

TREDEGAR TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Council held via
Microsoft Teams / hybrid on Wednesday, 3rd May, 2023 at 6.00 p.m.**

Present: Councillors K. Phillips (Chair)
M. Turner
A.E. Tippings
G. Badham
A. Jones
E. Jones
B. Rees
D. Rowberry
J. Thomas
H. Trollope
S. Trollope
C. Walters
G. Walters

In attendance: Clerk – Ms. C. Aherne

001) To Elect a Mayor to serve until the Annual Meeting of Council 2024:

Thanks and Appreciation by outgoing Mayor 2022 / 2023, Councillor G. Evans.

A Member proposed that the election of Mayor be deferred and the current designated Member remain in situ, which was unanimously agreed. Therefore, in the absence of the Mayor, the Deputy Mayor presided over the meeting.

002) Declaration of Acceptance of Office by the incoming Mayor:

Chain of Office to be handed over and Consort's Chain to be exchanged.

Not applicable.

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

Not applicable: however, Council said that Councillor Evans had been an excellent Mayor over the past year, committing wholeheartedly to representing the town and perhaps he would offer his reflections on his year in office on his return.

004) Apologies. Councillors G. Evans, P. Cornlouer, P. Prosser and K. Waldron

005) Declarations of Interest

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

006) To Elect a Deputy Mayor to serve until the Annual Meeting of Council 2024: Chain of Office will be given to the incoming Deputy.

A Member nominated Councillor Kevin Phillips; the nomination was duly seconded. It was unanimously agreed that the Deputy Mayor remain in situ; an exchange of Chain of Office, therefore, was not applicable.

The Deputy Mayor received the acceptance of Office, which was duly signed in the presence of Council.

007) To Elect a Member as Leader of Council until the Annual Meeting of Council 2024.

A Member nominated Councillor Mark Turner to the role of Leader; the nomination was duly seconded, and Councillor Turner appointed.

The Leader received the acceptance of Office, which was duly signed in the presence of Council.

008) To Elect a Member as Deputy Leader of Council until the Annual Meeting of Council 2024.

A Member nominated Councillor Alyson Tippings to the role of Deputy Leader; the nomination was duly seconded, and Councillor Tippings appointed.

The Deputy Leader received the acceptance of Office, which was duly signed in the presence of Council.

009) To approve 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. Council recognised the difficult period following the Covid restrictions, and the introduction of blended meetings, and therefore wished to offer their thanks to staff for that year.

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, as approved by the previous administration.

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, with the Clerk and RFO, to sign cheques on behalf of Tredegar Town Council.

This was agreed unanimously; the Clerk asked that Council authorise the Finance Sub-Committee Chair as a designated signatory also, which was approved accordingly. (N.B.

Clerk and RFO to sign cheques only in the case of an emergency, once approval agreed by the signatories listed.)

014) To consider any Urgent correspondence.

- 1) BGCBC
- a) A. Williams Re: Vacancy, Central & West. No request received for an election, co-option process can now take place.
 - The Clerk confirmed that no request had been received for an election in the Central and West Ward of Tredegar Town Council and the vacancy could therefore be filled via the co-option process.
 - b) A. Tippings Re: NHS@75. Attached their NHS@75 logo to be added as an email signature and asking whether any events are being done which can be included with their promotion.
 - Noted. A Member referred to the celebrations and the performance in the Bandstand on Sunday, 9th July, 2023 by Abergavenny Borough Band. A request had been received that this performance proceed, in part, as a singing festival; it was agreed this matter be referred to the next Events Sub-Committee.

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

- c) List of applications received, week ending 14.04.2023.
 - i) Temporary Event Notice 06.05.2023 – St. George’s Church Hall
 - List of applications received, week ending 21.04.2023.
 - i) Temporary Street Trading, sale of hot / cold food / drink 04.05.2023 to 31.05.2023 – Parc Bryn Bach.
 - Noted.
- 2) One Voice Wales
- Motions for 2023 Annual General Meeting to be submitted by noon on Friday, 23rd June, 2023.
- Forward to all Members for consideration and agenda for next meeting.

- 3) Members correspondence:
- a) Cllr Prosser: Resignation letter.

- Council considered the letter of resignation, noting the Member's reasons outlined therein; the resignation was accepted accordingly.

Members said that Phillip had been a brilliant representative for Town Council numerous times and offered their sincere thanks for his long service. Phillip had expressed that he wished to remain involved in the work the Town Council undertook and would be pleased to continue to provide support and / or advice.

