TREDEGAR TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Civic Meeting of Council held via Microsoft Teams / hybrid on Wednesday, 2nd September, 2026 at 6.30 p.m.

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

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

130) Apologies: Councillors A.E. Evans, E. Jones, H. Trollope, S. Trollope and K. Waldron

131) Declarations of Interest
The Chair reminded Members to make their declarations as and when necessary.

132) To receive Mayor's report, as appropriate
The Mayor provided the following update on events:

- Council had utilised St. David's Day Funding to purchase books for every primary and secondary school in the Tredegar area; on receipt, the Mayor had visited every School to deliver these 'by hand' and had received a lovely welcome.
- The Band Concerts had proven really successful this year, with many visitors turning up every week.
- Two litterpicks had been undertaken over the summer period – Deighton playing field and Sirhowy Community Garden, arranged by Town Council with the support of BGCBC. Fly-tipping of some larger items needed to be collected by the Local Authority; Clerk to check with appropriate Officer.
- Moose Centenary – this was a lovely evening, receiving a wonderful welcome, and it was amazing to see the Chief Executive of the International Organisation spending time in the kitchen.
- 125th Anniversary of the Bedwellty Park Bowls Club – again, received a wonderful welcome; opportunity to purchase a rose bud for the commemorative garden in memory of a lost loved one.
- Presentation of cheques for grants awarded by Council – Tredegar Decoupage,

Ironsides Minis and Juniors, Tredegar Methodist Church and Kidz R Us.

133) 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 Sub-Committee / Working Party meetings held prior to Council be approved accordingly.

- **Finance and Staffing Sub-Committee held 4th August, 2026**
  Play Sessions Delivery - Summer 2026: more detail in general needed; need to co-ordinate and consider for next year.
  Sirhowy Community Garden fencing: it was unanimously agreed that the work be agreed: £1,380.00 in principle.

- **Working Party – Open Doors held 10th August, 2026**
  Tickets to be issued.
  Strict on access – tolerance re: alcohol / drugs.
  Eligibility criteria
  - Age restriction and how many children per adult, especially babies
  - Attire / footwear
  - Health and safety considerations in respect of ability to climb interior ladders and to what level
  - Numbers permitted to manage timing of event – e.g. 100 tickets to be issued, a Member suggested this could be promoted on EventBrite, commencing 10,00 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. with overflow for approved visitors until 1.00 p.m.

  Documentation required – flyer, fact sheet, criteria to be displayed, certificates and pen.
  Stewards – one per level x four, two outside – total seven.
  Clerk to liaise with Veterans to ask if their members would like to support Council.
  Supplies needed – blue roll to ensure rungs dry, bottled water.

- **Events Sub-Committee held 2nd September, 2026**
  Merchant Navy Day - Thursday, 3rd September, 2026: Expenditure in respect of refreshments approved, i.e. tea / coffee and Welsh cakes.
  Open Doors - Saturday, 5th and Sunday, 6th September, 2026: ongoing actions to be progressed accordingly.
  Remembrance events – November
  - Lamp-post poppies: Clerk to undertake stock-take and replenish, if necessary.
  - Three wreaths required for Princetown, the Cenotaph and Burma Shrine and three poppy bouquets for the WWII memorial benches, expenditure approved accordingly.
  - Cairn Memorial – Saturday, 7th November, 2026, Approved: refreshments at The Top House. Clerk to ascertain if minibus provision available and seek tenders accordingly.

134) Members' Allowances Policy

Consideration was given to the report of the RFO, relating to the annual review of the Allowances and Expenses Policy, initially adopted at the meeting of Council on 20th September, 2023.

The RFO spoke to the report, clarifying that amendments were highlighted in 'Red' for

Members' consideration. Amendments were minor, generally in relation to the change of name from IRPW to the Democracy and Boundary Commission Cymru.

