

TREDEGAR TOWN COUNCIL

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

Present: **Councillors M. Turner (Chair)**
 E. Griffin
 A.E. Tippings
 E. Jones
 S. Mavar
 M. Moore
 J. Thomas
 H. Trollope
 S. Trollope
 G. Walters

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

070) Apologies **Councillors K. Phillips, G. Badham, A. Evans, A. Jones,
D. Rowberry, K. Waldron and C. Walters; RFO**

In the absence of the Mayor, it was agreed that the Leader preside over the meeting.

071) Declarations of Interest

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

072) To receive Mayor's report, as appropriate

The Clerk confirmed that the Mayor had provided updates for the Mayor's blog; he had experienced a busy month and these occasions were available for public / Members to view on the TTC website.

073) To receive the verbal recommendations of all Sub-Committees / Working Party held prior to this meeting of Council

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

- To approve the report in respect of the Budget against Actual to 30th June, 2024, and Recommendations contained therein, i.e:
 - Town Clock: Insurance – virement of £1.00 from 'Insurances'
 - Town Clock: Maintenance Fee / Repairs – virement of £1,200.00 from 'Earmarked Reserves: Town Clock.
 - Publicity – virement of £2,850.00 from 'General Reserves' to cover full contract quotation.
- Report to be amended to contain separate sections in respect of 'Underspend' and 'Overspend'.

074) 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 Veterans Support Hub - Any financial assistance received would be used towards the costs of the veteran drop in centre and community food bank. Have now established a Facebook page – Tredegar Veterans Support Hub and Museum – to promote their services.
2023/24 March'24 CQ No. 635 £100.00 (Start up grant) - the full grant of £200.00 was: Approved accordingly

Friends of Bedwellty Park Society - Any financial assistance received would be used towards making improvements to the water feature in the sensory garden
2023/24 Sept'23 CQ No. 535 £200.00 - Approved accordingly

Gwent Defibbers - Any financial assistance received would be used to promote basic life support by delivering CPR and defibrillator training plus a blood pressure monitoring service.
2023/24 July'23 CQ No. 512 £200.00 - Approved accordingly

Silurian Amateur Boxing Club - Any financial assistance received would be used towards the running costs of the Club including attending boxing competitions.
2017/18 Dec'17 CQ No. 738 £200.00 - Approved accordingly

Tredegar Angling Club - Any financial assistance received would be used for the running of the Fishing Club.
2023/24 April'23 CQ No. 470 £200.00 - Approved accordingly

Tredegar Camera Club - Any financial assistance received would be used towards the continued funding for the purchase of a new high spec laptop for use with videos and stills.
2023/24 Sept'23 CQ No. 537 £200.00 - Approved accordingly

Tredegar Cricket Club - Any financial assistance received would be used to purchase equipment which will be used by all their teams including the new teams they have developed since 2022.
2023/24 June'23 CQ No. 501 £200.00 - Approved accordingly

Tredegar Decoupage Group - Any financial assistance received would be used to purchase supplies for the group to make 3d decoupage pictures and greeting cards.
2023/24 July'23 CQ No. 511 £200.00 - Approved accordingly

In response to a question raised, the Clerk confirmed the amount allocated to 'Grants' and said that the RFO would monitor spend and update Council throughout the financial year, as appropriate.

The Clerk responded to a number of questions, as outlined in the individual grant applications, explaining that each were considered on individual merit; whereupon Councillor M. Moore opted to abstain from voting.

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 overall running costs and general improvements throughout the building.

2023/24 April'23 CQ No. 472 £300.00 - *Approved accordingly*

Trinity Spiritualist Church - Any financial assistance received would be used towards investigating the damp issue they have in the building.

2023/24 Sept'23 CQ No. 539 £300.00 - *Approved accordingly*

075) Correspondence

- 1) BGCBC
 - a) H. Clatworthy Re: Diversion of the southern part of Public Footpath No. 63 in the community of Tredegar.
 - No objections; however, the Chair wondered how this would fit in with future developments of that nature in the area.
 - b)
 - i) List of applications received, week ending 21.06.2024.
 - ii) List of applications received, week ending 28.06.2024.
 1. New premise licence – The Drop Zone Golf
 2. Vary premise licence to extend licensable hours – Dukestown Workingmen’s Club
 3. Street Trading Consent 4th to 31st July – Parc Bryn Bach
 4. Street Trading Consent 1st to 28th August – Parc Bryn Bach
 5. Street Trading Consent 29th August to 26th September – Parc Bryn Bach
 - iii) List of applications received, week ending 05.07.2024.
 1. Temporary Event 20.07.2024 and 27.07.2024 – Dukestown Workingmen’s Club
 - Noted.
- 2) One Voice Wales

Re: New consultation, Draft priorities for Culture 2024-2030. Responses by 04.09.2024 - ***forwarded to All Members***

 - Noted.
- 3) G. Adams
Construction

Re: Town Clock floodlighting. Response regarding concerns raised.

 - Noted.
- 4) Civic Nominations:
 - a) Cllr Tippings – three nominations.
 - b) Cllr Phillips – one nomination.

- Approved.

5) Brecon Beacons National Park

Re: Brecon Beacons National Park Local Access Forum invitation for expression of interest in becoming a member of the forum. Applications: Closing date for applications is 26.07.2024.

- Noted; forward to Councillors E. Griffin and M. Turner.

