

TREDEGAR TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Civic Meeting of Council held via Microsoft Teams / hybrid on
Wednesday, 4th March, 2025 at 6.30 p.m.**

Present: Councillors A.E. Tippings. (Chair)

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

In attendance: Clerk – Ms. C. Aherne

**311) Apologies. Councillors K. Phillips, G. Badham, S. Mavar, J. Thomas
and K. Waldron**

312) Declarations of Interest

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

313) To receive Mayor's report, as appropriate

The Mayor provided the following update on events:

- Opened the new store 'Go Local' receiving a very warm welcome, never met a more excited group of people; first fifty customers received a bag of shopping. These were lovely people and the Mayor wished them well in Tredegar. Also visited Bees candle shop, Celtic Moon and Painted Lady; the Mayor welcomed all four new businesses in to the town – three of whom had already expressed an interest in joining the Business Forum.
- Presentation Awards Ceremony – this had proven a lovely evening; it filled Council with pride to recognise this talent within such a 'little town'; the buffet, as always, was exceptional, as were the gifts. It had been a very successful evening and thanks were extended to everyone involved.
- Blaenau Gwent Otters had a great time away during their recent trip, receiving a number of awards – including Silver, the Mayor believed – and everyone who had helped had received a public 'Thank you' on Facebook for their generous support.

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

It was agreed the following recommendations of the Events Sub-Committee be approved accordingly.

- Ongoing actions to be progressed accordingly.
- Expenditure approved in respect of refreshments, i.e. tea / coffee, squash, and Welsh cakes.

315) 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 –

Aneurin Leisure, Bedwellty House - Any financial assistance received would be used towards two projects – 1) the purchase of sports equipment and commercial garden games for free rental to use within the grounds, 2) child / family-friendly recycling station for the tennis courts / playground.

2024/25 Dec'24 CQ No. 706763 £1,000.00 - Approved accordingly.

Councillor A.E. Tippings declared an interest in the following application and took no part in discussion or voting thereon.

Oak Football Club - Any financial assistance received would be used for pitch fees and referee expenses.

2024/25 Dec'24 CQ No. 706762 £200.00 - Approved accordingly.

Tredegar Junior Netball Club - Any financial assistance received would be used towards the purchase of additional equipment, kit and courses for coaches / volunteers.

2023/24 Feb'24 CQ No. 706619 £200.00 - Approved accordingly.

Tredegar Twinning Association - Any financial assistance received would be used towards the cost of hosting the Orvault visitors in October, such as the Saturday entertainment evening.

2024/25 Oct'24 CQ No. 706724 £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)

Councillors D. Rowberry and A.E. Tippings declared an interest in the following applications and took no part in discussion or voting thereon.

Horeb Chapel - Any financial assistance received would be used for heating the building and repointing/repainting of the garden wall.

2024/25 March'2025 CQ No. 706796 £300.00 - Approved accordingly.

Sardis Chapel - Any financial assistance received would be used for heating the building during community events.

2024/25 March'2025 CQ No. 706797 £300.00 - Approved accordingly.

316) Correspondence

- 1) BGCBC
- a) S. Rowlands Re: Pen y Cwm Statutory Notice Period. Objections to the proposed capacity increase should be submitted by Thursday, 26th March, 2026.
- Noted; Council was aware of the excellent work undertaken at the School and welcomed the proposal.

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

- b) i) List of applications received, week ending 16th January, 2026
Licensing Act 2003 Transfer application – Queen’s Ballroom
- ii) List of applications received, week ending 23rd January, 2026
- iii) List of applications received, week ending 6th February, 2026
- Noted.
- 2) Parkinson’s UK Cymru
- a) Re: Light up Blue for World Parkinson’s Day 2026. Asking Council to participate on 11th April, 2026.
- Noted and agreed accordingly.
- 3) Hospice of the Valleys
- Wonderful news that Council have supported the Go Yellow event. Included their corporate sponsorship information for Council if they wish to consider changing what / how much they sponsor. i.e. Parc Bryn Bach Run Silver £500.00 and Gold £750.00 – **Information only, a change in the Grant Policy would be required**
- The RFO had been tasked to investigate and the Clerk confirmed that, should Council wish to change their sponsorship, there were various events throughout the year, e.g. Chase the Pudding, Parc Bryn Bach, when the Silver award was £300.00.
- 4) K. Collier
- Re: The dangers of stray sheep. Complaint regarding stray sheep, the health hazards, mess, inconvenience and dangers they cause.
- Clerk to write explaining that roaming animals was not within the remit of Town Council, but supported concerns and commended the gentleman also writing to the Chief Constable and National Farmers' Union.