- Travel and Subsistence for attending approved duties: a Member said that the allowance had increased to 55p per mile.
- Mandatory Payments – Working from Home / Reimbursement of Consumables: the RFO reminded Council that the onus was on Members to place in writing to advise the Officer if not wishing to accept these mandatory payments for all Members. Members should sign and return the form provided by the RFO by 12.00 noon on Monday, 17th September, 2026.

It was agreed that the Allowances and Expenses Policy be approved accordingly.

135) 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; and

Councillor G. Jones-Griffiths declared an interest in the following application and took no part in discussion or voting thereon
Bedwellty Park Bowls Club – Any financial assistance received would be used towards decorating the pavilion where they host a variety of events for the community.
2025/26 Oct'25 CQ No. 706873 £200.00: *Approved accordingly*

Friends of Bedwellty Park – Any financial assistance received would be used towards maintaining and improving the sensory garden which is their ongoing project.
2025/26 July'25 CQ No. 706852 £200.00: *Approved accordingly*

Tredegar Camera Club – Any financial assistance received would be used towards the operating costs of the group such as room hire at the Bowls Club pavilion
2025/26 July'25 CQ No. 706853 £200.00: *Approved accordingly*

Ystrad Deri Community Centre – Any financial assistance received would be used to purchase new serving equipment, including items such as cake tins and cake boxes, which are used for their coffee mornings and bingo evenings
2025/26 Nov'25 CQ No. 706878 £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)*

Trinity Spiritualist Church – Any financial assistance received would be used to replace the radiators and pipework.
2025/26 Sept'25 CQ No. 706868 £300.00: *Approved accordingly*

136) Vacancy - Georgetown Ward: nominations for consideration
The Clerk referred to the vacancy in the Georgetown Ward to be filled via the co-option process. On progressing, in accordance with the approved practice, an expression of interest had been received and, therefore, unless Members had a justifiable reason to decline, the applicant should be accepted accordingly.

Consideration was given to the application, which was thereupon approved accordingly in respect of:

- Stephen Edwards

137) Correspondence

1) BGCBC/TCBC

a) i) T. Lane Re: The Sirhowy Valley Pride in Place Board, email from the Chair. Invitation to nominate one member to serve on the Pride in Place Board. A nomination from the Council would strengthen communication and collaboration between our two organisations that share a commitment to improving our communities. Our objective is to ensure that community voices are at the heart of the programme.
ii) T. Lane Pride in Place. Response to concerns previously emailed. Confirms next meeting details are Friday, 4th September at 4.30 p.m. to 7.00 p.m. Bedwellty House.

- The Leader said that he was disappointed in the correspondence Council had received to date and the delay in responses to queries of the RFO; also, the criteria for representation was very restricted. The Clerk had thereupon been asked to ascertain the reasons for the short notice and further pursue a response to queries in respect of the criteria. The Leader had offered to make himself available for the initial meeting but emphasised this would not be as the designated TTC representative, as a response was needed in respect of the criteria before nominating a representative.

  There was a meeting on Friday, to be held in Brynmawr, to meet with the Pride in Place Board; again, Council had not been informed. This was important funding for the Tredegar area, with an input of £2m per year for the town and there was a need to ensure the monies was spent appropriately.

  The criteria ruled out many of the Members and therefore a response was needed, as it was the decision of Council who that representative would be; also, ascertain who could attend the meeting with the Board.

  It was thereupon agreed that Council write to Blaenau Gwent CBC seeking clarification in

respect of the criteria and all points raised to date.

Councillor A. Jones left the meeting at this juncture (7.05 p.m.)

b) A. Tippings Re: Welsh School of Architecture: Tredegar Focus 2026/7. Copy of email sent to Matthew at Coalfield Regeneration regarding proposed visit on 15.10.2026.

- Noted.

c) R. Murray Re: Draft Joint Blaenau Gwent and Torfaen Local Development Plan (2026-2041). Consultation on Draft Delivery Agreement, end date 04.09.2026 – ***forwarded to Members***

- Noted.

d) Deighton Primary Re: Christmas idea. Asking for advice and support of a Christmas pop-up craft shop in town.

