

TREDEGAR TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Civic Meeting of Council held via Microsoft Teams / hybrid on
Wednesday, 3rd September, 2025 at 6.30 p.m.**

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

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

122) Apologies **Councillors E. Jones, G. Meredith, H. Trollope and S. Trollope**

123) Declarations of Interest

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

124) To receive Mayor's report, as appropriate

The Mayor reported the sad sudden loss of former Councillor Roger Thomas, who during his term of office had been formidable; the Police had attended on a quarterly basis and Roger and Phillip Prosser had looked forward to holding the Police to account. He was a credit to this Council, although suffering with his health, he had been a really good listener and clinical in his questioning.

Another Member said that Roger was a gentleman for whom she had lot of respect; always firing from the hip and with no lack of good advice, he was a gentleman, and a Colleague, who would be greatly missed.

The Mayor said that Roger had been a member of the Welsh Rugby Union and Glanhowy Youth Rugby, had been the last WRU Club Secretary before the youth section had amalgamated to general Rugby Union. Suffering with cancer long term, he had been institutional in getting WRU to promote testing of prostrate at rugby matches, encouraging men to be checked.

Council observed a Minute silence as a mark of respect and sincere condolences were extended to the family.

- Funeral: Tuesday, 16th September at 11.30 a.m., St. George's Church followed by cremation at Sirhowy Valley Crematorium – refreshments at Bedwellty House and Park from 1.00 p.m.

The Mayor had attended an excellent event – the Tredegar Horse and Pony Show; there was a new team involved, making the Show different to previous years. Every award was branded with Aneurin Bevan and the organisers wanted to present an award to Council at the beginning of the next meeting. This had been a superb event, featuring lots of classes and a large attendance.

Also, the V J Day celebrations - a Service at the Burma Shrine, Bedwellty House, in recognition of the Battle of Tredegar Hill at 12.00 noon; bell-ringing at St. George's Church, 6.30 p.m.; wreath-laying at the Cenotaph, 7.00 p.m. and lighting of the beacon at Aneurin Bevan Stones at 9.00 p.m.

The Mayor had attended the 100th birthday of Mrs. Maureen Laver – a sparkling, elegant lady, who had partied throughout the day, spending an hour with the guests and lovely family. The family had been very grateful.

125) 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:

- **Remembrance Events**

Expenditure was approved in respect of the purchase of three poppy wreaths and three poppy bouquets, and provision of J. Cotton Audio as sound engineer.

- **Christmas Lights switch-on and display**

Expenditure was approved for the Clerk to progress the following applications – Special Event Temporary Road Closure Order, Temporary Events Notice and Temporary Street Trading Consent. Also provision of the Sound Engineer – J. Cotton Audio.

- Council approved an additional amount of £50.00 to monies raised in support of the Armed Forces charity, resulting in a total of £100.00; and
The amount raised of £45.00 for Aneurin Bevan Day to be donated to the Mayor's Appeal 2025 / 2026 accordingly.

126) 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)

Kidz R Us – Any financial assistance will be used towards the running costs of the building.
2020/21 Nov'20 CQ No. 079 £200.00 - *Approved accordingly*

Tredegar Angling Club – Any financial assistance received would be used for the running of the Fishing Club including grass cutting and keeping the pathways safe for anglers.
2024/25 July'24 CQ No. 696 £200.00 - *Approved accordingly*

Ystrad Deri Community Centre– Any financial assistance received would be used towards the ongoing maintenance of the building, general stationary and tea / coffee for activities.
2024/25 Nov'24 CQ No. 743 £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 towards installing a false ceiling in the back room making it warmer to use.

2024/25 July'24 CQ No. 701 £300.00 - Approved accordingly

127) Public Toilets – Gwent Shopping Centre

Thanks were extended to Councillor Allan Jones for his diligence and drive in trying to get the issues resolved.

The Member thereupon explained the ongoing situation with the toilets - young people stealing toilet rolls, people using hand towels for various uses, etc. so when the inspection chamber in the floor was taken up, it was full to the brim with hand towels. He had called a plumber from Abletouch, who had managed to unblock the system and get three toilets working. Since, a blockage had occurred again and it was found hygiene products were blocking the toilets; he had therefore asked the Clerk to produce signage, instructing the public to 'please use receptacles provided' as it appeared visitors preferred flushing such products down the toilet, and therefore a number of signs would be put up on every cubicle door requesting the use of proper facilities for disposal.

Due to the toilets being blocked again, Council would need to get a company to investigate with a camera to determine the state of pipes and report what work was needed. In respect of one toilet in the Ladies, the Member had contacted a plumber to unblock the toilet, prior to calling in a company to ascertain the problem. He had also instructed the Cleaning Operative to remove the hand towels in order for the public to use the air-dryers.

