

# TREDEGAR TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Civic Meeting of Council held via Microsoft Teams / hybrid on  
Wednesday, 10<sup>th</sup> January, 2024 at 6.30 p.m.**

**Present:** Councillors K. Phillips (Chair)  
M. Turner  
A.E. Tippings  
G. Badham  
A.E. Evans  
B. Rees  
D. Rowberry  
J. Thomas  
H. Trollope  
S. Trollope  
K. Waldron  
C. Walters  
G. Walters

**In attendance:** Clerk – Ms. C. Aherne  
RFO – Ms. A. Edwards

**268) Apologies. Councillors E. Griffin, A. Jones and E. Jones**

## **269) Declarations of Interest**

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

## **270) To receive Mayor's report, as appropriate**

The Mayor said leading up to Christmas, he had attended the Orpheus event at the Little Theatre, a bouquet and chocolates had been presented to residents, Mr. and Mrs. Charles on their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. The Tredegar Male Voice Orpheus Choir had received a massive turnout; it was a great event, very welcoming and wonderful. Members had undertaken Christmas Eve visits to the residential / care homes throughout Tredegar, the response was wonderful, again warm and welcoming.

## **271) To receive the verbal recommendations of all Sub-Committee / Working Party meetings held prior to this meeting of Council**

It was agreed the following recommendations of the Performance Review Sub-Committee held prior to Council be approved accordingly:

- The Draft Estimates report, as circulated to all Members, was accepted:  
*Projects for completion in the Financial Year 2023 / 2024*
  - Repainting of War Memorial gates
  - External Defibrillator cabinet for Fresh Active (including installation)

- Mayor Board name plates
- New Mayor's noticeboard – options were mainly vinyl
- Deighton Playing Field – no action to be taken regarding a tree assessment
- Public Conveniences – purchase new toilet roll dispensers - £137.00; solar power external security light - £23.00; new storage box for road signs to be sited on level one - number of options available, i.e. plastic or metal, ranging from £120.00 to £170.00; and, Engage a plumber to undertake a full assessment on the amenities to identify / remedy any issues.

*Projects, if outstanding, to be rolled over to the Financial Year 2024 / 2025*

- New website design
- New two door noticeboard to be sited near main gates
- Budget headings and funding allocated agreed and presented to be Council for approval, including:

*Budget 2024 / 2025*

- T2520 Bomber Memorial – incorporated in Special Projects / Events
- Siting of a promotional television within the Town – incorporated in Special Projects / Events
- Lamp-post testing – incorporated in Christmas Lights Budget
- Review Grants during 2024 / 2025 – no changes to Budget heading made
- Public Conveniences – Upgrade second floor to improve usability.

## 272) 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) – None received.**

**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.**

## 273) Correspondence

- 1) BGCBC
- a) L. Holmes Re: Quickstart BG supported work placements. Information on programme launched April 2023.
- The Chair said the scheme had changed slightly compared to Kickstart, with training allowance increased to £1,500.00 and the provider had to pay the placement up front but was able to claim back each month. It was agreed this be subject to further consideration of the Staffing Sub-Committee.
- b) A.E. Tippings
- i) Re: 3 weeks to go. Holocaust Memorial Day 27.01.2024, please let them know of any plans for the event - **forwarded All Members**

- There was an opportunity to hold a vigil / event on the Saturday evening; Council could buy designated candles; the Town Clock would be illuminated 'purple', and a physical event could be undertaken, asking individuals to light a candle. Members highlighted anti-social behaviour in the vicinity of the Clock, therefore it was agreed the event be held at the Aneurin Bevan Stones, Saturday, 27<sup>th</sup> January, 2024 at 6.00 p.m.; Clerk to circulate to Blaenau Gwent CBC / Town Councils.

ii) Re: Immersive Day. Asking if Council will open the Clock for small groups of children to visit as part of an immersive day she has coming up – ***date / times to be confirmed.***

- Bedwellty House and Park, the Heritage Centre and the Library had agreed to participate, and would ask Council to open the Town Clock, the School would use the Heritage Centre as a base and allow groups of five / ten pupils inside the column of the Clock tower. It was intended this would be convened just prior to February half-term; such events had been undertaken previously with other schools.

There was a need to ascertain if enough volunteers would be available to open the Clock. Concerns were raised if volunteers needed a DBS check; a Member clarified this applied only on being alone one-to-one for children or vulnerable adults, e.g. learning disability. Another Member said school governors, although not alone with pupils, were required to have a DBS check, as would any volunteers interacting with pupils.

Agreed: in principle.

- c) A. Toghill Re: Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Helyg Governor vacancy. Happy for Cllr Turner to fill the vacancy.
- Noted and agreed accordingly.

*Councillor D. Rowberry declared an interest in the following item and took no part in discussion.*

- d) List of applications received, week ending 22.12.2023.
- Noted.

- 2) One Voice Wales a) Consultation: Fiscal Intergovernmental Relations.
- Noted; forward to all Members.

- b) Re: Buglife Cymru, online event 31.01.2024. Managing Green Spaces in B-Lines for pollinators, guidance for Welsh Local Authorities.
  - Noted; forward to Councillor A.E. Tippings.

3) Cllr A Jones

Letter requesting leave of absence.

- Noted. The Clerk outlined the reason for the Member's request, which Council fully acknowledged and was happy to support. It was recognised, this was a decision subject to approval of Council and, if the time period needed to be extended, this should be brought back for consideration at the appropriate time.

It was therefore agreed to allow a 'dispensation for absence' of six months; the Member would be encouraged to attend when next in a position to do so in the future.

