

# TREDEGAR TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Civic Meeting of Council held via Microsoft Teams / hybrid on  
Wednesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> March, 2022 at 6.00 p.m.**

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

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

**By invitation:** “We Don’t Buy Crime” representatives:  
Inspector Hannah Lawton  
WDBC Co-ordinator, Hannah Brown

**306) Apologies. Councillors S. Rees, M. Cross and D. Rowberry**

## **307) Declarations of Interest**

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

**308) To receive: Presentation by “We Don’t Buy Crime”, a recently established department within Gwent Police; who utilise a number of strategies to target offenders and protect communities, with information detailing work currently being undertaken**

The Chair extended a welcome to the WDBC representatives, who had been invited to attend this meeting of Council to provide an overview on the recently established “We Don’t Buy Crime” Department of Gwent Police.

Inspector Hannah Lawton thereupon played a brief promotional video, outlining the aims of this approach, and provided a brief update, as follows:

- We Don’t Buy Crime was a new department within Gwent Police tackling acquisitive crime throughout the Local Authority area of Blaenau Gwent, Caerphilly, Monmouthshire, Newport and Torfaen, with the support of the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner.

- Acquisitive crimes – those in which the offender received a material gain – including burglary, robbery and theft, harmed communities. A person’s home and possessions often carried an emotional attachment, and when crime interfered with this, it could have a long-lasting impact on victims. Gwent Police was committed to protecting people from these crimes.
- WDBC demonstrated this commitment by taking an innovative approach to reducing and disrupting the market for stolen goods, whilst protecting residents’ homes and possessions, by making them less attractive to the would-be criminal.
- Working with second-hand retailers and developing processes to ensure traders adopted best practice, whilst working with local policing teams to identify stolen goods, identify Officers and make it harder to benefit from crime.
- Information about these dealers was recorded on a unique portal that assisted in identifying which dealers were at more risk of receiving stolen property.
- A key function of the portal allowed Officers to send ‘stolen property’ email alerts to stores across the Force area, allowing Officers to work more efficiently and effectively to protect communities.
- WDBC also had a number of assets to deploy as “capture” vehicles and items across the Force; proving an extremely successful tactic in identifying offenders and securing convictions.
- Forming partnerships with local businesses and communities with a common goal of reducing crime; working closely with Neighbourhood Policing Teams and SmartWater making use of latest technologies to fight crimes, by ensuring that property in homes was marked appropriately and signage displayed accordingly.
- By working with partners, WDBC were looking to ‘property mark’ as many households as possible to create “We Don’t Buy Crime Safer Neighbourhoods”, to significantly reduce the risk of burglary and theft across communities.
- The cost involved in implementing this scheme included property marking kits, offered at a reduced rate of £9.95, and associated signage. Based on previous experience, the cost prediction in adopting this initiative was approximately 75% participation of homes in the area.
- WDBC would fund the cost of the metal deterrent signage throughout the Safer Neighbourhood area and assist in co-ordinating the implementation of the scheme, strongly believing that by preventing crime in the first place, the distress, concern and impact caused would be reduced.

A Member offered thanks to the representatives for the presentation; however, he questioned whether this work was innovative, and as to how it differed from that undertaken previously by the Crime and Prevention Panels, the methods of which had proven successful.

In response to this question, the Inspector provided an explanation in respect of the use of SmartWater now used throughout Gwent. SmartWater was a water-based solution that contained a unique forensic code, each pack contained its’ own individual forensic signature and, by marking property with SmartWater, if an item was stolen it would be more likely that WDBC could trace that item to the rightful owner. This also helped to link offenders to a crime, with a 100% conviction rate in court cases where SmartWater was used as evidence. The Officer said that SmartWater was an extremely effective deterrent to criminals; research showed that 74% of acquisitive crime offenders would not break into properties where a SmartWater sign was displayed. It was considered prohibitive to provide these packs across Gwent rather than asking residents to participate due to the number of stipulated properties required (75%).

The WDBC representatives thereupon responded to questions raised:

- If property was marked, how would an owner be able to resell an item? Spot checks were regularly undertaken in respect of second-hand goods; all Officers and second-hand retailers had a UV torch to use in detecting the presence of SmartWater when items were offered for re-sale. Owners would need to contact SmartWater direct for the registered details to be updated on the WDBC unique portal.
- Was any incentive offered in respect of Home Insurance for those properties in “We Don’t Buy Crime Safer Neighbourhoods”? Work was ongoing with the Home Office in respect of a National Report relating to acquisitive crime: 1) looking how to reduce crime, and 2) working with industry / insurers to put in place incentives for crime prevention, one of which was SmartWater.

The Chair extended the thanks of Council to Inspector Lawton and the WDBC Co-ordinator for a comprehensive presentation and sharing this information, which was greatly appreciated. The WDBC representatives thanked Council for the opportunity to attend and thereupon left the meeting.