6) Martyn Jones

Re: Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum. Introducing himself as the new Chair for the group and reminder that Members are welcome to attend their meetings at 10.00 a.m. on the third Monday of every month at Tredegar Library.

- Noted.

7) Financial considerations

a) Cerebral Palsy. Request for consideration of a donation towards their services.

Previous donation was 2023/24 Sept'23 £100.00

- Noted; a donation of £100.00 was unanimously approved.

b) Tredegar Angling Club. Looking to hold a Children's Christmas Party and was wondering if there are any funds available to help them. Does not wish to use the annual grant from Council for this.

- Unfortunately, Members felt this would set a precedent, if approved, and therefore Council was unable to support the request.

However, Members said the Club could be signposted to other funding sources, such as GAVO or the Pen Bryn Oer Community Fund for due consideration.

8) R. Taylor-Davies

Re: Industrial Heritage Networking Event - 26th September, 2024 at 1.30 p.m., National Waterfront Museum, Swansea.

- Noted; forward to Councillor M. Turner.

9) **PUBLICATIONS**

BGCBC Roadworks report, week ending 28.06.2024 and week ending 05.07.2024; Communicorp Clerks & Councils Direct July 2024 Issue 154; Sight Cymru, S. Evans request we advertise their new group meeting in Tredegar Library – ***Poster added to Twitter / website – distributed to Members:*** Received.

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

076) Planning:

- a) i) List of planning applications received in week 25
- ii) List of planning applications received in week 26
- iii) List of planning applications received in week 27

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

App. No.	Applicant	Proposal
C/2024/0115	Mr. D. Roberts & Mr. G. Lapping D&G Catering 9 Bwlch Y Garn Road Ebbw Vale	Catering van to the rear of the pub, serving hot food, connected to the pub for electricity. Retention of change of use of land for the siting of a mobile catering van, The Oak Pub, Club Row, Dukestown.

No objections

C/2024/0157	Miss K. Fleet 27 Elmwood Grove Tredegar	Works to tree: T1 Fagus sylvatica, cut all branches and leave trunk at about 20 feet high, under TPO BG24, 27 Elmwood Grove.
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No objections

c) To consider other planning matters – None received.

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

- Members commended the wonderful work being undertaken by the gardener, team and volunteers, who were doing an excellent job. Congratulations were also extended on the work to the playground and tennis courts; Council was pleased to see such improvements.

078) 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** – Next meeting scheduled for September.
- b) Gwent Valleys One Voice Wales** – Unfortunately, the Leader had to submit his apologies for the meeting.
- c) One Voice Wales Larger Councils and AGM** – No meeting.
- d) Tredegar Twinning** – The Association had been successful in their fund-raising at both Armed Forces Day and Aneurin Bevan Day and were very happy with the proceeds, and thanks were extended to a number of young and enthusiastic members, reinvigorating Twinning.
- e) Pen Bryn Oer Community Fund** – The fund was currently open to applications and the next meeting would be held in October.

f) School Governing Bodies – Bryn Bach Primary: appointed two new teachers, one full-time and one for a temporary contract, one teacher had been seconded to Blaenau Gwent CBC, only four teaching assistants had been appointed due to the economic situation. In respect of the resignation of the Town Council appointed Governor, this needed to be progressed through Council in order to nominate a representative.

Deighton Primary: two new teachers had been appointed and no less than six could have been shortlisted due to the high standard of applicants – one had joined the teaching system, following the closure of the Steelworks and completing training, and it had been a privilege to offer the applicant the post as a qualified teacher.

Georgetown Primary: Governor showcases were looking at various areas of the learning experience – the Member had attended two of the five sessions and the standard of work had proven excellent.

g) Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum – Lectures undertaken on a Thursday as part of the Day School would be returning to Bedwellty House in October, following two years in Ebbw Vale and two years prior in Abertillery.

h) Tredegar Business Forum – Looking at the marketing strategy for buildings in Tredegar, there had been a poor uptake for grant funding. Planned events in the area related to ‘Dinosaurs’ and ‘Princess’ with a third event anticipated in addition to events to be undertaken for Halloween and Christmas. The Forum was looking for new members, as attendance of existing members had fallen.

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

- It was agreed that a meeting be convened of the Tredegar Public Facilities Sub-Committee to discuss various matters in relation to the allotments in the remit of Town Council.
- A Member advised of a potential dangerous obstruction to the footpath in the vicinity of The Railway Tavern due to overgrown bushes obstructing access.
- A number of Members had attended the performance of Les Misérables at Tredegar Comprehensive School and highly recommended for those interested to attend if the opportunity arose, as this had been excellent production.
- Summer Bandstand Concerts – concerns were again raised of the same Members supporting the band concerts; it was acknowledged that Members had their own individual commitments but the same few Members appeared to be giving their time to steward these concerts.
- Blaenau Gwent Gateway Features – work was being undertaken throughout Blaenau Gwent in respect of Gateway features. Council was concerned that the wall to the roundabout at the one entry into Tredegar had been demolished a number of the years ago and had not been reinstated, despite repeated requests by Council. Also, as the Gateway from the A465, Members again highlighted the appalling appearance of the garage to this access point for Tredegar. A Member queried why the responsibility for the damage to the feature wall at the roundabout, as the result of a vehicular accident, had not been met by the insurance company of the motorist involved.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 7.29 p.m.

Chair