

TREDEGAR TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Council held remotely via Microsoft Teams / hybrid on Wednesday, 26th May, 2021 at 6.00 p.m.

Present: Councillors G. James (Chair)

**S. Rees
T. Smith
A.E. Tippings
D.W.A. Howells
A. Jones
D. Jones
E. Jones
K. Phillips
P. Prosser
D. Rowberry
J. Thomas
H. Trollope
S. Trollope
M. Turner
G. Walters
B. Willis**

In attendance: Clerk – Ms. C. Price

001) Apologies. Councillor M. Cross

A Member informed Council of the sad loss of Bill Davies, who had served as Town Councillor and went on to Gwent County Council and Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council. He was a well-respected Councillor; articulate, thoughtful and diligent; and anyone who knew him regarded him as a true gent.

Outside of the Council, he was a loyal member at English Baptist in Church Street and Siloh Unity Church. He was secretary of Trefil Mountain Pony Improvement Society, and Tredegar Horse Show, and also held the position of treasurer of the SWLP, with fastidious attention to detail. The SWLP and the town had lost a dear and true friend. The thoughts of Council were with Evelyn and family at this time.

Agreed, Clerk to send a letter of condolence: Council observed a Minute silence as a mark of respect.

002) Thanks and Appreciation by Councillor E. Jones, Mayor 2020 - 2021.

The Mayor offered thanks to the RFO and Clerk for their support over the past two years and thanks to the Leader for giving so much time freely; also the Deputy Leader, and everyone else, for their support. The Member wished the incoming Mayor well for the very best time in office and she could thank Members for the opportunity!

A Member commended Councillor Ellen Jones for the last two years, as these had been the worse possible as far as the pandemic, and the Mayor had still been out and about as appropriate, and people had seen the Mayor as the face of Tredegar Town Council, and he wished to pay tribute to all the work she had done.

003) To Elect a Mayor to serve until the Annual Meeting of Council 2022.

A Member proposed that Councillor Gaynor James be nominated as Mayor. The Member had served with Gaynor when she had first come on to Tredegar Town Council; she had been a hard-working and diligent Mayor and authoritative Chair in Council. She had no hesitation in nominating Councillor James for the forthcoming year and promised her support in all her fundraising efforts and as Chair of the Council.

This nomination was seconded, with the above sentiments fully endorsed, as he was aware of the work Gaynor has done in the community; the Member has sought help on a project over the Christmas period, needing a place to store toys for the community, and Gaynor had no hesitation in providing this. He offered his support in everything the Mayor would undertake over the next year.

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

**004) Declaration of Acceptance of Office by the incoming Mayor.
(Chain of Office and Consort's Chain to be exchanged.)**

The Chain of Office had been returned to Council for presentation to the Mayor; Mayor to receive the acceptance of Office, which would be duly signed in accordance with Covid restrictions, recognising social distancing and safety guidance.. The newly appointed Mayor, Councillor Gaynor James, thereupon stood as Chair of the meeting.

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

Councillor Gaynor James was pleased to accept the role of Mayor and extended thanks for the nominations.

**006) To Elect a Deputy Mayor to serve until the Annual Meeting of Council 2022.
(Chain of Office to be given to be exchanged.)**

A Member proposed that Councillor Sean Rees be nominated to the role of Deputy Mayor.

There being no other nominations, Councillor Sean Rees was thereupon unanimously elected to the role of Deputy Mayor, the Mayor wished the incoming Deputy Mayor all the best. The Deputy Mayor to receive the acceptance of Office, which would be duly signed in accordance with Covid restrictions, recognising social distancing and safety guidance.

007) To Elect a Member as Leader of Council until the Annual Meeting of Council 2022.

A Member said that it was a pleasure to nominate his Colleague, Councillor Tommy Smith, to continue in the role as Leader, as he had for a number of years.

The nomination was duly seconded, and Councillor Smith appointed: Councillor Smith thanked his Colleagues and accepted the role of Leader. The Leader to receive the

acceptance of Office, which would be duly signed in accordance with Covid restrictions, recognising social distancing and safety guidance.

008) To Elect a Member as Deputy Leader of Council until the Annual Meeting of Council 2022.

