

TREDEGAR TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Civic Meeting of Council held via Microsoft Teams / hybrid on
Wednesday, 7th September, 2022 at 6.30 p.m.**

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

In attendance: Clerk – Ms. C. Aherne

By invitation: One Voice Wales representative -
Local Places for Nature Officer

124) Apologies. Councillors **A. Davies, B. Rees, H. Trollope, S. Trollope,**
C. Walters and G. Walters

125) Declarations of Interest

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

Councillor K. Phillips declared an interest in Planning application C/2022/0253

126) To receive a presentation by the Local Places for Nature Officer, OVW

The Chair extended a welcome to the Local Places for Nature Officer, Ms. Rachel Carter, who had requested an invite to attend a meeting of Council to update Members on the work being carried out.

Local Places for Nature 2022 / 2023

- To create... 'Nature on your doorstep'.
To restore and enhance nature where people live, work and access public services focused on:
 - Areas of deprivation
 - Urban / peri-urban areas
 - Places / people with little or no access to nature
- Rationale:

If people were able to engage with nature where they live, work and access public services, they were more likely to value it; to support wider initiatives, and spending; to support work to restore and enhance nature and the environment on a larger scale.

Exposure to nature had associated wellbeing benefits.

The public sector would lead by example and showcase change [Biodiversity Action Plan / Section 6 duty (Environment Act 2016) / NRW Area Statements / Well-being act 2015]

- Projects needed to fit in with the First Minister's commitment to *'modest measures... things that make an impact locally'*
- Local Places for Nature Scheme Managers
 - £2m - National Lottery Heritage Fund Capital offered capital grants £10,000-£250,000. Town and community councils could submit a project that met the criteria (feedback and support available prior to submitting an application)
 - £1.9m – Keep Wales Tidy offered packages to create Nature Gardens. Starter or Development packages: all resources provided and the support of the local KWT Project Co-ordinator, providing plants, fruit trees, wildflower turf, greenhouse, tools and expertise.
 - £5m - Pan-Wales Local Nature Partnerships. 25 Local Nature Partnerships across Wales; Each local authority had a dedicated LNP Co-ordinator who was a biodiversity expert who could advise on your project.
- *Starter Packages*
 - Pollinator Garden: create a small wildlife-friendly garden, included 4 raised beds, 80 bulbs, Wildflowers, Climbing plants, compost / topsoil, Habitat boxes, hand tools, trellis, watering can, books / gloves
 - Food growing Garden: create a small food growing garden, included 3 fruit shrubs, 20 Herb plants, Climbing plants, 4 raised beds, compost / topsoil, hanging baskets, trellis / posts, Habitat boxes, hand tools, gloves, etc... & Handbook
 - NEW Orchard Package*: create an orchard - 12 fruit and nut trees, 2 benches, 10 pairs gloves, 320 Bulbs, water butt, 2 orchard books, Habitat boxes – 2 bug hotels, 2 hedgehog boxes, hand tools (2 pruning saws, extendable loppers, bulb planter, 2 secateurs, 2 rakes, wheelbarrow)
- *Development Packages*
 - Community Food growing areas: 27 Oak sleepers, Fruiting shrubs and plants, vegetable seeds / plugs, 5 Fruit trees, Wildflower turf, bulbs, Greenhouse, compost bin, water butt, Shed, Bench, hand tools and wheelbarrow, posts / trellis, compost, Habitat sets, tools and more....
 - Wildlife garden: 105 native broadleaf trees, 5 fruit trees, 160 bulbs, 150 Wildflower plugs, Wildflower turf, 3 climbers, Shed, compost bin, Habitat boxes, Pond kit, tools, water butt, 27 Oak sleepers, soil / sand, Wildlife books / guides trellis / posts
- Application Process • All information on Keep Wales Tidy website [Local Places for Nature - Keep Wales Tidy](#)
 - Applications now via online portal
 - Letters of support must be uploaded
 - Applications considered against criteria by an Advisory Panel
 - Panel prioritises applications that show involvement with disadvantaged communities
 - Site visit carried out with partner organisations: Wildlife Trust and / or Social farms and gardens; and plan agreed by all
 - Notification of decision
- Who Can Apply?
 - Community groups • Schools (if no access to green space on their grounds) • Registered charities • Social enterprises and CIC's • Registered social landlords • NHS trusts • Sports clubs, Sports and Leisure Trusts • Youth groups • Places of worship