Members of the Local Authority were working closely with partners, such as the Police, to tackle issues relating to sheep roaming and Council wanted to emphasise that farmers were victims of unsociable behaviour. Unfortunately, farmers were constantly being subjected to vandalism and faced repair costs with off-road vehicle-users cutting fencing, thus allowing animals to stray. One Councillor had visited an area with a farmer, on request, at ten in the morning to inspect / repair a fence that had been damaged, whereupon the farmer had again contacted the Councillor at four o'clock that afternoon to report the fencing had again been cut.

Concerns to be forwarded to Blaenau Gwent for the attention of the appropriate Working Party in order to be addressed.

6) PUBLICATIONS

BGCBC Roadworks report week ending 27.02.2026; BGCBC K. Williams Re: Small Grant Scheme, Food and Drink Festivals and Events 2026 / 2027; National Grid, INVITATION - National Grid Electricity Distribution's Stakeholder Workshops, online and in person, Various dates available national, Cardiff is 15.04.2026; Open Doors - An invitation to participate in Open Doors 2026 – ***distributed to Members***: Received.

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

317) Planning:

a) i) List of planning applications received in week 07

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

App. No.	Applicant	Proposal
P/2025/0305	S. Rowlands, BGCBC Energy Centre The Works	Proposed construction of a 2.4m high fence and gates as per design drawing, Bryn Bach Primary School.
<i>No objections</i>	Ebbw Vale	

c) To consider other planning matters – Hugh James Solicitors

Re: Commons Act 2026, Section 38 Application (Consultation). Trefil Common (CL No. BCL015) – Community of Trefil. Applicant: Gryphonn Quarries Ltd. Closing date for objections / representations is 24.03.2026 – *Council asked that a copy of the plans be provided for viewing.*

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

- Council thanked Aneurin Leisure for their help with the Presentation evening and commended the lovely buffet provided.

319) 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 – No meeting.

c) One Voice Wales Larger Councils and AGM – No meeting.

d) Tredegar Twinning – The meeting had been held in Wetherspoons to raise visibility of the Association, who was looking to raise funds for the French visit in October, and also looking for places to visit, e.g. maritime museum, Swansea, other venues, exhibitions, Transport Bridge, Newport.

Members suggested the following for consideration - Roman Baths, Caerleon, amphitheater, Margam Park and Brecon barracks.

e) Pen Bryn Oer Community Fund – Application closure date was 9th March, 2026, with the next round in April.

f) School Governing Bodies – Bryn Bach Primary: no meeting; Georgetown Primary: a Member had joined Year 6 for a most enjoyable visit to SS Great Britain, Bristol Docks, which was the oldest ship in the world at the time. Previously used as a passenger ship before being wrecked in the South Atlantic, docked in the Falklands, and now completely refurbished. Deighton Primary: pleased to report provision of a Big Bocs Bwyd container and planting beds - to work with children to understand cost of living, eating / growing fresh vegetables, etc.; Tredegar Comprehensive: a new Deputy Head had been appointed.

g) Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum – The Forum was looking into arranging trips to venues normally closed to the public; Annual Heritage Day - to be held in Llanhilleth Institute; free monthly talks, theme 'Places', of local interest around Wales, the previous talk had related to Welsh Follies.

h) Tredegar Business Forum – To meet next Monday. Members provided an update in respect of racial abuse, intimidating and anti-social behaviour, etc. experienced by local businesses in the town.

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

- No. 1 The Circle 'Food Bank' – a Member explained that she used this service in her role as a Wellbeing coach, supplying flowers / fruit, etc. for clients. The group did not have their own bank account, and without a bank account could not apply for grants, with volunteers even using their own petrol to collect from supermarkets. The group had previously operated from The Willows.

Members suggested that perhaps the group should register as charity and highlighted that charities were able to bank with Smart Money Cymru.

Unfortunately, Environmental Health [BGCCBC] had visited the vicinity in the past following neighbours' complaints and there had also been an issue with fly-tipping; a Member said mothers with prams had needed to enter the road.

- The Clerk said that a request had been received by Nantyglo and Blaina Town Council. Unfortunately, the Clerk had resigned and the RFO had been approached to provide cover in the interim. The post had been advertised to recruit a Clerk / RFO. Council said this evidenced how well staff were thought of in the wider community and Members extended their support to the RFO; the Officer should be commended in being

specifically concerned with the impact a full audit would place on that the Council being in a difficult position.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 7.27 p.m.

_____ Chair