

TREDEGAR TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held via Microsoft Teams / hybrid
on Wednesday, 17th September, 2025 at 6.30 p.m.**

Present: Councillors A.E. Tippings (Chair)
A. Jones
M. Turner
A.E. Evans
L. Thomas Evans
G. Jones-Griffiths
J. Thomas
K. Waldron

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

140) Apologies. Councillors K. Phillips, G. Badham, E. Jones, D. Rowberry, P. Tolley, H. Trollope, S. Trollope and G. Walters

Council welcomed the Secretary of the Tredegar Horse and Pony Show, Kevin Morris, to the meeting. The gentleman explained that, traditionally, the Show was held on the third weekend in May, last held in 2019, and had now achieved Gold recognition. It was hoped the event would continue from strength to strength and the Show Committee wished to recognise the support of Members in holding a very successful event by the awarding of a medal, which depicted the Horse and Pony Show, the iconic Town Clock and Aneurin Bevan.

Council extended a formal ‘thank you’ and confirmed the medal would be placed in Council’s public display case.

141) Declarations of Interest

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

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

Consideration was given to the recommendations of the meetings held immediately prior to Council:

- **Working Party – Public Facilities**

To recommend that Council pursue a two-week trial with the company to allow Council to consider and work on an appropriate list of duties, then a further two-week probationary period to evaluate the service provided to ensure that the role was meeting the needs of Council.

- **Policy Sub-Committee**

It was agreed that the review of the following Policies placed before the Sub-Committee, as reported by Officers, were unanimously recommended for approval:

- Internal Financial Controls
- Financial Regulations: with approved amendment to ‘emergency work – public toilets’

delegation of authority

- Investment and Treasury Management Policy
- Medium Term Financial Plan

143) Tredegar Recreation Ground: to further discuss

The Leader provided a brief background to previous discussions / consideration:

- Asset under consideration was from main car park through to the top field, pavilion, stand, lights had been included in the document, all working, fully tested / certified.; however the bungalow was excluded.
- Met last Friday to go through document, to negotiate. Any work, in the opinion of those in attendance, basically car parking was £226,000+ take out cost. Following discussions, place car park site to one side for now, as safe to use / usable and would carry out interim work. the gates could be opened and use now but would need resurfacing in the future over the next five-year period. If taken on, this would be written into agreement that when Park Row tarmac was undertaken, this would be done at that point.
- Gates / Pavilion to top field, three pitches, two usable in current condition, third was usable but not throughout the whole year, becoming water-logged. He had been adamant that Council would not want the public conveniences, which were derelict, and did not want the responsibility on Town Council to demolish / make safe. This would be done by BGCBC at later date but cordoned off, there would be toilet provision in the Pavilion.
- Priority 1 2 3, minor except Pavilion, good working boilers still there and all in working order and would be done properly before takeover.
- Stand, handrail being put into Stand and Local Authority would be responsible for replacing all seating; all holes made safe. Stand would be 100% safe and new roof, and investigate what could be done to prevent bird ingress, and would be viable for Council at the point of take over.
- Compiling a list of work to be carried out by the Local Authority not Town Council during period of time. If Council do take over, it would take one / two years before getting full Trusteeship; in the meanwhile, Council would have Tenancy at Will, i.e. responsibility for running the field and, at any point, unable to run the asset could walk away immediately and return asset to Blaenau Gwent CBC.
- Looking to put in place Tenancy at Will by end of October, probably end of November; this would need to go to formal meeting of BGCBC Council some time November to January. Town Council thereupon opting to run the asset but could still walk away with no repercussions, with no clawback.
- The RFO enquired why more accurate costings other than estimates were supplied, as the Leader had assured that all current bills had been paid, with Council being given 2023 / 2024 information. As far as aware, no outstanding bills assured no third party, no take Tenancy at Will would be responsible for any bills.
- At the moment done through one individual, ask BG to arrange a meeting with the Leader, done on voluntary basis and willing to continue until Council willing to take over, e.g. Horse and Pony Show already booked for next year. If do take on, Council would need to take on a third person in the office: 1). train for both positions and 2) workload; it currently takes equivalent of one day per week for bookings on field. Activities to include football, rugby, Horse Show, fair, etc.
- A Member asked if Blaenau Gwent had mentioned assets, which had been provided by Tredegar Town, e.g. dug outs, goal posts, nets, container, etc., as such assets may need to be removed. The Leader said, if in a container, such items would belong to them, any that were listed as 'fixed' was part of the Ground. The Member said that

clubs had received letters stating an increase per game and per training session, which was becoming unusable, that debate would be taken if sustainable to break even, pointing them towards Ebbw Vale / Beaufort, which was cheaper, bearing in mind cost of living rising and clubs could not afford to put up 'cons' as families could not afford it. Council would give consideration and carry out any process to ensure all sports were proactive. and try to minimise cost for sporting clubs, who could be in a position to obtain grants; for example, mats.

- The RFO asked if Members wished to proceed on the assumption that Council commit to run until a period of time when the asset would be self-sufficient, then takeover for an agreed period of time. The Leader said that Council would need to sit down with GAVO to go through the documentation as a timescale was put in place. The Chair highlighted to need to investigate liability and ascertain costing increase on insurance for Public Liability.
- The Leader proposed that Council had to try otherwise the Ground could be lost to housing development and which could be beneficial if resulting in a third person in the office.