- Council would be more than happy to write a letter in support of the School; however, a Member was aware of an issue whereby a group had been approved access to a shop free of charge but had then received a bill in respect of Business Rates for the year.

  It was therefore proposed that the School be advised to refer this matter to the Town Centre Manager, BGCBC. *Councillor thereupon declared an interest in this matter.*

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

e) 1) List of applications received, week ending 17th July, 2026.
2) List of applications received, week ending 24th July, 2026.
i) Transfer premises licence – Codfather, 2 The Circle
ii) Vary designated premises supervisor – Go Local Extra, 21/23 Castle Street.
3) List of applications received, week ending 31st July, 2026.
i) Temporary Street Trading 11th to 30.08.2026 – Old Sirhowy Inn Site
ii) Transfer Premise Licence – 21/22 Castle Street
iii) Temporary Street Trading 8th, 18th, 22nd & 29.08.2026 for football matches – Tredegar Sports Centre

4) List of applications received, week ending 7th August, 2026.
5) List of applications received, week ending 14th August, 2026.
6) List of applications received, week ending 21st August, 2026.

- Noted.

2) One Voice Wales

a) Re: Innovative Practice Conference on Wednesday, 30th September, 2026. Agenda booking form. £70.00 per delegate.

- Noted.

b) Re: Free places scheme. For any free training (funded by Welsh Government and not paid for by Council) a Councillor fails to attend for a reasonable explanation, the Council will now receive an invoice from OVW for that place. The non-attendee will still receive the handouts.

- Noted.

c) Annual Pay Settlement 2026/27. New pay scales from 1st April, 2026.

- Consideration was given to the National Association of Local Councils' new pay scales for 2026 / 2027; the Clerk referred to the proposed pay scales, to be implemented and backdated from 1st April, 2026, reporting on the information received from the NALC.

  It was unanimously agreed that Council support the implementation of the new NALC pay scales, to be backdated to 1st April, 2026.

d) Model contract of employment. Changes as result of the Employment Rights Act 2025.

- Noted.

3) Cllr Turner

Re: New customer enquiry. Information relating to SLA for the supply & emptying of waste bins.

- Noted; it was agreed that the RFO be seek quotations from other providers in respect of the service needed.

4) Abertillery & Llanhilleth Community Council

Re: Review of Community Boundaries. Response to Draft Proposals. Copy of email that has been sent to BGCBG opposing the changes.

- Noted.

5) Financial Matters:

a) Smart Money Cymru Re: Investment bond. Your first set of interest was moved to a Share 1 account on maturity of the account in January 2026. This is available to withdraw if you wish. With the interest added to the account since, that is still in your community investment bond currently. We can either place into Share 1, to allow you to withdraw, or it can be kept in the Community Investment Bond Account and reinvested. Would you like information just on the last six months regarding Tredegar members, or from the start of your investment please?

- It was agreed that the amount be reinvested and that the information be brought back to the next available meeting of Council.

b) Cerebral Palsy Cymru Re: Annual Council Appeal letter.

- Noted: a donation of £50.00 was unanimously approved

c) Hospice of the Valleys Re: Great Festive Dress Up 2026 for Hospice of the Valleys. Funding raising event running between 16.11.2026 to Christmas Eve. Wear Christmas jumpers / pj's / festive fancy dress with a suggested donation of a £1.00 to this appeal.

- Noted: a donation of £50.00 was unanimously approved

6) G. Badham

Re: Funding event, Nick Smith, M.P. Friday 16.10.2026, 2.00 till 4.00 p.m. at Learning Action Centre, 20 James St, Ebbw Vale.

- Noted.

7) Kidz R Us

J. Dann Re: The Void 2. Invite to all Members to attend either of the showings being held on 17th & 18th October. – ***forwarded to Members asking them to confirm to us***

- Noted.

