

TREDEGAR TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Council held via
Microsoft Teams / hybrid on Wednesday, 1st May, 2024 at 6.00 p.m.**

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

In attendance: Clerk – Ms. C. Aherne

**001) To Elect a Mayor to serve until the Annual Meeting of Council 2025:
Thanks and Appreciation by outgoing Mayor 2023 / 2024, Councillor K. Phillips.**

A Member proposed that the incumbent Mayor remain in situ; Kevin had served Council diligently in his apprenticeship as Deputy Mayor for over a year, and in the role of Mayor for the past six months. There was no better person to represent Council, or undertake more hard work in the town and do so much for youngsters, engaging from pensioners to the young, and the Member had no hesitation in presenting the nomination.

This was unanimously agreed.

**002) Declaration of Acceptance of Office by the incoming Mayor:
Chain of Office to be handed over and Consort's Chain to be exchanged.**

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

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

The Mayor offered thanks to everyone; although he had been reluctant to accept the role as Mayor, it had been a wonderful experience, and the main aspect he had loved about the mayorship was the carol services to the residential homes around Christmas and the positive impact in the sheltered homes. When visiting Woffington House, he had been asked to wear the chain on each occasion, and the residents' reactions had made his day. The Mayor would endeavour to do the best he could in engaging with the people of Tredegar.

**004) Apologies. Councillors G. Badham, A.E. Evans, A. Jones, S. Mavar,
M. Moore and S. Trollope**

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 2025: Chain of Office will be given to the incoming Deputy.

A Member proposed that the incumbent Deputy Mayor remain in situ, Ellie had brought new life to the role, undertaking her duties professionally. Another Member supported these comments, as Ellie had worked hard over the Christmas period on behalf of Council, and had been an asset when Council had opened the Town Clock to the public for the Easter event in the town centre.

This was unanimously agreed.

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 2025.

A Member nominated Councillor Mark Turner to the role of Leader; Mark had proven a brilliant Leader in times of austerity, being professional and caring, which was important in this time when people were struggling. 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 2025.

A Member nominated Councillor Alyson Tippings to the role of Deputy Leader, who had no words to describe her experience in respect of Tredegar Town Council, being so knowledgeable. 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.

010) To receive and confirm the Standing Orders of Tredegar Town Council.

Circulated and reviewed by the Policy Sub-Committee on 20th March, 2024: Agreed unanimously.

011) To receive and confirm the Financial Regulations of Tredegar Town Council.

Circulated and reviewed by the Policy Sub-Committee on 20th March, 2024: Agreed unanimously.

012) To appoint Barclays Bank plc as the Council’s Bankers (existing).

This was agreed unanimously, with reservations in respect of the proposed closure of the Tredegar branch next year, and to reconsider in the future the position of Council.

013) To Authorise the Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Leader and Deputy Leader of Council, Finance Sub-Committee Chair, with the Clerk and RFO, to sign cheques on behalf of Tredegar Town Council.

This was agreed unanimously. (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) N. Morgan Re: Properties “gifted” to the community. Holds no information on the property in question.
 - The Clerk would follow up the issue further as the response did not relate to the information Council required.

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 19.04.2024.
 - ii) List of applications received, week ending 26.04.2024.
 - 1. Temporary 28-day Street Trading Consent 09.05.2024 to 05.06.2024 – Parc Bryn Bach
- Noted.

- 2) Smith of Derby
- Response to query relating to how a service can be completed without power in the Clock: All moving parts and all electrics must be turned off when servicing a clock, this is for health and safety and allows the clockmaker to move certain parts without interfering with a moving clock. There will also be times when the clock is required to be moving to check all the electrics and the operation of the clock. The return visit will have allowed us to check the operations of these systems. Where we can, we do not want to charge for an aborted visit, so the clockmaker will carry out as much as he can (without power) and the return visit will have concluded the checks.
- The response clarified the position in respect of the service; the Clerk would inform Council of any updates but, at present, the only additional charge was for the call-out to

replace the circuit board, as the initial visit was included in the annual service charge. The Clerk also confirmed there would be no additional charge levied to correct the timing, as this would be carried out under the warranty.

3) Tredegar
Twinning
Association

Thank you to the Mayor and Town Council for making the Mayor's Reception a success.

- Noted: Council was pleased to hear the visit had proven successful.

Unfortunately, Council was aware of derogatory comments on social media in respect of the visits, particularly directed towards one individual, and Members extended sincere apologies for this unacceptable behaviour. Social media was becoming a vehicle of abuse for individuals who did not appear to understand how town councils and a Local Authority operated and appreciate the position councils found themselves in during a time of ongoing austerity from both Welsh Government and Central Government.

It was therefore suggested that a carefully worded response could be placed on the TTC Facebook page; Members supported the Leader to undertake this task on behalf of Council. However, Members recognised that such a response could exacerbate discussion and further suggested a positive response outlining the good work Town Council undertook could prove more productive.

