

TREDEGAR TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held via Microsoft Teams / hybrid on
Wednesday, 18th May, 2022 at 6.30 p.m.

Present: Councillors J. Thomas (Chair)
A.E. Tippings
G. Badham
P. Cornlouer
A. Davies
G. Evans
A. Jones
E. Jones
K. Phillips
P. Prosser
B. Rees
D. Rowberry
H. Trollope
S. Trollope
C. Walters
G. Walters

In attendance: Clerk – Ms. C. Aherne
RFO – Ms. A. Edwards

020) 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.)

Nominations were sought for the role of Mayor, whereupon Members were invited to liaise with the Leader. Councillor Glyn Evans expressed an interest in the appointment, which was supported. However, the Clerk referred to guidance within the Charles Arnold-Baker publication that stated that a Chair / Mayor should be an elected Member, and not co-opted; therefore, the Clerk needed to check what was stipulated in Legislation.

A decision in respect of the appointment was therefore **DEFERRED**, dependent upon this clarification.

In the absence of a newly appointed Mayor, Councillor Jacqueline Thomas was nominated as Chair to this meeting, which was agreed unanimously.

021) 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, the appointment was **DEFERRED**.

022) Apologies: Councillors M. Turner and K. Waldron

023) Declarations of Interest

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

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

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

025) To consider a Schedule of Accounts for payment in May 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.

- Sparkle Cleaning – previously known as Elite Cleaning Ltd.
- Trophies plus Medals – the Platinum Jubilee pin badges to be presented to every Primary School pupil had been received.
- Zurich Insurance – the expenditure related to the annual payment.
- Clock plants – Members had received positive feedback on the previous planting of the tulips.
- Gateway signage: 'Trefil' – the payment was reimbursement to Blaenau Gwent CBC for the supply of the sign and installation.
- To enable a timely payment process, the RFO sought approval of the Clerk as a second signatory, which was agreed accordingly.
- Register of Interests – Members were reminded to complete and return this form, for the information to be published in the public realm.

There being no further queries regarding the Schedule of Accounts, presented items were approved for payment. The RFO asked that the designated 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.

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

- a) Civic Meeting of Council – 6th April, 2022**
- b) Performance Review Sub-Committee – 27th April, 2022**
- c) Ordinary Meeting of Council – 27th April, 2022**

It was agreed that all Minutes presented be moved en bloc as a true record.

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

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

028) Correspondence

- 1) BGCBC
- Weekly lists of Licensing Applications, week ending 13.05.2022.
- i) M.J. Meats (operating at) Dukestown Workingmen's Club, Renewal application for permanent Street Trading Consent.
 - ii) A. & J. Stores, Application for temporary events notice for supply of alcohol.
- Noted.
- 2) One Voice Wales
- a) Free training places for Councillors via online training webinars. **(Forward to GB)**
 - b) Circular Economy Innovation Communities programme via webinar, commencing 19.05.2022 and 16.06.2022 at 11.00 a.m. **(Forward to EJ)**
 - c) Local Places for Nature 2022 applications, free starter kits available by applying online. **(Forward to AET)**
 - d) Nature Hub hosted via Microsoft Teams, to discuss topics relating to the environment. **(Forward to AET)**
- Noted; Members said that newly appointed Local Authority Members had undertaken Code of Conduct training and this video may be available to Town Council.
- 3) Aneurin Bevan
UHB
- Regarding the Covid Memorial, we can purchase a tree already allocated on site, however development will not be complete until August / September 2023.
- Noted; agreed that Leader peruse availability on behalf of Council.
- 4) Tredegar
Business Forum
- Request for Tredegar Town Council to open the Town Clock to the public for the Classic Vehicle Event, the Cadets have offered to assist with the manning of the Clock.
- Members had conflicting views in respect of the request, due to risk associated with the Covid pandemic, e.g. close contact and children exempt from wearing a mask; upon a vote being taken, it was unanimously agreed that the event continue only the proviso that an appropriate Risk Assessment was approved by the Local Authority.

- 5) Cllr. Cornlouer Falkland Service in Cardiff Rock 40th Anniversary of the Falkland Islands; talk in the Little Theatre on 15.06.2022 at 1.00 p.m.; Remembrance Day in November 2022.
- Noted; forward to all Members.
- 6) Cllr. Tippings To discuss the Trefil Sign, X4 Bus and Road Closure signs.
- The gateway signage at Trefil had been erected; it was therefore agreed that an official opening be convened with a photoshoot opportunity. It was suggested it would be nice to invite the youngest and oldest residents in the village to attend, both Town Council and County Borough Members for Tredegar, and appropriate civic dignitaries. The Chapel would be available for the provision of light refreshments; the expenditure was thereupon approved accordingly.
 - The X4 bus service was to be replaced with the T4 from Tredegar to Merthyr, whereby passengers would be subject to wait three quarters of an hour to continue their journey. This was a much-used link from Tredegar to Abergavenny, Merthyr and Hereford, and it was agreed that Council write to Stagecoach in this respect.
 - The road closure signs previously stored in the lock-up had been left outside, which could be stolen and were subject to the elements; these signs needed to be locked away as soon as possible.
A Member said that a stocktake needed to be undertaken to review the quality, as some were not fit for purpose and needed replacing.
- 7) L. Cook Hedgehog Highway Project, request for Council to purchase one box of hedgehog highway surrounds and make them available for local residents.
- Noted; agreed, Leader to pursue.
- 8) RFCA Welsh Veterans Awards 2022, apply or nominate by 01.06.2022.
- Noted; forward to Councillors P. Cornlouer / A. Jones / J. Thomas.

