

TREDEGAR TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held via Microsoft Teams / hybrid
on Wednesday, 18th September, 2024 at 6.30 p.m.**

Present: **Councillors M. Turner (Chair)**
 G. Badham
 A. Jones
 E. Jones
 S. Mavar
 G. Meredith
 J. Thomas
 H. Trollope
 S. Trollope
 K. Waldron
 G. Walters

In attendance: **Clerk – Ms. C. Aherne**
 RFO – Ms. A. Edwards

125) Apologies. **Councillors K. Phillips, E. Griffin, A.E. Tippings,
 A.E. Evans, M. Moore and D. Rowberry**

126) Declarations of Interest

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

127) To receive any verbal recommendations of all Sub-Committee / Working Party meetings held prior to this meeting of Council

It was agreed the recommendations of the Civic Sub-Committee held immediately prior to Council be approved accordingly:

- **Made in Tredegar:** a start-up grant of £100.00 be recommended to Council for approval.
- **Cefn Golau Together:** the decision on the application be deferred, subject to representatives attending a meeting to discuss the application, and the applicant be given another opportunity to attend, with the letter being sent direct to Councillor H. Trollope to pass on to Cefn Golau Together.

128) To consider a Schedule of Accounts for payment in September 2024 and ratify any amendments to payments made in August 2024

The RFO spoke to the report and explained that the bank reconciliations, valid to date, were available for Members to view upon request, which was noted accordingly. The Officer referred to the estimated August payments at the July meeting of Council, approved during August recess under delegated powers, now confirming the actual figures as reported, which were ratified accordingly.

- Section 137 payments in Schedule of Payments – Resolution of Council: In pursuance of the power conferred by Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) and being of the opinion that the expenditure satisfies the requirements of that section, expenditure up to £121,947.61 was approved in relation to the above £300.00.

There being no further queries regarding the Schedule of Accounts, presented items were approved for payment. It was agreed that the Clerk be authorised to sign as second signatory in order that cheques could be circulated in a timely manner due apologies received from Senior Members.

The RFO asked that the designated signatories liaise in respect of the transfer of funds, as approved by Council, to be undertaken in the presence of the appropriate Member and Town Clerk, which was noted accordingly.

129) To receive the External Audit report to the financial year ending 31st March, 2023

The RFO referred to the report of the External Auditor, circulated to Members prior to the meeting of Council. The Officer provided an update in respect of feedback received on the Annual Return; Audit opinion was Unqualified.

However, there were three matters raised, which Audit wanted brought to the attention of Council –

- 1) a minor arithmetic error, which was due to a rounding difference and the RFO said she would undertake due diligence to prevent this in the future;
- 2) minor classification error in respect of a sum of £4.50, relating to staff expenses incurred, which would now be subsequently included as part of expenditure; unfortunately, both of these points had not been received in a timely manner to be rectified in accounts ending March 2024.
- 3) Council had been informed of an incorrect VAT number recorded on one invoice; the RFO had investigated and confirmed that the documentation attached to the invoice listed the correct information and evidenced a typographical error, i.e. one digit was missing. The Officer had attempted to contact HMRC, but could not verify the information as the company was no longer operating. Council could amend the VAT Return and report the £7.96 difference to HMRC, but suggested no further action was required, as Council could provide evidence of the correct VAT Registration Number.

Members thanked the RFO for the hard work undertaken and approved the recommendations, as contained within the report.

The RFO said that Members may note in the conclusion of the report that this report should be subject to public access for a period of fourteen days; as this did not stipulate exactly whether this entailed working days / weekends, etc., the RFO was prudent and had displayed the report in the Tredegar Town Council noticeboard for a period of one calendar month. The report was also available in the office for members of the public to inspect.

130) To receive and adopt the following Minutes of Council:

- a) Performance Review Sub-Committee - 10th July, 2024
- b) Civic Meeting of Council - 10th July, 2024
- c) Public Facilities Sub-Committee - 18th July, 2024

- d) Events Sub-Committee - 24th July, 2024
- e) Ordinary Meeting of Council - 24th July, 2024

It was agreed that all Minutes presented be moved en bloc as a true record.