8) Residents Correspondence:

a) A. Edwards Re: Deighton Playing Field. Asking if disabled access can be made available, currently unable to take her daughter into the site due to restricted access for the wheelchair.

- Discussion ensued regarding options to accommodate disabled whilst maintaining prevention of undesirable users, such as off-road vehicles and ingress of sheep / horses.

It was agreed that the Chair would liaise with the mother to ascertain the level of responsibility the individual would be comfortable with, e.g. provision of their own key for access.

b) D. Evans Re: Plaque request for Trevor the Milk. Wishes to explore the possibility of placing a small commemorative plaque on (or immediately adjacent to) the Town Clock in recognition of Trevor's contribution to the community and the affection in which he was held by the people of Tredegar.

- Noted; refer to meeting of the Heritage Sub-Committee.

c) E. Lewis Re: Tredegar Health Centre. Asking if Tim Watkins can take care of the grounds at Park Row Health Centre. He is doing great job around town. It's sad to see the mess the grounds are in and the statue pulled to the ground in the car park, also plinth taken off the wall as you go into the car park.

- Noted; refer to the Aneurin Bevan University Health Board, as this area was not within the remit of Council.

d) L. Allison Re: Cholera Epidemic bicentennial. Wishes to discuss a potential 200th commemorative anniversary project – ***forwarded to BGCBC A Tippings***

- Noted; a Member said there was an Ancestry session held in the Tredegar area each month.

6) **PUBLICATIONS**
Audit Wales, Notification of Wales Audit Office participation in the National Fraud Initiative; BGCBC Roadworks report week ending 04.09.2026 – ***distributed to Members***: Received.

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

138) Planning:

a) i) List of planning applications received in week 26
ii) List of planning applications received in week 27
iii) List of planning applications received in week 28
iv) List of planning applications received in week 29
v) List of planning applications received in week 30

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

App. No.	Applicant	Proposal
INFORMATION ONLY (Summer Recess Planning)		
P/2025/0305 ***No objections***	S. Rowlands BGCBC Energy Centre Lime Avenue Ebbw Vale	**Reconsultation:** **Amended description** Creation of multi-use games area and fence up to 3m in height, Bryn Bach Primary, Merthyr Road.
P/2026/0128 ***No objections***	Mrs. L. Davies 27 Bryn Rhosyn Tredegar	Demolition of existing conservatory with erection of single storey rear extension, 27 Bryn Rhosyn.
P/2026/0142 ***No objections***	C. Jones Cefn Golau Together Community House 87 Attlee Way Tredegar	New community centre including two parking areas with associated access, land between 35 & 53 Gainsborough Road.
P/2026/0149 ***No objections***	Mr. S. Evans Heathfield Tredegar	Proposed detached house with associated external works, Mill Farm, Pochin Crescent – Mill Farm, Pochin Crescent.

Councillor G. Walters declared an interest in the following application and took no part in discussion or voting thereon

P/2026/0151 ***No objections***	Mr. H. Walters & Mr. D. Andrews Borg Property Solutions Ltd 57 Harford Gardens Tredegar	Proposed change of use of disused bank on ground floor to café / restaurant (Planning Class A3) and conversion of single apartment on first and second floors to two self-contained apartments with associated external works, Former Midland Bank, 104 Commercial Street.
P/2026/0155 ***No objections***	Mr. M. Perrett Positif Care Ltd. 4-5 High Street Abertillery	Proposed change of use from employment office and training centre to a vocational construction skill training centre, Former Job Centre Plus Centre, Crown Buildings.

To be considered:

P/2026/0136	Mr. R. Baron Larboratree Ltd. 6 Twyn Place Newport	To undertake works to protected trees in line with the attached tree survey. The protected trees we are aware of are T008 (T1 BG5 yew), T004 Ash, T005 Ash, T006 Sycamore covered by BG5 G2 and G002 Covered by BG5 G1. The exception is T008 (T1 BG5) due to its proximity to the property the client has requested the trees be felled. The Fountain Inn, Troedrhiwgwair.

