

TREDEGAR TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held remotely via Microsoft Teams on Wednesday, 20th July, 2022 at 6.30 p.m.

Present: Councillors **G. Evans (Chair)**
A.E. Tippings
G. Badham
A. Davies
E. Jones
B. Rees
D. Rowberry

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

109) Apologies. Councillors **M. Turner, P. Cornlouer, A. Jones, K. Phillips, P. Prosser, J. Thomas, H. Trollope, S. Trollope, K. Waldron, C. Walters and G. Walters**

110) Declarations of Interest

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

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

Defibrillator Working Party – 20th July, 2022

- Recommend that Council contribute to the provision of the exterior cabinet to both organisations with a donation of £300.00 to Tredegar Orpheus Male Voice Choir and Bethel Baptist Church; however, this would be in place of any grant request for the financial year 2022 / 2023.
- A formal Defibrillator Policy to be compiled and Council write to Pen Bryn Oer to look at funding options in respect of the Policy.

Performance Review Sub-Committee – 20th July, 2022

- To approve the report in respect of the Budget against Actual to 30th June, 2022.
- Council to write to potential sponsors, to seek funding of the Town Clock garden surround on an annual basis.
- A Working Group to be established to consider the Finance and Governance Toolkit, consisting of the Mayor, Leader and Deputy Leader.

112) To consider a Schedule of Accounts for payment in July 2022, with approval for urgent payments to be made during August recess

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.

- Revised accounts for June were highlighted in 'red' and revisions carried out accordingly
- The N.Power amount as estimated had been lower; therefore, the cheque had been written back
- The payments for the Band Concerts had been pre-empted and would be paid on receipt of invoices received
- August accounts would not be paid until formal documentation was received and would be reported back to Council for ratification
- In respect of a query regarding the cheque Lots of/for Tots; RFO to check payee details and re-issue if necessary

Council thereupon ratified the changes and approved the accounts accordingly.

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 / physically) and Town Clerk, which was noted accordingly.

113) To seek approval for Senior Members to be delegated powers to address urgent matters during the August recess

This was approved accordingly.

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

- a) Events Sub-Committee - 1st June, 2022
- b) Civic Meeting of Council - 1st June, 2022
- c) Finance and Staffing Sub-Committee - 8th June, 2022
- d) Ordinary Meeting of Council - 15th June, 2022
- e) Events Sub-Committee - 22nd June, 2022
- f) Finance and Staffing Sub-Committee - 29th June, 2022

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

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

To be duly signed by the Chair at the earliest opportunity; Chair to liaise accordingly.

116) Correspondence

- 1) BGCBC
 - a) M. Howland Re: Dog Control Orders, playing fields and recreation grounds. Consultation on existing orders open until 17.08.2022 – **forwarded to all Members**

Councillor D. Rowberry declared an interest in the following item and took no part in discussion.

- i) List of applications received, week ending 01.07.2022.

1. Temporary Events Notice for sale of alcohol – Little Role Play Town.

2. Temporary Events Notice for sale of alcohol – St. George's Church Hall.

ii) List of applications received, week ending 08.07.2022.

- Noted.

b) Innovative Practice Conference – Wednesday, 14th September, 2022, online event at £45.00 per delegate.

- Representation to be agreed; Clerk to book two Member places.

3) Welsh Government

Re: A Fairer Council Tax. Consultation is live between 12.07.2022 and 04.10.2022 <https://gov.wales/fairer-council-tax>

- Noted.

4) Goldleaf Property Investments

Asking if Council wants to renew the toilet lease.

- Public Facilities Sub-Committee to review terms and conditions to ensure the lease remained fit for purpose.

5) C. Rundle

Invitation for a representative to attend Remembrance Sunday Planning Meeting on Thursday, 11th August at 7.30 p.m. in Tredegar Moose Hall.

- Leader had already confirmed attendance.

6) SLCC

Finance Summit online Seminar – Wednesday, 7th September 10.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m., £45.00 + VAT per delegate. – **RFO to attend?**

- Approved; Clerk to book one place.

