

TREDEGAR TOWN COUNCIL

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

Present: Councillors **G. Evans (Chair)**
A.E. Tippings
M. Turner
H. Trollope
S. Trollope
C. Walters

In attendance: Clerk – **Ms. C. Aherne**

**177) Apologies Councillors K. Phillips, G. Badham, P. Cornlouer, A. Davies,
A. Jones, E. Jones, P. Prosser, B. Rees, D. Rowberry,
J. Thomas, K. Waldron and G. Walters**

178) Declarations of Interest

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

179) To receive Mayor's report, as appropriate

The Mayor provided the following update:

- French visitors from Orvault had arrived last weekend, events had been held at Bedwellty House and throughout the town; Council had a very good reception from them; the gifts given were exceptionally good.

The Leader offered thanks to the Mayor for being very active across the weekend and hosting two guests from Orvault; a letter of congratulations should be forwarded to the Twinning Committee on the excellent arrangements. It had been a very successful weekend, celebrating forty-two years of 'Twinning' of both towns – Council should be proud of this friendship and celebrate. Guests had visited St. Fagan's and the Senydd, where the A.M. was there to 'meet and greet' – the visitors had been very impressed with the building.

The Orvault trip in 2023 was from 30th May to 3rd June; the incoming Mayor would be expected to go – however, the invite was open to all Members of the Council who would like to visit.

In the Council Chamber, the exchange meeting had been interactive, whereby Council had been able to take hold of the agenda – there were some excellent examples of the children in Tredegar learning French – and the visitors were really impressed with what our children were doing. Three pupils attended, reciting a poem in Welsh, French and English, Council wished to thank Bryn Bach Primary School for their involvement.

- Yesterday, the Chair had attended a meeting with the Police regarding problems of dangerous driving: the meeting had been convened in order to be proactive to discuss problems with both the Police and members of the public.

- Tredegar Comprehensive School presentation evening: the Mayor had been asked to present the prizes that Town Council had given to pupils on the presentation night; however, on the night itself, the Mayor was seated at one of the tables, and the School had presented the prizes themselves.

The Leader highlighted Council was very rarely given notice and, although a lot of social media, no mention was made of Town Council in regard to giving gifts; therefore, if the School wanted Council to sponsor events then the Mayor should present; if Town Council was making a presentation to an individual, the Mayor should be presenting prizes on behalf of Council.

Councillor H. Trollope declared an interest in respect of matters relating to Tredegar Comprehensive School, being the Vice-Chair of Governors.

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

It was agreed that the recommendations of the Events Sub-Committee held prior to Council be approved.

- Awards Presentation Ceremony - new proceedings to be undertaken for the November ceremony
- Christmas Lights switch-on
 - Gazebos: hire four gazebos for cover of eight stalls
 - Road traffic management: Agreed – three stewards and one security officer
 - Competitions: Window Dressing – 1st Prize £50.00, 2nd £30.00, 3rd £20.00, Christmas Lights Poster – personalised mug and cards: expenditure approved
 - Clerk to purchase sweets / chocolates to be thrown from stage to children: expenditure approved
 - Confirmation of expenditure, as previously approved: Temporary Street Trading Consent £69.00; Temporary Events Notice £21.00; Bucket Collection – Free; Special Events Road Closure Order £136.10

181) Grants:

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 Twinning Association - Any financial assistance received would be used towards the associations running / admin costs, promotional work and visits.

2020/21 March'21 CQ No. 126 £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)

Tredegar Methodist Church - Any financial assistance received would be used towards renewing the floor in the gents toilets.

2021/22 March'22 CQ No. 286 £300.00 - *Approved accordingly*

Trinity Spiritualist Church - Any financial assistance received would be used towards continuing the renovations of the back room / kitchen.

2021/22 April'21 CQ No. 144 £300.00 - *Approved accordingly*

182) Correspondence

- 1) BGCBC
- a) Public Space Protection Order: Dog Controls 2022. Approved site confirmation notices; and
 - b) List of applications received, week ending 21.10.2022.
 - 1. *Temporary Event Notice Sale of Alcohol – The Little Theatre.*
- Noted.
- 2) One Voice Wales
- a) New date for Innovative Practice Conference, Thursday, 8th December, 2022. Request to confirm whether our original booking is to be carried forward to this date.
- Noted; forward information to Mayor.
- b) Defibrillators: Unsolicited emails are being sent direct to councils offering grants towards defibrillators but they are from a non-existent charity.
- Noted.
- c) War Memorial Trust holding a free workshop Tuesday 08.11.2022 in Llanelli.
- Noted.
- 3) Audit Wales
- Notice of the completion of the Audit of 2020-2021 accounts – *Audit Notice added to website and noticeboard 26.10.2022, will be removed from noticeboard after 14 workings days (15.11.2022), which is statutory notice period, but remain on our website.*
- Noted; Council wished to commend the RFO on the work undertaken.
- 4) Boundary Commission for Wales
- Re: Revised Proposals published, representations can be sent until 15.11.2022.
- Noted; it was interesting that the proposals recreated the former boundary under the constituency of Nye Bevan as M.P. at that time.

