

TREDEGAR TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held via Microsoft Teams / hybrid
on Wednesday, 24th July, 2024 at 6.30 p.m.**

Present: Councillors K. Phillips (Chair)
A.E. Tippings
G. Badham
E. Jones
M. Moore
D. Rowberry
H. Trollope
S. Trollope
K. Waldron

In attendance: Clerk – Ms. C. Aherne

092) Apologies. Councillors E. Griffin, M. Turner, A.E. Evans, A. Jones,
S. Mavar, J. Thomas, C. Walters and G. Walters

093) Declarations of Interest

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

094) To receive any verbal recommendations of all Sub-Committee / Working Party meetings held prior to this meeting of Council

It was agreed the recommendations of the following Sub-Committees held prior to Council be approved accordingly.

▪ Public Facilities Sub-Committee – 18th July, 2024

Members to visit Southend Allotment and Vale View Allotment to investigate concerns raised by residents and report back accordingly

- Clerk to submit a planning application in readiness for the works required to trees subject to a TPO (Tree Preservation Order), subject to the advice of a suitably qualified tree surgeon to determine what remedial work would be involved.

- It was agreed that allotment fees would be reviewed with a view to implementing a nominal increase from April for the next financial year.
- Allotments Policy – reviewed and to be updated accordingly.

Two Councillors had visited the allotment sites, as requested; a Member provided the following feedback:

- Southend allotments
Trees on the boundary with park
 1. Trees on the boundary with park need crown lifting to allow more light onto the plots.

2. Tree planting in between the TPO trees need to be hedged or removed asap as these would further encroach onto the affected plots and overhang pathway. This was the responsibility of the allotments and not the Council.

Trees on Southend boundary

1. No issues with TPO trees.
2. Tree planting in between the TPO trees need to be hedged, as these were casting shadows over the adjacent plots. This was the responsibility of the allotments and not the Council.

Trees on Rhyd Terrace

1. None of the trees were impinging on the pavement, as there was no pavement; however they may be causing traffic to travel closer to the centre of the road and taller vehicles and buses may be affected by overhanging branches.
2. 04SN – pollarded lime. Epicormic growth needs removing.
3. 04YR – Sycamore. Small tree but crown lifting now would prevent larger work and overhanging branches.
4. 04SQ 04SR 04SS 04ST – OK
5. 04SU – Lime. Epicormic growth needs removing.
6. 04YT – cluster of three Sycamore. Obscuring entrance to park. Need to crown lift to protect safety and consider removal of multi-stemmed tree.
7. Trees in between TPO trees, mainly hazel need to be cut back and maintained as hedges. This was the responsibility of the allotments and not the Council.

▪ Vale View Allotments

1. Hedgerow adjacent to Peacehaven had been cut up to No.16. The remainder of the hedge backed directly into residents' gardens, so was inaccessible to cut; however there was little need for such a high hedge as pensioners were not likely to be scaling fences to pilfer produce - perhaps the allotments needed to liaise with the residents to agree on how high that hedge should be cut, as to what the legalities were for cutting the side that was in the gardens of 16-21 Peacehaven Court.
2. The boundary that faced Vale View had completely grown through the fence line and covered the entire width of the pavement. If compared with images on Google street view to the ones taken on 18th July, the extent of recent growth could be seen.

One Member felt that the allotments needed a secure boundary and recalled that it always been like this. The other Member remembered the footpath being accessible on previous visits to the allotments. BG could well ask for the path to be cleared and should anyone fall or get knocked down on the road or on the path Council may be liable.

Council offered their thanks to Members for undertaking the visit and enquired if a Service Level Agreement could be sought with the Local Authority in respect of specialised remedial works required to the trees subject to a TPO. The Clerk would investigate and it was agreed that the appropriate planning documentation be completed in respect of the works required subject to a Tree Preservation Order.

▪ **Events Sub-Committee – 24th July, 2024**

Lighting of trees surrounding The Circle, i.e. stem lights to five trees at The Circle and one tree in Morgan Street (entrance to Bedwellty Park):

Provision, installation and removal

The Circle – Qty 10 - 5 x trees with light stems £3,605.00 plus VAT

Morgan Street – Qty 1 - 1 x tree with light stems £ 721.00 plus VAT.

Consider investing in a chargeable speaker with a built-in microphone.

095) Accounts: to consider a Schedule of Accounts for payment in July 2024, with approval for urgent payments to be made during August recess

The Clerk 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.

- The Schedule of Accounts related to items for payment in July and potential scheduled payments during August recess;
- August payments, other than direct payments, would not be paid until formal documentation was received;
- Revised August payments would be submitted at the next Ordinary meeting in September for ratification.

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

The Schedule of Accounts was approved for payment, with approval for urgent payments to be made during the August recess.

096) To seek approval for Senior Members to be delegated powers to address urgent matters during the August recess

The Clerk sought approval for Senior Members (Top 4) to be granted delegated powers for urgent payments during the August recess, with subsequent ratification by Council on receipt of the next Schedule of Accounts, which was agreed accordingly.

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

- a) Events Sub-Committee - 5th June, 2024
- b) Civic Meeting of Council - 5th June, 2024
- c) Ordinary Meeting of Council - 19th June, 2024

It was agreed that all Minutes presented be moved as a true record.

