TREDEGAR TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Civic Meeting of Council held via Microsoft Teams / hybrid on Wednesday, 2nd July, 2025 at 6.30 p.m.

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

In attendance: **Clerk – Ms. C. Aherne**

087) Apologies: Councillors K. Phillips, A.E. Evans, G. Jones-Griffiths, H. Trollope, S. Trollope and K. Waldron

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

089) To receive Mayor's report, as appropriate
Since being elected: after becoming Mayor, the Chair had attended the Twinning visit to France; attended the V.E. Day celebration, which had been really successful with a bell-ringing celebration, a march and a service at the Cenotaph, and lighting of a beacon at the Aneurin Bevan Stones – the Mayor extended thanks to the Deputy Mayor and Leader. Members were welcome to join the visit to France, as a representative of the Twinning organisation in Tredegar, costing £5.00 per year to join, the Association met monthly, one year hosting French counterparts and the following year attending a visit to Orvault.

The trip was really successful, undertaking various activities such as visitors had went to see a Chateau, where a bar had been built to the front, using the tables and chairs as a meeting place to play cards and board games with a really good family atmosphere; a two-day trip on Loran family vineyard, the Inter-Committee meeting on the Saturday, followed by an evening celebration, featuring two Twinning members playing guitar and violin and the French playing bagpipes. Civic gifts were not exchanged but the Mayor wished to put on record thanks to Ellen Jones, Moira Watham, Pam Powell and Errol Evans, who had made fiddler muffs, used to help dementia patients occupy minds, thus introducing fiddler muffs to Orvault, which was a much bigger town than Tredegar, but the number with dementia very much lower.

Armed Forces Day - thanks to Allan, Gerran, Gerraint, Kevin and Phillip, this had proven one of the most successful, with visitors not just from Tredegar but people attending across a wider area. The Royal Welsh Regimental Band had really spoken highly of Tredegar Town Council, saying this was one event the Band loved pencilling into their diary.

The Deputy Mayor congratulated the Mayor on the visit to France and representing the Council and hoped everyone enjoyed the visit. The Mayor said that former Councillor, Hywel Woolf, was hoping to take a football team next year.

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

It was agreed the recommendations of the Events Sub-Committee held prior to Council be approved accordingly:

- Armed Forces Day
  It was agreed that the Forces Veterans Afloat be recommended as the designated recipient to receive monies raised.
  Red Arrows – it was agreed that an application be submitted for the next five years to request a fly past.
- Merchant Navy Day
  It was agreed that expenditure in respect of refreshments be approved, i.e. tea / coffee and Welsh cakes.
- Christmas Lights switch-on
  Clerk to complete all necessary applications with the Local Authority and expenditure approved accordingly.
  Clerk to invite organisations to Tender for security / traffic management.
- All expenditure outlined unanimously agreed for approval of Council; and
- Ongoing actions to be progressed accordingly.
- Feather Banners – it was agreed that the feather featuring the Tredegar Town Council logo, with a shaded background image, be agreed as the preferred option. Clerk to proceed with approval of the design with subsequent expenditure to be agreed by Senior Members and ratified by Council accordingly.

091) Grants:

Thanks from Hope Rescue for the donation.

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

Friends of Bedwellty Park Society - Any financial assistance received would be used to purchase garden chimes for the sensory garden and go towards the general upkeep of the flower beds / replacing stolen power tools.

2024/25 July'24 CQ No. 706693 £200.00 - ***Approved accordingly***

Tredegar Camera Club - Any financial assistance received would be used towards the running costs of the Club e.g. supplies.

2024/25 July'24 CQ No. 706697 £200.00 - ***Approved accordingly***

2167 Tredegar & Rhymney Squadron RAF Air Cadets - Any financial assistance received would be used towards the purchase of a new fridge and ironing boards / irons for cadet uniform maintenance.
2024/25 Sept'24 CQ No. 706712 £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)* - None received.