5) A. Saunderson Potential withdrawal of photographic negatives by Keith Williams relating to a project called Tredegar People. Asking if Council happy for Chris Walters to collect.

- Noted; this related to an exhibition by the former Head of Art and Aneurin Leisure, twenty-five years on.

6) GAVO GAVO AGM Tuesday 22.11.2022 at Llanhilleth Miners Institute.

- Noted.

7) PUBLICATIONS

BGCBC Roadworks report, week ending 28.10.2022 and 04.11.2022; Alyson Tippings, Brecon Beacons National Park newsletter for which she has written articles; Caerphilly County Borough Council 2nd Replacement Local Development Plan up to 2035: Consultation period 19.10.2022 to 30.11.2022; Communicorp Local Councils Update Issue 267 November 2022; OVW, Ystadau Cymru WLGA Decarbonisation Masterclass service, <https://www.wlga.gov.uk/decarbonisation-masterclass-series>; OVW, Welsh Government Fuel Support Scheme toolkit; Powys County Council, Powys Local Planning Authority have opened the Call for Candidate Sites, closing date 13.12.2022 – ***distributed to Members***: Received.

8) AGENDA

None received.

183) Planning:

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

ii) **a)** List of planning applications received in week 42

b) List of planning applications received in week 43

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/2022/0280	Gryphonn Quarries Ltd. Trefil Quarry Trefil Road, Trefil.	Proposed amendment of Conditions 2, 17 & 22 of Planning Permission 94/0369 to facilitate deepening of Trefil Quarry.

Observations:

Tredegar Town Council was concerned by the tone of the letter accompanying the application that seemed to assume that the proposed extension was guaranteed.

The village of Trefil and the community of Nantybwich had long-suffered the lorries through the village that were significantly larger than at the time the planning was granted. Most of the lorries were now articulated and struggled to pass each other on the narrow winding road. The road edges continued to

crumble and the drains had again needed repair – a continuing ongoing process of repair unseen elsewhere in the town and unfairly borne by the Local Authority, all due to the excess size of lorries on a road not fit for this purpose. Most of the road did not have any pavements and were quite unsafe for walkers, especially children, cyclists and on occasions other road users.

Furthermore, the bridleway and road from the village leading northwards was potholed and remained unmaintained, largely due to the use by the quarry. We feel that the applicants take on some responsibility for maintaining and keeping these roads in a reasonable state of repair as a planning condition.

Our other concern was the lack of reinstatement that had occurred from any of the two previous applications. The overburden in the village and to the old quarry to the north, still laid uncapped or regenerated. Any rainfall led to the muddy run-off, flooding the roads and homes in the village. This could only be prevented by full and immediate remediation works, as set out in previous planning conditions. We feel that before any extension is granted, this remediation should take place.

C/2022/0293	Mr. P. Flanagan 88 Bailey Street Brynmawr	Proposed new house and associated external works, vacant land between The Gables and Degfan.
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No objections

C/2022/0294	Mr. S. Davies No address supplied	Demolish two existing sheds and erect new garage, Green Hill, Farmers Hill Estate, Dukestown.
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No objections

C/2022/0295	Mr. P. James St. Margaret's Bungalow Scwrfa Road Tredegar	Construction new detached dwelling in grounds of St. Margaret's bungalow including access, landscaping and services, as well as diversion of existing public footpath, St. Margaret's Bungalow, Scwrfa Road.
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Observations:

Council object to the proposed development due to the following reason – diversion of existing footpath. The footpath currently goes right along the feeder bank; how will the developer place a driveway without travelling over the existing footpath? Members therefore objected as it was felt the proposed development was, in effect, extinguishing a right of way.

C/2022/0297	Miss Alexandra Williams 3 Willow Close Ebbw Vale	Proposed front and rear dormer extensions to provide additional bedrooms, ensuite bathroom and internal improvements, 13 Meadow Crescent.
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No objections

C/2022/0300	Mr. J. Mills Church Design & Build No address supplied	Proposed demolition of church and replace with residential development comprising 6 terraced houses, including landscaping, ecological
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enhancement, services and parking for 2 car spaces per dwelling - formerly Bethania Congregational Church, Southend.

