TREDEGAR TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held via Microsoft Teams / hybrid on Wednesday, 16th September, 2026 at 6.30 p.m.

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

In attendance: **Clerk – Ms. C. Aherne**
RFO – Ms. A. Edwards
Quickstart Admin. Trainee – Mr. A. Powar

148) Apologies. **Councillors K. Phillips, A.E. Evans, H. Trollope, S. Trollope, K. Waldron and G. Walters**

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

150) To receive any verbal recommendations of all Sub-Committees / Working Party meetings held prior to this meeting of Council
It was agreed the recommendations of the Sub-Committee held prior to Council be approved accordingly.

- **Finance and Staffing Sub-Committee held 15th September, 2026**

  Provision of the Christmas Lights display
  It was proposed that a cap at £30,000 be agreed.
  Ask if Roman Street-lighting / Centigreat could wrap existing trees, resulting in a 'one-off cost'.
  Purchase lights to undertake a basic display around Clock column / grounds, boards around base of Clock or pegged into base.
  Brackets: install Christmas trees / lights.
  Display from one, install from other, BGCBC could be one option.
  Monmouthshire County Council - their staff had equipment; team undertook install in their own time, ask Abergavenny Town Council / Mike Herring.

Live Christmas tree, costing of a 'thirty foot', ascertain if Taffy's could transport; AET to query with Sirhowy Woodlands in respect of provision / transport.

The Clerk asked that, due to the urgent need to progress the item, Council consider this matter as business from which the public may be excluded – as a confidential item or Part 2 of the agenda, due to information relating to *'Tenders and contracts before award'*.

The Council was thereupon asked to resolve to exclude the public for this item under section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, which was unanimously agreed.

Tredegar Recreation Ground: BGCBC Waste & Recycling Charges
RFO awaiting confirmation of the amount in order to progress.

151) Tredegar Recreation Ground

- **Grant Funding and Regeneration Strategy**
  The report set out an updated grant-funding strategy for the future protection, improvement and regeneration of Tredegar Recreation Ground. It would build on the existing approach of progressing project development alongside the Community Asset Transfer, but add the major opportunity now presented by the UK Government Pride in Place Programme for Tredegar and the potential advantages of an agreed long-term charitable stewardship model.

  In order to access possible funding avenues in respect of the Recreation Ground, there would be a need to move forward to the next stage and now ask Blaenau Gwent CBC to take on responsibility under a full asset transfer / Charitable Trust. Grant funding could then be sought to undertake works that were not linked to sport clubs, such as solar panels, floodlighting, fencing around the pitches, etc.

- **Proposal to the Tredegar Pride in Place Neighbourhood Board**
  To seek the Board's support for Tredegar Recreation Ground to be developed, through community engagement, as a strategic project within Tredegar's 10-year Pride in Place Plan.
  This report was in relation to a long-term strategy of the Pride in Place Board in considering assets within our town, to bring the Board's attention to the Recreation Ground and consideration as one of the places to be included within that scheme.

  The Leader thereupon provided a brief update in respect of outstanding remedial works to be undertaken by the Local Authority, as mentioned previously; also, monies approved for the demolition of the toilets' building, which would be offered for tender. There were a few minor points ongoing, such as the SLAs, an enquiry regarding licences required, by the Town Council or the vendors themselves, etc. and he said there was a hope the clubs would bear with Council during this first year.

  Members thanked the Leader for compiling these reports on behalf of Council and a brief discussion ensued how this asset could be managed in the future, e.g. by a constituted committee, setting up a Board, as a CIC.

It was agreed that the reports be received and noted accordingly.

152) To update on the Internal Auditor Report 2025 / 2026

The RFO drew Members attention to the table of recommendations relating to the Report of the Internal Auditor 2025 / 2026, which outlined progress to date: only two Recommendations remained outstanding.

- Christmas Lights Contract – having implemented a one-year renewal with the existing Contractor the previous year, the Clerk had followed the quotation process to seek tenders. Unfortunately, the tender process had proven unsuccessful and this provision needed to be subject to further consideration.
- Contingency Arrangements – the Quickstart placement had been secured for a period of six months and, if satisfactory, there may be an opportunity to extend.

