

TREDEGAR TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Civic Meeting of Council held via Microsoft Teams / hybrid on
Wednesday, 1st December, 2021 at 6.30 p.m.**

Present: Councillors G. James (Chair)
S. Rees
A.E. Tippings
M. Cross
D.W.A. Howells
D. Jones
K. Phillips
D. Rowberry
J. Thomas
H. Trollope
S. Trollope
M. Turner
B. Willis

In attendance: Clerk – Ms. C. Aherne

221) Apologies. Councillors T. Smith, E. Jones and G. Walters

222) Declarations of Interest

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

223) To receive Mayor's report, as appropriate

The Mayor had attended an event at the Bowls Club and presented the cheque and certificate on behalf of Town Council; this had been a lovely evening with the presentation of trophies. Councillors M. Cross and A. Tippings had also been in attendance and the Club and its members had been most welcoming.

The Mayor had participated in the Christmas Lights switch-on event, helping out with the litter-picking, and met a lot of young people from the Youth Café. The event had been attended by a lot of parents with younger children and the behaviour had been wonderful. The number of people there was outstanding and the Mayor said the event was a credit to the staff and Officers who had taken part – well done to everyone!

A Member said that although a full debrief would take place in the Events Sub-Committee, she wished to mention three individuals for their help; Santa (Wayne from Sirhowy Community Centre), who had stepped into the role on behalf of Council; and Glen Willis and Stephen Cross, who had undertaken a tremendous amount of work for Town Council.

It was unanimously agreed that a small gift be purchased for each individual in thanks. (Councillor M. Cross declared an interest and took no part in this decision.)

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

It was agreed that the following recommendations, of the Working Group and Sub-Committee held prior to this meeting of Council, be approved:

▪ Budget Working Group - 29th November, 2021

It was agreed that the recommendations of the Budget Working Group be progressed and updated position to be reported to the next meeting.

▪ Civic Sub-Committee - 1st December, 2021

Consideration of grant application form completed by new applicant for appropriate recommendations to Council.

Dukestown Football Club – recommended that a *start-up grant of £100.00* be awarded.

225) Grants:

Thanks received from Tredegar Camera Club.

a) To receive and consider grants to Sporting and Cultural organisations (under the provision of the Local Govt. Miscellaneous Provision Act 1976 s.19 and Local Government Act 1972 s.137)

Tredegar Orpheus Male Voice Choir - Any financial assistance received would be used towards the purchase of a defibrillator.

Council referred to the Welsh Government Scheme, which would meet the cost of the AED for community use if the organisation met the cost of the appropriate outdoor cabinet.

Councillor D. Rowberry joined the meeting at this juncture (6.42 p.m.)

Following a brief discussion, it was agreed that the application be deferred to the Defib Working Group for consideration, ascertain the cost of the exterior cabinet to house the AED unit, and that the application be approved in principle.

2020/21 Nov'20 CQ No. 085 £200.00: *Deferred: approved in principle*

b) To receive and consider grants to Churches & Chapels (s.137) - Grants as of 01.04.2017 now max £300.00 (before awarding a grant Council must be satisfied the grant is being given for non-religious purposes with the building being for community use) – None received

226) Correspondence

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

- 1) BGCBC
- a) a) List of applications received, week ending 12.11.2021.

- 1) Temporary street trading consent 26.11.2021
Town Clock – Cllr Smith.
- b) List of applications received, week ending 19.11.2021.
- Noted.
- 2) One Voice Wales
- a) Technical Advice Note (TAN) 15: Development, flooding & coastal erosion.
- Noted; forward to Councillor D. Jones.
- b) 9th December Access to Politics Event.
- Noted; forward to Councillors J. Thomas and H. Trollope.
- 3) War Memorial Restoration Co.
- Final Maintenance visit of current contract completed 02.11.2021. Offering to renew annual contract for same price as last year, £,1950.00 (vat included).
- Noted; defer for best value exercise to be carried out to determine value for money.
- 4) Wales Air Ambulance
- Community Council Appeal 2021: requesting a donation to the Appeal.
- It was unanimously agreed that a donation of £200.00 be awarded.
- 5) D. Wallbank
- Re: Brynmawr Rotary: Response to Christmas Hamper delivery query.
- Following a vote being undertaken (10:3), a decision was made that Council would not contribute, as it was felt this request related to a duplication of services, already covered by a number of longstanding groups based within the Tredegar area.
- 6) Unison
- Notice to employer of an official industrial action ballot.
- Received and noted: Council abided by conditions as set out in the Green Book.
- 7) Gwent Police
- a) We Don't Buy Crime is a recently established department within Gwent Police; includes booklet on their Safer Neighbourhoods strategy and happy to arrange a presentation to Council.
- Clerk to extend an invitation to attend a formal meeting of Council in February.