Thanks were expressed to the Member and it was agreed that a letter of appreciation be sent.

- b) Cllr Tippings: Details of a Diamond Wedding anniversary 08.06.2023.

- Noted: visit approved.

4) Zurich

SLCC Community Buildings Summit Event
24/05/2023, £72.00 per delegate.

- Noted; Clerk to book one place.

5) PUBLICATIONS

Deferred to Ordinary Meeting.

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

- **PLANNING**

- a) 1) List of planning applications received in week 16.
2) List of planning applications received in week 16 updated.
3) List of planning applications received in week 17.

- b) **Applications**

App No	Applicant	Proposal
C/2023/0098	Mr. & Mrs. Ross Hughes Old School Site Troedrhiwgwair	Provision of four detached leisure pods including landscaping and services, former school site (abandon), Troedrhiwgwair.

No objections, on the proviso no valid objections were raised by residents.

- c) **Other Planning Matters**

None Received.

015) To agree the Mayor's Allowance (£1,315) - to authorise payment in full or pro rata.
Deferred.

016) To agree a Leader's Allowance, not exceeding £500.00, and authorise payment.
The Leader wished to decline payment of this Allowance; this was agreed unanimously.

017) To appoint a Civic Committee (all Members of Council).
This was agreed unanimously.

**018) To appoint ALL MEMBERS OF COUNCIL to the Performance Review Committee:
To meet quarterly.**
This was agreed unanimously.

**019) To confirm the Sub-Committees and to appoint Members to serve on them until
the Annual Meeting of Council 2024.**
The Leader asked that Council agree to deferring this item in order to undertake a survey, ascertaining Members observations in respect of Committee membership, e.g. preferred representation, day / time, etc.

This was agreed accordingly and the agenda item 'Deferred'.

**020) To confirm the letter of appointment has been issued to the Internal Auditor to
the Annual Meeting of Council 2024.**
Confirmed; this was agreed unanimously.

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

a. Joint Committee of Local Councils

Leader, Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Clerk (Reserve – Cllr Gerran Walters)

b. Gwent Valleys One Voice Wales

Leader, Mayor, Cllr Ellen Jones, Clerk (Reserve – Cllr Bethan Rees)

c. One Voice Wales Larger Councils and AGM

Leader, Deputy Leader, Mayor (Reserves – Cllrs Bethan Rees and Haydn Trollope)

d. Tredegar Twinning Association

Leader, Deputy Mayor, Cllr Ellen Jones, Clerk

e. Pen Bryn Oer Community Fund

Leader, Deputy Leader

f. School Governing Bodies

i) Bryn Bach Primary – Cllr Chris Walters

ii) Deighton Primary – Cllr Sharon Trollope

iii) Georgetown Primary – Cllr Gerran Walters

iv) Glanhwy Primary – Cllr Allan Jones

v) St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Primary – Cllr Kevin Phillips

Cllr Gemma Badham expressed an interest in representing Council on the Governing Body of Tredegar Comprehensive School. A Member said that town / community councils were only offered representation on governing bodies of Primary Schools only and advised the best route to pursue representation would be

as a Parent Governor.

Following a brief discussion it was agreed that the Clerk write to enquire of representation on the Comprehensive School Governing Board.

g. Blaenau Gwent CAB – Cllrs Ellen Jones, Haydn Trollope

h. Tredegar Business Forum – Cllr Jacqueline Thomas

i. Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum – Cllr Kevin Phillips (Reserve – Cllr Mark Turner)

j. VVP / Tredegar Heritage Initiative – no formal representation for Town Council on being reconstituted as a new group; however, it was noted that Members attended meetings outside of their Town Council remit.

Also, Brecon Beacons NPA and the Armed Forces Steering Group – Cllr Mark Turner (Reserve – Cllr Kevin Phillips)

The list was reviewed and representation agreed unanimously.

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

This was agreed unanimously.

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

This was agreed unanimously.

024) To agree the Lindsay Bryan Sports Memorial Award.

This was agreed unanimously.

025) To confirm the pattern and timings of Meetings of Council:

The Standing Orders, which were subject to annual review, were agreed unanimously.

- **Grass Cutting Contract** – as no other quotations had been received further to the invitation extended, it was unanimously agreed to accept the quotation of Blaenau Gwent CBC.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 6.42 p.m.

_____ Chair