

TREDEGAR TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Civic Meeting of Council held via Microsoft Teams / hybrid on
Wednesday, 4th September, 2024 at 6.30 p.m.**

Present: Councillors M. Turner (Chair)
E. Griffin
A. Jones
E. Jones
S. Mavar
J. Thomas
H. Trollope
S. Trollope
K. Waldron

In attendance: Clerk – Ms. C. Aherne

109) Apologies Councillors K. Phillips, A.E. Tippings, G. Badham,
A.E. Evans, M. Moore, D. Rowberry and G. Walters

110) Declarations of Interest

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

111) To receive Mayor's report, as appropriate

None received: apologies extended by the Mayor for absence.

112) 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:

▪ **Christmas Lights switch-on and display**

Expenditure was approved for the Clerk to progress the following applications – Special Event Temporary Road Closure Order, Temporary Events Notice and Temporary Street Trading Consent.

Security: a Member enquired if Council could agree security provision on a three-year basis in line with the contract for the Lights display. The Clerk would check with Council's Financial Regulations in respect of the tender process.

Sound engineer: approved – J. Cotton Audio.

Poster and Window Dressing Competitions – Clerk to proceed with invitations

▪ **Remembrance Events**

Expenditure was approved in respect of the purchase of three poppy wreaths and three poppy bouquets, and the sound engineer - J. Cotton Audio.

113) Grants:

Thanks received from Cerebral Palsy Cymru. Certificate of appreciation received 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)

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 heavy duty racking for the storage container.

2023/24 Sept'23 CQ No. 534 £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 purchasing a A3 digital colour Wi-Fi printer to print leaflets / advertisements for future groups / events.

2023/24 Sept'23 CQ No. 538 £300.00 - *Approved accordingly*

114) Vacancy - Georgetown Ward: nominations for consideration

The Clerk referred to the vacancy in the Georgetown Ward to be filled via the co-option process. On progressing, in accordance with the approved practice, only one expression of interest had been received and, therefore, unless Members had a justifiable reason to decline, the applicant should be accepted accordingly.

Council welcomed anyone from the community that wished to come on board Town Council, and take on the role and the challenges that came with it.

Consideration was given to the application, which was thereupon approved accordingly in respect of:

- Geraint Meredith

115) Correspondence

1) Friends of
Bedwellty Park

Re: Sheep roaming complaint.

- The Chair welcomed members of the public in attendance who had asked to speak to the correspondence, which had been agreed accordingly. The Clerk thereupon read the correspondence for consideration of Council.

A representative of the public thereupon outlined concerns, i.e. residents' need to help stop sheep roaming freely around the town, seriously affecting the environment by, for example, contaminating recreational areas, so

much so that playing fields as those on the Leisure Centre / School site could not be used on times, with games and training sessions having to be cancelled.

Parents taking their children to Bedwellty Park could not allow them to play on the grass due to sheep 'droppings'. The safety of motorists and pedestrians was a big issue due to these animals being allowed to stray onto roads and pavements.

Therefore, could this problem please be resolved and reported back in the October meeting and make BGCBC aware of the issue to be included on the agenda for their monthly meeting.

Also, could the Town Council invite Blaenau Gwent Officers to the next meeting of Council; and, could a site meeting be arranged as soon as possible at Bedwellty Park to discuss the serious problem of sheep accessing the Park.

Members thereupon responded, outlining the following:

- Public should contact the Blaenau Gwent Contact Centre telephone number, as the Local Authority would not react without a certain number of calls; the Member said this advice had been given by a Local Authority Member.
- Another Member thanked 'the Friends' for bringing this issue to the attention of Town Council; however, this responsibility was not in the remit of Town Council and advised he was also a County Borough Councillor. He confirmed there was a Working Party, consisting of the Local Authority with farmers / commoners / landowners / Police, to consider the problem – and was aware there could be 100 sheep on the Cefn Golau estate any day of the week. The issue experienced was that illegal offroad motor-bikers were cutting fencing, sometimes three / four times a day on being fixed. This had been raised with the Police who advised that they were unable to chase any bikers without a helmet due to Health and Safety. A Member expressed serious concern of potential loss of life for pedestrians should these offroad bikers continue riding throughout the town and could not understand the Police adopting

this stance and considered action should be more proactive.

