

# TREDEGAR TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Civic Meeting of Council held via Microsoft Teams / hybrid on Wednesday, 7<sup>th</sup> February, 2024 at 6.00 p.m.**

**Present:** Councillors M. Turner (Chair)  
A.E. Tippings  
G. Badham  
S. Mavar  
M. Moore  
D. Rowberry  
J. Thomas  
H. Trollope  
S. Trollope  
C. Walters  
G. Walters

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

**By invitation:** EDP Renewables Representatives (x3)

**312) Apologies** Councillors K. Phillips, E. Griffin, A.E. Evans, A. Jones, E. Jones, B. Rees and K. Waldron

## **313) Declarations of Interest**

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

## **314) Mynydd Bedwellte briefing: to meet with representatives of EDP Renewables**

The Chair extended a welcome to the representatives of EDP Renewables, who had requested an invitation to attend a meeting of Council to provide information in respect of the Mynydd Bedwellte Wind Farm proposal being brought forward by EDPR and respond to questions raised.

*Councillor H. Trollope declared an interest in the agenda item and took no part in discussion or voting thereon.*

- EDPR had been operating in the UK for ten years, providing renewable energy through provision of off-shore wind farms; office-based in Edinburgh. There were currently nine projects proposed for the UK, eight of which were in the early stages of planning.
- Mynydd Bedwellte Wind Farm was being proposed to provide clean energy across South Wales for homes and businesses; the representative outlined the megawatt to cost ratio. A Member suggested that wind farms were a far more welcomed source

of provision rather than nuclear power stations. Hydro-electrics projects were not feasible geographically as valleys would need to be flooded.

- Local authorities were statutory consultees throughout the process; Blaenau Gwent had been consulted in respect of the land option to ensure benefit to the community.
- Planning application to be submitted by 2025, group connection offer for 2028.
- Individual public consultations (x4) be held at various venues throughout the area; publicised on social media, local newspapers, over 7,000 individual invites – two in New Tredegar, one in Tredegar and one in Ebbw Vale.
- EDPR had met with Blaenau Gwent CBC, the local Member of Parliament, the Assembly Member and now Town Council.
- EDPR to consult on deciding how best to reinvest potential monies for the benefit of the community.
- This was early in the development process and, at this stage, there was still a lot of work to be done to survey the views of the community.
- The lifespan of such projects had formerly been for twenty-five years, but this could now be extended to thirty, forty even fifty years. Manufacturers would look to changing gear boxes, etc. to extend the lifetime of the project.
- Training and job opportunities would be available at labour level, such as sponsoring of apprenticeships, working with local contractors, etc. especially in areas of new industry.

The Chair extended the thanks of Council to the representatives of EDP Renewables for attending and sharing this information, which was greatly appreciated. The representatives thereupon left the meeting at this juncture.

### **315) To receive Mayor's report, as appropriate**

The Mayor said that the Leader had two updates for the attention of Council:

- The circuit box in the Town Clock should be locked and the electrics kept tripping; this issue needed to be resolved.
- The defibrillator at Fresh Active had been used and he was given to understand the pads required replacing after use: Clerk to liaise with Gwent Defibbers.

### **316) 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:

- All expenditure outlined in respect of refreshments and entertainment be unanimously agreed for approval of Council; and
- Ongoing actions to be progressed accordingly

### **317) 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 C. Walters declared an interest in the following application and took no part in discussion or voting thereon*

Aneurin Leisure Trust, Bedwellty House - Any financial assistance received would be used towards purchasing a Moss Scrubber (circa £1,800) which would be more cost effective than hiring and allows them to undertake more frequent moss clearing.

**2022/23 Feb'23 CQ No. 439 £1,000.00 - Approved accordingly**

*Councillor A.E. Tippings declared an interest in the following application and took no part in discussion or voting thereon*

Oak Football Club - Any financial assistance received would be used towards the purchase of equipment such as bibs and balls with anything left going towards referee costs.

**2022/23 Feb'23 CQ No. 441 £200.00 - Approved accordingly**

St. John Ambulance Cymru - Any financial assistance received would be used towards the modernization of the building and in particular the asbestos survey.

**2022/23 July'22 CQ No. 344 £500.00 - Approved accordingly**

Tredegar Junior Netball Club - Any financial assistance received would be used towards accessing further training, first aid and safeguarding courses for leaders.

**2022/23 Sept'22 CQ No. 368 £200.00 - Approved accordingly**

Tredegar Senior Netball Club - Any financial assistance received would be used towards the new "Social Netball" team formed in September 2023. Running this additional team brings with it additional costs including league fees, kit, travel and insurance.