Members appreciated the update however it was felt this initiative duplicated the work of the previous crime and prevention panels, which had subsequently been disbanded, and the onus should not be placed on residents to pay for the pack. It was suggested that the pack did not provide value for money and concern was expressed that some households, those who were already struggling, would experience difficulty in purchasing this kit. A Member said it appeared the pack was geared more for business-use / shops rather than residents.

It was therefore agreed that the Council not purchase any kits and defer any consideration until after the election when the new administration was in place; also, ascertain if any funding sources were available to support this scheme.

### **309) To receive Mayor’s report, as appropriate**

The Mayor had attended one event, hosted by Kidz R Us featuring an age group of ten to eighteen-year-old, it had been a wonderful evening, watching their focus and noting the work and effort put in. Agreed: Clerk to write thanking them for the invitation.

Also, a youth club operated within the building free of charge: the Mayor suggested therefore that discussion was needed, as a Council, to promote what services were provided and what others were doing around us.

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

It was unanimously agreed that the following recommendations of the Events Sub-Committee be approved:

- **Events Sub-Committee - 2<sup>nd</sup> March, 2022**

Proposed actions be undertaken accordingly.

Commonwealth Day – Fly a Flag: Expenditure in respect of tea / coffee, soft drinks.

Welsh cakes agreed for approval of Council.

Queen’s Jubilee – Town Clock planting: Expenditure agreed for approval of Council.

### **311) Grants:**

Completed end of Grant forms from Tredegar Angling Club; Thanks received from Noah's Ark, Wales Air Ambulance and Moose No. 1 Tredegar Ladies Circle.

#### **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)**

FC Tredegar Mini Section - Any financial assistance received would be used for sending volunteers on appropriate coaching courses.

**New Applicant: Bank statement and umbrella constitution received. Members to decide whether they wish to meet this group.**

***It was agreed that the representative/s be invited to a meeting of the Civic Sub-Committee, as a newly-formed Section, for due consideration.***

FC Tredegar Junior Section - Any financial assistance received would be used for hiring the sports facility at Tredegar Sports Centre and to run taster sessions.

**2018/19 July'18 CQ No.923 - £200.00 Approved accordingly**

FC Tredegar Senior Section - Any financial assistance received would be used for the purchase of new equipment.

**2018/19 July'18 CQ No.913 - £200.00 Approved accordingly**

*Councillor A.E. Tippings declared an interest in the following application and took no part in discussion or voting thereon*

Oak Football Club - Any financial assistance received would be used for ground and associated fees for match days.

**2020/21 Nov'20 CQ No.080 - £200.00 Approved accordingly**

*Councillor P. Prosser declared an interest in the following application and took no part in discussion or voting thereon*

Tredegar History and Archives Society - Any financial assistance received would be used for the purchase of equipment such as a laminator, shelving and printer ink.

**2019/20 Oct'19 CQ No.922 - £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)**

*Councillor A.E. Tippings declared an interest in the following application and took no part in discussion or voting thereon*

Horeb Chapel - Any financial assistance received would be used for repainting the garden walls and purchase of a jet washer.

**2019/20 March'2020 CQ No.006 - £300.00 Approved accordingly**

*Councillor A.E. Tippings declared an interest in the following application and took no part in discussion or voting thereon*

Sardis Chapel - Any financial assistance received would be used for minor repairs and contribute towards utility bills.

**2019/20 March'2020 CQ No.007 - £300.00 Approved accordingly**

Tredegar Methodist Church - Any financial assistance received would be used for general work on and around the church such as cleaning of gutters, painting window frames and revarnishing doors.

**2019/20 June'19 CQ No.851 - £300.00 Approved accordingly**

In response to a question raised in respect of the specified reasons on the application forms, relating to the details of the project, some Members felt clarity was needed in respect of whether it would be lawful to award such financial assistance and suggested that the grant be awarded in principle, subject to further clarification.

Other Members expressed concern, however, that churches and chapels were being lost in the community and many of these applicants were reliant on grant-funding for the upkeep of these buildings. A Member said that Council noted the previous advice of both the Internal Auditor and RFO but considered it appropriate for Council to support these hubs within the community, which were used for activities such as nursery, book club, recycling points, etc.; he therefore proposed that the applications be approved, as presented.

A vote was thereupon undertaken in respect of the proposals, i.e.

- That the applications relating to Churches and Chapels be agreed, in principle, and to be awarded on clarification; or
- The grant application forms be approved, as presented.

It was agreed that a grant of £300.00 for each application be approved.

### **312) Correspondence**

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

- 1) BGCBC
  1. Weekly lists of Licensing Applications, week ending 10.02.2022.
    - i. Tomos James Davies – Personal License
  2. Weekly lists of Licensing Applications, week ending 18.02.2022
    - i. E. Cole, Bedwellty House & Park, Tredegar – Temporary notice for supply of alcohol.