- Allotment and Residents Associations • Town and Community Councils

The representatives thereupon responded to Members' observations / questions raised:

- The Tredegar area was eligible for any of the packages on offer via KWT and the Heritage Funds
- Tredegar Town Council would be eligible for funding in the £10,000-£100,000 category
- Support included help with projects, advice, a designated co-ordinator – the BG Co-ordinator was Veronica Branniwich

The Chair extended the thanks of Council to the Officer for the comprehensive update, which had been very knowledgeable and greatly appreciated, and was sure Council would remain in contact in the future.

The OVW Local Places for Nature representative thereupon left the meeting.

127) To receive Mayor's report, as appropriate

The Mayor had visited Bedwellty Park Bowls Club, with the Leader also in attendance; the sun was shining as he met with the ladies' team and enjoyed a game of bowls. He had also attended the Queen's Award for Voluntary Services at The Moose hall, with Councillors Kevin Phillips, Jacqueline Thomas and Mark Turner; he had a photo taken with the Lord Lieutenant, and it had been a very good night. The Mayor had attended Merchant Navy Day, again with the Leader, and a few Members. Reverend Matt Davis gave a very good Service, which was well appreciated by all those who attended.

The Mayor informed Council he had been elected as Executive Member to the OVW Communications Commercial Committee. He had also attended the Police surgery in the town, together with Councillor Haydn Trollope - he and the Mayor had been the only two people in attendance and he expressed concern why the public did not attend. There was two CSOs there to take messages back; the venue was absolutely unsuitable, being an open plan building, with people in the gym next to the building, the public would be unable to speak privately / confidentially; therefore, this was not conducive for speaking to the Police. Apparently there were issues on Facebook, i.e. threatening messages.

In respect of the Mayor's Blog, the Member would liaise with the RFO.

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

It was agreed that the following recommendations of the Sub-Committee meetings held prior to Council be approved:

- **Tredegar Public Facilities Sub-Committee - 24th August, 2022**
Deighton playing field - Request received from FC Tredegar
Councillor G. Badham declared an interest in this item and took no part in discussion or voting thereon
 - It was proposed that Council offer thanks to FC Tredegar for their interest but convey that Council would be unable to accede to the request.
 - Further agreed: Deputy Leader to liaise with Blaenau Gwent CBC, as part of an information-gathering exercise, and report back to Council in respect of the green space

and tennis courts at Milefield. The Deputy Leader confirmed he would liaise with the County Borough Members of the Georgetown Ward.

Request: access for prams, etc. - The Sub-Committee was unaware of a solution to allow access for prams while ensuring that access to animals / motorbikes was prevented. Members understood the issues however and would further investigate the situation, should a resolution become available in the future.

Public Conveniences

To receive a quotation received for the manufacture and installation of gates

It was unanimously approved that the Sub-Committee agree that Financial Regulations be waived and approve the quotation received from Tredegar Fabrications Limited, in the sum of £1,200.00, for the following reasons:

- 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.

To consider the renewal of the lease and ensure the terms and conditions remain fit for purpose - Clerk to liaise with the Property Manager to clarify salient points, e.g. length of lease, responsibility for maintenance and contribution to utilities by the owners; to be deferred subject to the foregoing and subject to further consideration by Council. New Ladies and Gent signs required; Repainting of toilets sign, suggested Cleaning Operative could undertake the work, Leader and Deputy Leader to carry out a risk assessment with a view to progressing.

