

TREDEGAR TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Council held via
Microsoft Teams / hybrid on Wednesday, 7th May, 2025 at 6.00 p.m.**

Present: Councillors A.E. Tippings (Chair)

A. Jones

M. Turner

K. Phillips

G. Badham

E. Jones

G. Jones-Griffiths

D. Rowberry

J. Thomas

H. Trollope

S. Trollope

In attendance: Clerk – Ms. C. Aherne

001) To Elect a Mayor to serve until the Annual Meeting of Council 2026:

Thanks and Appreciation by outgoing Mayor 2024 / 2025, Councillor K. Phillips.

A Member proposed that Councillor Alyson Tippings be nominated, being a Councillor for nearly forty years, equipped with the knowledge and being well-qualified to fulfil the role.

The outgoing Mayor thereupon expressed thanks to all his Colleagues for their trust in him being Mayor, certainly not a role he would have taken as first choice and when coming into office unexpectedly he had been none too pleased! However, once he had got into it, he said it had been a great position, which he had enjoyed, especially the person's lives he had touched, attending 100 birthdays and the close community aspect. He said that Alyson had done a wonderful job in the past and would be best for the role and get a lot out of it.

A Member expressed thanks to the outgoing Mayor, who had fell into the job after the previous Mayor left and carried out a 'cracking job' over the past eighteen months. Also, thanks to Cath for all her hard work.

There being no other nominations, Councillor Alyson Tippings was thereupon unanimously elected to the role of Mayor.

002) Declaration of Acceptance of Office by the incoming Mayor:

At this point, the Chain of Office will be handed over and the Consort's Chain will also be exchanged. Gifts / flowers will be given to incoming and outgoing Consort.

The Mayor read the acceptance of Office and duly signed – it was thereupon confirmed by the Clerk.

At this point the Chain of Office was handed over, and the Consort's Chain also exchanged. Gifts of flowers were given to the incoming and outgoing Consorts.

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

Councillor Alyson Tippings was pleased to accept the role of Mayor and said:

“Thank my comrades for their support and faith they have to elect me as Chair for the third time. I cannot say that I am not aware of what lies ahead, but I am aware that life can throw up surprises.

I have never had anything but pride in the village and the town that I come from. We have a long and proud history stretching back to Celtic times, we were an iron town with one of the earliest horse-drawn tram roads and locomotive rail road connecting Tredegar ironworks to Tredegar. But of course we are most famous for being the home of the NHS when our M.P. Aneurin Bevan used Tredegar Workman’s Medical Aid Society as the blueprint for our National Health Service. We celebrate this every July with the Bevan festival, with the great and the good from across the country joining us here in Bedwellty Park to remember this great institution and the care it gives and the assurance we have.

Bevan said that *‘Society becomes more wholesome, more serene, and spiritually healthier, if it knows that its’ citizens have at the back of their consciousness the knowledge that not only themselves, but all their fellows, have access, when ill, to the best that medical skill can provide.’* Thank heavens that is still the case today and I hope every Elected Member will fight with their whole being to maintain our NHS on this basis.

Each year the Mayor has the honour to select a charity to support and I have selected a charity that helps those with health inequalities. This year, the Tredegar Mayor’s appeal will be for Kidney Wales. I know at first hand, the devastating impact that kidney failure can have on an individual and their family. Kidney Wales support families in two ways. They help with day-to-day support, things like activity back packs for children on dialysis, iPads and Kindle in dialysis centres and simple key rings that can plug fistulas and save patients from loss of blood. They also support research into kidney disease to make those medical breakthroughs that save lives every day. I hope you will join with me to support this cause and make a difference to kidney patients in Wales.”

004) Apologies. Councillors A.E. Evans, S. Mavar, G. Meredith, K. Waldron, G. Walters

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 2026: Chain of Office will be given to the incoming Deputy.

A Member proposed that Councillor Allan Jones be nominated to the role of Deputy Mayor.

There being no other nominations, Councillor Allan Jones was elected unanimously; who said he would do his best to support Alyson in her role as Mayor, having been on Council for the past nine years.

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 2026.

A Member said he was pleased to nominate Councillor Mark Turner to the role of Leader, giving his full support having done an excellent job for the last year; 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 2026.

