

TREDEGAR TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held via Microsoft Teams / hybrid on Wednesday, 16th October, 2024 at 6.30 p.m.

Present: Councillors E. Griffin (Chair)
M. Turner
A.E. Tippings
A.E. Evans
A. Jones
E. Jones
S. Mavar
J. Thomas
K. Waldron

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

151) Apologies. Councillors K. Phillips, G. Meredith, H. Trollope, S. Trollope and G. Walters

152) Declarations of Interest

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

153) To receive any 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 September, 2024, and Recommendations contained therein:
 - Continue to monitor the current overspends;
 - Senior allowances and Inauguration: due to reduced uptake of the Senior Allowances, and as a precaution to cover risks such as Senior Member changes, which could result in when payments were made, Council may want to consider reinstating the appropriate apportionment for each quarter.
- To agree that the Investment and Treasury Management Policy be approved accordingly.

154) To consider a Schedule of Accounts for payment in October 2024

The RFO 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 RFO drew attention to a late amendment, a payment of £815.00 to Audit Wales for the full audit for 2023 / 2024, and made Members aware that Council was now up-to-date with all audits. Unfortunately, the report had not been received in a timely manner, as Audit Wales had forwarded an invoice but no report – the RFO was pursuing both and the Audit report would be received at next meeting.
- Sparkle Cleaning – this was an ongoing contract; the RFO had previously carried out a like-for-like review to assess value for money and included costings in relation to Council employing the individual direct.
- Section 137 payments in Schedule of Payments – Resolution of Council: In pursuance of the power conferred by Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) and being of the opinion that the expenditure satisfies the requirements of that section, expenditure up to £121,947.61 was approved in relation to the above £40.00.

There being no further queries regarding the Schedule of Accounts, presented items inclusive of the amendment to the October 2024 Schedule, were approved for payment. The RFO 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.

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

- a) **Events Sub-Committee - 4th September, 2024**
- b) **Civic Meeting of Council - 4th September, 2024**
- c) **Civic Sub-Committee - 18th September, 2024**
- d) **Ordinary Meeting of Council - 18th September, 2024**

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

157) 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.

158) Correspondence

- 1) BGCBC
 - a) C. Cuss Re: Column numbers. No adornments can be added without structural testing done on the columns.
 - The Leader said he had made his position clear that, as far as he was aware, Council would not be paying for structural testing.

A Member supported the Leader's stance but asked what alternative arrangements were, as the motifs were a huge part of the contract for the lighting throughout the town, particularly as Council was already without the canopy around the Clock and the situation in respect of wrapping the trees. Council would literally

have no lighting through a large part of the town without the motifs on lamp-posts. The Member fully accepted the decision of this Council to refuse to participate in the structural testing to be undertaken by the Local Authority, but an alternative was needed as the display was being erected within the next couple of weeks.

The Leader suggested this was a situation that the Local Authority could resolve quite easily and suggested that, if unable to provide the full display, Council run a campaign telling the people of Tredegar to ensure the public was aware.

Two Members had previously undertaken a review of the Christmas lighting infrastructure and prepared a report to Council of their feedback and Council could consider approaching businesses to ascertain if the owners would be willing to attach Christmas lighting to their building.

Following further debate, it was agreed that Council liaise with the lighting contractors as a matter of urgency to discuss options available for the current year 2024.

- b) A. Phillips Re: 30th October, 2024, Drive in Open Cinema. Request for the toilets to remain open until 10.00 p.m., they will close and return the key to us the following day.

- Council was happy to support the event by allowing use of the public conveniences, on the proviso that the toilets were supervised by a suitable Attendant to prevent any damage / vandalism and congregation of people in the toilets, as there had previously been issues with drug paraphernalia found in the toilets.

If able to accede to this condition, Council would therefore allow the Local Authority the use of the public conveniences.

- c) A. Parker Re: LGBT+ Pride, Bedwellty Park (May 2025). In initial stages of considering how to support the planning of a community based event, subject to funding. Writing to canvass opportunities for collaboration with TTC.

- A Member said that work had been undertaken the previous year with Bedwellty House on the possibility of sharing an event in order to apply for funding, looking at the availability of Bedwellty House on the weekend. Discussions had ensued whether interested parties could collaborate in respect of the Summer Band Concerts.

There were a series of events throughout June and July across Wales and therefore the Bank Holiday weekend had been suggested to avoid any clashes. The Member suggested consideration needed to be given whether this was an appropriate event, with the older audience, and sought observations.

Both the Mayor and Chair felt it would be inappropriate to compartmentalise the audience, as many members of the LGBT+ community were part of the older generation and suggested it could prove offensive to suggest otherwise. The Member had not wished to cause offence and said that her only concern was that the LGBT+ volunteers in attendance received the proper reception.

Members agreed that Council would be willing be willing to support events undertaken in collaboration with the appropriate parties, suggesting it could prove beneficial to invite the Officer / his Team to attend a meeting of Council.