131) Chair to sign Minutes - at earliest opportunity in accordance with WG Legislation and Guidance

Minutes approved were duly signed by the Chair in the presence of Council.

132) Correspondence

- 1) BGCBC
 - i) List of applications received, week ending 30.08.2024.
 - 1) Temporary event notice 20th / 23rd / 24th / 30th / 31st Dec 2024 – The Olympia.
 - ii) List of applications received, week ending 06.09.2024.
 - 1) Temporary event notice 21.06.2024 – Kidz'R'Us.

- Noted.

- 2) One Voice Wales
 - a) Joint One Voice Wales / SLCC Event, Wednesday, 20th November, 2024. Book your place now, £65.00 + VAT per delegate.

- Clerk to reserve one place dependent on the appropriateness of the agenda.

- 3) Georgetown Primary School
 - K. Hillman Re: Town Clock visit. Asking would it be possible to arrange a visit to the Clock as part of this term's topic "Our Town".

- A Member referred to the recent Open Day event and said Council needed to ensure there were sufficient stewards in attendance to cover the event.

The Chair expressed concern in respect of the young age of participants climbing the Clock and said there was a need to introduce a height restriction in the interest of health and safety, to prevent young children being coerced into undertaking the climb.

It was agreed, subject to the foregoing, that Council were happy to accommodate the School; Clerk to liaise in respect of a suitable date

4) Dwr Cymru

B. Rogers Re: Welsh Water, water efficiency events. Looking to join events in the community between November and March.

- A Member had attended an event at the Royal Welsh showground and found this information very useful for the aging population and suggested Welsh Water could reach out to community centres to undertake events.

An invitation could be extended for Welsh Water to make a presentation to Council and also reserve a stall at the Christmas Lights switch-on event to promote these services to the vulnerable and elderly.

5) A. Tippings

Re: Harvest Thanksgiving & Flower Festival. Request to sponsor a floral display at £40.00 with all proceeds this year going to Noah's Ark Children's Hospital in Cardiff. Invitation to attend the Harvest Services at Horeb Chapel 6.00 p.m. Sunday, 29th September, 2024.

- A Member enquired if Council sponsored events, whereby it was agreed that each request was considered on the individual merit.

It was therefore agreed to approve the sponsoring of a floral display in the sum of £40.00.

6) Quadient

Unable to accept cheques from October 2024. Council to discuss options.

- The Clerk asked Council to authorise setting up a Direct Debit. The RFO had advised this would not be a regular amount (i.e. monthly or weekly), but would be as and when needed with the figure varying and dependent on the amount used to top up the franking machine.

Also, the annual contract would then be taken as a direct debit payment.

This was agreed unanimously.

7) **PUBLICATIONS**

BGCBC Roadworks report, week ending 13.09.2024 & 20.09.2024; Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum Meeting 16.09.2024 at 10.00 a.m. Tredegar Library; One Voice Wales Annual Membership info-graphic – ***distributed to Members***: Received.

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

133) Planning:

- a) i) List of planning applications received in week 36
- ii) List of planning applications received in week 37

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

App. No.	Applicant	Proposal
C 2024/0216	Mr. R. Lloyd Trade Price Blinds 9 Crown Business Park Tredegar	Retention: Change of use of existing ancillary storage building to house an animal incinerator together with external alterations including a flue, 9 Crown Business Park.
<i>No objections</i>		

C/2024/0228	Ms. D. Probert Eirw House, Rhoslan Tredegar	Proposed two storey extension & demolition of garage, Eirw House, Rhoslan
<i>No objections</i>		

C/2024/0230	St. John Ambulance Hall Shop Row Tredegar	Repollarding of lime trees, T1/T2/T3/T4, St John Ambulance Hall, Shop Row.
<i>No objections</i>		

c) To consider other planning matters – None received.

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

- KRIF Walk – April, Cllr E Griffin, event for incoming Mayor.
- Nathan Wyburn Art Exhibition – well-attended excellent.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 7.07 p.m.

Chair