

TREDEGAR TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Civic Meeting of Council held via Microsoft Teams / hybrid on Wednesday, 5th June, 2024 at 6.30 p.m.

Present: Councillors K. Phillips (Chair)
A.E. Tippings
M. Moore
J. Thomas
H. Trollope
S. Trollope
K. Waldron
C. Walters
G. Walters

In attendance: Clerk – Ms. C. Aherne

045) Apologies Councillors E. Griffin, M. Turner, G. Badham, A. Evans, A. Jones, E. Jones, S. Mavar and D. Rowberry

046) Declarations of Interest

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

047) To receive Mayor's report, as appropriate

The Mayor said that, this month he had undertaken a lovely visit to Deighton Primary School for their 40th anniversary and it had been absolutely lovely to see the youngsters and all the memories in going back. A Member supported the comments and said everyone had a great time, with complimentary feedback. The Mayor had attended an Open Day at Woffington House, again wearing his mayoral chain; he had attended the inauguration of the Town Mayor for Blaina three weeks ago, who had been a lovely, friendly bunch and the event had went really nice.

048) 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 unanimously agreed for approval of Council, i.e.
Royal Welsh Regimental Band: Agreed, to approve expenditure for refreshments - tea / coffee and Welsh cakes
Balloon artist, suggesting services could be sought for Armed Forces Day. Agreed, Senior Members be delegated powers to make a decision in respect of costs; and
- Ongoing actions to be progressed accordingly.

049) Grants:

Thanks from Tredegar Veterans Support Hub.

**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; and**

**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)**
Deferred, Pre-election period.

050) Correspondence

- 1) BGCBC
- a) L. Sage Re: Consultation, no waiting at any time Merthyr Road. Objections to proposal must be submitted in writing / email by 20.06.2024.
 - No objections, Council supported the Traffic Order, as parking was becoming dangerous in the vicinity and cars were unable to pass.
 - b) R. Havard Re: Access to Deighton Playing Field. Request to use the field during the Summer Holidays every Thursday for six weeks starting 22.07.2024, between 1.00 p.m. and 4.30 p.m.
 - It was agreed that Council would be pleased to support the request and provide the facility free of charge on the dates / times mentioned. Clerk to provide Guidance criteria for use of the facility.
 - c) H. Jones Re: Gambling Act 2005, Gambling Policy Review. Consultation period open now until 22.08.2024.
 - Agreed to circulate for Members' perusal and re-agenda for next meeting.
 - d) List of applications received, week ending 24.05.2024.
 - 1. Temporary street trading, 6th June to 3rd July – Parc Bryn Bach
 - 2. Temporary Event 06.06.2024 – Dukestown Workingmen's Club
 - Noted.
- 2) Tredegar
Comprehensive
School Governing
Body
- C. Hares Re: Platinum Sponsor, Les Misérables. Offer of four complimentary tickets for an evening of Council's choice, tickets can be split over two dates.

- Agreed: Leader and guest, Deputy Leader and guest, to accept the complimentary tickets.

3) Abertillery & Llanhilleth Community Council

Re: Letter of Support. Confirming Council resolved to send a letter to BGCBC and the Senedd in support of Blaenau Gwent schools in relation to the Headteachers' letter.

- Noted.

4) Cllr A.E. Tippings

Contact for Age Cymru, offering to come into Council to make a presentation on their services.

- The Member had attended a Dementia-friendly event, where Age Cymru had promoted services they could offer. The Chair confirmed that Tredegar Task Force continued to offer a number of services in the community.

Council fully supported the services provided and the need to disseminate the information as widely as possible. It was therefore agreed that Age Cymru be invited to make a presentation to Council.

Councillor M. Moore declared an interest in the following item, having personally made a complaint in respect of this matter, and took no part in discussion or voting thereon.

5) S. Davies

Complaining about the parking along the road by the new hospital.

- Members were aware that construction was ongoing in respect of building a new car park, but this section of road outside the Wellbeing Centre was becoming impassable and Council was concerned that a serious accident could occur.

Members undertaking a dual role as Councillor for both the Town Council and Local Authority confirmed that regular discussion was undertaken with staff, but visitors to the Wellbeing Centre appeared to be parking anywhere, not only in the car park and bays designated for the disabled.

It was suggested that the Traffic Enforcement Officer should be instructed to visit the area; the Members confirmed the Enforcement Officers had visited the area and booked offending motorists for illegal parking. Unfortunately, the Enforcement Officers could only visit once / twice a week however, as the wardens covered the whole of Blaenau Gwent.

- 6) South Wales Fire & Rescue Service Re: Safer Together, Have your Say 2024. Closing date for survey 19.06.2024.
- Noted; forward to Councillor K. Phillips.
- 7) UK Parliament Re: Safety of Lithium ion batteries and e-bikes / scooters. Asking Council to support the campaign to improve the safety of lithium batteries and their disposal.
- Noted; Members supported the campaign.