Members wished to thank Councillor Jones for informing Council, which was greatly appreciated.

4) Tredegar  
Twinning  
Association

Kim Williams Re: Orvault visit. Asking for potential hosts for this year's exchange on 25-29.04.2024.

- Noted; forward to all Members.

5) **PUBLICATIONS**

BGCBC Roadworks report, week ending 12.01.2024; Communicorp Clerks & Councils Direct January 2024 Issue 151 – ***distributed to Members:*** Received.

*Councillors D. Rowberry and J. Thomas declared an interest in the following item and took no part in discussion or voting thereon.*

**274) Planning:**

- a) i) List of planning applications received in week 49.
- ii) List of planning applications received in week 50.
- iii) List of planning applications received in week 51.
- iv) List of planning applications received in week 01.

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

<b>App. No.</b>	<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Proposal</b>
C/2023/0254	Mr. T. Griffiths Mountain View Abertysswg Mountain Road to Markham	Single storey side and rear extensions Mountain View, Abertysswg Mountain Road - to

and Boundary  
Cefn Golau  
Tredegar

Markham and Boundary, Cefn  
Golau.

**No objections**

C/2023/0262 Mr. R. Morgan  
4 Charles Street  
Tredegar

Proposed pair of semi-detached  
houses with associated external  
works, vacant land on corner of  
Charles Street and Salem  
Cottages.

**No objections**

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

C/2024/0003 Mr. K. Sullivan  
Tredegar Miners  
Memorial Group  
17 Maple Avenue  
Tredegar

Erection of memorial gates from  
Tredegar town, including new  
brick pillars, and to include new  
paths from existing site road with  
hardstanding to allow viewing of  
commemorative plaques attached  
to gates and site to the west of  
Bryn Bach lake adjacent to  
existing site road, Parc Bryn Bach,  
Road.

**No objections**

C/2024/0005 Mr. C. Evans  
Hirgan Cottage  
Crown Avenue  
Tredegar

Proposed second storey rear  
extension and balcony, Greenfield  
Cottage, Feederbank Road.

**No objections**

**c) To consider other planning matters – *Noted:***

- i) PEDW, Re: Land at Manmoel Common, Cenin Renewables. Notice of public availability of two documents – Response on Minerals Policy and Turbine Delivery Route Appraisal.
- ii) Powys County Council: Powys Replacement Local Development Plan: Key Issues. Objectives and Vision. Comments by 5.00 p.m. Sunday 28.01.2024.

**275) 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.

**276) 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; next scheduled meeting to consider budgets.
- b) **Gwent Valleys One Voice Wales** – No meeting.

- c) **One Voice Wales Larger Councils and AGM** – No meeting.
- d) **Tredegar Twinning** – No meeting.
- e) **Pen Bryn Oer Community Fund** – Deadline in March.
- f) **School Governing Bodies** – Deighton Primary: looking for the past two months for school crossing patrollers - ask Councillors to promote; Georgetown Primary: Governors to meet with parents, coffee morning scheduled for next Thursday; St. Joseph Primary: confirm to the EAS, Councillor K. Phillips as TTC representative.
- g) **Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum** – Last meeting had been the Christmas dinner at the TA.
- h) **Tredegar Business Forum** – No meeting; planting to be undertaken, acquire compost. It was suggested, labels with TTC logo needed to publicise Council's sponsorship.

## 277) Matters of Local Interest or Concern (by prior notice)

- Casual Vacancy application form – asked Clerk to design, as Councillors responsibilities should be to a certain standard and for consistency: email to all Members and agenda for future meeting.
- Tredegar Wellbeing Centre – Members referred to the upheaval in respect of the closure of both surgeries on 22<sup>nd</sup> January, 2024. Council was disappointed Members had not been informed prior to going ahead, as it would have been courteous to be informed, as a Council, of what was happening. This appeared to be an ongoing issue with agencies such as the Health Board, Police, etc., as communication had been satisfactory prior to the pandemic.

In the letter, it clearly stated visitors had to park in The Recreation ground area - for the disabled / infirm / elderly, this would be quite a trek, and this was to be undertaken at the same time the top surgery was being demolished. Therefore, an appropriate representative should have liaised with Council to represent how that was going ahead and what this would entail.

Members had debated issues with the site manager, e.g. twenty tonne trucks accessing the site, and concerns were raised of the breakdown in communication between organisations – both with Blaenau Gwent and Town Council. Council needed to understand exactly what was happening, with regard to the partial opening, not official opening.

Councillor Jacqueline Thomas had been nominated as the point of contact between the Council and Health Board / Kier, a working group had been set up but this had fallen away due to Covid and not been reinstated. The Leader had spoken with other town councils across Wales and there appeared to be a breakdown in communications since the pandemic. The site manager had stated no complaints had been received, but residents felt let down – with no-one cleaning the highway, and the neighbourhood congested with traffic. Therefore, Council would welcome being kept informed by relevant bodies, e.g Police, Fire Service, etc.

- Legnica, Poland – the Chair said the organisation had a strong association with Legnica, supporting an orphanage in the city and undertaking filming (The Bench) and events, for some twenty years. In his official capacity as Mayor, he sought approval to present one of our Clocks. Council fully supported the request in expanding the profile of the town of Tredegar; a Member suggested presenting an Aneurin Bevan plate and

Council asked of any capacity for aid, the Chair confirmed he would ask. Councillor E. Griffin said she would personally like to contribute.

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

\_\_\_\_\_ Chair