

TREDEGAR TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Civic Meeting of Council held via Microsoft Teams on Wednesday, 5th January, 2022 at 6.30 p.m.

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

In attendance: Clerk – Ms. C. Aherne
RFO – Ms. A. Edwards
KS Placement – Miss B Flowers

249) Apologies. Councillors G. James, A. Jones, D. Jones, P. Prosser, D. Rowberry and S. Trollope

250) Declarations of Interest

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

251) To receive Mayor's report, as appropriate

None to receive at present time.

252) 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 Sub-Committee be approved:

Performance Review Sub-Committee -5th January, 2022

- The Budget Against Actual report was approved and the recommended Virements unanimously agreed for consideration of full Council.
- The report was received and further consideration given to the budget.

253) Grants:

a) To receive and consider grants to Sporting and Cultural organisations

Tredegar & District Floral Art Society - Any financial assistance received would be used towards insurance and affiliation fees

2019/20 June'19 CQ No. 848 £200.00: *Approved accordingly*

Noted: the Floral Art Society had previously supported Council with floral displays and it was suggested the Society could be asked to produce a display to commemorate the NHS.

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.

254) Correspondence

- 1) BGCBC
- a) D. McAuliffe – RE: 2022/2023 precept, latest submission date 31/01/2022.
 - Noted.

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

- b) List of applications received, week ending 17.12.2021.
 - Noted.
- 2) One Voice Wales
- a) Correspondence from the Minister for Social Justice: Shaping Wales Future, national milestones
 - Noted; Council supported the national milestones.
 - b) Welsh Government Councillor remuneration and citizen engagement in Wales: reports – previously forwarded to All Members
 - c) Laying of the Eligible Community Councils (General Power of Competence) (Qualifications of Clerks) (Wales) Regulations 2021: Letter from the Minister for Finance & Local Government. – previously forwarded to All Members
 - Noted; resubmit to Ordinary Meeting of Council for Members' consideration.
 - d) The Local Government and Elections Act 2021: Draft Statutory Guidance for Community and Town Councils. Consultation ends 17.03.2022
 - Noted; forward to Councillor A.E Tippings.
 - e) Welsh Government draft budget 2022-23 published.

- Noted.

3) SLCC Wales FILCA course, cost £120 + VAT. – do you wish the RFO to complete this course?

- Agreed: expenditure approved unanimously.

4) Noah's Ark
Children's Hospital
Charity Request of donation towards their new appeal for Jungle Ward playroom.

- Noted; it was agreed that a donation of £50.00 be approved.

5) PUBLICATIONS

BGCBC Temporary Prohibition of Traffic, rear of 112-125 Tillery Street, Abertillery commences 04.01.2022; BGCBC Temporary Prohibition of Traffic, Big Arch, Ebbw Vale commences 04.01.2022; BGCBC Road Works Report week ending 17.12.2021; BGCBC Blaenau Gwent Business Hub E-newsletter December 2021; Powys County Council, Powys Replacement Local Development Plan Draft Delivery Agreement, provisional consultation date 06.01.2022; Aneurin Bevan University Health Board Vaccination Update, issue 49 – added to website & Twitter; BGCBC Temporary Prohibition of Traffic 1 Park Place, Waunlwyd commences 13.01.2022; BGCBC Temporary Prohibition of Traffic, 8 Tir Y Berth, Glyncoed commences 10.01.2022; BGCBC Roadworks report, week ending 31.12.2021; Aneurin Bevan University Health Board Vaccination Update, issue 50 – added to website and Twitter – ***distributed to Members***: Received.

6) **AGENDA** – None received.

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

255) Planning:

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

ii) a) List of planning applications received in week 50

b) List of planning applications received in week 51

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

c) To consider Planning Applications submitted for Council's observations - None received

d) To consider other planning matters –

i. Boyer Planning FAO: Sirhowy Ward Members, Trefil Quarry Pre-Application Consultation. Reminder responses deadline is Friday, 7th January, 2022:

Trefil village residents recognised the important role of the quarry to the economy and also the opportunity to comment on any impact to this area, e.g. disruption and adverse impact to the highway due to larger / heavier lorries, from the roundabout to accessing the site; disruption in the vicinity of the Mountain Air Inn; development to Triple SSI sites and reinstatement of the environment on completion.

The Council's representative on the National Park Authority suggested that, although the application was at the pre-application stage, any correspondence sent should be copied into the Brecon Beacons NPA.

ii. BGCBC C/2021/0358 demolition of 23 and 24 Stocktonville Tredegar – reason for demolition, property not being up to current standards

256) St. John Ambulance – Tredegar Branch: to discuss

Concerns had been noted in respect of possible closure of some branches of the St. John Ambulance. Following a brief discussion, it was agreed that Council write to ascertain the current status of the Tredegar Branch and Hall, as the organisation was a valuable asset to Tredegar, always supporting Town Council, and would be a substantial loss to the community.

A Member suggested that clarity be sought as to the reason if the Branch / Hall was to close as, if due to financial constraints, there were opportunities to share the premises – for example, the Scouts were currently looking for a venue.

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

Members noted the excellent activities undertaken over the Christmas period, often under difficult circumstances, to all ages and backgrounds: it was agreed that a letter of congratulations be sent.

258) 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** – Meeting to be held 14th January, 2022.
- c) **One Voice Wales Larger Councils and AGM** – No meeting.
- d) **Tredegar Twinning** – next visit scheduled October 2022; Bryn Bach Primary School was undertaking the role of two schools in engaging with the exchange for French schoolchildren – School Governors were asked to encourage their schools to participate; new leaflets were being produced to promote the Twinning Association and membership was £5.00 per annum.
- e) **Pen Bryn Oer Community Fund** – currently open for applications.
- f) **School Governing Bodies** – Tredegar Comprehensive; the Governor had liaised with Blaenau Gwent CBC to ensure that sufficient testing facilities were available.
- g) **Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum** – the Forum were seeking articles for inclusion in the next Journals; a Christmas lunch had been arranged for representatives.
- h) **Tredegar Business Forum** – No meeting
- i) **VVP / Tredegar Heritage Initiative** – No meeting.

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

- **Public Conveniences** – the Toilet sign required re-painting; the baby changing facilities in the Gents toilets was unsafe; no baby changing facilities were available in the disabled toilet.

Council agreed that more prominent signage was needed to promote that the public convenience were provided and maintained by Tredegar Town Council.

The Line Manager said he had arranged for the Cleaning Operative to remove the baby changing facilities from the Gents, as he had been informed there had been a safety issue; Clerk to ascertain if this action had been undertaken.

Members commended the ongoing toilet provision, considering this an excellent facility, maintained to a high standard.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 7.22 p.m.

_____ Chair