**2022/23 Sept'22 CQ No. 369 £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.**

### **318) Correspondence**

- 1) BGCBC
  - a) K. Williams Re: Easter Event. Planning activities for 30.03.2024 and asking if the Clock can be open during the event time of 10.30 a.m. to 12.00 noon.
    - Approved, in principle, subject to sufficient steward numbers.
  - b) A. Watkins Re: Grass cutting contract. Anticipating a 2-3% increase on "in house" SLAs.
    - Approved.
- 2) One Voice Wales
  - a) Audit Wales Fee Scheme 2024-2025
    - Noted.

- b) National Awards Conference 2024, Wednesday 27.03.2024 at the Royal Welsh Ground. Awards nominations to be received by 16.02.2024
    - Noted.
  - c) Buckingham Palace Garden Parties, 8<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> May, 2024. Palace wants to reward Councillors who have gone above and beyond for their communities and nominations are to be submitted by 16.02.2024. Do not put forward names of people who have previously attended a Garden Party (this applies to the Councillor and / or their guest).
    - Council wished to nominate Councillor Ellen Jones, Malcolm Cross or Phillip Prosser; Clerk to liaise to ascertain interest and ballot Members if needed.
  - d) Joint Event OVW & Planning Aid Wales, 07.03.2024 from 10.00 a.m. (remote) £50.00 per delegate.
    - Noted.
- 3) Quadiant
 

Confirming franking machine lease renewal at £272.37 (includes machine hire and service) per year for a 6-year term – Approval required.

  - Expenditure unanimously approved.
- 4) Cllr E. Jones
 

Two completed civic nomination forms.

  - Approved.
- 5) A. Williams
  - a) Re: Deighton Playing Field. Concerns regarding dogs on the field
    - A bye law prohibited exercising of dogs on the playing field and any such issues should be reported to the Police, including use of drugs and alcohol. The gentleman had taken note of the licence plate of regular visitors, who were parking outside his property. He had suggested even placing a fake camera in the vicinity could deter this practise.
- 6) Race Council for Wales
 

Black Lives Matter Exhibition & Conference 21.03.2024 at St, Fagans Museum, Cardiff.

  - Noted.
- 7) Hope Rescue
 

Thank you for donation.

- Noted.

8) K. Williams

Re: French Visit. Asking for the Inter-Committee Meeting to be arranged for Saturday 27.04.2024 from 11.00 a.m. to 12.00 noon with the Mayor's reception commencing from 12.00 noon to 1.00 p.m.

- Noted.

### 8) PUBLICATIONS

BGCBC Roadworks report, week ending 02.02.24; Calon Hearts Apply for defibrillator; BGCBC Wrap Cymru, join us in navigating the future waste regulations webinars; Communicorp Local Councils Update January / February 2024 Issue 280.– ***distributed to Members***: Received.

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

#### **319) Planning:**

- a) i) List of planning applications received in week 04
- ii) List of planning applications received in week 05

**b) To consider Planning Applications submitted for Council's observations** – None received.

**c) To consider other planning matters** – None received.

#### **320) 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.

#### **321) 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** – A meeting had been held to set budget plans for the forthcoming year, however Council had set their precept beforehand. One area the Local Authority were cutting back on was repairs and servicing to CCTV, as the County Borough was hoping to acquire funding through other sources. The Leader had made it known that, if Council had been made aware of the budget proposed, TTC may have been in a position to support the Local Authority in continuation of services and this should be borne in mind for the next financial year.

**b) Gwent Valleys One Voice Wales** – No meeting.

**c) One Voice Wales Larger Councils and AGM** – No meeting.

**d) Tredegar Twinning** –

**e) Pen Bryn Oer Community Fund** – No meeting.

**f) School Governing Bodies** – Georgetown Primary: a presentation received by pupils, implementing new policies looking at evidence-based forms, a pictorial diary of work each class had undertaken; Bryn Bach Primary: School Improvement Plan, welcomed

progress pupils had made in respect of handwriting, which had been amazing, as skills had been slipping due to the amount of I.T.; Deighton Primary: inspection, embargo until the following week; Bro Helyg Primary: in the process of second classroom provision, with new teacher and teaching assistant, budget shortfall for next year.

**g) Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum** – To meet Monday.

**h) Tredegar Business Forum** – Meeting cancelled due to family bereavement.

### **322) Matters of Local Interest or Concern (by prior notice)**

- A Member had been contacted to ascertain where was the historic medical equipment and signage (previously stored at Cwmdraw Industrial Estate) - Councillor A.E. Tippings confirmed she was aware where these items were stored for safekeeping and would be returned to the Health Centre accordingly.
- Councillor A.E. Tippings advised Council she had completed the Places for Nature training 'Eco-Wise Nature Course'.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 7.40 p.m.

\_\_\_\_\_ Chair