A Member proposed that Councillor Alyson Tippings be nominated to the role of Deputy Leader, which was duly seconded. The Member accepted and thanked her Colleagues for electing her to this role; Deputy Leader to receive the acceptance of Office, which would be duly signed in accordance with Covid restrictions, recognising social distancing and safety guidance.

009) To approve that 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.

This document formed part of the Councillor pack received at the point of signing the Declaration of Office; agreed unanimously.

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

This document formed part of the Councillor pack received at the point of signing the Declaration of Office; agreed unanimously, as approved by the previous administration.

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

This was agreed unanimously, as approved by the previous administration.

013) To Authorise the Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Leader and Deputy Leader of Council, with the Clerk and RFO, to sign cheques on behalf of Tredegar Town Council.

This was agreed unanimously, as approved by the previous administration; Clerk and RFO to only sign cheques in the case of an emergency, once proper approval had been gained from the four signatories listed.

014) To consider any Urgent correspondence.

None received.

Councillor Gaynor James declared an interest and therefore took no part in discussion or voting thereon.

015) To agree the Mayor's Allowance and Mayoral Civic budget

As previously agreed: £500.00 to be set aside for the Mayor's Allowance and £815.00 for the Civic budget; this was agreed unanimously.

Councillor T. Smith declared an interest and therefore took no part in discussion or voting thereon.

016) To agree a Leader's Allowance, not exceeding £500.00, and authorise payment.

An allowance of £500.00 was proposed; this was agreed unanimously.

017) To appoint a Civic Committee (all Members of Council).

This was agreed unanimously.

018) To appoint ALL MEMBERS OF COUNCIL to the Performance Review Committee to meet quarterly.

This was agreed unanimously.

019) To confirm the following Sub-Committees and to appoint Members to serve on them until the Annual Meeting of Council 2022:

The following Committee list was available to all Members at the meeting and unanimously agreed.

a. Civic Sub-Committee – 9 Members

Councillors T. Smith (Leader) (Chair), G. James (Mayor), S. Rees (Deputy Mayor), A.E. Tippings (Deputy Leader), D. Howells, E. Jones, K. Phillips, D. Rowberry, H. Trollope

b. Events Sub-Committee – 9 Members

Councillors M. Turner (Chair), G. James (Mayor), S. Rees (Deputy Mayor), T. Smith (Leader), A.E. Tippings (Deputy Leader), A. Jones, K. Phillips, J. Thomas, H. Trollope

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 – 10 Members

Councillors A.E. Tippings (Deputy Leader) (Chair), G. James (Mayor), S. Rees (Deputy Mayor), T. Smith (Leader), M. Cross, D. Howells, A. Jones, P. Prosser, H. Trollope, G. Walters

d. Finance & Staffing Sub-Committee – 9 Members

Councillors H. Trollope (Chair), G. James (Mayor), S. Rees (Deputy Mayor), T. Smith (Leader), A.E. Tippings (Deputy Leader), D. Howells, D. Jones, E. Jones, G. Walters

e. Appeals Committee – 6 Members

Councillors M. Cross (Chair), A. Jones, P. Prosser, D. Rowberry, S. Trollope, B. Willis

f. Policy Sub-Committee - All Members of Council

Councillor G. James (Mayor) (Chair)

g. Community, Youth and International Sub-Committee

Councillors A.E. Tippings (Deputy Leader) (Chair), G. James (Mayor), S. Rees (Deputy Mayor), T. Smith (Leader), E. Jones, D. Rowberry, H. Trollope, S. Trollope

h. 'Tredegar Live' / One Voice Wales Climate Change Adaptation Programme

Councillors D. Jones (Chair), G. James (Mayor), S. Rees (Deputy Mayor), T. Smith (Leader), A.E. Tippings (Deputy Leader), A. Jones, D. Rowberry

This was a Working Party - anyone who was interested or wished to contribute were welcome.

i. Tredegar Public Facilities Sub-Committee

(To incorporate Tredegar W/C Facilities the Deighton Playing fields and Sirhowy Community Garden)

Councillors B. Willis (Chair), G. James (Mayor), T. Smith (Leader), A.E. Tippings (Deputy Leader), M. Cross, H. Trollope; A. Jones (Reserve)

j. Publicity Sub-Committee

Councillors S. Trollope (Chair), G. James (Mayor), S. Rees (Deputy Mayor), T. Smith (Leader), A.E. Tippings (Deputy Leader), E. Jones; Vacancy (Reserve)

k. Budget Working Group

H. Trollope (Finance & Staffing Sub Chair), G. James (Mayor), S. Rees (Deputy Mayor), T. Smith (Leader), A.E. Tippings (Deputy Leader), G. Walters

l. Allotment Association

Councillors A. Jones (Chair), G. James (Mayor), S. Rees (Deputy Mayor), T. Smith (Leader), A.E. Tippings (Deputy Leader), K. Phillips; D. Jones (Reserve)

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 2022.