A Member nominated the outgoing Mayor, Councillor Kevin Phillips, to the role of Deputy Leader; the nomination was duly seconded, and Councillor Phillips 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 5th March, 2025: these were agreed unanimously.

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

Circulated and reviewed by the Policy Sub-Committee on 5th March, 2025: These were agreed unanimously.

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

This was agreed unanimously, with reservations in respect of the closure of the Tredegar branch, 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) L. Sage Re: Recreation Ground. Offering dates for Louise Horner and Dave Watkins to meet with Council.

- Noted; extend an invitation to full Council on Wednesday, 21st May, 2025.

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 17.04.2025.

ii) List of applications received, week ending 25.04.2025.

1. Vary designated premises supervisor – Tredegar Arms

2. New Personal Licence – Grace E. Williams.

- Noted.

2) One Voice Wales a) Joint One Voice Wales / SLCC Event on Ethical Frameworks in England and Wales on Wednesday, 14th May, 2025. Online, £65.00 plus VAT per delegate.

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

b) i) Cancellation of OVW Gwent Valleys meeting due to be held on 29th April, 2025 on the basis numbers are likely to be low.

ii) NEW DATE for postponed meeting -Agenda and link for Tuesday, 20th May, 2025 One Voice Wales Gwent Valleys Area Committee Meeting at 7.00 p.m.

- Noted.

c) **Invitation:** Biodiversity Pilot Group. Looking for 10 Town Councils to participate piloting a new Toolkit that will assess the biodiversity value of Amenity Grassland areas. Responses by 09.05.2025.

- Noted; forward to Councillor A.E. Tippings.

d) Re: VE Day 80. UK Government has announced a 2-minute silence on 8th May at 12.00 noon to mark the anniversary. Suggestion to fly a Union Flag at full mast at civic buildings during the week of the celebrations.

- Noted.

3) War Memorial Conservation

Re: Tredegar War Memorial. Spring visit completed, noted gold inscriptions has weathered, so this has been scheduled in for their next visit in October.

- Noted.

4) C. Penny

Re: Gladstone Place. Reporting issues with parking in the area, for residents, due to the school and whether the double yellow lines could be removed with residents only parking permits issued.

- Noted; direct to BGCBC.

5) PUBLICATIONS

BGCBC Roadworks report, week ending 25.04.2025, 02.05.2025 and 09.05.2025; Race Council Cymru Grant Applications Now Open - National Windrush Day 2025; OVW Keep Wales Tidy: Local Nature packs are back; Communicorp Clerks & Councils Direct May 2025 Issue 159.

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
<i>Councillor K. Phillips declared an interest in the following application and took part in discussion or voting thereon.</i>		
C/2025/0123	Mr. K. Phillips	Replacement roller shutter,
No objections	Creations of Cymru Film &	The Queen's Ballroom,
	Media Ltd	Queen Victoria Street.
	The Little Theatre	
	Upper Coronation Street	
	Tredeggar	
c) Other Planning Matters: Planning Appeal Notification P/2024/0197 Development of detached dwelling at Rhoslan, Tredeggar.		

015) To agree the Mayor's Allowance (£500.00) and Mayoral Civic budget (£815.00) – to authorise payment in full or pro rata.

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.

This was agreed unanimously.

017) Vacancy - Co-option: Application for consideration:

- **Central & West - Two Vacancies**

The Clerk referred to the vacancies in the Central & West 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.

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

- Phillip Tolley

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 2026.

- 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)
- j. Planning Representatives

The Chair of Committees and Sub-Committees to be elected at the first Meeting of that Committee / Sub-Committee and to serve until the Annual Meeting of Council 2026.

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

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. Glanhowy 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 5th March, 2025), were agreed unanimously.

- Matters of Local Interest / Concern

Wales and V.E. Day 80

- 'Ringing out in Celebration' 6.30 p.m., St. George's Church
- Beacons and Lamp Lights of Peace 9.30 p.m., lighting of the Beacon at the Aneurin Bevan Stones to include collective sing – I Vow to Thee my Country.

Public Noticeboard to the front of Lidl's – a Works Order had been raised to a sub-contractor for repair and awaiting the Perspex.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 6.33 p.m.

_____ Chair