8) PUBLICATIONS

BGCBC Roadworks report, week ending 26.11.2021 updated and 03.12.2021; Communicorp Local Councils Update Issue 257 December 2021; Gwent Police & Crime Commissioner, Council Tax precept engagement – **Twitter / website**; OVW, WCVA: Catalyst Cymru, Broadening Horizons Project will offer in-depth coaching to heritage organisations and organisations running heritage projects in Wales; OVW Consultation on planning legislation and policy for second homes and short-term holiday lets, closes 23.02.2022; Aneurin Bevan University Health Board Vaccination Update, issue 46 – **added to website & Twitter – distributed to Members**: Received.

9) AGENDA

None received.

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

227) Planning:

a) i) **To consider an Officer's Report (if received)** None received.

- ii) a) List of planning applications received in week 45
List of planning applications received in week 46

b) **Verbal report of the Planning Committee if any** None received.

c) **To consider Planning Applications submitted for Council's observations**

App. No.	Applicant	Proposal
C/2021/0329	Mr. A. Jenkins Rhyd Developments Abergavenny	Construction of 3 new detached dwellings served by new shared driveway with parking provision for 2 cars on each plot and including landscaping and services as well as off-site highway improvement works, land adjoining Park Hill, Park Hill, Tredegar.

Observations: Council objects on highway grounds; Inkerman Terrace adjoins a narrow strip of land and this could cause highway issues, with the loss of the turning area currently in place. Members could not envisage a viable solution that would work in respect of congestion and highway issues. There was also a possible issue in respect of over-development.

C/2021/0334	Mr. C. Monk Linc Cymru Housing Assoc. 387 Newport Road Cardiff	Conversion / refurbishment improvement and alterations of the existing community hall to accommodate a new independent living unit,
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Community Centre, Bill Harry Court, Charles Street.

Observations: No objections - Members noted the loss, however, of a facility that had previously been well-used.

C/2021/0336 Mr. R. Griffin
53 Golwg-y-Mynydd
Tredegar Demolition of lean-to garage and new double storey pitched roof extension to side with lean-to porch to front, 53 Golwg-y-Mynydd.

No objections

C/2021/0343 Mr. C. Jones
Plot 2
R/O Queen Victoria Street
Tredegar Retention of bungalow as built, Plot 2 rear of Queen Victoria Street.

No objections

C/2021/0348 Mrs. R. Lloyd Davies
23 Bush Bach
Tredegar Single storey side extension, 23 Bush Bach.

No objections

C/2021/0350 BGCBC
Civic Centre
Ebbw Vale Construction of two pods to create a co-working office hub, Bryn Bach Country Park, Merthyr Road.

No objections

It was noted that the application had come before Council some time ago and was approved; funding had been received by BGCBC and Aneurin Leisure from the Valleys National Park fund to provide hub-provision in respect of the facilities.

C/2021/0358 Tai Calon via agent
Tetra Tech
5th Floor, Longcross Court
47 Newport Road
Cardiff Application for prior notification of proposed demolition for a two-storey building 23 and 24 Stocktonville, property no longer complies with appropriate residential standards.

Observations: Members expressed concern that, should demolishing properties be more cost-effective than raising the premises to standard, this could set a precedent for the future, particularly as there were properties of similar construction throughout Tredegar. A Member said that, as a point of clarity, he understood the reason for demolition related to unstable ground conditions rather than construction.