- 7) Cllr P. Cornlauer
- i) Falklands Memorial Garden
 - Agreed: Clerk to liaise with Aneurin Leisure Trust to arrange a meeting between the Manager, Leader and Deputy Leader.
 - ii) Complaint from locals at Southend.
 - This was a private residence and details would be needed in respect of the complaint to direct it to the appropriate channel to be addressed.
 - iii) Remembrance Day: flag drawing competition.
 - The Leader would refer this matter to the planning committee for Remembrance.
 - iv) Apologies to Mayor for not attending Inauguration.
 - Noted.

- 8) Boundary Commission for Wales
- Representations received during second consultation period available at <https://bcomm-wales.gov.uk/reviews/06-22/representations-received-during-secondary-consultation-period>
- Noted.

9) PUBLICATIONS

BGCBC Roadworks report, week ending 15.07.2022 and 22.07.2022; Communicorp Clerks & Councils Direct July 2022 Issue 142; Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum Agenda Meeting 18th July, 2022 at 10.00 a.m. Tredegar Library; OVW Re: It's For Them stakeholder toolkit; OVW Re: CAVS, community halls funding opportunities; Powys County Council Re: Replacement Powys LDP (2022-2037) will take effect from March 2026 when current adopted LDP (2011-2026) ends; OVW Re: Planning Aid Wales Newsletter July 2022; OVW Re: SE Wales Regional Engagement Team weekly bulletin 08.07.2022 and 15.07.2022.

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

10) **AGENDA**: None received.

117) Planning:

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

- ii) a) List of planning applications received in week 26
- b) List of planning applications received in week 27
- c) List of planning applications received in week 28

b) Verbal report of the Planning Committee, if any – None received

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

App. No.	Applicant	Proposal
C/2022/0189	Mr T Kiraly 55 West Hill Tredegar	Proposed first floor extension and provision of solar panels to roof, 1 Railway Cottages, Bedwellty Pits.

No objections

d) To consider other planning matters –

- i) BGCBC: Planning C/2021/0103 Former Job Centre, Coronation Street. Planning Appeal submitted to Planning Inspectorate, comments to be submitted by 03/08/2022.
 - ii) Copy of notice stating that the C/2021/0103 Former Job Centre, Coronation Street, Planning Appeal submitted to the Planning Inspectorate had been withdrawn by the applicant.
- Noted.

- C/2022/0171 Proposed development: extension to Trefil Quarry or mineral working comprising limestone extraction and future restoration, open land north of existing Trefil Quarry

The Leader had compiled a report in respect of the Trefil Quarry extension, which she outlined as follows:

1. Proposal includes area designated as Mynydd Llangynidr Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) that will be lost should the development proceed.
2. The Site is also within a Special Landscape Area (SLA) designated by BGCBC.
3. The site covers part of an informal route to Chartist Cave and a more formal promoted walk, In the Footsteps of Nye.
4. Why isn't the sandstone used? ES 5.17 says it could be used.
5. Planning Statement 6.9 -only active limestone quarry within Blaenau Gwent and the surrounding areas of Torfaen, Monmouthshire and Newport. How do Torfaen, Monmouthshire and Newport deliver their responsibilities?
6. PS 6.15 The existing Trefil Quarry is currently the only source of limestone aggregate within Blaenau Gwent. It supports local demand for the area as well as supplying surrounding areas of south-east Wales such as Caerphilly, Torfaen, Newport, Monmouthshire and the southern part of the Brecon Beacons National Park.
7. PS 6.30 18FT staff +6-7 contract workers.
8. Transport Statement - Parking – is all access going through the northern access or are they going through the concrete plant? This needs to be included in the conditions.
9. TS – HGV are the major issue for the community – speed, driving in middle of the road, courtesy to oncoming vehicles, noise, start of the day, etc. None of this is addressed in the Transport plan. The size of the lorries has also increased since the original application and larger lorries on roads built for smaller vehicles is a concern. Due to the nature of the road, lorries usually straddle the central line. There are also driving complaints from residents of Nantybawch. Can there be a condition or protocol of respect for smaller vehicles and communities?
10. There appears to be a new entrance inside of BG on the plans to avoid submitting a plan to the BBNP but I cannot find any record of this in the documents.