Members were aware of one address in the area where there were sixteen of these bikes and Tai Calon Community Housing had been notified accordingly.

The Cabinet Members of the Local Authority had requested a meeting with the Chief Executive BG and the Chief Superintendent, Gwent Police.

The public should download the BG App and report all issues of animal trespass, as those statistics were needed to evidence the severity of the problem. Although Members were aware that the public was frustrated and not reporting issues as nothing was being done.

- A Member said this had been an issue for a number of years and suggested that a notice could be placed on the TTC website and in the noticeboards to advise the public how to report issues of concern.

The representatives appreciated the points raised, but suggested more participation was needed with the public and the Police, to consider different ways how this problem could be tackled, such as displaying literature in public locations such as the library and Health Centre.

It was agreed that, as issues in respect of straying animals was not in the remit of Town Council, an invitation be extended for the appropriate Officer of the Local Authority to attend a future meeting of Council, to support the Friends of Bedwellty in their endeavours to resolve this issue.

2) BGCBC

- a) K. Rees Re: 20mph default limit. Inviting requests / suggestions for roads that it is believed should be exempted from 20mph national speed limit. Suggestions must include a valid reason for the change and be received by Monday 30.09.2024.
 - Noted: Members were encouraged to forward any comments to Blaenau Gwent CBC, in writing, as it was important to respond to ensure awareness of residents' feelings across the County Borough.
- b) D. Wheelock Re: Community Energy Opportunity.

- Noted; forward to Councillors J. Thomas and M. Turner.
- c) C. Cuss Re: Column numbers. Testing will be £65.00 per column plus an additional £600.00, as we have six different motif designs = £2,745.00.
- The Clerk referred to the cost in respect of undertaking the structural testing to the lamp-post columns to support the weight of the motifs for the Christmas display.

The Leader said he was unhappy for this charge to be met by Town Council, as this should be the responsibility of Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council, and he objected for Tredegar Town Council to meet the cost of works the Local Authority had to undertake anyway.

A Member supported the Leader and was against the cost being levied – not only for town and community councils but to local organisations – for instance, residents of Waunlwyd and local chapels. Council questioned whether such testing had to be undertaken by the Local Authority or if a qualified specialist, such as the lighting contractors, could carry out this structural testing in the appropriate manner.

It was therefore unanimously agreed that the expenditure NOT be approved and clarity be sought from BGCBC in respect of the structural testing.

- d) i) List of applications received, week ending 26.07.2024.
ii) List of applications received, week ending 09.08.2024.
iii) List of applications received, week ending 16.08.2024.
iv) List of applications received, week ending 23.08.2024.
- Noted.

3) One Voice Wales

OVW Conference 16th October, 2024: Draft agenda and booking form.

- Noted.

- 4) Members updates:
- a) Cllr Tippings Re: Twinning Cheese & Wine event. Saturday, 21st September at 7.00 p.m. Tredegar Orpheus Hall, tickets £7.50 available by calling Tel: 07792 582764.
 - Noted.
 - b) Cllr Phillips Re: Mayor's Appeal show on Saturday, 28th September, 2024, door 6.00 p.m. at The Little Theatre, Box Office 07938 001763.
 - Noted: forward to all Members, for information.
- 5) G. Adams Re: Town Clock floodlighting. Response to Malcolm Moon.
- Noted.
- 6) Llais Cymru Asking if we could display their details on our website.
- Noted; forward to Councillors J. Thomas and M. Turner.

7) PUBLICATIONS

OVW Hedgehog fact sheet; OVW Re: Tenovus Cancer Care, how can we support? Wishing to work more closely with town / community councils to share details of their service; Free resources to help tackle fly-tipping in your communities.

– ***distributed to Members***: Received.

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

116) Planning:

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

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

App. No.	Applicant	Proposal
C/2024/0195	Mr. S. Hughes BGCBC 2 Ashville Tredegar	Installation of EV charging point and cable gully to pavement, 2 Ashville.

Observations:

Council raised the following points for consideration:

- The charging point was directly opposite a school entrance, which was in regular use, impacting on the safety of the schoolchildren, as this was already a busy location
- This was a terraced street and a concern of a Member was that the resident would not want cars parked outside their property and would wish cars to park / charge elsewhere
- Terraced streets would not have capacity for such a function
- Members envisaged a situation of conflict where a situation would arise in respect of parking of residents and charging point users causing friction between motorists
- It was suggested that the Local Authority could have considered the aforementioned issues when identifying a suitable location for a trial charging point.