129) Grants:

a) To receive and consider grants to Sporting and Cultural organisations (under the provision of the Local Govt. Miscellaneous Provision Act 1976 s.19 and Local Government Act 1972 s.137)

2167 Tredegar & Rhymney Squadron RAF Air Cadets - Any financial assistance received would be used towards the purchase of VR headsets to update the flight simulator to virtual reality.

2021/22 Oct'21 CQ No. 204 £200.00 - Approved accordingly

Friends of Bedwellty Park Society - Any financial assistance received would be used towards purchasing tubular bells which will further enhance our sensory garden.

2021/22 Oct'21 CQ No. 207 £200.00 - Approved accordingly

Gwent Defibbers - Any financial assistance received would be used to promote basic life support by delivering CPR and defibrillator training.

2021/22 July'21 CQ No. 176 £200.00 - Approved accordingly

Heads of the Valleys Gateway Club - Any financial assistance received would be used towards the purchase of new electrical equipment for the new building they have moved into.

2016/17 Sept'16 CQ No. 454 £200.00 - Approved accordingly

Tredegar Camera Club - Any financial assistance received would be used towards the purchase of a new laptop.

2021/22 Oct'20 CQ No. 209 £200.00 - Approved accordingly

Tredegear Junior Netball Club - Any financial assistance received would be used towards the purchase of "20 year" anniversary t-shirts, trophies and looking to develop a 20th anniversary tournament.

2021/22 April'21 CQ No. 143 £200.00 - Approved accordingly

Tredegear Senior Netball Club - Any financial assistance received would be used towards the purchase of "20 year" anniversary t-shirts, trophies and looking to develop a 20th anniversary tournament.

2019/20 July'19 CQ No. 878 £200.00 - Approved accordingly

b) To receive and consider grants to Churches & Chapels (s.137) - Grants as of 01.04.2017 now max £300.00 (before awarding a grant Council must be satisfied the grant is being given for non-religious purposes with the building being for community use) - None received.

130) Correspondence

- 1) BGCBC
- a) K. Rees Re: Beaufort Road, Tredegear. No recorded fatalities in last four years; it is an A road, therefore traffic volume will be high and Gwent Police are to enforce speed limits; previously looked into a pedestrian crossing but no suitable location due to footpath widths; can undertake a speed survey but timescale unknown due to no funding being available.
- It was noted that the issues remained and a speed survey needed to be looked at; on Members reiterating concerns, it was agreed to refer this matter to County Borough Members for the Sirhowy Ward.

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

- b) i) List of applications received, week ending 22.07.2022.
1. New personal licence – Anne Marie Thomas.
- ii) List of applications received, week ending 12.08.2022.
1. Personal Licence – Claire Justine Hillman.
- iii) List of applications received, week ending 12.08.2022.
1. Transfer a Premises Licence – Bargain Booze, Commercial Street
2. Temporary Event Notice 1st and 2nd September, 2022, fundraising event for church – St. George's Hall, St George's Church
- Noted.

- 2) One Voice Wales
- a) Seeking Welsh Suppliers.
 - Noted, recommend suppliers utilised by Town Council.
 - b) The section 6 biodiversity and ecosystems resilience duty.
 - c) Welsh Government: St. David's Awards 2023, asking support to raise awareness – Nominations close midnight on 20th October, 2022
 - Noted; forward to all Members.
 - d) Consultation on Fee Scales 2023-2024; response required by 16.09.2022 *Average 5.5% increase on fees, in response to pay and price pressures whilst continuing to invest in audit quality.*
 - Noted and approved accordingly.
- 3) Torfaen County Borough Council
- Re: Greater Gwent (Torfaen) Pension Fund Triennial Valuation. Timetable for key process stages with aim to setting employer contributions rate, for the three year period commencing 01.04.2023, by December 2022 / January 2023.
- Noted; it was noted that it was important that the representative have the appropriate financial background and that a Member be in attendance – agreed that Councillor J. Thomas and RFO attend.
- 4) Brecon Beacons National Park Authority
- B Anglezarke Re: Sustainable Development Fund. Would like to make a 10-15 minute presentation to Council on the available fund.
- Agreed: Clerk to extend invitation on behalf of Council.
- 5) SLCC/NALC
- Invite to councils to sign up to the Civility and Respect pledge.
- Noted; forward to all Members.
- 6) K. Williams
- Confirming arrangements for the Orvault visit in October and asking how many Town Council representatives will be attending the Soiree at The Orpheus Hall at 7.00 p.m. Saturday 29.10.2022.
- Noted; Clerk would be pleased to collate a response on behalf of Council, if Members so wished.

