

TREDEGAR TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Civic Meeting of Council held via Microsoft Teams / hybrid on
Wednesday, 3rd April, 2024 at 6.30 p.m.**

Present: **Councillors K. Phillips (Chair)**
 M. Turner
 A.E. Tippings
 E. Jones
 S. Mavar
 M. Moore
 D. Rowberry
 H. Trollope
 S. Trollope
 C. Walters
 G. Walters

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

370) Apologies **Councillors E. Griffin, G. Badham, A.E. Evans, A. Jones,
 B. Rees, J. Thomas and K. Waldron**

371) Declarations of Interest

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

372) To receive Mayor's report, as appropriate

The Mayor had again had occasion to visit Woffington House, wearing his Mayoral chain each time, as previously requested by staff / residents.

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

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

- All expenditure outlined unanimously agreed for approval of Council; and
- Ongoing actions to be progressed accordingly.

Councillor M. Turner joined the meeting at this juncture (6.38 p.m.)

374) 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)**

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.

375) Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales Annual Report February 2024: To receive report to take effect during the financial year 2024 / 2025

The Clerk spoke to the Final Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales, highlighting any changes and salient points for consideration, to be agreed by town and community councils.

Council noted all options in relation to allowances / payment for Members; observing that Senior roles and allowances were agendaed on an annual basis for ratification at the Annual Meeting of Council. The Clerk highlighted there were no changes to the payments and benefits paid to Elected Members for 2024.

Council noted and agreed:

- **Determination 6: Community and Town Councils mandatory payments**
The Panel continued to mandate payments for extra costs of homeworking and payment for office consumables, i.e. £156 and £52 respectively; being no change in the Determination from the previous year; and
- **Determination 8: reporting requirements**
An annual statement was to be submitted by 30th September each year, to be published on the community / town council website. The Panel proposed that from September 2024, returns need show the total amounts paid in respect of mandatory payments only.

376) Armed Forces Covenant Signing

The Clerk provided an update, clarifying that the Armed Forces Covenant signed by Tredegar Town Council in 2020 remained valid, since the UK Government had transitioned to a single national covenant, which had been confirmed by BGCBC.

377) Correspondence

- 1) J. Karn Eifion's funeral will be on 13.04.2024 at Sirhowy Valley Crematorium at 1.00 p.m.

- Noted.

- 2) IWN Re: Hospice UK, help us understand experiences of death, dying and financial hardship in Blaenau Gwent.

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

- 3) Brecon Beacons Re: New funding for Town and Community Council. National Park Nature Recovery Funding and Information session Authority Saturday 20.04.2024 at 10.00 a.m. National Park

Visitor Centre. **Confirm attendance by 05.04.2024.**

- Noted: Forward to Councillor M. Turner.

4) PUBLICATIONS

BGCBC Roadworks report, week ending 29.03.2024 and week ending 05.04.2024; Communicorp Local Councils Update April 2024 Issue 282 – ***distributed to Members***: Received.

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

378) Planning:

- a) i) List of planning applications received in week 12
- ii) List of planning applications received in week 13

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

App. No.	Applicant	Proposal
C/2024/0060 <i>No objections</i>	Mr. J. Thevarasa 58 Glyn Terrace Tredegar	Retention of new shop front and roller shutter, 58 Glyn Terrace.
C/2024/0061 <i>No objections</i>	Mr. J. Thevarasa 58 Glyn Terrace Tredegar	Advisement application to display fascia sign with lighting installed over shopfront, 58 Glyn Terrace.
C/2024/0064 <i>No objections</i>	Mr. D. Thomas 16 Copper Beech Drive Tredegar	Proposed balcony with privacy screen and patio with steps to garden to rear of property. Internal layout changes to include conversion of garage to study and cloakroom. Relocation of kitchen, open plan dining room, living room and kitchen. Extension of bedroom 2 into bathroom and relocation of bathroom, 11 Cefn Parc.

c) To consider other planning matters – None received.

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

- Work was being carried out to the tennis courts within Bedwellty Park; these would be secure, with access allowed via an unique pin upon booking, followed imminent by work to the children's play area.

380) New Consultation: Senedd Cymru (Electoral Candidate Lists) Bill

Consideration was given to the Senedd Cymru (Electoral Candidate Lists) Bill consultation, previously circulated to Members for attention. While Council welcomed changes to democracy and the impact within Wales, Members felt that candidates should not be chosen only because of gender or race.

Members were proud that Tredegar Town Council had a longstanding, and proud, record of being at the forefront in respect of gender balance, which occurred naturally within the Council. A Member also highlighted that opportunities should not only reflect a balance in gender and race, but in respect of disability also.

Council therefore welcomed the prospect of engagement throughout all areas, which Members stated needed to be filtered down on all levels.

381) 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** – Meeting scheduled for 11th April.
- b) **Gwent Valleys One Voice Wales** – No meeting.
- c) **One Voice Wales Larger Councils and AGM** – No meeting.
- d) **Tredegar Twinning** – The French visitors would be arriving at the end of the month, two cyclists would require accommodation for one night; Bryn Bach Primary School would be invited to provide entertainment; Clerk to ask Twinning for itinerary and circulate to Members.
- e) **Pen Bryn Oer Community Fund** – Next meeting scheduled for the following week.
- f) **School Governing Bodies** – Deighton Primary: the Deputy Head, Mr. Owens had resigned from the post for ‘pastures new’ and the School were to appoint a new interim Deputy Head, the School was very happy with the content of the Inspection report; no update since the last meeting for Georgetown Primary and St. Joseph’s RC Primary.
- g) **Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum** – Council said following the sad passing of Eifion, the Forum was proceeding with all events. A lecture was arranged for the third Thursday of the month, delivered by lecturers from all over Wales. These events were well-attended and the Forum was doing an excellent job. The book being developed on churches and chapels was progressing. The Day School would return this autumn with the theme law and disorder.
- h) **Blaenau Gwent CAB** – No update.
- i) **Tredegar Business Forum** – No update.
- j) **VVP / Tredegar Heritage Initiative** – No update.

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

- Letter of Support ‘Made in Tredegar’ – the Chair said that Made in Tredegar were working on a project with the local Orpheus choirs. Hopefully, the project would be funded through the HLF, featuring documentaries on choirs and their performance, around this area.

Therefore, Made in Tredegar asked would TTC write a letter of support to promote this project; which was agreed unanimously.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 7.10 p.m.

Chair