was thereupon duly seconded, and Councillor Tippings appointed: Councillor Tippings thanked Colleagues and accepted the role of Leader. The Leader to receive the acceptance of Office, which would be duly signed in accordance with Covid restrictions, recognising social distancing and safety guidance.

Thanks were extended to the outgoing Leader, Councillor Tommy Smith, for his years as Leader; for his diligence and the energy he had put into that role.

007) To Elect a Member as Deputy Leader of Council until the Annual Meeting of Council 2023.

A Member proposed that Councillor Mark Turner be nominated to the role of Deputy Leader, which was duly seconded. The Member accepted and thanked his Colleagues for election to this role; Deputy Leader to receive the acceptance of Office, which would be duly signed in accordance with Covid restrictions, recognising social distancing and safety guidance.

008) To approve that the Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Leader and Deputy Leader are ex-officio Members of all Council Committees and Sub-Committees with voting rights.

This was agreed unanimously.

009) Vacancy – Co-option nominations for consideration:

- **Georgetown Ward – one vacancy**
- **Central & West Ward – six vacancies**

Due to the seats being 'uncontested' in the recent Election, there had not been a need to hold an Election for the Tredegar area; due to a number of Councillors retiring, this had resulted in a number of vacancies that could now be filled via co-option. On progressing, in accordance with the approved process, ten expressions of interest had been received for both the Georgetown Ward and Central and West.

Upon a secret ballot process being undertaken to vote for candidates, a majority decision resulted in the following nominees being approved:

- Georgetown: Mrs. Katie Waldron; and
- Central & West: Mr. Andrew Davies, Mr. Glyndwr Evans, Miss Bethan Rees, Mr. Haydn Trollope, Mrs. Sharon Trollope and Mr. Chris Walters

Thanks were extended to the unsuccessful candidates for their interest in the vacancies and Council very much hoped this would continue for the future. Congratulations and best wishes were extended to all Co-opted Members on their appointment to Tredegar Town Council.

010) To receive and confirm the Standing Orders of Tredegar Town Council.

This document formed part of the Councillor induction pack received at the point of signing the Declaration of Office; agreed unanimously.

011) To receive and confirm the Financial Regulations of Tredegar Town Council.

This document formed part of the Councillor induction pack received at the point of signing the Declaration of Office; agreed unanimously, as approved by the previous administration.

012) To appoint Barclays Bank plc as the Council's Bankers (existing).

This was agreed unanimously, as approved by the previous administration.

013) To Authorise the Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Leader and Deputy Leader of Council, Chair of the Finance Sub-Committee, with the Clerk and RFO, to sign cheques on behalf of Tredegar Town Council.

This was agreed unanimously, as approved; Clerk and RFO to only sign cheques in the case of an emergency, once proper approval had been gained from the four signatories, i.e. Senior Members in line with Financial Regulations.

014) To consider any Urgent correspondence.

- 1) BGCBC
- a) Weekly lists of Licensing Applications, week ending 22.04.2022.
 - b) Weekly lists of Licensing Applications, week ending 29.04.2022.
 - c) Weekly lists of Licensing Applications, week ending 06.05.2022.
 - i) A. & J. Stores, Temporary Events Notice for supply of alcohol.
 - ii) Bedwellty House and Park, Temporary Street Trading Consent.
 - iii) Bedwellty House and Park, Temporary Events Notice for supply of alcohol.
- Noted.
- 2) One Voice Wales
- Available places for new Councillor Induction remote session, commences on 17.05.2022 at 6:30 p.m. – 8.00 p.m.
- Noted; Clerk to ascertain any joint opportunities with Blaenau Gwent CBC.
- 3) Price's of Beaufort
- Town Clock Planting.
- Noted; the Clerk confirmed that planting to commemorate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee had previously been approved by Council, with progress delegated to the Clerk; the Officer therefore asked Members to approve the expenditure of £217.00 for the provision of plants, which was ratified accordingly.

4) PUBLICATIONS: Deferred to the Ordinary Meeting.

5) AGENDA: Deferred to the Ordinary Meeting.

Planning:

a) i) Officers Report: None received.

- ii)
- a) List of planning applications received in week 17.
 - b) List of planning applications received in week 17: updated.
 - c) List of planning applications received in week 18.

b) Verbal Report of the Planning Committee: None received.

c) Applications:

App No	Applicant	Proposal
C/2022/0116 No objections	Mr. J. Allen BGCBC Community Services Energy Centre Lime Avenue Ebbw Vale	Proposed advertisement: General public information with electronic images, Tredegar Library, The Circle.
C/2022/0117 No objections	Mr. J. Leddington 3 Rhoslan Church Street Tredegar	Demolish existing Social Club and erect (2x pairs) of semi-detached, 3 bed dwellings with off-road parking (maintaining existing T.P.O trees), The Willows Club, Church Street

d) Other Planning Matters

C/2021/0095 Appeal application for a proposed detached motorcycle store and playroom, Pochin Villas, Dan-Y-Bryn, Newport Road, Tredegar. Appeal start date on 29.04.2022, where a decision will be made by 24.06.2022: Noted.

015) To confirm the letter of appointment has been issued to the Internal Auditor for 2021 to the Annual Meeting of Council 2022.

Confirmed; this was agreed unanimously.

016) To agree the presentation of the Aneurin Bevan Prize, the Peter Morgan Jones and Michael Foot Awards, in conjunction with Tredegar Comprehensive School.

The Aneurin Bevan Prize was awarded for science; the Peter Morgan-Jones for arts / crafts and encompassing music; and the Michael Foot for literature. For each, a cash prize was given, and the winners were presented with a trophy, which remained displayed at the school.

This was agreed unanimously.

017) To agree the presentation of the Tony Gregory Award.

Tony Gregory (deceased) was a former Councillor, who had very much supported the community, helping people reach their goals and was a champion of young people; he supported youngsters who may have gone astray and those lesser academic achievers to help them bring out / learn skills within the community.

The award was for a young person who had made a difference to their life and criteria had been established; past recipients and their achievements were highlighted.

This was agreed unanimously.

018) To agree the Lindsay Bryan Sports Memorial Award.

This was unanimously agreed.

019) To confirm the pattern and timings of Meetings of Council

The Clerk confirmed the Standing Orders, which outlined the pattern and timings of formal meetings of Council, had been subject to annual review in February / March, in accordance with appropriate guidance: agreed unanimously.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 7.02 p.m.

_____ Chair