- 7) S. Arnold
- Re: Southend Allotments. Requesting written / email permission to carry out the Keep Wales Tidy Development package onsite, including greenhouse and flexi-store metal shed installation, and allow them to maintain for the next 5 years.
- Noted; Clerk to write to confirm that Council agreed to allow permission for the work stated to be undertaken.
- 8) War Memorial Restoration Co.
- Confirming cleaning done 27.07.2022 and next visit will be late October / early November ready for Remembrance Sunday.
- Noted.
- 9) Communicorp
- Local Councils Update renewal, November 2022 £75.00.
- Noted; it was unanimously agreed the expenditure be approved accordingly.
- 10) Papyrus
- Re: #3Dadswalking. Three fathers, who have tragically lost their daughters to suicide, are embarking on a UK-wide challenge to raise awareness about the stigma that exists around suicide, and they will be passing through **Tredegar on 29th September, 2022**. Trying to find free accommodation for them but also asking is there some way the Tredegar community can support them i.e. welcome them at the end of their walk on that day.
- Council would be happy to support, requesting further information, i.e. itinerary / times, hosting the fathers, support crew, etc: Clerk to pursue.

Councillor M. Turner declared an interest in the following item and took no part in discussion or voting thereon.

11) B Godsmark Tredegar HM Armed Forces Veterans Group fun run 6th November, 2022 for Cameron Hudd. Asking if Town Council would like to get involved or support their cause.

- Again Council would be happy to support, requesting further information, i.e. itinerary / times, support crew, etc. Also, there could be an issue as, due to legislation, councils previously were unable to sponsor an individual – so the appropriate support Council could provide needed to be ascertained. Clerk to liaise.

12) IWN Request from Grief Support Cymru (volunteer self-funded organisation) seeking secure safe venues they can use to support the influx of clients in and around Blaenau Gwent.

- Noted.

13) Eileen Suggesting a Tredegar Community Group page on Facebook, where people can ask information / help find services etc, is set up.

- Noted.

14) PUBLICATIONS

Race Council Cymru RCC Summer Newsletter Round-up; OVW, Welsh Government Ministerial Advisory Forum on Ageing (MAFA) – information on Cost of Living support; IWN, Evergreen Art - information on a new project run by Head4Arts providing bereavement support through the mechanism of art/craft sessions; Communicorp Local Councils Update Issue 264: August 2022; Brecon Beacons National Park Authority, Brecon Beacons Dark Sky Festival from 23rd to 25th September; GAVO Introduction from Cicely Ivens, new Funding Officer for National Lottery Community Fund; Royal Mail Important Information on collection and delivery services during industrial action – 26.08, 31.08, 08.09 and 09.09.2022; One Voice Wales, Older Peoples Commissioner Newsletter, Special Bulletin: Cost of Living; Communicorp Local Councils Update Issue 265 September 2022; Communicorp Clerks & Councils Direct September 2022 Issue 143; OVW, Local Places for Nature Officer: Community Orchard pack ‘Keep Wales Tidy’ – create an outdoor hub for the community; OVW, Ystadau Cymru Awards and Conference 2022; seeking nominations by deadline of 16.09.2022 5.00 p.m.; Powys County Council Replacement Local Development Plan Candidate Site Assessment Methodology and Plan-making Assessment Processes: All comments to be received by 5.00 p.m. Monday, 10th October, 2022.

