

TREDEGAR TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held via Microsoft Teams / hybrid on Wednesday, 18th December, 2024 at 6.00 p.m.

Present: Councillors K. Phillips (Chair)
E. Griffin
M. Turner
G. Badham
A. Evans
A. Jones
G. Jones-Griffiths
G. Meredith
J. Thomas
K. Waldron
G. Walters

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

By invitation: PS 447 D. Wise
PC 2428 R. Jenkins

240) Apologies. Councillors A.E. Tippings, E. Jones, S. Mavar, D. Rowberry, H. Trollope and S. Trollope; and the Police and Crime Commissioner

241) Declarations of Interest

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

242) Policing matters: invitation extended to the Police and Crime Commissioner and the Chief Constable to attend to provide an update and respond to any issues of concern raised

Council was informed of apologies for absence extended by the Police and Crime Commissioner, who had been delayed and would therefore be unable to attend.

The Chair extended a welcome to Police representatives, PS D. Wise and PC R. Jenkins, for attending this meeting of Council, who would provide an update on the work being undertaken throughout the Tredegar area.

- Operation Callow – waiting on technical expertise on reporting process, hopefully would 'go live' by the New Year being rolled out across Blaenau Gwent and led from Tredegar.
- A rise in offences such as shoplifting and attempted burglaries were expected in the

run-up to Christmas. Officers would be going out into the community offering preventative advice / resources, such as burglary packs.

In respect of shoplifting, the shopping centre was a continuous target. StoreNet was being used in respect of communication, sharing information such as known offenders, and CS Wardens were being utilised using available powers. Officers were getting to know shopkeepers, ensuring awareness of known offenders, and taking enforcement action, such as issuing Community Behaviour Orders, to prevent offenders entering towns. The Police were liaising with the Town Centre Manager in considering bringing another PCSO to assist with patrols.

- The Police continued to work in partnership with appropriate parties in respect of the homeless gentleman, however there were some issues to overcome.
- ASB Referral Orders – nine had been issued. Police would work with young offenders as the aim was not for these individuals to enter the criminal system, but to educate. In respect of ASB, three warnings were issued and injunctions whereby the offender was banned from the town centre, with subsequent powers to arrest; it was hoped children under sixteen would not reach that stage. Parental support was sought to make parents aware what youngsters were doing within their community and hopefully, with that support, there would not be a need to progress to alternative measures.
- Newsletters were ready for distribution prior to the Christmas period.
- A Member referred to a group of youngsters (aged thirteen-seventeen years old) undertaking assaults of pupils of Tredegar Comprehensive School. A number of incidents had occurred outside the school grounds, which had been reported to the Police, and the Member suggested preventative measures could be put in place, e.g. as a specific area for patrol.
- 101 Non-emergency reporting – historically there was a perception that reporting crime was a waste of time and part of the problem was that this position had been inherited. Current Officers were working to change that perception, getting updated out in the public domain via social media.
- Off-road bikers – this was a serious issue, particularly on the dram road on Sundays; the Officer said that the difficulty in terms of performance, negative perception could prove a factor but encouraged residents to keep reporting issues and Operation Callow would soon be up and running.

Council thereupon thanked PS Wise and PC Jenkins for attending and responding to questions raised, which had been most informative; and continuing to communicate with Members.

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

It was agreed the recommendations of Sub-Committees held prior to Council be approved accordingly

- **Events Sub-Committee – 18th December, 2024**

- It was approved that SSAFA be the agreed recipient to receive monies raised at the Armed Forces Day 2024 event.
- Holocaust Memorial Day 2025 – a Member had asked that the Sub-Committee consider holding a vigil, either at the Town Clock, or the Aneurin Bevan Memorial Stones to mark the anniversary, which was agreed accordingly.

- **Finance and Staffing Sub-Committee – 18th December, 2024**

- Appropriate proposals presented, as the meeting had continued on an informal basis due to being inquorate, with a view to the appropriate Recommendations being formally agreed by Council and approved accordingly:

- 1) Aim to complete outstanding 2024 / 2025 by end of year or roll over for one year into 2025 / 2026.
- 2) No new projects for 2025 / 2026.
- 3) Noted; issues identified with regard to Christmas lights electric and Town Clock energy.

244) 2024/ 2025 Internal Audit Interim Report

The RFO spoke to the Interim Report of the Internal Audit 2024 / 2025 and drew Members attention to the table of recommendations therein, which outlined progress to date and intended course of action for each Recommendation, which was accepted accordingly.

Council extended thanks to the RFO for the work undertaken; the Officer confirmed she would continue to work through the recommendations contained within the report in order to meet all targets.

- Budget Preparation Timeline – following issues identified with December meeting; the March 2024 report would be updated to reflect that Council would be asked to present project proposals for the next budget year in November in the future.

245) To consider a Schedule of Accounts for payment in December 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 RFO highlighted that the payment to Signet Signs Ltd. had been amended to reflect an additional £30.00 to the amount previously reported and the payment to Ffrindiau Tyleri for gazebo hire.
- Ratification was sought for the provision of van hire in respect of the Christmas Lights switch-on event, which was approved 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 £0.00.