Observations:

Council noted the building was 'listed'; a Member said she was strongly opposed to any works being undertaken to the trees. The Chair thereupon outlined the proposed works, i.e. Ash – dieback, Sycamore – diseased, coppicing of remaining [Hazel], whereupon Members expressed serious concern with regard to proposed works to the yew tree being reduced by 3m and pruned to achieve a 3m clearance from the building, stating the tree was not aesthetically pleasing. Council emphasised the great significance of this yew tree and were therefore strongly opposed to the works proposed within the application.

Councillor G. Badham declared an interest in the following application and took no part in the decision-making or voting thereon

P/2026/0166	Mr. Cooke Tai Calon Community Housing Solis One Griffin Lane Rising Sun Industrial Estate Blaina	Residential development and associated works, Land at Waundeg, Tredegar.

Observations

Council received feedback from the local Ward Members, who relayed comments of residents within the area in respect of observations relating to the proposed development, but took no part in decision-making or voting thereon, i.e.

The residents were opposed to the proposed planning development and were protective of the green area; the houses were of old Cornish stock – this was a close knit community and residents were conscious of who would be housed in single occupancy properties; Tai Calon had provided 'open days' and gathered a lot of information. However, it was noted there was sufficient parking available in the area and a Member said she recognised this type of housing. was in demand.

Council therefore ***objected*** on the grounds of loss of amenity of the children's play area [green space], housing of undesirous individuals, and that remedial works were required to existing properties in a deplorable condition before building new. Therefore Council asked of the intention of

Tai Calon Community Housing in respect of any proposals for the two properties situated in the circle area.

c) To consider other planning matters –
Evans Banks Planning Ltd. Re: Pre-application consultation, land off Cefn Glas. Construction of 44 affordable dwellings and residential apartments, access road and associated works: *Council requested more information in respect of the exact location of the proposed development.*

139) 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 again referred to the dilapidated condition of the Bandstand – the roof needed clearing / replacement of rusty sheet to one section, and it generally appeared weathered in need of painting. The Clerk had also reported a section of the railing that was rusted through and could be a risk to the public.

140) 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 French visit would take place in October, the inter-committee meeting would be held on the Saturday, followed by the Mayor's reception; Councillor P. Tolley had taken over as Secretary; it was noted that the Association was now at a stage whereby the majority of members were elderly.
e) Pen Bryn Oer Community Fund – The deadline for applications would be 11th September, 2026, with the next meeting scheduled for October.
f) School Governing Bodies – No meetings.
g) Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum – Meeting next Monday; reminder for the Thursday lecture, featuring a talk on 'Clocks' and the Day School to be held Llanhilleth, including 'Places of Interest'.
h) Tredegar Business Forum

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

- Quickstart Administrative Employee – Council extended a warm welcome to Arron Powar who had joined Tredegar Town Council on 1st September, 2026.
- Public Conveniences – the new toilet holder had been damaged and would need to be replaced.
- Tredegar Recreation Ground – the Leader had met with a GAVO representative to ascertain what sources of grant funding could be available to Council, e.g. provision of solar panels; the appropriate Service Level Agreements to be put in place were ongoing' thanks extended to Councillor T. Smith, BGCBC, for arranging collection of the refuse; conversations were ongoing in respect of changing the lighting to the Pavilion to LED; the bulbs required replacement to the lighting.

The Leader emphasised this was a learning experience as Council progressed, however the Town Council operative appeared to be working well, visiting the Deighton playing field every Monday morning to clear any litter and visited the Recreation Ground daily.
Councillor A. Jones was working with the operative in respect of works needed, e.g. to the public convenience, which he was opening / closing on a Saturday, alongside Shimmer n Shine; reinstating the benches to the Deighton playing field and Sirhowy Community Garden that had been tipped.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 8.19 p.m.

_____ Chair