9) A. Mosely

Thank you from Tredegar Operatic Society for the Council's kind words on the 100th Anniversary Concert 'Golden Days'. Request to discuss possibility of erecting memorial to celebrate this achievement in Bedwellty Park.

- Noted; Council suggested that a meeting be convened with Aneurin Leisure, e.g. between the Manager, TTC Leader and Deputy Leader.

10) PUBLICATIONS

OVW Age Friendly Wales, an update on the Strategy for Ageing Society April 2022; Communicorp Clerks & Councils Direct May 2022, issue 141; BGCBC Roadworks report, week ending 13.05.2022; OVW Climate Change Newsletter May 2022; OVW Future Wales: The National Plan 2040, Newsletter Issue 19 May 2022; Race Council Cymru May 2022 Newsletter; J. Karn Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum, held 16.05.2022 in Tredegar Library; OVW News Bulletin May 2022; OVW Call out for good practice/examples in response to global warming and climate Change, closing date 01.07.2022 – **forwarded to all Members**; OVW Plantlife Cymru courses and events, on 25.05.2022 at 12:30-5:00 p.m.; GAVO Shared Prosperity Fund launched 13.04.2022 – **distributed to Members**: Received.

9) **AGENDA**: None received.

029) Planning:

a) i) **To consider an Officer's Report (if received)** – N/A

ii) a) List of planning applications received in week 19

b) **Verbal report of the Planning Committee, if any** – N/A

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

App. No.	Applicant	Proposal
C/2022/0130	Mr. R. Baxter 200 Gainsborough Road Cefn Golau Tredegar	Garage and workshop extension, 200 Gainsborough Road, Cefn Golau.

No objections

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.

030) Change of Order of Agenda

It was agreed that the Additional Items circulated (Agenda No's 12-15) be considered prior to the last Item, 'Matters of Local Interest of Concern'; this was agreed accordingly.

031) To appoint a Civic Committee (all Members of Council).

This was agreed unanimously.

032) To appoint ALL MEMBERS OF COUNCIL to the Performance Review Committee to meet quarterly.

This was agreed unanimously.

033) To confirm the following Sub-Committees and to appoint Members to serve on them until the Annual Meeting of Council 2023:

a. Civic Sub-Committee – 9 Members

Councillors A.E. Tippings (Leader) (Chair), (Mayor), (Deputy Mayor), M. Turner (Deputy Leader), G. Badham, G. Evans, E. Jones, D. Rowberry, H. Trollope

b. Events Sub-Committee – 9 Members

Councillors A.E. Tippings (Leader), (Mayor), (Deputy Mayor), M. Turner (Deputy Leader), P. Cornlouer, A. Jones, K. Phillips, J. Thomas, H. Trollope

c. Heritage Sub-Committee (encompassing Bedwellty House and Park, the Assembly Room Picture Gallery, Tredegar War Memorials and Tredegar Town Clock) with plenary powers up to £500.00 – 10 Members

Councillors A.E. Tippings (Leader) (Chair), (Mayor), (Deputy Mayor), M. Turner (Deputy Leader), A. Jones, P. Prosser, B. Rees, H. Trollope, C. Walters, G. Walters

d. Finance & Staffing Sub-Committee – 9 Members

Councillors H. Trollope (Chair), (Mayor), (Deputy Mayor), A.E. Tippings (Leader), M. Turner (Deputy Leader), E. Jones, D. Rowberry, J. Thomas, G. Walters

e. Appeals Committee – 6 Members

Councillors (Chair), G. Badham, A. Davies, G. Evans, A. Jones, P. Prosser, S. Trollope

f. Policy Sub-Committee - All Members of Council

Councillor (Mayor) (Chair)

g. Community, Youth and International Sub-Committee – 9 Members

Councillors A.E. Tippings (Leader) (Chair), (Mayor), (Deputy Mayor), M. Turner (Deputy Leader), E. Jones, K. Phillips, D. Rowberry, H. Trollope, S. Trollope

h. One Voice Wales Climate Change Adaptation Programme

Councillors (Chair), (Mayor), (Deputy Mayor), A.E. Tippings (Leader), M. Turner (Deputy Leader), A. Jones, B. Rees, D. Rowberry

i. Tredegar Public Facilities Sub-Committee – 6 Members

(To incorporate Tredegar W/C Facilities the Deighton Playing fields and Sirhowy Community Garden)