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

Minutes approved were duly signed by the Chair in the presence of Council.

099) Correspondence

- 1) BGCBC
 - a) H. Jones Re: Gambling Act 2005, Gambling Policy Review. Consultation period open now until 22.08.2024.
 - Noted.

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

b) i) List of applications received, week ending 12.07.2024.

- Noted.

c) S. Smith Re: Fountain Inn, Troedrhiwgwair. Asking for Council's views on the future of this building.

- Tredegar Councillors had attended a number of meetings whereby Blaenau Gwent Members had voiced their opinions. Over the previous few years, water run-off from the mountain was causing damage to the foundation and the premises had also been subject to two recent fires, due to arson.

The premises had 'Listed Building' status but, unfortunately, was in such a state of disrepair could prove a burden on the public. Council was aware of local interest to retain the building, however there had been nothing put forward formally on the intended future use of the building.

Members were aware that the Local Authority had made approaches to the executor of the estate to take responsibility in order to protect all the listed buildings, as these premises should not have fallen into such a condition. Council supported the community of Troedrhiwgwair on the importance of protecting this Listed Building but was unaware of any local constituted groups that could seek funding in respect of this privately-owned building.

Tredegar Town Council could not, however, accept responsibility, not having the budgetary capacity in respect of heritage to take on such a financial interest.

In conclusion, Council expressed an interest in supporting the community / Local Authority in the provision of the building but had no funding for heritage projects, other than those currently in the ownership of Council, and would invite future discussion in respect of further details / future use.

Clerk to forward information to all Members.

2) Urdd Gobaith
Cymru

Re: Eisteddfod. Invitation to special event on Thursday, 8th August at 5.00 p.m., 1st Floor of the Lido, Pontypridd. **RSVP by 30.07.2024**

- Clerk to forward information to all Members.

3) MGM Electrical

Copy of response to G. Adams Construction in respect of floodlights to the Town Clock, outlining history of provision and suggesting possible future action to resolve issues

- Noted; Council welcomed the good news.

4) Richards & Lewis Solicitors

Amended Lease, further to request of BGCBC to remove any insurance provisions as there are no structures on the land

- Noted and agreed accordingly.

5) Councillors

a) C. Walters - Letter of resignation as a Town Councillor

- Noted; a Member said Chris was a great person, contributing a lot to Council, even when working at Bedwellty House and also helping at the Bandstand events. Council extended their appreciation and sincere thanks, considering this a sad loss to Council but recognising his commitments elsewhere.

Council formally declared a vacancy within the Central and West Ward following the resignation; Clerk to commence the process to fill the vacancy.

b) A.E. Evans - New County Club - the lane and side of the Club – asking who is responsible for clearing the area at the back; also, Apologies for Council

- A Member had previously investigated this issue and informed Council that halfway down was the responsibility of Blaenau Gwent CBC, with the remainder under the remit of the owners of individual houses. He suggested the Member could contact Blaenau Gwent Estates for the relevant information.

6) PUBLICATIONS

BGCBC Roadworks report, week ending 19.07.2024 and 26.07.2024; Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum Meeting 15.07.2024 at 10.00 a.m. Tredegar Library – ***distributed to Members***: Received.

Councillors. E. Jones and D. Rowberry declared an interest in the following item and took no part in discussion or voting thereon.

100) Planning:

- a) i) List of planning applications received in week 28
- ii) List of planning applications received in week 29

- b) To consider Planning Applications submitted for Council's observations – None received.

- c) To consider other planning matters – None received.

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

- Council recognised the sad passing of Ray Reardon, professional Welsh (World) Snooker Champion; a Member suggested perhaps speaking with Mark Williams regarding an annual event in the Snooker Club, with Tredegar Town Council sponsoring a trophy to recognise the youth in the community.
- The Castle, Tredegar – thanks and appreciation extended to Darren and Lynne on their retirement and all their hard work within the community.
- Coalfields Regeneration Trust 'How Green are our Valleys' – Friday, 29th November, 2024, 4.30 p.m.
- Tredegar Comprehensive School - 'Les Misérables'. Council highlighted the fantastic effort of staging the production of this musical and the high standard of the performers.
- Bryn Bach Primary School, performance of Bugsy Malone, supporting young performers of Kidz R Us, who were raising the bar of young performance in the arts.
- Anti-Social Behaviour – a gentleman had made the decision to close his shop for number of reasons, particularly ASB in the town, and his wife had almost been knocked down by a motorcycle mounting the pavement. The gentleman owned a private security firm and was suggesting a collaboration with the County Borough of Blaenau Gwent proposing provision of wardens to provide a security system throughout the town and was looking for a point of contact.
A Member said that the gentleman could contact the Chief Executive Officer, Stephen Vickers, and the Town Centre Manager, Karen Williams.
- Tredegar in Bloom – suggested by the Deputy Mayor, who was informed this had been subject to consideration pre-Covid. It was agreed that such an event could be subject to further discussion by the appropriate Sub-Committee.
- Mayor's Appeal – Chloe's Cupboard and Parkinsons UK, performance of 'Albert' by Richard Harris, supported by the Gelligaer Thespians – Saturday, 28th September, 2024, The Little Theatre, doors open 6.00 p.m. Donations in lieu at the door.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 6.10 p.m.

Chair