It was therefore agreed that a graphic be designed, outlining the "Do's and Don'ts" carried out by Tredegar Town Council.

4) Zurich Insurance

Insurance renewal quote for one-year contract £3,207.77 and three-year contract £2,904.93.

The R.F.O. contacted an additional four companies (some of which were insurance brokers) for quotes based on the renewal schedule. Responses were: one 'No reply', two were unable to match the proposed renewal, and one stated that unless items such as "gates, fences and street furniture" plus "artwork and museum exhibits" could be split down separately, then they were unable to quote.

Council to agree a one or three year contract with Zurich.

- It was unanimously agreed to accept the quotation and secure a three-year contract at a cost of £2,904.93.

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

- 5) Cath Hares Request for consideration of sponsorship packages on staging production of the musical 'Les Misérables' – Platinum £300.00, Gold £200.00, Silver £100.00 and Bronze £50.00.
On behalf of
Tredegar
Comprehensive
School
- Council was pleased to support Tredegar Comprehensive School; it was therefore unanimously agreed to approve a Platinum sponsorship of £300.00.

6) PUBLICATIONS

Deferred to Ordinary Meeting.

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

▪ **PLANNING**

- a) i) List of planning applications received in week 16.
ii) List of planning applications received in week 17.

b) Applications

App. No.	Applicant	Proposal
C/2024/0090	Mr. Garland M & J (Europe) Ltd. Unit 28 Tafarnaubach Ind. Estate Access Road Units 22 Training Centre	Proposed new industrial unit - Unit 28 Tafarnaubach Ind. Estate Access Road Units 22 Training Centre
No objections C/2024/0108	Mr. M. Aplin 45 Rhyd Terrace Tredegar	Garage - 46 Rhyd Terrace
No objections		

- c) **Other Planning Matters:** None Received.

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

The Clerk clarified that £500.00 was set aside for the Mayor's Allowance and £815.00 for the Civic budget. This was agreed unanimously: Mayor to liaise with the RFO in respect of payment arrangements.

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) Vacancy - Georgetown Ward

Council to formally declare vacancy following the resignation of Councillor B. Rees.

Council formally declared a vacancy within the Georgetown Ward following the resignation of Councillor Bethan Rees; Clerk to commence the process to fill the vacancy.

018) To appoint a Civic Committee (all Members of Council).

This was agreed unanimously.

019) To appoint ALL MEMBERS OF COUNCIL to the Performance Review Committee: To meet quarterly.

This was agreed unanimously.

020) To confirm the following Sub-Committees and to appoint Members to serve on them until the Annual Meeting of Council 2025.

- a. Civic Sub-Committee
- b. Events Sub-Committee (To incorporate Publicity Sub-Committee and Website Working Party)
- c. Heritage Sub-Committee (encompassing Bedwellty House and Park, the Assembly Room Picture Gallery, Tredegar War Memorials and Tredegar Town Clock) with plenary powers up to £500.00
- d. Finance & Staffing Sub-Committee (To incorporate the Budget Working Party)
- e. Appeals Committee
- f. Policy Sub-Committee - All Members of Council
- g. Community, Youth and International Sub-Committee (To incorporate Tredegar Twinning Association)
- h. One Voice Wales Climate Change Adaptation Programme
- i. Tredegar Public Facilities Sub-Committee (Encompassing Tredegar W/C Facilities, Deighton playing field and Sirhowy Community Garden, Allotments and Town Clock)

Membership to remain in situ; Councillors to contact the Leader and / or Clerk if wishing to be added as a representative.

The Leader wished to thank Members for all their hard work undertaken over the last year during challenging times. Council had a duty to the people of Tredegar and it was important to promote the positive work of Tredegar Town Council to make lives and the town a more welcoming, better place, particularly in light of cuts from Welsh Government and Blaenau Gwent CBC.

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

- a. Quarterly Liaison Meeting / Joint Committee of Local Councils
- b. Gwent Valleys One Voice Wales
- c. One Voice Wales Larger Councils and AGM
- d. Tredegar Twinning Association
- e. Pen Bryn Oer Community Fund
- f. School Governing Bodies
- a. Bryn Bach Primary
- b. Deighton Primary
- c. Georgetown Primary
- d. Glanhwy Primary
- e. St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Primary
- f. Ysgol Bro Helyg School
- g. Blaenau Gwent CAB
- h. Tredegar Business Forum
- i. Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum
- j. Tredegar Placemaking
- k. Bannau Brycheiniog / Brecon Beacons National Park
- l. Armed Forces Community Covenant

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, outlining the schedule for meetings of Council and subject to annual review (Policy Sub-Committee on 20th March, 2024), were agreed unanimously.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 6.45 p.m.

Chair