8) PUBLICATIONS

BGCBC Roadworks report, week ending 24.05.2024 and week ending 07.06.2024; Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum 20.05.2024 at 10.00 a.m. Tredegar Library and April / May Minutes; ABUHB, Infected Blood Inquiry published 20.05.2024; IRPW Community & Town Councils: Councillor Allowances – Homeworking arrangements & consumables – ***distributed to Members:*** Received.

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

051) Planning:

- a) i) List of planning applications received in week 20
- ii) List of planning applications received in week 21
- iii) List of planning applications received in week 22

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

App. No.	Applicant	Proposal
C/2024/0122	Mr. P. Dhaliwal 35 Arches Close Tredegar	Conversion of attached garage to residential use, 35 Arches Close.

Observations:

No objections: based on sufficient parking being included in the curtilage of the building.

C/2024/0133	Miss R. Jakhu Blakemore Design & Shopfitting Longacres Industrial Estate Rose Hill, Willenhall	Various Spar fascia signs, window graphics, wall panels and pole sign graphics, David Taylor Garages Ltd, Spar, Dukestown Road.
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No objections

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

C/2024/0139	Mr. & Mrs. A. Waldron Glyn Terrace Garage Site Glyn Terrace Tredegar	Proposed residential development to provide 4 dormer bungalows, including access, services and landscaping on former Glyn Garage site, Glyn Terrace.
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No objections

c) To consider other planning matters – None received.

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

- Issues had arisen in respect of two youngsters on push bikes causing a nuisance during the Bandstand performance, riding across the lawns where families were sat on blankets. A Member asked that the byelaws be checked in respect of regulations to monitor this practice within Bedwellty Park. Councillor C. Walters to pursue with the Park Manager.

053) 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** – Unfortunately, the Leader had needed to submit apologies for the meeting; the agenda items discussed were Christmas adornments, street lighting; Budget 2024 / 2025; CCTV, position town centres; and the Armed Forces Covenant.
- b) Gwent Valleys One Voice Wales** – No meeting.
- c) One Voice Wales Larger Councils and AGM** – No meeting.
- d) Tredegar Twinning** – Members unable to attend.
- e) Pen Bryn Oer Community Fund** – When the press release was available, the Member would forward this to Council for information.
- f) School Governing Bodies** – Georgetown Primary: Governors’ showcases, the Member would feed back to Council.
- g) Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum** – The monthly lectures were gaining popularity, generating additional income to the House; Artists in the Industrial Landscape had been very interesting.
- h) Blaenau Gwent CAB** – No meeting.
- i) Tredegar Business Forum** – The barrier baskets / planters - year round planting was working really well, with constant colour / flowers and this had proven a worthwhile effort.
- j) VVP / Tredegar Heritage Initiative** – No update.

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

- HSBC Community Pop-up Branch – a Member referred to HSBC providing a community pop-up Branch in Blackwood; hopefully, this service would be provided in the Tredegar area following bank closures.

Members were aware that some areas had provision whereby all major banks were utilising a building and providing services one day per week.

- Anti-social behaviour, Georgetown – a Member had received concerns from a resident of Pochin Crescent highlighting issues of anti-social behaviour – cars being scratched, youths congregating, with a brick being thrown through a window – just mainly in respect of a general increase in anti-social behaviour. It was agreed that Council write to the Police highlighting these concerns.

A Member confirmed that the BGCBC Ward Members were aware of the anti-social behaviour in the Georgetown area and were liaising regularly with the Police to try and step up patrols. If residents did not wish to speak directly to the Police, they could contact Councillors John Morgan and Jacqueline Thomas to report issues on their behalf.

Council was informed there was a new Task Force targeting anti-social behaviour; the Member provided feedback as follows: Major Crime had successfully carried out three drug busts, two cars had been scrapped, three quads had been confiscated and scrapped, ring doorbells had been installed as appropriate. He supported his Colleague in respect of the offer to pass concerns to the Police as Members had a civic duty to the public, whether as a Town or Borough Councillor. He also informed Council that BGCBC had extended an invitation to the new Police and Crime Commissioner, who had expressed a keen interest in tackling anti-social behaviour.

- Council meetings 'July cycle' – the Deputy Leader referred to the formal meetings of Council in July; the Leader had suggested that, due to the Election to be held on Thursday, 4th July, 2024, Members may wish to reschedule the meetings, i.e. Civic meeting of Council on 10th July, 2024 and Ordinary Council to be held 24th July, 2024.

This was agreed unanimously.

- 'Nye' – a play by Tim Price. A Member commended the cast and crew of the new play concerning Aneurin Bevan – particularly Writer, Tim Price, Director, Rufus Norris, and the lead, Michael Sheen, on his powerful performance. The play promoted the history of Aneurin Bevan and the links with Tredegar and the NHS.

It was agreed that Councillor Alyson Tippings would action an appropriate response of Town Council in tribute of the play.

- Bevan Festival polo shirts – Members to contact the Clerk with order details, if wishing Council to purchase a polo shirt; the expenditure was approved unanimously.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 7.39 p.m.

_____ Chair