

TREDEGAR TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held via Microsoft Teams / hybrid
on Wednesday, 21st January, 2026 at 6.30 p.m.**

Present: Councillors A.E. Tippings (Chair)
A. Jones
M. Turner
K. Phillips
G. Badham
E. Jones
G. Jones-Griffiths
D. Rowberry
P. Tolley
H. Trollope
S. Trollope
G. Walters

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

By invitation: Blaenau Gwent CBC representatives
Strategic Director for Adults and Communities,
Mr. David Leech
Professional Lead for Strategic Partnerships,
Mr. David Arnold

268) Apologies. Councillors A.E. Evans, L. Thomas Evans, S. Mavar, J. Thomas and K. Waldron

The Mayor referred to the sad loss to the RFO on the passing of her mother; Council observed a Minute silence as a mark of respect and sincere condolences were extended to the family.

Members offered thanks to the Officer for her diligence to Council during this time of loss and her loyalty in ensuring her duties were carried out throughout that period.

269) Declarations of Interest

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

270) The Blaenau Gwent Deal: Strategic Director for Adults & Communities, Mr. Dave Leech, presenting and gathering some initial feedback from Members

The Chair extended a welcome to Local Authority representatives - the Strategic Director for Adults and Communities and the Professional Lead for Strategic Partnerships, who had been invited to attend to present the Blaenau Gwent Deal, gather initial feedback from Members, and respond to any questions raised.

The Strategic Director for Adults and Communities outlined the background to implementing this federation between Blaenau Gwent and Torfaen County Borough Councils, which had

been developed to share resources in respect of delivering services. However, each Local Authority would remain as a sovereign entity with a separate Cabinet acting as liaison between the two Councils.

- The Deal: building a fairer future together – Blaenau Gwent and Torfaen
 - Realising the benefits of the Federation
 - Why the need to change
 - Public Services – impact on communities and economy, partnerships and cross-cutting, i.e. Escalating costs, Service overload, Worsening outcomes, Vicious cycle of demand and Strategic paralysis
 - MARMOT – a long-term, equitable and sustainable change to improve lives at population level
- The Deal: a new social contract between the Council and its communities – built on trust, shared responsibility, collective action
 - Vision “A future without inequality, where everyone thrives in a fair, inclusive, and resilient community”
 - Aim “To create lasting change by building trust, fostering shared responsibility, and driving innovation through strong collaboration between the Council, residents, and partners”
 - Mission One: Early Years – Building Bright Futures
 - Mission Two: Inspiring Lifelong Learning, Ambition and Resilience
 - Mission Three: Wellbeing through Community Leadership
 - Mission Four: Thriving Economy , Vibrant Places
 - Mission Five: Empowered Communities, Shared Power and Success
- The Deal - Next Steps
 - Phase 1 In-depth engagement with Stakeholder Workshops
 - Phase 2: public Engagement
 - Phase 3: You Said... this is what the deal looks like – Engagement
 - Phase 4: Training for The Deal across Torfaen and Blaenau Gwent CBCs and Partners
 - Phase 5: Comms and Engagement to share The Deal across Borough
 - Phase 6: Case Studies used to publicise deals and used for internal training workshops

Council welcomed such a call to action and undertaking the journey together as a Marmot Council and only wished for the initiative to build momentum. It was also welcome to note communities talking positively together and hoped that people would invest in this approach. The Strategic Director for Adults and Communities thereupon responded to questions raised. In concluding, he asked that Members instil confidence and support progress by offering positive feedback on social media.

Council thereupon thanked the Strategic Director for Adults and Communities and the Professional Lead for Strategic Partnerships for attending and responding to questions raised, which had been most informative.

271) To receive any verbal recommendations of all Sub-Committees / Working Party 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 Budget against Actual report to 31st December, 2025, be DEFERRED.
- Revised Actual / Earmarked Reserves be approved: -
 - Election reserves £10,000
 - Office Refurbishment Zero
 - Deighton Fields/Sirhowy Community Garden (2yrs) £14,800
 - Allotments (3 sites) £ 4,500
 - Town Clock £10,000
 - Contractual maintenance services for Toilets (2yrs) £22,000
 - Cost of Care Allowance £ 5,000
 - Tredegar Recreation Ground £30,000
- Council agree a Standstill Precept for 2026 / 2027 and the revised Reserves.

272) To consider a Schedule of Accounts for payment in January, 2026

The RFO spoke to the report and explained that the bank reconciliations, valid to date, were available for Members to view at the meeting or upon request, which was noted accordingly.