The update in respect of the Internal Audit 2025 / 2026 was thereupon accepted accordingly.

153) To consider a Schedule of Accounts for payment in September 2026 and ratify any amendments to payments made in August 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. The Officer referred to the estimated August payments at the July meeting of Council, provisionally approved and was now confirming the actual figures as reported, which were ratified accordingly.

- The Schedule of Accounts relating to items for payment in July and August [indicated in Red] were presented for ratification and approved accordingly;
- Public Conveniences and Tredegar Recreation Ground – a Member requested that a breakdown of running costs be provided in respect of the two sites; the RFO confirmed this was usually split down within the budget.
- 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 £400.00.

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, and the processing of the approved online payments, to be undertaken in the presence of the appropriate Member and Town Clerk, which was noted accordingly.

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

a) **Events Sub-Committee – 1st July, 2026**
b) **Civic Meeting of Council – 1st July, 2026**
c) **Performance Review Sub-Committee - 15th July, 2026**
d) **Ordinary Meeting of Council - 15th July, 2026**
e) **Finance and Staffing Sub-Committee – 4th August, 2026**
f) **'Open Doors' Working Party – 10th August, 2026**

155) 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.

156) Correspondence

1) BGCBC

a) i) T. Lane Re: Pride in Place. Asking if there is a designated representative of members for a meeting with the board tomorrow.

- Noted. Two expressions of interest were received for consideration, where upon a vote being undertaken, it was agreed that Councillor Stephen Edwards be the designated representative, with Councillor Leanne Thomas Evans, as Reserve, if permitted [Clerk to ascertain].

ii) S Cassie Re: Pride in Place. Dates of next scheduled board meetings for diaries, Thursday, 24th September, 2026 - Sirhowy Community Centre from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. / Thursday 22nd October, 2026 – Sirhowy Community Centre from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. / Thursday, 26th November, 2026 – Venue and Time TBC 6:30-8:00 p.m.

- Having spoken with various individuals in respect of Pride in Place, some concerns related to the make-up of the Board in ensuring an understanding of the set-up and how governance works. Of concern were comments in respect of the shopping centre and how this funding would be a panacea, however this was not what Pride in Place represented.

  Council emphasised the importance of money being disseminated the length and breadth of the town, rather than the town centre itself. These monies should be allocated for the benefit of everyone and the representatives required a good knowledge of Tredegar as a whole.

  A discussion thereupon ensued regarding the criteria whereupon the allocation had been based and believed this information had been collated in respect of the Sirhowy Ward. A Member confirmed that the Sirhowy Ward had been one of the wards considered across the whole of the County Borough, however funding had been allocated in respect of the Sirhowy

Valleys area and did not require funding to be spent in the Sirhowy Ward itself.

It was therefore agreed that original proposal be sought from the BG Officer for Council's information.

b) K. Williams Re: Gwent Shopping Centre, Family Fun Day 26th September. Event is part of the Centre's 60th anniversary celebrations.

- Noted.

c) Tredegar Recreation Ground

i) Re: Roseheyworth Trade Waste Permit. Information and forms about joining their Commercial waste collection - RFO has calculated a potential contract of £863.98 per annum, awaiting confirmation of these costs due to figures given have not been broken down to show whether they are inclusive or exclusive of VAT. Asking Council to approve this contracting principle.

- This was unanimously agreed in principle.

ii) L. Sage Re. Tredegar Recreation Ground. Will shortly be submitting a report to BGCBC on Tredegar Recreation Ground, recommending either the grant of a long lease or the transfer of the freehold.

iii) Copy of email T. Watkins sent to BGCBC requesting a visit if one is not planned and any works, recommendations and quotes that require approval be sent to Council.

- Noted.

d) A. Pryce Re: October half term - play session. Thank you for permitting summer use, the Deighton continues to be one of our busiest locations and we always have brilliant feedback. Requesting approval for use of Deighton playing field for a session on Tuesday the 27th of October (2-4.00 p.m.).

- Members wished to continue to support the Play Sessions and approved use on Tuesday, 27 October 2026 - 2.00 til 4.00 p.m.; however, Council asked that the Clerk reiterate that no damage be caused to the asset emphasise the criteria for use.

e) S. Gapper Re. Christmas events and potential support. Asking if there are any upcoming Council Christmas events or activities so they can explore opportunities for their involvement and support.