- Noted.
- 2) Trefil Signage
  - a) **Standard Signs:** Gateway Signage 3 quotations  
- Sign A (62.5XH) £527.00, Sign A (50XH) £337.45, Sign B (62.5XH) £225.25.

- b) **BGCBC, I. Cole**
- i) Follow up email to the above sign quotes, seeking further cost information for removing / disposing of two posts, one sign (option B), new posts, all necessary fixings and delivery.
  - ii) Revised Sign Quotation for option B with above specifications. ***NB Total of £559.31 (excluding VAT) does not include installation / removal costs of £275.00 therefore revised cost is £834.31 (excluding VAT).***
- i. Option B was approved, subject to the following amendments: 'Highest', the H should be lower case; TREFIL should be in uppercase and a larger font, if possible; and
- ii. Expenditure was unanimously approved.

- 3) One Voice Wales                      Renewal of Membership 2022-2023, fee £2,618.00.
- Membership Renewal agreed and the expenditure unanimously approved.

- 4) Essential Site Skills                      Invoice for NCFE Level 2 Certificate in Principles of Business Administration ***Access to course will not be available until payment received, requesting Council to approve Cllr. James (if physically present at meeting) to sign an urgent cheque with the Town Clerk as second signatory enabling the course to be released and completed by end of Kickstart placement in June.***
- Agreed.

- 5) Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod                      Request for donation for the upcoming Eisteddfod 2022.
- It was unanimously agreed that a donation of £100.00 be awarded.

- 6) Ty Hafan                                      Request for donation towards the running costs and services from the Children's Hospice in Wales.
- It was unanimously agreed that a donation be awarded, in line with the donation previously approved for the Wales Air Ambulance.

- 7) R. Lydon
- a) World Parkinson's Day: Requesting if we can help raise awareness by lighting the Town Clock blue on 11.04.2022.
    - Council supported the request to light the Clock column, which was agreed accordingly.

## 8) PUBLICATIONS

BGCBC Roadworks report, week ending 04.03.2022; Communicorp Clerk and Councils Direct March issue 259; BGCBC Roadworks report, week ending 25.02.2022; J. Karn, Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum Agenda held on 17.02.2022 at 10.00 a.m. in Tredegar Library – ***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*

## 313) Planning:

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

- ii) List of planning applications received in week 7
- List of planning applications received in week 8

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

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

<b>App. No.</b>	<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Proposal</b>
C/2022/0042	Mrs. C. Butt Chloe's Beauty Bar Marian Close 75a Vale Terrace Tredegar	To change the use to a Laser Hair Removal Clinic / Beauty Salon, 75a Vale Terrace.

***No objections***

C/2022/0044	Mr. G. Shore 2 Beechwood Road Llangattock Crickhowell	New detached residential dwelling including access, parking and turning on plot, landscaping and services, Land adjoining Meadow View, Rhoslan.
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***No objections***

C/2022/0050 Mr. O. Hallett Change of use of a D1 Gospel  
3 Stalybridge Terrace Hall to a C3 residential  
Factory Road property, Gospel Hall, Poplar  
Brynmawr Road.

**Observations:** Further clarification was needed on the type of residential use of this development.

C/2022/0051 Mr. S. Morgan Two storey side and rear  
The Farmers Arms extension with single storey  
Old Brewery Lane rear extension and roof terrace  
and patio area, Hughes  
Cottage, Merthyr Road,  
Tafarnaubach, Rhymney.

**No objections**

**d) To consider other planning matters – None received.**

**314) Updates regarding Bedwellty House and Park / Parc Bryn Bach - any issues to have been previously reported direct to the A.L. Management**

- None received.

**315) 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 scheduled for April**
- c) One Voice Wales Larger Councils and AGM – No meeting**
- d) Tredegar Twinning – Meeting to be held on Monday**
- e) Pen Bryn Oer Community Fund – No update**
- f) School Governing Bodies – None received**
- g) Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum – No update**
- h) Blaenau Gwent CAB – No meeting**
- i) Tredegar / Ebbw Vale Crime Prevention Panel – No update**
- j) Tredegar Business Forum – No meeting**
- k) VVP / Tredegar Heritage Initiative – Meeting to be held on Friday**

**316) Matters of Local Interest or Concern (by prior notice)**

- Floodlighting Town Clock – the floodlighting needed to be switched on manually on each occasion as, if left to the timer set for 4.30 p.m., would reset to a default of flashing lights.
- Parc Bryn Bach car parking – concern was raised that there were no markings in the car park, resulting in misuse and suggested Council write to Aneurin Leisure; the Member was informed this had now been undertaken.
- Crown roundabout – concerns were raised that no action had been taken to repair / reinstate the dry-stone walling in this area damaged due to a traffic accident some four years ago, despite Members' concerns being previously reported.



There being no other business, the meeting closed at 7.25 p.m.

\_\_\_\_\_ Chair