TREDEGAR TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Council held via Microsoft Teams / hybrid on Wednesday, 20th May, 2026 at 6.00 p.m.

Present: Councillors A.E. Tippings (Chair)
A. Jones
M. Turner
K. Phillips
G. Badham
A.E. Evans
L. Thomas Evans
E. Jones
G. Jones-Griffiths
D. Rowberry
J. Thomas
P. Tolley

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

001) To Elect a Mayor to serve until the Annual Meeting of Council 2027: Thanks and Appreciation by outgoing Mayor 2025 / 2026, Councillor A.E. Tippings

A Member proposed that Councillor Alyson Tippings be nominated.

There being no other nominations, Councillor Alyson Tippings was thereupon unanimously re-elected to the role of Mayor.

002) Declaration of Acceptance of Office by the incoming Mayor:
At this point, the Chain of Office will be handed over and the Consort's Chain will also be exchanged. Gifts / flowers will be given to incoming and outgoing Consort.

Mayor to duly sign the acceptance of Office in the presence of the Clerk.

An exchange of Chain was not applicable.

003) To receive any communication the Mayor may wish to lay before Council.

Received.

004) Apologies. Councillors H. Trollope, S. Trollope, K. Waldron, G. Walters

The Clerk reported an absence for over six consecutive months of Councillor Sunny Mavar.

It was therefore approved that the Clerk write, informing the Member of the cessation of the role of Councillor, extending the thanks of Council accordingly.

005) Declarations of Interest

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

006) To Elect a Deputy Mayor to serve until the Annual Meeting of Council 2027: Chain of Office will be given to the incoming Deputy.

A Member proposed that Councillor Allan Jones be nominated to the role of Deputy Mayor.

There being no other nominations, Councillor Allan Jones was re-elected unanimously.

Deputy Mayor to duly sign the acceptance of Office in the presence of the Clerk.

007) To Elect a Member as Leader of Council until the Annual Meeting of Council 2027.

A Member said he was pleased to nominate Councillor Mark Turner to the role of Leader; the nomination was duly seconded, and Councillor Turner re-appointed.

Leader to duly sign the acceptance of Office in the presence of the Clerk.

008) To Elect a Member as Deputy Leader of Council until the Annual Meeting of Council 2027.

A Member nominated Councillor Kevin Phillips, to the role of Deputy Leader; the nomination was duly seconded, and Councillor Phillips re-appointed.

Deputy Leader to duly sign the acceptance of Office in the presence of the Clerk.

009) To approve the Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Leader and Deputy Leader are ex-officio Members of all Council Committees and Sub-Committees with voting rights.

This was agreed unanimously.

010) To receive and confirm the Standing Orders of Tredegar Town Council.

These were agreed unanimously.

011) To receive and confirm the Financial Regulations of Tredegar Town Council.

These were agreed unanimously.

012) To appoint Barclays Bank plc as the Council's Bankers (existing).

This was agreed unanimously.

013) To Authorise the Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Leader, Deputy Leader of Council, and Finance Sub-Committee Chair, with the Clerk and RFO, to sign cheques on behalf of Tredegar Town Council.

This was agreed unanimously. (N.B. Clerk and RFO to sign cheques only in the case of an emergency, once approval agreed by the signatories listed.)

014) To agree the Mayor's Allowance (£500.00) and Mayoral Civic budget (£815.00) – to authorise payment in full or pro rata.

This was agreed unanimously.

015) To agree a Leader's Allowance, not exceeding £500.00, and authorise payment.

This was agreed unanimously.

016) To appoint a Civic Committee (all Members of Council).

This was agreed unanimously.

017) To appoint ALL MEMBERS OF COUNCIL to the Performance Review Committee: To meet quarterly.

This was agreed unanimously.

018) To confirm the following Sub-Committees and to appoint Members to serve on them until the Annual Meeting of Council 2027.

a. **Civic Sub-Committee**
b. **Events Sub-Committee (To incorporate Publicity Sub-Committee and Website Working Party)**
c. **Heritage Sub-Committee (encompassing Bedwellty House and Park, the Assembly Room Picture Gallery, Tredegar War Memorials and Tredegar Town Clock) with plenary powers up to £500.00**
d. **Finance & Staffing Sub-Committee (To incorporate the Budget Working Party)**
e. **Appeals Committee**
f. **Policy Sub-Committee - All Members of Council**
g. **Community, Youth and International Sub-Committee (To incorporate Tredegar Twinning Association)**
h. **One Voice Wales Climate Change Adaptation Programme**
i. **Public Facilities Sub-Committee (Encompassing Tredegar W/C Facilities, Deighton playing field and Sirhowy Community Garden, Allotments and Town Clock)**
j. **Planning Representatives**

The Chair of Committees and Sub-Committees to be elected at the first Meeting of that Committee / Sub-Committee and to serve until the Annual Meeting of Council 2027.