The Leader was happy to go ahead with the Tenancy at Will, recommending this action to Council accordingly. The Chair said there was no Business Plan, and Council could not take on running this asset with no cash flow for twenty-four months at £20,000 per year. The Leader said a Business Plan could be drawn up based on projections of bookings accepted, first year make sure Council could cover all those buildings, rough estimate, have to put in Reserves for next two years. the Chair said Council could not make decisions until firmer cashflow information was provided and the Leader said a Tenancy at Will would give that space.

The Chair thereupon thanked the Leader on behalf of Council for his hard work, which was appreciated.

144) To update on the Internal Auditor Report 2024 / 2025

The RFO provided a brief update:

- the third person had been brought up by the Internal Auditor for cover if a period of significant absence by the RFO; and, apprenticeship - ongoing. The Officer had started compiling a training manual to support the person coming in, covering both roles and also the Recreation Ground.
- Outstanding: Medium Term Corporate Plan / Medium Term Financial Plan have started compiling to ascertain if covering everything within that Plan, e.g. Mission, values, priorities; what could be undertaken in the future, how, and who it would be important to. The Officer was therefore awaiting feedback.
- The Cleaning Contract review had been completed and renewed until 26th June next year.

145) To consider a Schedule of Accounts for payment in September 2025 and ratify any amendments to payments made in August 2025

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.

- The RFO reminded Council that the onus was on the Member to respond confirming

acceptance or refusal; therefore if wishing to decline payment, Members should complete and return the form to the RFO. Those Members who wished to accept the £150.00 Member's allowance would need to contact the RFO to make necessary arrangements.

- Council had approved the first payment of the Council's debit card for the purchase of Norton software for the office with Amazon, as this downloadable version had resulted in a significant reduction in cost.
- 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 £400.00.

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, and the processing of the approved online payments, to be undertaken in the presence of the appropriate Member and Town Clerk, which was noted accordingly.

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

- a) **Events Review Sub-Committee – 2nd July, 2025**
- b) **Civic Meeting of Council - 2nd July, 2025**
- c) **Performance Review Sub-Committee - 16th July, 2025**
- d) **Ordinary Meeting of Council - 16th July, 2025**

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 22.08.2025 – ***No Tredegar applications.***
 - ii) List of applications received, week ending 05.09.2025 – ***No Tredegar applications.***
 - iii) List of applications received, week ending 12.09.2025
 - 1) Transfer premises Licence – Tredegar RFC Sports & Social Club Ltd.
 - 2) Temporary Event Notice 31.10.2025 – Gwent Shopping Centre car park.
 - Noted.
- 2) One Voice Wales
 - a) Re: Charles Arnold Baker 14th Edition. Available at cost price of £176.00 plus £9.00 P+P.
 - Noted; in response to a question raised, the Clerk confirmed that this publication was often

consulted and had proven helpful historically. Expenditure was thereupon unanimously approved in respect of the purchase.

- b) Joint One Voice Wales / SLCC Event, Wednesday, 12th November, 2025: £65.00 plus VAT per delegate.

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

3) Clock visit requests:

- a) K. Hillman Re: Year 1 Visit Request, Georgetown Primary. Asking if they can visit the Clock again, can split into two groups with one attending in the morning and the other in the afternoon.

- Next week, following discussion it was suggested the following would be suitable for Members to support the visit
Thursday, 25th or Friday, 26th September

- b) B. Simmonds. Would like children and staff from the River centre to climb the Clock.

- Noted, agreed in principle, liaise respect of location.

4) Louby Lou's Storytelling

Details of their Festive Show that is available for school bookings.

- Historically, Council had provided a performance for the community supported by the Night Out Scheme but this had then evolved to a Christmas play hosted within a School venue whereby the expense was met by Council.
St. Joseph's

5) PUBLICATIONS

BGCBC Roadworks report week ending 12.09.2025 & 19.09.2025; Communicorp Clerks & Councils Direct September 2025 Issue 161; OVW Biodiversity Team changes and introductory webinar on 25.09.2025; OVW Closing dates for Orchard applications and Keep Wales Tidy Packages.

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

Councillor 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 35
- ii) List of planning applications received in week 36

b) To consider Planning Applications submitted for Council's observations – None received.

c) To consider other planning matters EDPR Re: Mynydd Bedwellte Wind Farm, August 2025 Interim Update: Received.

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

- Former Councillor Roger Thomas Pulmonary Fibrosis Trust, agreed £50.00
- Harvest Thanksgiving & Flower Festival 'Precious Jewels of the Bible'. Request to sponsor a floral display at £40.00 with all proceeds this year going to the Mayor's Appeal 2025 / 2026. Invitation extended to Members to attend the Harvest Services 6.00 p.m. on Sunday, 5th October, 2025, at Horeb Chapel

It was therefore agreed to approve the sponsoring of a floral display in the sum of £40.00, in principle, subject to written receipt of the request for the financial records.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 7.42 p.m.

_____ Chair