C/2024/0197 Mr. G. Shore Proposed detached dwelling (outline),
2 Beechwood Road land adjacent to Meadow View,
Llangattock Rhoslan.
Crickhowell

No objections

C/2024/0201 Mr. J. Leddington Construction of new detached garage
3 Rhoslan in grounds of Plot 4 of Willows
Tredegar residential development, including
access and parking, Willows Social
Club, Church Street.

No objections

However, a Member asked that confirmation be provided that any asbestos on the site had been completely removed and clarification sought that this development was not being undertaken on contaminated ground.

C/2024/0210 Mrs. S. Arnold Cutting back of overhanging
Southend Allotments branches, removal of epicormic
Rhyd Terrace growth to lime trees (O4SN & O4SU),
Tredegar crown lift to sycamore trees (O4YR,
O4YT, under TPO BG46), Southend
Allotments.

No objections

Clerk to pursue services of a qualified Tree Surgeon in accordance with Legislation relating to TPO.

C/2024/0219 Mr. C. Pendry First floor rear extension, 51 North
51 North Avenue Avenue.
Tredegar

No objections

C/2024/0222 Mr. & Mrs. C. Burr Proposed rear single storey side
34 Brompton Place extension to provide enlarged kitchen
Tredegar and W/C, 34 Brompton Place.

No objections

C/2024/0225	Mr. M. Barry 55 Lady Tyler Terrace Rhymney	Proposed construction of 3 pairs of semi-detached dwellings with associated parking and external works, land adjoining Yr Hen Becws Development Site, Merthyr Road.
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No objections

c) To consider other planning matters –

Welsh Government: Town & County Planning Act 1990 Section 62D & Section 62F: Application by Cenin Renewables for the development of wind farm, land at Cefn Manmoel Common.

Powys County Council:

- i) Replacement Local Development Plan (2022-2037), Notice of Revised Delivery Agreement.
- ii) Re: Local Development Plan. Notice of Pre-deposit (Preferred Strategy) Consultation between 19.08.2024 and 07.10.2024.
- iii) Replacement Local Development Plan (2022-2037), Drop-in Events 10.09.2024 Newtown and 12.09.2024 Builth Wells.

117) 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.

118) 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** – No meeting.
- d) **Tredegar Twinning** – scheduled to meet on Monday but had been reconvened for Thursday, 12th September, 2024.
- e) **Pen Bryn Oer Community Fund** – scheduled to meet September.
- f) **School Governing Bodies** – No meeting.
- g) **Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum** – No meeting.
- h) **Tredegar Business Forum** – attractions organised by BGCBC in the shopping precinct, including Dinomania, had been well-attended. Unfortunately, not everyone had supported the need for the road to be closed and some members of the public had been unhappy. Halloween and Christmas events would be undertaken and information would be available nearer the time.

A new parking regime prohibited herringbone parking, which was no longer legal, as this was considered a danger to the public and other vehicles. Appropriate notification would be displayed informing motorists.

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

- The Clerk informed Council that the gardener had contacted the office as he was no longer able to continue with the duties to the Town Clock garden surround and was standing down. Members expressed sincere gratitude to John for all his hard work over

the years and suggested Council could show such recognition at a future Awards Evening.

- The Leader provided the following update in respect of ongoing discussions:
SLA Grounds Maintenance – the Leader had met with the Team Leader - Street Scene to discuss the SLA in respect of Deighton playing field and Sirhowy Community Garden. This had proven a constructive meeting, as the Officer was aware of issues experienced as a previous user of the field and was aware it needed to be fit for purpose. The Officer was appreciative the effort Town Council had put in to maintaining this facility for the benefit of the community.

Chief Executive one-to-one session regarding issues.

Team Manager - Built Environment issues around Tredegar, e.g. parking, traffic flow opportunities to change things, behind The Circle buses travelling up Stable Lane.

Instructed the Clerk to extend an invite to various organisations to attend meetings of Council, i.e. AB University Health Board, Police and Crime Commissioner and the Police Constable.

Integrated transport system needed to be improved throughout the valleys and an invite would be extended in the future, as appropriate, in considering public transport.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 7.35 p.m.

_____ Chair