Another Member explained this had been an ongoing issue for some time; the toilets needed refurbishing and there was a need to sort out the problems in the Ladies. He had asked that flushable hand towels be purchased and arrange for a camera inspection to see the reason why, as if existing pipework was working effectively, there should not be a problem. However, if a pipe had dropped, this could be resulting in items 'catching' and causing a blockage; also, refurbishing, painting, men's urinal splashboard was rotted and needed replacing, and a number of complaints received in respect of cleanliness of the Ladies, where visitors had felt the need to use the Gents. A Member said that new lockable toilet roll holders had been purchased for the Museum, which had to be unlocked with an Allen key, and he was happy to liaise with staff regarding suitability.

In response to a question raised, Members were informed it was hoped the camera investigation would determine the exact location of the problem to verify responsibility, e.g. Town Council or, for example, Welsh Water.

The Chair suggested contacting Blaenau Gwent, who had a budget allocation, to ascertain if financial assistance was available, as the closure of the toilets would have significant impact

128) Correspondence

1) BGCBC

a) K. Rees Re: Traffic Regulation Order Consultation
| Amendment 18 – Introduction and Revocation of

DPPPs at various locations. Consultation ends 14.08.2025.

- b) Dukestown Road One way system:
 - i) M. Hopkins: We will arrange for our CPOs to attend the vicinity in September to undertake wider civil parking enforcement and, if possible, we will try to arrange a joint visit with Gwent Police
 - ii) M. Stent: I'll log this for an Inspector to attend to assess.
- c) M. Hopkins Re: One-way system, Market Street / The Bevan Health and Wellbeing Centre, Tredegar. Have asked ABUHB for a 'turn right' arrow be painted at the car park exit and they are investigating this with their contractor, will report back to him. Council have issued a works instruction to our road marking contractor to paint 'No Entry' road markings on Market Street (see attached plan) to emphasise that vehicles are not permitted to exit the car park and turn left.
 - Noted; Council recognised the chance of catching offenders was remote.
- d) A. Long Re: Dog Control Public Space Protection Order 2025 Consultation. Consultation open between 03.09.2025 to 17.09.2025.
 - Noted; Council suggested Sirhowy Community Garden.
- e) D. Wheelock Re: Steve Jones invitation. Statue unveiling at Ebbw Vale Leisure Centre 1.00 p.m. on Friday, 12th September, which is open to all Members. There is a Q&A event at 2.00 p.m. General Offices, but this is only for two representatives, names to be supplied for those attending the Q&A.
 - Noted: it was agreed Deputy Mayor, Councillor A. Jones, and Leader, Councillor M. Turner, to attend.
- f) Louise Horner: Apologies for the delay. As promised, advice received from Geldard's Solicitors in respect of the charity implications of being Trustees of Tredegar Recreation Ground. Officers will be meeting early September to discuss this further. Once Council had the opportunity to digest the contents of the advice, suggesting to meet in person with Members to discuss how to progress the proposed transfer of the ground.

Asking to provide some suitable dates for September.

- Clerk to liaise; Leader available at any time next week.

g) A.E. Tippings Re: Heritage Networking Meeting (The Valleys That Changed The World) 18.09.2025, 10.30 a.m., Maesteg Town Hall. Happy to co-ordinate a lift share.

- Noted.

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

h) i) List of applications received, week ending 25.05.2025

1) Transfer Application – Tredegar Arms Hotel
Designated Premises Supervisor Variation – Tredegar Arms Hotel

ii) List of applications received, week ending 01.08.2025

1) Application to vary the Designated Premises Supervisor– Dukestown Workingmen’s Club

2) Application for a Personal Licence – Caroline Jane Taylor

iii) List of applications received, week ending 08.08.2025

Application to Transfer the Premises Licence – Dukestown Stores Application to vary the Designated Premises Supervisor– – Dukestown Stores

iv) List of applications received, week ending 15.08.2025.

- Noted.

2) One Voice Wales a) Local Government Pay Award 2025 / 2026, implement for 1st April, 2025.

- Consideration was given to the National Association of Local Councils’ new pay scales for 2025 / 2026; the Clerk referred to the proposed pay scales, to be implemented and backdated from 1st April, 2025, 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, 2025.

