

TREDEGAR TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Civic Meeting of Council held via Microsoft Teams / hybrid on
Wednesday, 1st October, 2025 at 6.30 p.m.**

Present: Councillors A.E. Tippings (Chair)

**A. Jones
M. Turner
A.E. Evans
E. Jones
G. Jones-Griffiths
D. Rowberry
J. Thomas
P. Tolley
G. Walters**

In attendance: Clerk – Ms. C. Aherne

**158) Apologies Councillors K. Phillips, G. Badham, L. Thomas Evans, S. Mavar,
G. Meredith, H. Trollope, S. Trollope and K. Waldron**

159) Declarations of Interest

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

160) To receive Mayor's report, as appropriate

The Mayor provided the following update on events:

- Presented a cheque to Tredegar Camera Club, meeting in the Bowls Pavilion, an invite was extended for any new members; the Club undertook various activities, e.g. presentation with suggested speakers, and it had been interesting to see not every one of the members had expensive cameras some just used their phone.
- Saturday - 175th anniversary Congregational Church, Castle Street: the evangelical church had first started in a chapel in the old Salvation Army hall and was now located in their third building.
- Tredegar Male Voice Orpheus Choir: the night had been absolutely amazing, a credit for all of Tredegar. Kristian, the main act, was excellent, and three youngsters aged fifteen, seventeen and eighteen - Elle, Mia and Louie, were totally outstanding. The performance had been uploaded to Tredegar Town Council Facebook page, with an overwhelming response; the Mayor had been astonished by the number of views. Kidz R Us was another event in Tredegar, but the Mayor had went one week early!
- Battle of Britian Day: Council had checked with the Royal British Legion on at least two occasions but no contact had been made; however, feedback from people suggested it had been a nice event held in Bedwellty Park, which was disappointing as Council would have supported this.

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

- 1) The Leader provided an update reporting on the outcome of the informal meeting held at the request of Council with the company recommended, the response of which he considered had not reflected the needs outlined in the meeting, i.e.

To meet ALL the duties undertaken by the former Cleaning Operative , i.e. litter-picking at Deighton and Sirhowy, maintenance of the Town Clock garden and cleaning / management of the toilets. It was specified Council would need to be specific within the contract of the duties to be undertaken, e.g. undertaking water as a favour to the Business Forum – and a willingness to undertake such ad hoc duties to be approved within the contract had been discussed.

The following quote / provision had therefore been extended to Council for consideration:

- Supply of operative to carry out all works as described in job sheet. The company would work with Council to make a summer and winter job sheet to ensure getting the most from the hours.
- The daily operative would have a supervisor, who would be keeping a close eye on the works being carried out and have close contact with Council regarding other works and ongoing plans.

The company also felt that the daily operative would require transport, considering far too much working time was wasted through walking from area to area. This was dead time. They would supply a utility vehicle with an open back whereby mowers, strimmers or any other items needed could easily be loaded for going from area to area. This vehicle alone would then allow more working hours to carry out the required works.

- Every Friday their supervisor would visit all areas to ensure all works were being carried out as per Council requests.
- To facilitate the works, this would require 30 hours per week @ £26.00 per hour. This was the only way the company could deliver on promises and would run far better and far more efficient this way. This cost would cover all extra jobs that may be needed, apart from those that may need specialist contractors.
- On visiting the toilets, there was a clear need for heavy cleaning daily and would suggest a clean first thing and a second at lunch time to keep them in a good serviceable condition.
- As discussed, the company had a van mounted cherry picker, if required.

A quote had been asked for one / two operatives totalling 24 hours per week, not 30 hours as provided, as this would provide cover for any absence, or a third operative based within this company to cover periods of absence. Also, the figures originally quoted was £20.00 per hour for operative provision only or £25.00 per hour for operative plus cleaning supplies, and this had risen to £26.00 per hour, without such supplies, in respect of one operative. This had resulted in a significant increase in the cost of the contract, without addressing the need for cover during periods of absence.

On due consideration, it was therefore agreed that a response be sent thanking the company for taking the time to meet with the Leader and staff of Tredegar Town Council to discuss the possibility of a contract for the provision of duties in respect of Council's assets, e.g. public conveniences, Tredegar Town Clock, Deighton playing field and Sirhowy Community Garden.

On due consideration, Members were of the opinion however that the contract specified exceeded the requirements of the role and would not meet the needs of the service Council

wished to provide. Unfortunately, the cost of the contract quoted was far in excess of the budget available for this provision and, in light of this, Council would now be taking the opportunity to review the role / position in respect of requirements. Members were grateful for the information and were impressed with the range of services provided, and would be happy to retain these details / contact information on file, should any future need arise.

The Clerk sought the formal approval of Council in respect of the following, which was unanimously agreed:

- Provision of a deep clean following the cessation of the cleaning contract – a one-off payment at £170.00; and
- Works undertaken by Rods Away at a cost of £160.00 in relation to a camera investigation to determine the exact location of the problem

2) It was agreed the recommendations of the Events Sub-Committee held prior to Council be approved accordingly:

- **Informal Meeting with recommended Contractor**

Handyman/ Cleaning Operative: Members were of the opinion that the contract specified exceeded the requirements of the role and would not meet the needs of the service Council wished to provide. Unfortunately, the cost of the contract quoted was far in excess of the budget available for this provision and, in light of this, Council would now be taking the opportunity to review the role / position in respect of requirements.