092) Correspondence

1) Cllrs Trollope — Confidential item.

- Noted. The Clerk outlined the reason for the Members' request, which Council fully acknowledged and supported. It was recognised this was a decision subject to approval of Council and, if the time period needed to be extended, this should be brought back for consideration at the appropriate time.

  It was therefore agreed to allow a 'dispensation for absence' of six months; the Members would be encouraged to attend when next in a position to do so in the future.

  It was unanimously agreed that a letter be sent outlining the best wishes of Council and expenditure approved in respect of an appropriate gift in lieu of flowers.

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

2) BGCBC — b) List of applications received, week ending 13.06.2025.
   a) Temporary street trading consent – Bedwellty House & Park.
   b) New Personal Licence – Samantha Jayne Hudd
   c) New Personal Licence – Harry James Palmer
   d) Temporary Event Notice 04.07.2025 – Gwent Shopping Centre car park.

- Noted.

3) One Voice Wales — a) IMPORTANT: One Voice Wales Constitution and Governance Framework

- The Leader confirmed only subtle, basic changes in endeavouring to make the document more streamlined; Council formally accepted the changes to the Constitution.

b) Child Poverty Strategy for Wales – Lived Experience Engagement Exercise. Every three years the Welsh Government reports on progress against its Child Poverty Strategy for Wales. The next report is scheduled for December 2025. As part of the progress report we have committed to include lived experience evidence to help show how we are delivering against the aims and objectives of the strategy. They are seeking help in gathering evidence.

- Noted.

4) Financial Matters ***– seeking approval from Council to make the next two items as online payments, as part of July's Schedule of Payments – previously agreed at meeting 18.06.2025 that no further payments until Policy approved however reasons why this is being requested are shown below.***

a) Gemtime - Invoice £80.00 for chain repairs ***– as they no longer accept cheques***
b) Smart Money Cymru Re: Community Investment Bond. Account is now open and £30,000.00 deposit is required.

- Approved: subject to the reasons specified.

5) Keep Wales Tidy — Re: Tidy Wales Awards 2025 - your time to shine! Applications are open, closing date Monday 06.07.2025.

- Noted.

6) Cllr A.E. Tippings — Re: Sirhowy Woodlands. Asking if Council will send a letter of support.

- Agreed; Councillor J. Thomas confirmed she was unable to place her name to the letter and would therefore abstain from signing, which was accepted accordingly.

7) S. Walsh — Re: Castle Street Church 175th Anniversary. Open invite to all Members to attend their special 175th Anniversary service on Saturday, 27th September, at 2.30 p.m. Also asking if Council has display boards that they can borrow to display some photos.

- Noted; it was agreed to loan the display boards.

8) GAVO — Re: Buildings Community Trust Manifesto events 14.07.2025 at Llanhilleth Miners Institute. BCT, in collaboration with local partners including GAVO, is hosting a series of workshops across Wales to help

develop a Manifesto for Change - a document rooted in the voices, ambitions, and lived experiences of community groups.

- Noted.

9) **PUBLICATIONS**

BGCBC Roadworks report, week ending 27.06.2025 and week ending 04.07.2025; Communicorp Clerks & Councils Direct July 2025 Issue 160; Race Council Cymru, Windrush and Commonwealth Compensation Engagement Sessions 4th & 5th July; OVW Meadow Street community garden Visit 07.07.2025, Treforest Pontypridd; OVW Event Celtic Wildflowers Tour 08.07.2025, Swansea – ***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.

