

TREDEGAR TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Civic Meeting of Council held via Microsoft Teams / hybrid on
Wednesday, 2nd February, 2022 at 6.30 p.m.

Present: Councillors G. James (Chair)

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

**In attendance: Clerk – Ms. C. Aherne
KS Placement – Miss B Flowers**

277) Apologies. Councillors T. Smith, A. Jones and K. Phillips

The Mayor informed Council of the sad loss of Esther Phillips, the mother of Councillor Kevin Phillips; the thoughts of Council were with Kevin and all the family at this time. Members were welcome to pay tribute on the day of the funeral, either outside the home at 10.45 a.m. or attend the funeral at St. David's Church at 11.00 a.m.

Council observed a Minute silence as a mark of respect.

278) Declarations of Interest

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

279) To receive Mayor's report, as appropriate

None to receive at the present time.

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

▪ Events Sub-Committee – 2nd February, 2022

Calendar of Events agreed accordingly.

Fly a Flag for the Commonwealth: if unable to undertake a physical Ceremony, Council to

link up with Primary Schools to manage a virtual event online.

Recommencement of the Summer Bandstand Concerts agreed accordingly.

Agreed that the Bevan Festival week be convened in line with the National Day recognised on 5th July each year.

Christmas Illuminations: current contract complete and Council to invite tenders for the display for 2022; therefore, site meeting needed to review the infrastructure in place prior to seeking tenders.

T2520 Memorial site: investigate and ascertain sources of funding available in respect of placing a plaque in recognition of the servicemen.

Queen's Platinum Jubilee – Friday, 3rd June, 2022 (e.g. planting of Town Clock featuring '70', illuminate Clock 'purple' and tree planting; Beacon at Aneurin Bevan Stones – Thursday, 2nd June, 2022; and, memorabilia for Primary School pupils) – commemorations subject to further consideration prior to confirming arrangements.

The Chair referred to enquiries regarding provision of a commemorative plaque for those lives lost in Tredegar due to the Covid pandemic; it was agreed that Council liaise with the Aneurin Bevan UHB for a plaque to be placed on the new building at No. 10 The Circle and planting a tree in the garden area of the Hospital.

281) Grants:

Completed end of Grant forms from 2167 Tredegar & Rhymney Squadron Air Cadets and Bedwellty Park Bowls Club.

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

Hospice of the Valleys - Any financial assistance received would be used for the Bronze Level sponsorship for the 6-Mile Race **2019/20 Nov'19 CHQ No. 939**

- **£250.00 Approved accordingly**

Tredegar Moose No. 1 Ladies Circle - Any financial assistance received would be used for replacing kitchen utensils **2019/20 Oct'18 CHQ No. 921**

- **£200.00 Approved accordingly**

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.

282) Correspondence

1) BGCBC

a) S. Gapper Re. Deighton Playing Field: permission request to deliver a play session at the playing fields on 23.02.2022 at 2.00 – 4.00 p.m.

- Agreed; Clerk to respond and provide the criteria for appropriate use of the facility.

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

b) Weekly lists of Licensing Applications, week ending 21.01.2022.

i) Woodlands Sport & Social Club – variation of designated premises supervisor.

- Noted.

2) One Voice Wales a) Welsh Government Councillor remuneration and citizen engagement in Wales: reports – ***previously forwarded to All Members***

- Noted; Council noted clarity was still needed in respect of the taxable element on the Member Allowance payment of £150.00.

b) Buckingham Palace Garden Parties nominee invitation, must be available for all three party dates on 11.05.2022, 18.05.2022 and 25.05.2022, must respond by 07.02.2022.

- Noted; agreed to nominate the outgoing Mayor, Councillor Gaynor James, and guest.

3) RFCA Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Gwent Awards Ceremony 2022 invitation, online ceremony conducted remotely on 10.02.2022 at 6:30 p.m.

- Noted; forward to Councillors G. James and H. Trollope.

4) Essential Site Skills NCFE Level 2 Certificate in Principles of Business Administration qualification for Bryony, £650 + VAT.

- Noted; expenditure approved accordingly in line with the Kickstart training provision.

5) PUBLICATIONS

BGCBC Roadworks report, week ending 28.01.2022; Aneurin Bevan University Health Board Vaccination Update, issue 53 – ***added to website & Twitter***; BGCBC Roadworks report, week ending 04.02.2022; Aneurin Bevan University Health Board Vaccination Update, issue 54 – ***added to website & Twitter***; Communicorp Clerk and Councils Direct January / February issue 258; ABUHB Gwent Wellbeing Assessment, completed and available for reading – ***forwarded to all Members***; OVW Raising awareness / promotion videos to promote and encourage individuals to stand for local council elections in May 2022 – ***added to Twitter & website, forwarded to all Members***; ABUHB Info on transport for health, MS Pontio community café meeting for people with vision problems on 17.02.2022 at 2.00 p.m., Universal credit winter support update – ***distributed to Members***: Received.

