

TREDEGAR TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Civic Meeting of Council held via Microsoft Teams / hybrid on
Wednesday, 6th September, 2023 at 6.30 p.m.**

Present: **Councillors G. Evans (Chair)**
 K. Phillips
 M. Turner
 A.E. Tippings
 A. Evans
 E. Griffin
 A. Jones
 J. Thomas
 H. Trollope
 S. Trollope
 C. Walters
 G. Walters

In attendance: **Clerk – Ms. C. Aherne**

117) Apologies **Councillors G. Badham, P. Cornlouer, E. Jones, B. Rees,
D. Rowberry and K. Waldron**

118) Declarations of Interest

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

119) To receive Mayor's report, as appropriate

The Mayor said it had been a good commemoration in celebrating Merchant Navy Day, and also climbing of the Town Clock in support of Open Doors events; he extended thanks to Councillor Haydn Trollope for remaining at the top throughout. It had been a good day with many visitors attending.

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

It was agreed the recommendations of the Events Sub-Committee held prior to Council be approved accordingly:

- **Open Doors and Merchant Navy Day**
No recommendations arising; however, ongoing actions to be progressed accordingly.
- **Remembrance events**
Service would be the same as last year. two booklets - a full one for the church and one for the Cenotaph (300 and 500 respectively)

Lamppost Poppies: Clerk to order twenty replacements
Agreed, to book J. Cotton Audio

121) 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)

Councillor H. Trollope declared an interest in the following application and took no part in discussion or voting thereon

2167 Tredegar & Rhymney Squadron RAF Air Cadets - Any financial assistance received would be used towards the purchase of five folding tables to be used for training and recruitment events.

2022/23 Sept'22 CQ No. 363 £200.00 - Approved accordingly

Councillor C. Walters declared an interest in the following application and took no part in discussion or voting thereon

Friends of Bedwellty Park Society - Any financial assistance received would be used towards purchasing Autumn and Winter plants which will further enhance our sensory garden.

2022/23 Sept'22 CQ No. 364 £200.00 - Approved accordingly

Stocktonville Senior Citizens Welfare Association - Any financial assistance received would be used towards the upgrade of the sound system in the hall.

2021/22 Oct'21 CQ No. 208 £200.00 - Approved accordingly

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

2022/23 Sept'22 CQ No. 367 £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)

Castle Street Congregational Church - Any financial assistance received would be used towards replacing the light fittings with new energy sufficient lighting bulbs and sensors.

2016/17 Oct'17 CQ No. 466 £225.00. Further to the Clerk clarifying the amount allocated to Churches and Chapels had risen to £300.00 since this Church had last applied for funding, a grant of **£300.00 was Approved accordingly.**

Trinity Spiritualist Church - Any financial assistance received would be used towards replacing the roof at the rear of the building, the front part has been.

2022/23 Nov'22 CQ No. 400 £300.00 - Approved accordingly

A Member highlighted that, although it was good that Council supported local churches and chapels, in light of limited resources and cost of living, grants should be given careful consideration. The Clerk confirmed that there was a designated budget allocation in respect of grant funding and supported the Member's comments that this should form part of the

budget-monitoring process; the Member said the level should be reviewed regularly with a view to suspending payments, if required.

122) Correspondence

1) BGCBC

- a) I. Cole Re: Traffic Lights at A465 Heads of the Valley. Identified timings on the green phase which indicates to pedestrians that it is safe to cross the highway is not long enough. Requested the fault is reported to the service contractor.
 - Members welcomed the Authority identifying the fault, but was disappointed with the response that this was the responsibility of Gwent Police and was unhappy with the Highways reply.
- b) I. Cole Re: Parking Enforcement. Response to Members questions.
 - Council considered there was a need to liaise with County Borough Councillors in respect of yellow lines / one-way systems. A Member suggested this matter could be raised at the Quarterly meetings held with the Local Authority; the Clerk clarified these had not been held for some time, although it had been indicated the meetings would recommence in July 2023.
- c) A. Tippings Re: NHS@75. Thanks for supporting the event and enclosed pin badges as a small reminder of what was achieved.
 - The Officer would provide sufficient pin badges for every Member of Town Council.
- d) A. Tippings Re: Thursday's visit. Thanks for the welcome extended to Michael Sheen.
 - Noted.
- e) a) List of applications received, week ending 14.07.2023.
 - i) Personal Licence – John Scott Hastings Dasent.
 - ii) Vary Designated Premise Supervisor – The Belle Vue
 - iii) Temporary Event Notice 11.08.2023 – Dukestown Workingmen's Club.

