

TREDEGAR TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held via Microsoft Teams / hybrid on
Wednesday, 19th January, 2022 at 6.30 p.m.**

Present: Councillors **G. James (Chair)**
S. Rees
A.E. Tippings
M. Cross
D.W.A. Howells
D. Jones
E. Jones
P. Prosser
D. Rowberry
J. Thomas
H. Trollope
S. Trollope
G. Walters
B. Willis

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

264) Apologies. Councillors T. Smith, A. Jones, K. Phillips and M. Turner

265) Declarations of Interest

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

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

It was agreed that the following recommendations of the Performance Review Sub-Committee be approved:

- **Performance Review Sub-Committee -19th January, 2022**

Question 1 - Are there any amendments to the proposed 2022/23 Budget Expenditure or is it remaining at £195,037? – There were no changes to the figures as presented in the report.

Question 2 - Are Council continuing with the policy to not take on further services and continue with the toilets/green spaces? – Yes; there were no planned services in the next financial year.

Question 3 - Are Council actioning a proposed projects strategy and establishing a specific proposed Earmarked Reserve? – No additions to any of the Earmarked Reserves;

however, there were changes to some of the existing provision and no Project Strategy was proposed.

Question 4 - Are Council maintaining the Proposed Earmarked Reserves at their current levels? If not, what amendments and reasoning please? – Due to possibility of funding from Blaenau Gwent and changes to NNDR in respect of public toilets; Council was moving from a two-year projection to one-year, removing £21,000.00 from the Earmarked Reserve into the General Reserve.

Question 5 - Will Council process with the discussion and ensuing 2022/23 Precept proposal, offering reasons and duly followed by approval? – Council was very pleased to put forward a Standstill Budget, particularly when considering increased pressures on local families and to the rate of inflation.

Councillor J. Thomas joined the meeting at this juncture (6.36 p.m.)

267) To consider a Schedule of Accounts for payment in January 2022

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.

- Replacement cheque issued – this related to a query from Barclays Bank, as the automated service had flagged a concern that one signatory had not matched those on the bank mandate; Resolved accordingly.

There being no further queries regarding the Schedule of Accounts, presented items were approved for payment and transfer of funds. The RFO asked that the four signatories liaise in respect of signing of the cheques for payment and the transfer of funds, as approved by Council, to be undertaken in the presence of the appropriate Member (remotely) and Town Clerk, which was noted accordingly.

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

- a) Civic Sub-Committee - 1st December 2021**
- b) Civic Meeting of Council - 1st December 2021**
- c) Events Sub-Committee - 15th December 2021**
- d) Ordinary Meeting of Council - 15th December 2021**

it was noted that some of the information reported in the meeting of Council was inaccurate; Clerk to check if it was appropriate for the Minutes to be amended as not yet ratified or within the public domain.

It was agreed that, for points of accuracy only, all Minutes presented be moved en bloc as a true record.

269) Chair to sign Minutes - at earliest opportunity in accordance with WG Legislation and Guidance

To be duly signed by the Chair, adhering to safety regulations and relevant restrictions, at the earliest opportunity – Chair to liaise accordingly.

270) Correspondence

1) BGCBC

- a) Consultation on the Draft Gwent Well-being Assessment open until 31.01.2022

- Noted.

- b) Ian Cole Re: Highway Management:

a) Suggestion to introduce 'No Entry' road markings on the intersection of Market Street and Salisbury Street.

b) Also recommends signage be renewed with additional 'No Entry' markings on Iron Street / Lower Coronation Street, and additional sign is required at the exit of the Moose Club.

- Noted; Council understood budgetary constraints that no money had been allocated in the current year; however, it was noted that the new financial year was to commence in April 2022 and funding could be considered accordingly.

Also, Members raised issues experienced with the cleanliness and vehicular access along Market Street, problems exacerbated with parking and double yellow lines, arising from the Hospital development and visitors to the surgery.

Clerk to ensure Enforcement Officers were aware of the situation and copy such information to the Aneurin Bevan UHB.

- c) David Arnold Re: Battle of Britain Roadshow hosted in Caerphilly, contact email if interested.

- A Member thought this would have been a lovely addition to Armed Forces Day but unfortunately the event had been earmarked for Blaenau Gwent CBC. She suggested the Roadshow be referred to the House Manager, Aneurin Leisure, as this could be undertaken in conjunction with volunteers, e.g. Royal British Legion.

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

- d) i) Weekly lists of Licensing Applications, week ending 07.01.2022
 - 1) Application to vary designated premises supervisor – Roundabout Service Station.
- ii) Weekly lists of Licensing Applications, week ending 14.01.2022
 - 1) Transfer premises License – Cefn Golau Store.
 - 2) Application for variation designated premises – Cefn Golau Store.
- Noted.

- 2) One Voice Wales a) Welsh Government Councillor remuneration and citizen engagement in Wales: reports – ***previously forwarded to All Members***
 - Noted; no comments.