- b) One Voice Wales National Conference and Annual General Meeting 01.10.2025, £95.00 per delegate – ***Cllr Turner has agreed to attend, does another Member wish to go too***
- Noted; book two places – Leader and Councillor P. Tolley.
- 3) Members correspondence
- a) Cllr S. Trollope - Heartfelt thanks to all.
- Noted.
- b) Cllr A.E. Tippings - Asking if Council can help with a venue in Tredegar re: Big Thank You and Upcoming Calon Hearts events.
- Noted.
- 4) Aneurin Bevan University Health Board
- a) Annual General Meeting 2025: Wednesday, 24th September, 2025 at 6.00 p.m.
- Noted.
- b) Re: Invitation to the Bevan Health and Wellbeing Centre Official Opening on 2nd October at 11.00 a.m. There is a maximum of 10 spaces available for Town Councillors. Arrival by 10.45 a.m. for 11.00 a.m. start. ***RSPV by Friday 12.09.2025.***
- Noted: the following accepted – Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Leader, Councillor J. Thomas, Clerk and RFO.
- 5) JPR Phoenix
- Quote Ref 6673 for an additional CCTV Camera at the public conveniences.
- This is the company that installed the new system***
- It was unanimously agreed that the expenditure be approved.
- 6) Richards & Lewis Solicitors
- Re: Leases of land at Beaufort Close and Deighton Sports Ground. Notifying Council that BGCBC are in a position to complete the Leases for the above parcels of land.
- Noted.
- 7) Aneurin Leisure
- Kian Re: Council Chamber and Mayor's Parlour. Responses to concerns raised.
- The Leader had asked the Clerk to write to the House, expressing concern in respect of storage of items such as the BBQ, tables and chairs, as the Chamber / Parlour should not be used as a storage area, even in the short-term,

as Council would be starting to use the Mayor's Parlour, and make it clear that was not acceptable. Also, he expressed that he was unhappy with pictures being taken down that formed part of the Burma memorial and should be respected as such.

8) 2167 Tredegar
Squadron ATC

Burma Star Standard, presently held at St. George's to be hung on the wall opposite the Burma Shrine – make public aware of shrine and its' historic significance to Tredegar felt having the Standard visible would encourage more interest in the Shrine. Standard is 5ft wide by 3ft deep, keeping a half pole and brass top would make it 7ft wide. With Rev. Matt's co-operation, could bring it down to examine possibility of hanging it, as having it freestanding, would not be so obvious and open the possibility of damage.

- Members welcomed the offer and gratefully accepted, suggested the whole of Burma Shrine needed addressing, and perhaps, this was not the responsibility of the House, but of Council.

9) Integrated
Wellbeing Network

Blaenau Gwent Food Summit - 16th October, 2025, 9:30 - 15:30 at Bedwellty House and Park, Morgan Street, Tredegar.

- Noted.

10) PUBLICATIONS

OVW Welsh Government Consultation on extending the duty on local authorities to broadcast meetings. The purpose of this consultation is to seek views on extending the duty on local authorities to broadcast meetings. Although it does not directly affect Community and Town Councils, it is an opportunity to express an opinion on a matter of general public interest with the aim of providing more information on how decisions that affect them are made. OVW would appreciate receipt of responses by 14.11.2025 for them to collate a response by the consultation end date; OVW Important News, Your Biodiversity Team at One Voice Wales. There is a new look Biodiversity Team to support councils in preparing and implementing Biodiversity Action Plans; OVW Webinar Event Cost of Living Crisis Project Team: Friday, 5th September, 2025 10.00 a.m. – 12.00 noon; OVW, Welsh Government Consultation on Revisions to the Separate Collection of Waste Materials for Recycling: A Code of Practice for Wales. Responses will inform the final drafting of revisions to the Code and the planned amendments to the Waste Separation Requirements (Wales) Regulations 2023. Closing date for responses is 22nd October, 2025. One Voice Wales will be preparing a response to this consultation - in order to inform this response, would appreciate Councils responses by Wednesday, 8th October; OVW Cost of Living Crisis Project – Information and Resources; OVW Older Peoples Commissioner's Newsletter - July 2025; OVW Digital health of community and town councils report and Written Statement from the

Cabinet Secretary for Housing and Local Government – ***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.

129) Planning:

- a) i) List of planning applications received in week 29
- ii) List of planning applications received in week 30
- iii) List of planning applications received in week 31
- iv) List of planning applications received in week 32
- v) List of planning applications received in week 33
- vi) List of planning applications received in week 34

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

App. No.	Applicant	Proposal
P/2025/0126	Mrs. C. Quirk 19 Bryn Pica Tredegar	Installation of EV charging point and cable gully to pavement, 19 Bryn Pica.
<i>No objections</i>		
P/2025/0185	Mr. I.L. Jones 1 Upper Ty Gwyn Farm Old Tram Road Tredegar	Proposed barn extension and alterations to existing barn, 1 Upper Ty Gwyn Farm, Old Tram Road.