- Note and ratify pre-approved payments prior to the Christmas closure.
- January Accounts:
 - Direct Payments – Blachere Illuminations in respect of Callout charge x2
- 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 £0.00.

There being no further queries regarding the Schedule of Accounts, presented items 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.

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

- a) **Events Sub-Committee - 10th December, 2025**
- b) **Finance and Staffing Sub-Committee - 10th December, 2025**
- c) **Joint Civic and Ordinary Meeting of Council - 10th December, 2025**

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

274) 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.

275) Correspondence

- 1) BGCBC
 - a) R. Morales-Reeves Re: Tredegar Town Council telephone line and broadband change to digital. Responses to questions previously raised.

- Upon due consideration, the following costs to be incurred were noted and thereupon approved unanimously:

Monthly	£ 38.95
One-off fee	£724.00
First Total Payment	£762.95

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

- b) i) List of applications received, week ending 26th December, 2025.
- ii) List of applications received, week ending 9th January, 2026.
- Noted.

- 2) One Voice Wales
Calling Welsh Towns: Could a Welsh town be crowned the first UK Town of Culture? Opportunity to become a town of culture
- Noted.

- 3) G. Badham
Re: Nick Smith, M.P. Asking if Council would like him to attend a meeting.
- Noted; invite to forthcoming meeting of Ordinary Council.

- 4) Cllr Tippings
Re: Sirhowy & Deighton. Update on both sites and request a volunteer lead litter pick takes place on both sites.
- Noted; extend invite to user groups that use Deighton free of charge – interested parties to liaise with Clerk accordingly.

- 5) Financial Matters:
 - a) Smart Money Cymru Re: Community Investment Bond. Options available to Council now the six-month period has expired.
 - Feedback report requested in respect of initial investment and agree to extend investment for another six-month period.
 - b) S. Woodward Re: International Gala Denmark. Asking if Council would consider financially supporting two swimmers representing the UK in the international gala in Denmark in February.
 - Noted. A Member suggested a grant be awarded in respect of special circumstances, as the two individuals would be representing the UK in Denmark; due to disabilities,

increased costs would be incurred to participate; he therefore proposed an amount of £500.00 per individual.

A lengthy discussion ensued; for example, regarding awarding of monies in the past to support sport, such as the Special Olympics, when Council had been unable to provide financial support due to Legislation but had paid for kit / equipment, etc.

It was suggested that Council could set up a 'Go Fund Me' page on behalf of the individuals.

The Clerk advised that, although she recognised the wish of Members to support these individuals, Council had previously made a decision to cease the awarding of Special Grants subject to review within the appropriate forum, i.e. the Policy Sub-Committee. Also, Legislation had previously prohibited the granting of monies to individuals.

It was therefore agreed that the advice of OVW be sought in respect of the legality of awarding funding / establishing a 'Go Fund Me' account and feedback be presented to the next meeting of Council.

- c) Marie Curie Re: Marie Curie's Great Daffodil Appeal 2026. Asking Council to consider making a donation.
 - Noted; a donation of £100.00 was unanimously approved.

6) PUBLICATIONS

BGCBC Roadworks report week ending 16.01.2026 & 24.01.2026; Communicorp Clerks & Councils Direct January 2026 Issue 163; Ruth Taylor-Davies, Heritage Networking Meeting: The Valleys That Changed The World, 26 February, Insole Court, 10.00 a.m.; One Voice Wales, Next webinar event: Tackling Child Poverty 11.02.2026 – ***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.

276) Planning:

- a) i) List of planning applications received in week 01
- ii) List of planning applications received in week 02

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

c) To consider other planning matters –

Tai Calon Re: Pre-application Consultation for Waundeg. Proposed fifty-nine unit scheme is a mix of one-bed flats, two-bed bungalows and 2/3/4/5-bed houses. Holding a community consultation event at the Waundeg Community Flat on Thursday 29.01.2026 between 2.00 - 6.00 p.m.

Asbri Planning Re: Pre-application Consultation for Waundeg. Representations to be emailed to them by 09.02.2026.

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

- Animals Prohibited – a dog had been found abandoned on the Deighton playing field; it was agreed that the Clerk write to Blaenau Gwent CBC requesting an update on ascertaining ownership.
- Tredegar Live Project – considered a flagship project on implementation, Council needed to revise content; agreed to set up appropriate meeting.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 8.18 p.m.

_____ Chair