- 3) The Chartist Walk, Trefil Various responses to concerns raised:
N. Smith, M.P.,
A. Davies, M.S.,
A. Parker and D. Thompson, BGCBC.
 - Noted; a brief discussion ensued with regard to the impact on both the environment and parked vehicles due to off-road vehicles. It was noted that the Police were now using a Landrover with camera provision in tracking these offenders.

 - It was agreed; Clerk to accept the invitation of Alun Davies, M.S. to attend a formal meeting of Council.

- 4) Powys Local Development Plan Review Report and Replacement LDP Delivery Agreement, consultation from 06.01.2022 until 5.00 p.m. on 01.02.2022
 - Noted.

- 5) N. Evans Letter raising concerns of pollution in the Bedwellty Ponds.
 - Noted; Council was aware of the problems that had been ongoing for a number of years and was sure Aneurin Leisure would appreciate any support in resolving this issue - Clerk to liaise.

6) BGCBC / Torfaen
CBC

Tredegar Clock illumination, request to illuminate clock purple on the 07.01.2022 to commemorate Holocaust Memorial Day – will be presented in Council on 19.01.2022

- Agreed: Members considered it was important as a Council to support this commemoration.

7) J. Dann

Kidz R Us production invite, one complimentary ticket, commences on 16.02.2022 and 17.02.2022.

- Noted; Clerk to liaise to ascertain the complimentary tickets available to accommodate Members; Mayor and Consort and Deputy Leader expressed an interest in attending.

8) **PUBLICATIONS** BGCBC Temporary Prohibition of Traffic: 2-74 Meadow Street, Llanhilleth, commence on 24.01.2022; BGCBC Temporary Prohibition of Traffic: Opposite Bedford Villas, Dukestown Road, Tredegar, commence on 25.01.2022; BGCBC Roadworks report, week ending 07.01.2022; Aneurin Bevan University Health Board Vaccination Update, issue 51 – **added to website & Twitter**; Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum Minutes of the meeting of the Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum, held 20.12.21 at 10.00 a.m. in Tredegar Library; Communicorp Clerk and Councils Direct January issue 139; J. Parker Wholesale Catalogue Spring 2022; BGCBC Roadworks report, week ending 14.01.2022; BGCBC Temporary Prohibition of Traffic: Junction of Jubilee Road, Abertillery, commence on 02.02.2022; Aneurin Bevan University Health Board Vaccination Update, issue 52 – **added to website & Twitter**; Boundary Commission for Wales Public Hearings new dates published on website, Second Consultation Period will open on 17.02.22 and close on 30.03.2022; Social Farms & Gardens Expression of interest for communities or landowners' application, open until 9.00 a.m. on 24.01.2022; OVW Trainee Solicitor vacancy roles for 2022, closing date 28.01.2022 at 4.00 p.m; OVW Violence against women Welsh government consultation; GAVO Annual General Meeting on 09.02.2022 at 10.00 a.m. held via Zoom, register interest via email link before 24.01.2022 – **forwarded to all Members** – **distributed to Members**: Received.

9) **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.

271) Planning:

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

ii) List of planning applications received in week 1-2

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/2022/0001	Mr. J. Burnett JB Properties Ltd Woodfield Park House Blackwood	Change of use of ground floor of property from retail (A1 use) to create a one bedroom apartment. Alterations to the fenestration at the front elevation, formation of access for the proposed flat and the existing flat at first floor and associated external alteration, 19 Morgan Street
No objections		
C/2022/0004	Mr. N. Lee 3 Meadow Crescent Tredegar	Dormer attic conversion creating additional bedroom and main bathroom and replacement garage to the side of the property, 3 Meadow Crescent
No objections		

d) To consider other planning matters

BGCBC, Cllr J. Hill, Trefil Quarry response: a) They will not receive formal approval for application until the next meeting on 15.02.2022; and

b) Officers have asked for clarification on whether an identical planning application is planned to be submitted to Brecon Beacons National Park Authority due to section of road extending into National Park boundary.

A brief discussion reiterating the affect on the economy and also the 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. Also, concerns were highlighted in respect of the potential risk to schoolchildren as there was a children's play area in the vicinity.

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

- Road markings, town centre– a Member had been contacted by concerned residents,

reporting that the markings to the town centre car parking areas had eroded away and required re-painting. Agreed; Clerk to write to BGCBC (Ian Cole). An initial response had been received in respect of the query in respect of Mother/Toddler parking provision; the Clerk was awaiting clarity / further information and would report back to Council accordingly.

- Town Clock planting – unfortunately the Gardener had indicated he would be unable to undertake the planting of the bulbs at this present time. The Clerk had plenary powers to approve urgent items of expenditure and it was agreed that another provider be sought to undertake the planting, e.g. Friends of Bedwellty Park, Allotment Associations, local gardening businesses – Councillor Alyson Tippings offered to help with the planting, if able, and sought volunteers of Members.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 7.29 p.m.

_____ Chair