6) AGENDA

None received.

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

283) Planning:

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

ii) a) List of planning applications received in week 3

b) List of planning applications received in week 4

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/2022/0007	Mr. N.P. Evans & M. Thomas 22 Stocktonville Tredegar	Proposed bungalow and garage, Land at Marian Close.

No objections

C/2022/0012	Ms. C. Aherne Tredegar Town Council Bedwellty House Bedwellty Park Tredegar	TPO: Proposed development for light pruning of lime trees to stop overshadowing of plots and prevent damage to roof of shed on site Southend Allotments Gardens, Rhyd Terrace.
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No objections

C/2022/0014	Mr. Hobbs Glandovey House Oliver Jones Crescent Tredegar	Change of Use from Class C3 (a) to C2, Glandovey House, Oliver Jones Crescent. <i>* Residential to care facility</i>
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No objections

d) To consider other planning matters None received.

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

- None received.

285) 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 – Meeting held that week – a 'one Item' agenda in respect of consultation on the budget papers. Two Members had experienced difficulty

in accessing the link; apparently Blaenau Gwent CBC had a separate facility to accommodate those attendees having difficulty joining online meetings. Clerk to write.

b) Gwent Valleys One Voice Wales – The Leader had provided a background to the work undertaken by Tredegar Town Council at the meeting; the Member considered Tredegar was one of the best of town / community councils with ongoing activities – ‘Well done.’

c) One Voice Wales Larger Councils and AGM – No meeting

d) Tredegar Twinning – No meeting

e) Pen Bryn Oer Community Fund – the closure of accepting applications for current funding was 9th March; with the next deadline of 31st August, 2022.

f) School Governing Bodies – Bryn Bach Primary: following the interviewing of candidates for the role of Head, and none being considered to the required standard, the Governing Body was informed that it was the opinion of Estyn, EAS and Blaenau Gwent CBC, that the Acting Head was undertaking excellent work and this current position would remain in place for the next twelve months, prior to the post being advertised again; Deighton Primary: extensive refurbishment to School, i.e. inner courtyard now on one level, new flooring at rear of School, full disabled access to exterior classroom, and the schoolchildren would be able to have classes outside during summer months; Glanhwy Primary: a Member had met with teaching staff, and a lady who would be undertaking a project with different age groups, regarding a ‘history of the town’ – he was awaiting further information

g) Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum – Councillor Prosser had not been invited to attend due to a maximum allowed due to capacity.

h) Tredegar Business Forum – No meeting

i) VVP / Tredegar Heritage Initiative – No meeting

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

- Physical / Remote / Hybrid meetings – a Member had asked by a Colleague to enquire of the up-to-date position in respect of holding meetings, as at a recent Ward meeting, it was suggested that the holding of physical meetings was illegal and therefore not allowed.

The Clerk referred to guidance published in December 2021, which outlined the requirement for councils to enable multi-location meetings. The introduction of the LG and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 highlighted that, while physical meetings in the same location would be permitted, the Act would require that participants should be able to join remotely, even if ‘physical’ was the preferred method. Also, Councils would not be allowed to resolve that ALL meetings be held physically only, and it should be noted that ‘physical’ meetings were no longer considered as representing the gold standard. However, councils would be required to meet all specifications in respect of holding a hybrid meeting, i.e. provision of appropriate equipment (e.g. audio – microphone, speakers and camera), otherwise such meetings would be deemed unlawful.

Therefore, the Clerk believed that Council was complying with statutory requirements to the necessary standard and would not consider meetings convened by Tredegar Town Council as unlawful. Members added that Welsh Government was further lifting restrictions, e.g. the 2m social-distancing was due to be abolished, and some form of normality was returning.

- NCB building, The Circle – progress was proving frustrating for all parties involved; the original contractor was a local Merthyr firm, forced to leave the site some six / nine

months earlier due to Covid, and who had not seemed to return after lock down. This had resulted in the owner having to again seek tenders and, due to various delays, this had caused an increase to the funding required.

A new contractor had now picked up the works on this major project. There had also been involvement by Cadw in respect of the front elevation. Exterior works had to be undertaken correctly as, if sills were replaced improperly, all interior works would be affected and any water ingress would prove detrimental to the whole project. The cost of the scaffolding in place would have to be met; and the entire works had been subject to re-costing and further estimates. However, it was recognised this was an iconic building in the town centre: Council commended the high standard of works carried out to 10 The Circle and the complexity of heritage funding that had to be undertaken in the proper manner.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 7.23 p.m.

_____ Chair