- Noted; Clerk to relay information.

Councillor D. Rowberry declared an interest in 'Licensing' and took no part in discussion or voting thereon.

f) i) List of applications received week ending 28th of August.
ii) List of applications received week ending 4th of September.
iii) List of applications received week ending 11th of September.

- Noted.

2) One Voice Wales

a) Re: Motions for 2027 Annual General Meeting. Member Councils are invited to propose a maximum of 2 motions for debate, submission by noon 4th of December.

- Noted; Agenda for future meeting of Council.

b) Re: Letter to Member Councils - Community Boundary Reviews. OVW will be organising a series of further advisory webinars for all those Councils affected by the outcome of the community boundary reviews ahead of the 2027 elections. These will take place in early Autumn 2026 (dates to be confirmed)-***Forwarded to all Members***

- Noted.

c) JOINT ONE VOICE WALES / SLCC EVENT – Wednesday, 18th November, 2026, remote joint event, open to Councillors as well as Clerks, £75.00 +VAT per delegate.

- Agreed; Clerk to book one place.

3) SLCC

Society of Local Council Clerks national conference taking place on Tuesday, 13th and Wednesday, 14th October, 2026 at De Vere Cotswold Water Park in Gloucestershire. £250.00 +VAT per delegate.

- Noted.

4) Cllr M Turner

Completed Civic Nomination Form.

- Upon due consideration, this was agreed. Members were advised to complete forms for proposed nominations without delay, if wishing

prospective nominees to attend the Awards Presentation Ceremony in November.

5) Smart Money Cymru — Information regarding how Council's investment bond has been utilised.

- Noted.

6) P. Snook — Asking for some sort of measure to block 4x4 owners from parking on the green area at the end of Oakfield road on the school run - ***Forwarded to Cllr Tippings***

- Noted; the Member confirmed this had been passed to the appropriate Officer at the Local Authority for attention. A Member also confirmed this had been forward to County Borough Councillors who had directed the information to Highways.

7) One Life Autism Support — Re: Request for financial support

- Noted; advise to complete the grant form.
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8) **PUBLICATIONS**
Communicorp Clerks & Councils Direct September 2026 Issue 167; BGCBC Roadworks report week ending - 18/09/2026; OVW Invasive Species Training September 24th 10.00 a.m. – 12.00 p.m.; A. Tippings Re.Tackling High Street Crime Conference - 1st October; OVW Biodiversity Packages 2026-2027, Submit application by the deadline (30th September)
– ***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.

157) Planning:

To consider Planning Applications submitted for Council's observations

App. No.	Proposal
P/2026/0075 ***No objections***	Proposed construction of two detached dwellings with shared access from highway, parking on plot for three cars per dwelling, and including landscaping and services, Site adjoining Pen Bryn Oer View, Tafarnaubach, Tredegar
P/2026/0161 ***Observations***	Proposed extension to existing building at Planet Fitness units 2A- 2B, Sirhowy Industrial Estate, Tredegar

Council requested further information in respect of parking provision, as all units had a designated parking area, and queried would such provision be considered in respect of the proposed development.

To consider other planning matters **–** a Member asked that Council query if any information had been received in relation to a notice regarding a triple SI conservation area for a section from Merthyr across to Brynmawr.

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

- TTC event – Carnival / Fete – convene a meeting in October to discuss future arrangements: in response to a question raised, the Clerk confirmed that individuals could be invited to share expertise on an ad hoc basis to attend any Working Groups.

Due to the urgent need to progress the item, Council to consider this matter as business from which the public may be excluded – as a confidential item / Part 2 of the agenda, due to information relating to *'Tenders and contracts before award'*.

The Council was thereupon asked to resolve to exclude the public for this item under section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, which was unanimously agreed.

159) Christmas Lighting Display 2026

The Clerk provided an update on the Christmas Lights display tender process, which had unfortunately proven unsuccessful.

Following due consideration and the options available to Council, it was unanimously agreed that the Clerk contact Blachere Illuminations to ascertain if the company could provide the same display as the previous year.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 8.28 p.m.

_____ Chair