b) List of applications received, week ending 28.07.2023.

c) Email List of applications received, week ending 11.08.2023.

i) Temporary Event Notice 27.08.2023 – Dukestown Workingmen’s Club.

- Noted.

2) One Voice Wales a) Community Tourism Hack invitation, Tuesday 19.9.2023 at 10.00 a.m. Redhouse, Merthyr Tydfil.

- Noted: Forward to Councillors M. Turner and C. Walters

b) Conference and AGM Sunday, 30th September, 2023 at Royal Welsh Showground, £90.00 per delegate.

- Clerk advised that, as TTC had a Motion to present, Member-attendance was required – agreed: book two places.

c) OVW / SLCC Joint Event: Ensuring effective governance and accountability, Wednesday, 8th November, 2023 Virtual Meeting.

- Clerk to book one place.

d) Audit Wales: Consultation on Fee Scales 2024-2025, closing date for responses 10.10.2023. Average increase is 6.4% - **forwarded to all Members**

- Noted and approved accordingly.

Councillor C. Walters declared an interest in the following item and took no part in discussion

3) Aneurin Leisure P. Sykes Re: Forward Work Programme. Response to letter regarding play area.

- Noted.

4) ABUHB Re: Funding query. Unable to purchase or donate wheelchairs as not specifically for their patients. Suggests Bedwellty House are approached.

- Noted: a Member suggested the group could ask for assistance on Facebook seeking any surplus stock.

5) Communicorp Local Councils Update renewal £80.00

- Noted; it was unanimously agreed the expenditure be approved accordingly.

6) Cerebral Palsy
Cymru

Donation request.

- Noted; a donation of £100.00 was unanimously approved.

7) S. Edwards

Complaint Central Baptist Church in shopping centre, Saturday 02.09.2023.

- In response to a question raised, the Clerk confirmed she had contacted the Central Baptist Church to ascertain if the church representatives had been involved in the event outlined. The Member said that, on receipt, he had forwarded the complaint to a County Borough Member to liaise direct with the Pastor of the Church suggesting, as the complaint related to the shopping precinct, the Town Council had no jurisdiction, nor the Local Authority, as the response would probably be that the incident took place on private land.

Another Member disagreed, feeling that Town Council should inform the Police and make known Members' feelings that allowing a group to preach in respect of Heaven / Hell in such a way was distasteful. He was aware of previous complaints relating to this group, whereby the representatives had become defensive / aggressive. There was legislation in respect of hate crime and the complaint should be forwarded to the Police, and to the Shopping Centre also.

Members supported the comments, considering that preaching of such religious beliefs should not be undertaken in the town, finding the remarks offensive and cowardly; hopefully people would be intelligent enough to walk away. It was agreed that Council write to the Central Baptist Church also, pointing out this was unacceptable and was not condoned by Tredegar Town Council. The Clerk said that the church representative had indicated there was a recording of the day, should Council require sight.

A Member suggested that Town Council was in a precarious position and should be careful as

to how to proceed, referring the matter to the appropriate parties.

Council, as a majority, considered this was a crime and the Police should investigate; this was a multi-cultural community, and such preaching would cause offence to all other denominations, and the public had a right to equality.

It was therefore agreed to write to the owners of the shopping centre precinct, and the Police, outlining the concerns of Council, with the complainant informed of the action taken.

One Member voted against taking this action, believing this was not an issue within the remit of Town Council.