In response to a question raised, the Mayor clarified that Members had not been consulted in respect of representation and, therefore, membership may need to be revisited at a later date.

020) To confirm the appointment of Mr. S. Bees as the Internal Auditor until the Annual Meeting of Council 2022.

Confirmed; this was agreed unanimously.

021) To appoint Members to serve on the following outside bodies:

The following Committee list was available to all Members at the meeting and unanimously agreed.

a. Quarterly Liaison Meeting / Joint Committee of Local Councils

Councillors T. Smith (Leader), G. James (Mayor), S. Rees (Deputy Mayor), D. Howells, Ms. C. Price (Clerk); H. Trollope (Reserve)

i. Gwent Valleys One Voice Wales

Councillors T. Smith (Leader), G. James (Mayor), E. Jones, Ms. C. Price (Clerk); M. Cross (Reserve)

ii. One Voice Wales Larger Councils and AGM

Councillors T. Smith (Leader), A.E. Tippings (Deputy Leader), G. James (Mayor), M. Cross, H. Trollope.

b. Tredegar Twinning Association

Councillors T. Smith (Leader), G. James (Mayor), A.E. Tippings (Deputy Leader), E. Jones, Ms. C. Price (Clerk).

c. School Governing Bodies

i) **Bryn Bach Primary** - D. Jones

ii) **Deighton Primary** - S. Trollope

iii) **Georgetown Primary** - G. Walters

iv) **Glanhowy Primary** - A. Jones

v) **St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Primary** - T. Smith

d. Blaenau Gwent CAB

Councillors E. Jones, H. Trollope (Reserve)

e. Tredegar Business Forum

Councillors T. Smith (Leader), H. Trollope

g. Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum

Councillors P. Prosser, T. Smith (Leader), B. Willis; K. Phillips (Reserve)

h. VVP / Tredegar Heritage Initiative

Councillor T. Smith (Leader).

j. Pen Bryn Oer Community Fund

Councillor T. Smith (Leader), A. Tippings (Deputy Leader).

Planning

Councillor P. Prosser (Sirhowy Ward); A. Jones (Reserve)

Councillor K. Phillips (Georgetown Ward); G. Walters (Reserve)

Councillor M. Turner (Chair) (Central & West); D. Howells (Reserve)

Vacancy (Reserve Member)

022) To agree the presentation of the Aneurin Bevan Prize, the Peter Morgan Jones and Michael Foot Awards, in conjunction with Tredegar Comprehensive School.

The Aneurin Bevan Prize was awarded for science; the Peter Morgan-Jones for arts / crafts and encompassing music; and the Michael Foot for literature. For each, a cash prize was given, and the winners were presented with a trophy, which remained displayed at the school.

This was agreed unanimously.

023) To agree the presentation of the Tony Gregory Award.

Tony Gregory (deceased) was a former Councillor, who had very much supported the community, helping people reach their goals and was a champion of young people; he supported youngsters who may have gone astray and those lesser academic achievers to help them bring out/learn skills within the community.

The award was for a young person who had made a difference to their life and criteria had been established; past recipients and their achievements were highlighted.

This was agreed unanimously.

024) To agree the Lindsay Bryan Sports Memorial Award.

This was unanimously agreed.

025) To confirm the pattern and timings of Meetings of Council:

These were confirmed as unchanged, as stipulated in Standing Orders, and thereupon agreed. Members stressed the importance of returning, as a group, to meeting physically as soon as practically able; as, due to technical issues experienced, the most recent meetings were not acceptable.

The Mayor brought to the attention of Council a Tredegar resident celebrating a 100th birthday in June; it was agreed that the Mayor liaise with the family to discuss an appropriate gift.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 7.02 p.m.

Chair