11. Environmental Statement 5.116 – the previous removal of overburden was never capped and the run-off still brings flooding and mud to existing community. How will the water run-off be dealt with after the life of the quarry as this is outside of the new application.
12. ES 9.10 No comments on how the existing vehicle movements impact the community of Trefil and Nantybwich. Mitigating impacts could be included to address the speed and driver behaviour by including voluntary agreement where drivers will not use their mobile phones, will stay on the correct side of the road, will give way to oncoming vehicles, etc. We realise that the extension will be a continuation of existing operation but it is an opportunity to remedy the issues that have arisen and are evident in this current operational phase.
13. ES Ecology – states that ring ouzels were disturbed by birdwatchers, how can it be confirmed that 7 birdwatchers did more to disrupt the ring ouzels than motorbikes and the quarry operations?
14. ES Geology. Table 12.4 Will there be a visiting geologist to record features throughout the life of the quarry. Was there a geodiversity action plan for the present quarry and how does the current application impact this?

[Trefil Quarries North, Tredegar, Blaenau Gwent \(ancientmonuments.uk\)](http://ancientmonuments.uk)

Pre-application consultants' report

4.36 NRW comments are really disappointing as they seem more concerned with BBNP where the residents have no or a minimal impact. The relocation 100m further away from the village makes more of a difference to the residential properties 200m away that it will to the BBNP residents a considerable distance away.

Planning statement

6 Key Planning considerations

Indicative Restoration Strategy – Would it be possible to look at employment opportunities that are beneficial for the local community and wildlife?

5.106 – Landscape and geodiversity – could this be utilised for educational, economic and recreational purposes?

15 Cultural heritage

We feel the development would result in significant impact on local archaeology and challenge the report that states 'there will be No Adverse Non-Physical Effect upon the significance of any designated historic assets as a result of changes to the use and / or appearance of the Site'

Concerned about the loss of several significant features. If a full archaeological study goes ahead, could the findings be shared and deposited In Tredegar Library or Gwent Archives and could any artefacts be given to Tredegar Museum.

Having said this, the need for jobs is as important now as ever. On balance, it is probably more important to proceed with the development than not. However, there needs to be strong conditions in place to ensure the lives of those living locally in Trefil and Nantybwich are improved.

Can the bridleway north of the village be maintained so that it is suitable for walking and cycling? There used to be a ASLF to develop projects in communities impacted by quarrying but this no longer exists, can there be a S106 agreement to enhance local facilities e.g. the playground, rugby pitch etc. As the local archaeology is being lost can we have new interpretation? Could Dukes Table spring be restored?

Members thanked the Leader for all the hard work in producing such a comprehensive report, which was very relevant to the needs of the community in that area, whereupon it was unanimously agreed this be forwarded to the BGCBC Planning Section.

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

- Mayor's Gala – Charity event to be held at Ashvale Club, 18th November, 2022: eight artists would be performing, the event was sold out. Mark Williams had offered to donate a snooker cue to be auctioned, to raise funds, plus a raffle. All artists had agreed to waive any recompense for travelling expenses; therefore the Mayor requested that TTC present a slate 'Town Clock', as a gift to the Artistes (x8) in thanks. This was agreed accordingly.
- Public Conveniences –the Clerk referred to costing sought in respect of a quotation for replacement gates to the toilets. The Clerk advised the quotation could be used as a 'specification' to seek further tenders or Council could waiver Financial Regulations to proceed with works without further delay and specify the reason/s for the decision, e.g. the Clerk could progress the matter during the August recess due to the urgent nature of the works; risk to the safety of the operative / public; the provider was known to the Council, undertaking previous works and always provided a high quality of product; and previous tenders, on comparison, always reflected value for money. It was unanimously agreed, therefore, that delegated powers be approved for the Senior Members to consider the request, if received during the August recess, and subsequently consider / approve any quotations received: to be reported to Council retrospectively for ratification.
- Code of Conduct – it was agreed that an update be relayed to Members prior to a full meeting of Council.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 7.30 p.m.

_____ Chair