Membership to remain in situ, with amendments approved, as reported by the Clerk.

019) To appoint Members to serve on the following outside bodies:

a. **Quarterly Liaison Meeting / Joint Committee of Local Councils**
b. **Gwent Valleys One Voice Wales**
c. **One Voice Wales Larger Councils and AGM**
d. **Tredegar Twinning Association**
e. **Pen Bryn Oer Community Fund**
f. **School Governing Bodies**
    a. **Bryn Bach Primary**
    b. **Deighton Primary**
    c. **Georgetown Primary**
    d. **Glanhowy Primary**
    e. **St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Primary**
    f. **Ysgol Gymraeg Tredegar**
g. **Blaenau Gwent CAB**
h. **Tredegar Business Forum**
i. **Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum**
j. **Tredegar Placemaking**
k. **Bannau Brycheiniog / Brecon Beacons National Park**
l. **Armed Forces Community Covenant**

The list was reviewed and representation agreed unanimously.

020) To receive any verbal recommendations of all Sub-Committee / Working Party meetings held prior to this meeting of Council.

The recommendation/s of the following meetings were approved accordingly:

- Finance and Staffing Sub-Committee – 11th May, 2026
- Working Party - Christmas Lights Display – 12th May, 2026
- Working Party - Review of Grants – 13th May, 2026
- Civic Sub-Committee – 20th May, 2026

021) Tredegar Recreation Ground: any update for discussion

Received.

022) To consider a Schedule of Accounts for payment in May 2026.

The Schedule of Accounts was approved for payment.

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

a. **Events Sub-Committee - 1st April, 2026**
b. **Civic Meeting of Council - 1st April, 2026**
c. **Performance Review Sub-Committee - 15th April, 2026**
d. **Ordinary Meeting of Council - 15th April, 2026.**

024) 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.

025) Correspondence.

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

Items of correspondence were received and noted accordingly; all items in respect of expenditure were agreed appropriately.

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

026) Planning

a) i) List of planning applications received in week 14.
ii) List of planning applications received in week 15.
iii) List of planning applications received in week 16.
iv) List of planning applications received in week 17.

b) Applications

App. No.	Proposal
P/2026/0055 ***No objections***	Proposed change of use of vacant land for the storage of caravans and other vehicles (sui Generous), Yard 1 adjoining Unit E, Crown Business Park.
P/2026/0057 ***No objections***	Erection of new front and side boundary fence and gate, Ashby House, Harford Street.
P/2026/0061 ***No objections***	Proposed replacement security fence, 4 gates, additional roller shutter curtains to openings. Former Job Centre Plus Office, Upper Coronation St, Tredegar.
P/2026/0082	Change of use of the existing building from Class C2 (residential institution) to a Sui Generis House in Multiple Occupation (HMO) to provide 14 bedrooms, Elmwood House, Elmwood.

Observations:
The building was situated directly behind Kidz R Us and Council considered this could prove an inappropriate type of provision, bearing in mind the safeguarding aspect.
Insufficient parking provision for fourteen to twenty-eight residents and staff parking provision; also, bicycle racks, as required.
Insufficient facilities, i.e. communal areas / public amenity spaces, which could prove difficult to adhere to in maintaining to an acceptable standard (overcrowding, cleanliness, etc.).
Queried the level of HMO provision within Blaenau Gwent in respect of the percentage permitted.

P/2026/0092	Installation of a hand car wash facility including canopy, screening and associated works within the existing garage forecourt, Sirhowy Garage, Beaufort Road.

Observations:
No objections, *however Members referred to soakaway provision to ensure the water was appropriately removed from the site, to ensure no run-off onto the public highway that could prove a hazard in inclement weather due to freezing.*

c) Other Planning Matters: None received.

027) To agree the presentation of the Aneurin Bevan Prize, the Peter Morgan Jones and Michael Foot Awards, in conjunction with Tredegar Comprehensive School.

This was agreed unanimously.

028) To agree the presentation of the Tony Gregory Award.

This was agreed unanimously.

029) To agree the Lindsay Bryan Sports Memorial Award.

This was agreed unanimously.

030) To confirm the pattern and timings of Meetings of Council:

The Standing Orders, outlining the schedule for meetings of Council and subject to annual review, were agreed unanimously.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 7.23 p.m.

_____ Chair