Members agreed that greater clarification was needed as, if the need for demolition related to unstable ground, how would this affect other properties in the vicinity.

d) To consider other planning matters –

Proposed extension of the Trefil quarry: a Member said that clarification was needed in respect of a number of concerns, i.e. increase of traffic through this small village; expansion was in close proximity to moorland, which would be destroyed, therefore strategy of reinstatement of moorland requested; destruction by offroad / quad vehicles, etc.

A Member said that Town Council had a responsibility to the residents of Tredegar to seek a response in respect of the proposed development; it was therefore agreed that a letter be forwarded to the BG delegate for the National Parks, Councillor John Hill, seeking clarification in respect of the matters raised, as these were important issues that needed addressing:

- 1) have observations of residents of Trefil and the surrounding area (e.g. Tynewydd, Penybont, Bush Bach, Llwyn Helyg, etc.) been sought
- 2) how the area will be affected and aftercare?

A Member confirmed that she was aware of this pre-application having received a Neighbour Notification as a resident of Trefil; residents had been invited to submit observations at the consultation stage, by Friday, 7th January, 2022.

228) Updates regarding Bedwellty House and Park / Parc Bryn Bach - any issues to have been previously reported direct to the House Management / Aneurin Leisure personally

- Bedwellty Park – the Mayor had spoken with an Aneurin Leisure staff member in respect of issues with trees along the Promenade in September, who had informed her the tree surgeon would be visiting the Park in November. Unfortunately, there was still an issue and the Mayor was not happy with a number of fallen trees / branches, which were of concern as someone could be injured.

229) Delegates: to receive and consider reports from Delegates to Outside Bodies and the recommendations of Sub-Committees / Working Parties:

- a) **Joint Committee of Local Councils** – No meeting
- b) **Gwent Valleys One Voice Wales** – Next meeting January 2022
- c) **One Voice Wales Larger Councils and AGM** – No meeting
- d) **Tredegar Twinning** – No meeting
- e) **Pen Bryn Oer Community Fund** – No update
- f) **School Governing Bodies** – Bro Helyg: School plans were progressing well; Bryn Bach Primary: to meet the following week; Deighton Primary: refurbishment work undertaken to the courtyard and new flooring laid throughout the School, new kitchen and staff room fitted
- g) **Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum** – Christmas Dinner plans agreed
- j) **Tredegar Business Forum** – No meeting
- k) **VVP / Tredegar Heritage Initiative** – Meeting postponed

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

- Opening of public toilets, Gwent Shopping Centre – a Member said that he had been opening the toilets for the past seven years when the keyholder was on holiday;

however, due to personal reasons he was unable to continue to do so; Councillors J. Thomas and M. Turner offered to take up this responsibility on behalf of Council. Members offered their sincere thanks to Councillor Willis for his support in helping the community, which was greatly appreciated.

Signage needed updating to promote that the toilets were operated and maintained by Tredegar Town Council.

- Trees, The Circle – report overgrown trees in the vicinity of The Circle to BGCBC.
- Traffic concerns:
 - Lower Coronation Street - concern in respect of traffic along the one-way system from The Moose / Tredegar Arms to the Magistrates Court: in a thirty-minute period a Member witnessed some five / six cars travelling in the wrong direction - and also witnessed an altercation. Council considered clear signage was required in this location to avoid motorists' confusion - particularly those from 'out of town' visiting the area; and
 - Market Street - Members and residents had complained to both the Local Authority and Health Authority for months in respect of traffic abusing the one-way system in this area - which may be as a result, in part, that signage was not clearly visible. Clerk to write to BGCBC, asking to investigate concerns with a view to resolving issues.
- Lime trees, Southend Allotment – request for funding from the Southend Allotment Association for the light pruning of three lime trees, estimated at a cost of £500-600.00. Following a brief discussion, it was agreed that the request be referred for discussion at a meeting of the Allotments Sub-Committee.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 7.59 p.m.

_____ Chair