093) Planning:

a) i) List of planning applications received in week 25
ii) List of planning applications received in week 26

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

App. No.	Applicant	Proposal
P/2025/0183	I. Ali 21-22 Castle Street Tredegar	Change of use from A2 (financial & professional Aziz BTL Properties Ltd. services) to mixed use A1 (shops) on the ground floor and basement and C3 residential flats on first floor and second floor including the installation of rooflights and two balconies and cycle and bin storage, 21 Castle Street.
No objections: however, Members highlighted the issue of limited car parking availability at this location.		
P/2025/0191	Mr. P. Flanagan c/o Mr. P. Parsons Creation Designs – Wales Room 229 The Innovation Centre Festival Drive Ebbw Vale	Proposed change of use of vacant land to residential curtilage, vacant land between The Gables and Deglan, Charles Street.
No objections		
P/2025/0195	Mr. P. McGrath Rose Cottage Crown Avenue Tredegar	Two storey side extension, Rose Cottage, Crown Avenue.
No objections		

c) To consider other planning matters – EDP Renewables UK, Re: Mynydd Bedwellte Wind Farm. Proposal for nine turbines, pre-application consultation from 30.06.2025 to 11.08.2025: Noted.

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

- Members thanked Bedwellty House staff for cutting back foliage to allow for the Armed Forces Day parade from the Park gates; the Mayor had also reported a dip in the lawn which could prove a safety risk.

095) 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 – No meeting since the visit to France, Secretary currently still in France for extended stay.
e) Pen Bryn Oer Community Fund – The fund was currently open to applications with a closing date of 1st September.
f) School Governing Bodies – Bryn Bach Primary: extension work being undertaken; Ysgol Gymraeg: the new School would not be ready for September and appropriate plans were being put in place for pupils; Tredegar Comprehensive: a Member had accompanied a group of pupils climbing to the summit of the Sugar Loaf Mountain as part of their Duke of Edinburgh Award, which had been a lovely – but hot – day.
g) Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum – Lecture on 10th July, 2025, outlining past medical practice and the work of Doctor Roger Morgan; a Member said the talks had become very popular and advised attendees to book in advance, as there were limited seats available.
h) Tredegar Business Forum – No update received.

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

- Letter of Concern forwarded to Police: for information – a resident of Morgan Street had contacted the Leader, in writing, outlining concerns, which he had forwarded to the Police for the attention of the Neighbourhood Officers.
  Council commended the work undertaken in making progress but suggested that the Chief Constable and / or his Officers could be invited to a future meeting to provide feedback in updating Members accordingly.
- Public Toilets – two toilets in the Ladies were unusable, there was a need to look at refurbishing; the Ladies required more remedial work than the Gents, where a wooden board to the Men's urinal needed replacing. A Member suggesting contacting Blaenau Gwent as grant money, such as Brilliant Basics, could be available. Agreed: to review what works were required.
- The Bevan Health and Wellbeing Centre, Tredegar – The following concern was raised and Members felt it was only a matter of time before an incident occurred, and suggested additional signage may be the way forward to solve a lot of issues. There was an issue with signage to the one-way highway at Market Street, whereby motorists

were not noticing the sign opposite the junction and turning ‘Left’. Council would be most grateful if BG Highways could look at resolving this issue, as a matter of urgency, to avoid a serious accident.

- Town and Community Council Charter – the Service Manager - Policy and Partnerships BGCBC had offered to attend a formal meeting of Council to respond to any questions raised and provide points of clarification. It was therefore agreed that an invite be extended to the Service Manager - Policy and Partnerships, Mr. Andrew Parker.
- 2026 European Brass Band Championships - Tredegar Town Band had qualified for the Championships to be held in Austria and enquired as to how to raise funds. A Member had suggested having a stall at Aneurin Bevan Day - the Band would be holding a concert in the town and would also be writing to Council.
- Aneurin Bevan Day – reminder that stewards were needed.
- Abandoned vehicle, Sirhowy – a Member confirmed she would report the issue.
- Fountain Inn, Troedrhiwgwair – this site was due to be advertised for sale, consisting of four different ‘lots’ including the Grade II Listed Building: a Member had written to Williams Associates, who were dealing with the sale, confirming the information was correct and the listing would be released over the next few weeks.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 7.42 p.m.

_____ Chair