There being no further queries regarding the Schedule of Accounts, presented items were approved for payment. 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.

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

- a) Finance and Staffing Sub-Committee - 5th November, 2024
- b) Events Sub-Committee - 6th November, 2024
- c) Civic Meeting of Council - 6th November, 2024
- d) Events Sub-Committee - 20th November, 2024
- e) Ordinary Meeting of Council - 20th November, 2024

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

247) 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.

248) Correspondence

- 1) BGCBC
 - a) L. Horner Re: Tredegar Recreation Ground. Asking if a Member would like to participate in a multi-user meeting to discuss the issues and a potential way forward of the management for Tredegar Recreation Ground. Asking for a name and availability for week commencing 20.01.2025.
 - Noted; both the Leader and Mayor expressed an interest; other Members also wished to be considered however it was noted that only one representative had been asked for in the correspondence and the Clerk would ascertain if additional Members could attend.
 - b)
 - i) List of applications received, week ending 22.11.2024.
 - ii) List of applications received, week ending 29.11.2024.
 - iii) List of applications received, week ending 06.12.2024.
 - iv) List of applications received, week ending 13.12.2024.
 - Noted.
- 2) One Voice Wales
 - a) INQUIRY LAUNCH: Community cohesion. Closing date for written evidence submissions 31.01.2025 - ***forwarded to All Members for Ordinary Meeting***

- Noted.

b) You deserve an award!! One Voice Wales National Awards 2025. Nomination guide with application deadline being 28.02.2025.

- Noted.

c) Sharing NESO's consultation on the SSEP and linked methodologies.

- Noted; forward to all Members.

3) Cllr Tippings

Re: H&S. Been made aware of the rise of ASB in the precinct and suggests looking at a bodycam for Tim. She has requested that concerns are emailed in direct to Council to support this.

- Noted; the Member said that as part of the Safer Street Initiative, advice was for such operatives to wear body cameras. It was noted that the operative had declined provision of a body camera, feeling this could lead to him becoming a target. It was agreed that the Clerk liaise to re-offer such provision.

4) Boundary Commission for Wales

Review of Senedd Constituencies. Consultation period ends 13.01.2025 – **forwarded to All Members**

- Noted.

5) Smart Cymru

Re: Community Investment Bond. Would like to meet Council to discuss this new service and update Council on things they do.

- Noted; extend invitation to meet.

8) PUBLICATIONS

Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum meeting 16.12.2024 at 10.30 a.m. Tredegar Library; BGCBC Roadworks report, week ending 20.12.2024; One Voice Wales Law Commission consultation on Burial & Cremation Law Reform. Closing date 09.01.2025; Planning Aid Wales Caerphilly County Borough 2nd Replacement Local Development Plan up to 2035. Dates of community workshop events to discuss plan – **distributed to Members**: Received.

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

249) Planning:

- a) i) List of planning applications received in week 49
- ii) List of planning applications received in week 50

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

App. No.	Applicant	Proposal
C/2024/0307 No objections	Mr. S. Caniff 54 Glanhowy Street Tredegar	Two storey rear extension with a detached garage, 54 Glanhowy Street.
C/2024/0310 No objections	Mr. R. Morgan 4 Charles Street Tredegar	Proposed pair of semidetached houses with associated external works, vacant land on corner of Charles Street and Salem Cottages.
C2024/0313 No objections	Miss J. Thomas 4 Charles Street Tredegar	Proposed works to 1 ash tree: climb & dismantle to ground level, removing all arisings off site, grind out stump and replacement planting under TPO BG115, vacant land on the corner of Charles Street and Salem Cottages.

c) To consider other planning matters – S Hopkins RE: Trefil Quarry. Clarifying one application was to extend the site area (C/2022/0171) and the other was to extend the time period of the existing consent (C/2022/0280). A Decision Notice will be issued for C/2022/0280 shortly and C/2022/0171 has been referred to the Welsh Government due to the impact on the SSSI.

In respect of the offer of paperwork, Members confirmed that Council would like copies of the decision notices when issued. A Member reiterated that Legislation was based on axle weight and, therefore, there was no restriction on the size of the lorries accessing the quarry.

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

- **School Governor, Georgetown** – Councillor Gerran Walters advised that his term as School Governor at Georgetown Primary School was due for renewal and therefore sought the approval of Council to be re-appointed, which was unanimously agreed.
- **Office arrangements - Christmas and the New Year**
Office closure – Thursday, 19th December, 2024; re-opening on Monday, 6th January, 2025. Due to Wednesday, 1st January, 2025 being New Year's Day, the Council meetings in January **only** would be held on the second and fourth Wednesday of the month,

The Leader extended thanks to all for everything Members had done throughout this year, in considering how to operate and to move forward as a Town Council, it was recognised

that January would prove a heavy month in discussions as to how Council would go forward over the next few years.

Thanks and Happy New Year.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 7.08p.m.

_____ Chair