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

15) AGENDA

None received.

Councillor J. Thomas declared an interest in the following item and took no part in discussion or voting thereon

131) Planning:

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

- ii) a) List of planning applications received in week 29
- b) List of planning applications received in week 30
- c) List of planning applications received in week 31
- d) List of planning applications received in week 32
- e) List of planning applications received in week 33
- f) List of planning applications received in week 35

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/2022/0192	Mr. I. Phillips Linc Cymru 387 Newport Road Cardiff	Conversion, refurbishment improvement and alterations to the existing community Roath, Cardiff hall to accommodate a new independent living unit, community centre, Bill Harry Court, Charles Street, Tredegar

Ward Members to respond by 12 noon 08.08.2022 – No Objections

C/2022/0204	Mr. A. Harris 91 Vale Terrace Tredegar	Increase in size of existing to allow for new bathroom and kitchen, 91 Vale Terrace
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Ward Members to respond by 12 noon 08.08.2022 – No Objections

C/2022/0212	Mr. T. Gillespie Glyn Edw Bungalow St. Luke's Road Tredegar	Proposed new external ramp, Glyn Edw Bungalow, St Luke's Road.
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Ward Members to respond by 12 noon 08.08.2022 – No Objections

C/2022/0231	Miss Hayley James 1 Rawlinson Terrace Tredegar	Redacted application: Proposed Garden Outbuilding, 1 Rawlinson Terrace.
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Ward Members to respond by 12 noon 29.08.2022 – No Objections

C/2022/0245	Mr. G. Walters 8 Lakeside Close Tredegar	Reserved Matters Condition 4 Details of the siting, appearance & scale of all the individual dwellings shall be submitted to/approve in writing by LPA before any works relating to the construction of such dwelling are commenced. All
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C/2022/0246	Mr. D. Hughes Overlook House Tredegar	works subsequently implemented shall be completed in full in accordance with such details as may be approved before the dwellings to which they relate are occupied. Plot 9 Former Pochin Works Site, Newport Road. Reserved Matters Condition 4 Details of the siting, appearance & scale of all the individual dwellings shall be submitted to/approve in writing by LPA before any works relating to the construction of such dwelling are commenced. Plot 12 Former Pochin Works Site, Newport Road.
C/2022/0247	Mr. W. Hughes Overlook House Tredegar	Reserved Matters Condition 4 Details of the siting, appearance & scale of all the individual dwellings shall be submitted to/approve in writing by LPA before any works relating to the construction of such dwelling are commenced. Plot 13 Former Pochin Works Site, Newport Road.

– No Objections

C/2022/0248	Mr. A. Jenkins Rhyd Developments School House Llanellen	Reserved Matters Condition 4 Details of the siting, appearance & scale of all the individual dwellings shall be submitted to/approve in writing by LPA before any works relating to the construction of such dwelling are commenced. Plot 14 Former Pochin Works Site, Newport Road.
C/2022/0249	Mr. W. Lysaght Rhyd Developments School House Llanellen	Reserved Matters Condition 4 Details of the siting, appearance & scale of all the individual dwellings shall be submitted to/approve in writing by LPA before any works relating to the construction of such dwelling are commenced. Plot 15 Former Works Site, Newport Road.

– No Objections

Councillor K. Phillips declared an interest in the following item, speaking to the application but taking no part in the decision-making process or voting thereon

C/2022/0253	Mr. K. Phillips The Loft	Change of use of building to D1/D2 together with 2 extensions
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No Objections Queen Victoria Street to the second floor, roof terraces
Tredegar and associated external
alterations, Interim Fitness
Centre, The Loft, Queen Victoria
Street.

d) To consider other planning matters – Asbri Planning - Publicity & Consultation before applying for Planning Permission: Full planning application for the proposed residential development and associated works, land to the South of Fair View, Tredegar: Received.

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

- None received.