6) PUBLICATIONS

One Voice Wales Delivery of the Nature Networks Maps; One Voice Wales Community Ownership Fund: Round 3 opens 30.08.2023; Planning & Environment Decision Wales Re: Manmoel Windfarm, Consultation period started, comments by 08.09.2023; One Voice Wales Job Vacancies at One Voice Wales; Communicorp Local Councils Update Issue 275 August 2023 and Issue 276: September 2023; ABUHB Re: Building a Fairer Gwent, Improving Health Equity & the Social Determinants. Report available at <https://www.gwentpsb.org/en/gwent-marmot-region/building-a-fairer-gwent-the-report/> – ***distributed to Members***: Received.

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

123) Planning:

- a) i) List of planning applications received in week 29.
- ii) List of planning applications received in week 30.
- iii) List of planning applications received in week 31.
- iv) List of planning applications received in week 32.
- v) List of planning applications received in week 33.
- vi) List of planning applications received in week 34.
- vii) List of planning applications received in week 35.

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

App. No.	Applicant	Proposal
<i>Councillor E. Griffin declared an interest in the following application and took no part in discussion or voting thereon</i>		
C/2023/0177	Ellie Griffin C/o Richard Andrews Architects Ltd. The Stables The Estates Office 25-26 Gold Tops Newport	Addition of rear access stairs to include balcony area, Top House, Trefil.
No objections		
C/2023/0179	Mr. M. Garland M & J Europe Ltd. Unit 28 Tafarnaubach Ind. Est. access road Units 22 Training Centre Tredegar	Retrospective permission to develop a new storage building and service bridge, and extension to the main factory building providing additional factory and storage space and additional car parking spaces - Unit 28 Tafarnaubach Ind. Est. access road Units 22 Training Centre.
No objections		
C/2023/0180	Mr. G. Musgrove Ron Skinners & Sons The Car Showroom Tafarnaubach Ind. Estate Tredegar	Retention of land profiling works through the importation of inert materials and the change of use from B2 (General Industrial) to Class B8 (Storage), Unit 6 Tafarnaubach Ind. Estate.
No objections		
C/2023/0181	Mr. L. Watkins 68 Vale Terrace Tredegar	Building of a garage at the rear of the property, 68 Vale Terrace.
No objections		

c) To consider other planning matters –

- i) Proposed development at: Ambay Service Station, Willow Court, Nantybawch, Tredegar: query regarding satisfaction of BG Enforcement Officer in respect of the development.
- ii) Construction new detached dwelling in grounds of St. Margaret's bungalow: query in respect of access relating to the right of way.
 - Clerk to write to Planning Department, BGCBC.

124) 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.

125) 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** – To meet 30th October.
- d) **Tredegar Twinning** – Unfortunately, the Cheese and Wine event had been cancelled.
- e) **Pen Bryn Oer Community Fund** – Next meeting in October.
- f) **School Governing Bodies** – No meetings.
- g) **Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum** – Heritage Day event held Beaufort community hall with a list of speakers 'Extractive Industries'.
- h) **Tredegar Business Forum** – No meeting.
- j) **VVP / Tredegar Heritage Initiative** – No feedback.

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

- Mayor's Appeal charity show (all proceeds in support of Mind Cymru), to be held on Friday, 27th October, 2023, at the Ashvale Social Club, at a cost of £8.00 per ticket – The Mayor asked if Council wished to present an Aneurin Bevan plate to each of the six artists, which was agreed accordingly.
- Presentation Awards Evening – The Leader wished to adapt the event, not only to recognise groups / individuals but to network with local businesses also to build on networking opportunities, to involve these organisations and build rapport.
- Mayor's Appeal 2023 / 2024 – The Mayor had delivered a letter to established businesses requesting a donation to the Mayor's Appeal.
- Statement from the Leader – The Leader had asked the Clerk to arrange a meeting of all Sub-Committees throughout September, and encouraged Members to attend as many as possible, although he recognised attendance may not be possible for those with work commitments. (Clerk to forward the Committee Membership list to all Members);
The Leader suggested a change in respect of the Council agenda in the future, where a list of correspondence could be sent prior to the meeting and Members invited to raise any matters for consideration.
- New Welsh-speaking School – a classroom was located in Bedwellty House to accommodate pupils prior to completion and concerns had been raised in respect of security, as this was a public building. A Member confirmed that appropriate security measures had been put in place, with a security lock fitted to the door of the corridor leading to the classroom.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 8.01 p.m.

Chair