Councillors (Chair), A.E. Tippings (Leader), M. Turner (Deputy Leader), G. Badham, A. Jones, K. Waldron, C. Walters

j. Publicity Sub-Committee – 6 Members

Councillors S. Trollope (Chair), (Mayor), (Deputy Mayor), A.E. Tippings (Leader), M. Turner (Deputy Leader), E. Jones; K. Waldron (Reserve)

k. Budget Working Group

Councillors H. Trollope (Finance & Staffing Sub Chair) (Chair), (Mayor), (Deputy Mayor), A.E. Tippings (Leader), M. Turner (Deputy Leader), G. Walters

I. Allotment Association

Councillors A. Jones (Chair), (Mayor), (Deputy Mayor), A.E. Tippings (Leader), M. Turner (Deputy Leader), K. Phillips; G. Walters (Reserve)

The Chair of Committees and Sub-Committees to be elected at the first Meeting of that Committee / Sub-Committee and to serve until the Annual Meeting of Council 2023.

Planning

Central & West: Councillor M. Turner (Chair); A. Davies (Reserve)
Georgetown Ward: Councillor K. Phillips; G. Walters (Reserve)
Sirhowy Ward: Councillor P. Prosser; A. Jones (Reserve)
(Mayor) (Reserve Member)

Working Party 'Defibrillators'

Councillors A.E. Tippings (Leader), M. Turner (Deputy Leader), A. Jones, D. Rowberry, J. Thomas, S. Trollope

Website Working Party

Councillors A.E. Tippings (Leader), K. Phillips, G. Walters

**** Working Party 'The Lodge' - to be absorbed by the Public Facilities Sub-Committee**

034) To appoint Members to serve on the following outside bodies:

The following Committee list was reviewed and unanimously agreed:

a. Quarterly Liaison Meeting / Joint Committee of Local Councils

Councillors M. Turner (Deputy Leader), (Mayor), (Deputy Mayor), K. Phillips, Ms. C. Aherne (Clerk); P. Cornlouer (Reserve)

i. Gwent Valleys One Voice Wales

Councillors A.E. Tippings (Leader), (Mayor), E. Jones, Ms. C. Aherne (Clerk); B. Rees (Reserve)

ii. One Voice Wales Larger Councils and AGM

Councillors A.E. Tippings (Leader), M. Turner (Deputy Leader), (Mayor), B. Rees, H. Trollope.

b. Tredegar Twinning Association

Councillors A.E. Tippings (Leader), (Mayor), M. Turner (Deputy Leader), E. Jones, Ms. C. Aherne (Clerk).

c. School Governing Bodies

i) Bryn Bach Primary - D. Jones (*Retained: non-Elected Member representative*)

ii) Deighton Primary - S. Trollope

iii) Georgetown Primary - G. Walters

iv) Glanhwy Primary - A. Jones

v) St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Primary - G. Evans

d. Blaenau Gwent CAB

Councillors E. Jones, H. Trollope (Reserve)

e. Tredegar Business Forum

Councillors A.E. Tippings (Leader), (Mayor)

g. Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum

Councillors P. Prosser, A.E. Tippings (Leader), M. Turner (Deputy Leader); K. Phillips (Reserve)

h. VVP / Tredegar Heritage Initiative

Councillor A.E. Tippings (Leader)

j. Pen Bryn Oer Community Fund

Councillor A.E. Tippings (Leader), M. Turner (Deputy Leader)

Brecon Beacons National Park

M. Turner (Deputy Leader)

Armed Forces Community Covenant

M. Turner (Deputy Leader)

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

- Summer Bandstand Concerts – stewarding was needed for each Concert; the Clerk asked that Members contact her to be included on the schedule. The following Members confirmed availability for the first Concert on 29th May, 2022: Councillors Gemma Badham, Andrew Davies, Jacqueline Thomas and Mark Turner.
- Queen’s Platinum Jubilee commemorative pin badges – it was agreed that the memorabilia be delivered to the Schools, as follows: Bryn Bach – Councillor Gemma Badham; Deighton – Councillor Sharon Trollope; Georgetown – Councillor Gerran Walters; Glanhowy – Councillor Allan Jones; and St. Joseph’s – Councillor Glyn Evans.
- Opening of Public Conveniences, Gwent Shopping Centre – a member of the public had kindly offered to open the toilets when the designated Member-keyholders were unavailable; the Clerk provided the personal details for consideration. As the cleaning operative was subject to appropriate security checks, Council felt the individual would need to be subject to the same; it was therefore agreed that Fresh Active be approached, who had kindly provided help in the past having appropriate criteria in place, to act as a contingency on a permanent basis.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 7.52 p.m.

Chair