133) 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

c) One Voice Wales Larger Councils and AGM – No meeting; to be held next week

d) Tredegar Twinning – French Mayor attending visit, arriving the Thursday of the last weekend in October, visiting Senydd on the Friday, to be greeted by the A.M.; visit to St. Fagan's; Saturday – InterCommittee meeting, followed by civic reception (as many Members to attend as possible), evening soiree; Sunday – free day and travelling back on the Monday.

e) Pen Bryn Oer Community Fund – No meeting

f) School Governing Bodies – Bryn Bach Primary: former Cllr David Jones had agreed to remain as Governor upon standing down from Town Council but was unable to continue – therefore, this matter needed to be agendaed for the next meeting, a number of new representatives, well-prepared for new curriculum, new Reception Unit – teachers carrying out an amazing job; Bro Helyg Primary: Welsh School Governorship - now another School opening in the Tredegar area, meeting held last night, well-attended, preference that the Town Council Governor be a Tredegar Member as the new School to be based here.

g) Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum – Meeting on Monday. Members were informed of the sudden passing of the Deputy Chair, Mr. Ken Davies; One project that Ken had been involved in was the pictorial record of churches within Tredegar – he had been a really active member of the Forum, and this was a great loss to the group. Council offered their sincere condolences on behalf of the Mayor and Members.

h) Blaenau Gwent CAB – No meeting

i) Tredegar Business Forum – Meeting on 14th September, 2022

j) VVP / Tredegar Heritage Initiative – No meeting

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

- Drug issues - Town Centre / Police Station: the Chair had been asked by members of

the public to investigate issues in respect of drug dealing in the town centre and the shopping precinct. He had actually witnessed an incident of an individual selling drugs and reported this to the Police, who had asked for evidence. The Member had obtained a photo of the individual dealing drugs in the morning to a young girl at the precinct gates. He had been unable to gain access to the Police Station to report the matter and there was no answer at the door. He telephoned '101' – waiting thirty-four minutes to be connected and was then told to place the concern in writing. Two 'plain clothes' Officers, on entering the building, informed him the Station was unmanned – the only manned Station in the borough was Ebbw Vale, Monday to Friday, 9.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m.

The Chair had written to the Police and Crime Commissioner outlining the problems in respect of the Police Station and the drug dealing in the town, seeking a meeting and asking him to take action. He had received a response a week later, informing the Member that the matter had been referred back to the Sergeant.

On speaking to Councillor Haydn Trollope - he was told that, at a meeting, it had been claimed that the crime rate in Ebbw Vale was greater than in Tredegar and therefore it was more important that there be an 'in front of' Officer at Ebbw Vale Police Station. The Chair said that the inhabitants of Tredegar should have the same right to access their Police Station and therefore asked Chair to consider moving the following proposal – to be transmitted to Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council and the Crime Commissioner (*Councillor J. Thomas thereupon declared an interest, being a member of the Police and Crime Panel, and took no part in the decision*)

- *“That Tredegar Town Council deplores the fact that the services provided at the town police station are not equal to that of the neighbouring station in Ebbw Vale, which has staff available Monday to Friday to take complaints from inhabitants of the town. This Council resolves to take whatever action is required to achieve parity and believes that the inhabitants of Tredegar are being discriminated against.”*

A Member said that a meeting with the Police and Crime Commissioner would be totally unbeneficial as he had no control in respect of operational matters and perhaps Council should only pursue a meeting if the Chief Constable attended also. The issues communities faced were 1) did not share the same priorities, and 2) under-staffed and under-funded.

Another Member stated that Council had fought the closure of satellite offices, but she was of the opinion she would prefer resources be used for a presence on the streets, as previously the main function was for individuals' 'bail check'. A Member suggested that the thoughts of Council could be relayed to the local M.P. for support.

It was therefore agreed that the proposal, as presented, be forwarded to the Police and Crime Commissioner.

- Events Sub-Committee: as Council did not wish to participate in the Open Doors event, a meeting could be held prior to the next meeting of Council.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 9.00 p.m.

Chair