- **Open Doors**

It was agreed that a Working Party be convened for the new year to consider arrangements for undertaking Open Doors in the future.

- **Remembrance Events**

Ongoing actions to be progressed accordingly; and

Three wreaths required for Princetown, the Cenotaph and Burma Shrine and three poppy bouquets for the WWII memorial benches, expenditure approved accordingly.

- **Christmas Lights switch-on and display**

Ongoing actions to be progressed accordingly;

Confirmation of the costings relating to expenditure previously approved - Temporary Events Notice @ £21.00 and Temporary Street Trading Consent @ £73.00; and

Traffic Management and Security provision: it was unanimously approved to waive the Councils' Financial Regulations and agree that JFT Protection be invited to quote.

162) 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)

Bedwellty Park Bowls Club - Any financial assistance received would be used towards decorating the pavilion which is used for multiple events by the community.

2024/25 Oct'24 CQ No. 706723 £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) - None received.

163) Correspondence

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

- 1) BGCBC
 - a) List of applications received, week ending 19.09.2025 – *no Tredegar items*
 - Noted.
 - b) K. Hillman Re: Year 1 Visit Request, Georgetown Primary. 15th October is good for them.
 - Agreed: the following Members would attend, if available – Councillors A.E. Tippings, J. Thomas and G. Walters.
- 2) Cllr Rowberry Re: Trailblazer programme. Janet Oxenham would like to make a presentation to Council regarding the new health and wellbeing programme.
 - Agreed
- 3) Russell Lloyd Quotation for handyperson / cleaning operative with further explanation of the costs they quoted.
 - As previously reported [Minute No. 161].
- 4) J. Thomas Re: Shine a Light against Domestic Abuse. Asking if the Clock can be lit purple through October, especially on 17th, as October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month.
 - Agreed.

5) PUBLICATIONS

BGCBC Roadworks report week ending 26.09.2025 and 03.10.2025; OVW Webinars: Keep Wales Tidy. Two webinars designed to help you improve your local environment and community – ***distributed to Members***: Received.

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

164) Planning:

- a) i) List of planning applications received in week 37

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

App. No.	Applicant	Proposal
P/2025/0164	Diocese of Monmouth 64 Caerau Road Newport	Amended plans for to erect a timber church office adjacent to St. George's Church, St. George's Church, Tredegar.

Observations: concerns raised in respect of positioning of the development, which visually was considered out of character with the Listed Building, would appear prominent and not fit with existing architecture and therefore the aesthetics of the building would be compromised.

P/2025/0275	Mrs. H.L. Hudd Wauntysswg Farm Mountain Road to Wauntysswg and boundary, Cefn Golau, Tredegar	Proposed replacement steel frame agricultural building, Wauntysswg Farm.
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No objections

c) To consider other planning matters – None received.

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

- Field at rear of Hospital, trying to ascertain what was happening overgrown, planted trees basketball court whether Hospital or Park that field not included in the plans for the Hospital, as Friends of Bedwellty opposed. Overgrown with brambles, just been left had access around the rear of the Bowls can get through with car but not access a van, as two huge containers, restricted, court not being used.
Chair Bevan week carrying out tours wildflower meadow, but abuse of that term, destroying useful area.
- Received email, passed to Town Clerk, some two / three constituents - as a Council could not give opinion but ask to raise with Council, when Orpheus performing in Bedwellty House bottom gate closed but open for Christmas markets.

166) 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.
- b) Gwent Valleys One Voice Wales** – 21st October.
- c) One Voice Wales Larger Councils and AGM** – Cancelled.
- d) Tredegar Twinning** –Christmas event being organised by the Secretary who unfortunately had been admitted to hospital for surgery.
- e) Pen Bryn Oer Community Fund** – Next meeting to be held in two weeks.
- f) School Governing Bodies** – Bryn Bach Primary: AGM varied news, one teacher in very poor health and another received a negative medical diagnosis; however new Governor, received some funding from Blaenau Gwent CBC providing facilities for new community room, also box boyd all weather pitch; Georgetown Primary: introduction to new Deputy Head, Mrs. Tinder, started in September; Ysgol Gymraeg: would be opening 12th November after half-term, in line for a visit after Borough Councillors.
- g) Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum** – The Day School lecture in October would be held in Brynmawr on 'Drover Road and Canals'.
- h) Tredegar Business Forum** – Meeting cancelled.
- i) VVP / Tredegar Heritage Initiative** – now 'Placemaking', write to BG seeking any update.

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

- Tredegar Comprehensive School – 50th anniversary opening its current site, School Governors hoping to put on events to celebrate. David Jones first Head Boy, if Council had any ideas. School photos, memorabilia.
- Presentation Awards Ceremony: Clerk reminded Council memorabilia / gifts needed replenishing before a ceremony could be arranged – Lottie Dottie bespoke gifts in slate and / or wood.
- Letter Jewels in the Bible, thank you.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 7.38 p.m.

_____ Chair