- d) A. Probert Re: Fir trees at Deighton Playing Field. Complaint regarding the height of the fir trees which are causing problems with the resident getting insurance on his property next door.
 - Noted; it was agreed that Senior Members meet with the resident to discuss the matter with a view to resolving the issue.
- e) List of applications received, week ending 04.10.2024.
 - Noted.

2) One Voice Wales

Re: Date Amendment Funding, Grants and Precept Setting Councils Connect Thursday 24.10.2024 at 10.30 a.m.

- Noted.
- 3) Torfaen CBC
- a) Greater Gwent (Torfaen) Pension Fund: Administration Strategy 2025-2027.
Comments to be submitted by 12.00 p.m. Friday, 15th November, 2024.
- Noted; forward to Councillors J. Thomas and M. Turner.
- 4) ABUHB
- A. Clement-Rees asking if it is possible to attend Council meetings.
- Consideration was given to meeting with the ABUHB monthly, bi-monthly or quarterly, whereupon it was agreed that an invite be extended for the representatives to attend on a quarterly basis.
- 5) Keep Wales Tidy
- Re: Orchard Package. Community Orchard Pack awarded to Deighton Field.
NB. Reminder from RFO that the trellis from a previous package still remains at her property for collection, requests it is collected asap.
- Noted; items could be stored in the public toilets. In respect of the trellis, it was agreed that Councillors A. Jones and A.E. Tippings, together with the Cleaning Operative, collect the item.
- 6) Georgetown Primary School
- K. Hillman Re: Clock visit. Thank you, everyone absolutely loved it.
- Noted; Council commended the pupils, who had been very well-behaved throughout the event.
- 7) Resubmitted: Konica Minolta
- No longer accepting payments by cheque, offering other methods of payment – **02.10.2024 Council approved BACS as the new payment method but this needs the setting up of dual online payment authorization; the RFO and one or two of the named signatories as the second person – Council need to nominate a signatory for this role**
- Agreed; Leader and Deputy Leader as named signatories.
- 8) Hospice of the Valleys
- J. Williams Re: Hospice Cariad Dementia Group. Asking if Council would consider giving some financial support towards the group's Christmas Party for patients and carers.

- Noted; suggested the organisation complete a grant application form.

9) B. Godsmark

Re: Remembrance Poppys. Veterans offering to put up the lamp post poppies for Council.

- Council accepted the kind offer and extended their thanks.

10) PUBLICATIONS

BGCBC Roadworks report, week ending 18.10.2024; OVW New Local Places for Nature Logo available to use on literature if you have received any Keep Wales Tidy Packages – ***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.

159) Planning:

- i) List of planning applications received in week 40
- ii) List of planning applications received in week 41

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

App. No.	Applicant	Proposal
C/2024/0239	Mr. D. Bates 49 Tynwydd Tredegar	Installation of a free standing temporary shed on existing hard stand to the front of the property, 49 Tynwydd, Nantybwich.

No objections

C/2024/0256	Mr. L. Tillman Walters UK Hirwaun House Hirwaun Ind. Estate Hirwaun	Application for prior notification of proposed demolition of The Car Showroom, Ron Skinner & Son, Unit 1 Tafarnaubach Ind. Estate.
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No objections

c) To consider other planning matters –

- Welsh Government:
Town and Country Planning ACT 1990 – Section 62D and Section 62F The Developments of National Significance (WALES) Regulations 2016 Application by CENIN Renewables for the Development is a Wind Farm of up to 5 Turbines of up to 180 metres Maximum Tip Height and Associated Infrastructure at Land at Cefn Manmoel Common, East of Manmoel Road, Ebbw Vale APPLICATION REF: DNS/3239181
Commons ACT 2006 – Section 16 Application by the Trustees of Llanover Estate for the proposed deregistration and exchange of land at Cefn Manmoel Common APPLICATION REF: DNS/323981_S16 COMMON

Commons ACT 2006 – Sections 38 Application by CENIN Renewables for Consent to carry out Restricted Works on Land at Cefn Manmoel Common APPLICATION REF: DNS/323981_S38COMMON

- The Chair enquired of the ownership of the windfarms in the UK, as she had been given to understand all these were owned by companies in France and Italy. Council confirmed that one company was a Welsh developer, i.e. Cenin Renewables, based in Bridgend, who recycled waste from the Steelworks and also undertook recycling of food waste.

Welsh Ministers Letter; Welsh Ministers decision letter; Inspectors Report.

- Bannau Bryncheiniog National Park Authority: Local Development Plan Draft Supplementary Planning Guidance. ***Consultation ends 29.11.24.***

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

- Aneurin Bevan University Health Board, Drop-in Session: to be held Monday, 21st October, 2024, 2.00 – 4.30 p.m., at Horeb Chapel, Trefil.

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

_____ Chair