No objections; however, clarification was needed in respect of parking provision, as the plans were unclear.

C/2022/0301 Mr. C. Jones Retain bungalow and parking areas for Springfield Cottage and modified access, Springfield Cottage, Queen Victoria Street, Tredegar

No observations; Council chose to reserve their decision.

C/2022/0299 Royal Mail Works required to trees lift to 2.5m crowns, cut back overhang to fence line – there is approx. 250m of fence line including behind the building with 1 to 3 meters of overhanging to reduce back - Royal Mail, The Promenade.

No objections

C/2022/0303 Mr. A. Walker Installation of roof mounted solar photovoltaic panels, Tredegar ABUHB General Hospital / Tredegar St. Cadoc's Hospital Lodge Road Health Centre, Park Row. Caerleon

No objections; Council considered this a welcome development.

d) To consider other planning matters – None received.

184) Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales Annual Report - February 2023

The Clerk spoke to the document, highlighting any significant changes / salient points for consideration, and sought comments from Members in respect of the draft report.

- **Payments towards costs and expenses of Members of Community and Town Councils; Determination 4** - the Panel carried out a major review of the remuneration framework for community and town councils and undertook a comprehensive consultation exercise with the sector, recognising that members spend time working from home on council business. It proposed the following:
 - Basic payment for extra costs of working from home - all councils must pay their members £156 a year (equivalent to £3 a week) towards the extra household expenses
 - Set payment for consumables Councils must either pay their members £52 a year for the cost of office consumables required to carry out their role, or alternatively enable members to claim full reimbursement for the cost of their office consumables.

The RFO was awaiting notification whether these payments would be payable via payroll and therefore taxable (if Member liable for tax). The basic payment replaced the optional £150.00 Members Allowance and would be a mandatory payment. In respect of consumables, whether receipts would be capped to a total of £52.00 and, would assume if paid on a receipts basis, the payment may not be taxable.

The report of the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales was thereupon noted, and agreed accordingly.

185) To approve the final version: Annual Report - April 2021 to March 2022

It was agreed that the Annual Report – April 2021 to March 2022 be approved and published in the public domain accordingly.

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

- Council offered their thanks to House staff for their support during the French visit, who had carried out an excellent job.

187) 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; Clerk to ascertain when these meetings would recommence
- b) **Gwent Valleys One Voice Wales** – Scheduled for next month
- c) **One Voice Wales Larger Councils and AGM** – No meeting
- d) **Tredegar Twinning** – No meeting
- e) **Pen Bryn Oer Community Fund** – meeting to be held imminently; recommendations going forward to appropriate body to rectify
- f) **School Governing Bodies** – No meetings
- g) **Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum** – the Forum had a successful day giving a talk to a school in Abertillery; Ken Davies had been preparing a book for the Heritage Forum to produce on churches and chapels past / present – the Forum had agreed to progress the project as a memorial to him.
- h) **Blaenau Gwent CAB** – No meeting
- i) **Tredegar / Ebbw Vale Crime Prevention Panel** – No meeting
- j) **Tredegar Business Forum** – No meeting
- k) **VVP / Tredegar Heritage Initiative** – No meeting

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

- 10k Fun Run – Cameron’s Cause: tea / coffee/ Welsh cakes for thirty-five, participants only; check with House staff, could set up in Chamber if needed; expenditure delegated to Senior Members for approval.
- The Leader said that she had repeatedly asked staff in regard to management of Facebook and had been informed of a mechanism that would enable social media sites to marry up. The Clerk said that, although historically this had been agreed for the Leader of the Council to undertake, staff would be willing to help with the management, however staff were unwilling to use their own personal accounts. The RFO had therefore liaised with the website provider and provided feedback on a number of occasions, as to the software required to link all accounts. The Deputy Leader said that, with greatest of respect to staff, this was the political face of the Council and should be controlled by Members. He said that the RFO managed Twitter, and he and the Leader managed the Facebook account. The Member said that

a Policy was needed around both accounts, specifying what could be posted, if Council wanted staff to take control of both sites. Members said this would need to be considered by the Publicity Sub-Committee.

The Chair suggested Senior Members could meet with staff to discuss the problems associated with these accounts; however, a Member said the Publicity Sub-Committee had been set up this to go through proper procedures and Council should progress within Standing Orders. The Chair said the RFO / Clerk were not part of the Sub-Committee and Members would have to have those discussions with staff in respect to workload, if instructed to carry out this work; the Member said the Clerk / Officer could be called in to give advice.

The Deputy Leader said discussion had to be around procedure in the first instance; if the Sub-Committee considered there would be extra workload that would form part of the process.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 7.50 p.m.

_____ Chair