A Member presented concerns raised by neighbouring residents in respect of the proposed development.

The Council's Planning representative had visited the site and undertook research, providing the following update: the nearest resident to the property had no objections; the proposed development would be behind the farmhouse and therefore result in no light obstruction nor infringement on gardens; however, no provision for surface water was outlined in the application and run-off of animal urine would not be permitted in to a storm drain.

It was therefore agreed that all observations be fed back accordingly
Observations:

- 1) A Member had been approached by several constituents in the area regarding the proposed barn extension and alterations to existing barn at 1 Upper Ty Gwyn Farm Old Tram Road, Tafarnaubach, Tredegar.
 - Residents were concerned with the location of the proposed barn, i.e. "it's going to be literally metres from my window", "it will block the light to my garden and windows".. Residents were concerned with the sewage system, as the planning application stated they were not planning on connecting to the existing system, this raised general concerns with them and they would wish to learn more.
 - Residents advised that the site can be seen from a public footpath, bridleway and other public land.

- Residents advised their main concern was the proximity of the barn extension to a current private dwelling.

The Member advised she was submitting observations and concerns which had been raised by constituents on their behalf. She had have explained she was a member of a community council and would certainly pass on comments and had also passed on the contact details of the Sirhowy Ward Members for Blaenau Gwent Council and signposted them in their direction.

- 2) The Council's representative for Planning provided the following feedback: On inspection of the proposed application site, the Member could see no infringement on anyone's land or property. In the complaint made to the afore-mentioned Member. the only thing he considered could be relevant were the drainage problems, as far as foul smells and surface water may be of relevance to this application.

P/2025/0210	C/o Boyer Planning Third Floor Park House Greyfriars Road Cardiff	Application for Discharge of conditions: 14 & 15 (Dust Mitigation Scheme), 21 (Blast Monitoring Scheme), 28 (Water Management & Poll Prevent Plan) and 49 (Communication & Engagement Scheme) of planning permission P/2022/0171 (extension to Trefil Quarry for mineral working comprising limestone extraction & future restoration), Gryphon Quarry Products, Trefil Quarry.
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Observations: No objections; however, clarification was needed on the existing Phases of the development, as the first phase had outlined the reseeding of overburdened areas. The development was now at Stage 4, but no restoration work had been undertaken in respect of Stage one and Council would ask that Planning instruct the developer to carry out remediation.

P/2025/0218	Miss A. Williams 13 Meadow Crescent Tredegar	Proposed garage to side of property and house render, 13 Meadow crescent.
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No objections

c) To consider other planning matters – Powys County Council: Powys Replacement LDP (2022-2037) - Notification of Consultation - Meeting Gypsy and Traveler Accommodation Needs: Received.

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

- The Chair had met with Friends of Bedwellty Park, who had expressed concern of the volume of sheep within the Park. Prior to refurbishments, screen closures had been on gates to the top and bottom, top, with a gate pedal operation to release, the Friends had not noticed that being done at the bottom gate. It had also been suggested that a cattle grid had been in place at the main gate; however, Council did not remember such provision. Agreed: to pass these observations to Aneurin Leisure and copy to BGCBC.

131) 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** – Meeting in September.
- c) **One Voice Wales Larger Councils and AGM** – Annual General Meeting in October.
- d) **Tredegar Twinning** – Councillor P. Tolley had joined, as the Association's latest Member. Twinning were looking for help at the woodlands at the weekend and looking to organise more fund-raising; the French would be visiting in October half-term next year.
- e) **Pen Bryn Oer Community Fund** – Deadline closed today.
- f) **School Governing Bodies** – No meetings.
- g) **Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum** – Day School in October to be held Tabor, Brynmawr; re-releasing Powells History of Tredegar, Chair to write foreword. Day trip to Llangasty House, Brecon, which was not open to the public. Lectures to commence again on the second Thursday of the month.
- h) **Tredegar Business Forum** – County Borough Councillor Tommy Smith had attended to address some of the issues with water outside Boots; the Dino event was coming to Tredegar on 19th September; unfortunately the Forum attendees appeared to have more Town Council and Borough Council Members present than business owners.

132) **Matters of Local Interest or Concern (by prior notice)**

- Land at Troedrihwgair: advertised for auction.
- Crown roundabout: this was the main entrance to Tredegar, where a car had mounted the roundabout and damaged the dry stone wall. Council had been informed that Blaenau Gwent CBC had liaised with the insurance company. Clerk to again pursue this longstanding issue with Highways, to enquire what was happening in this area, e.g. repair, cutting back of trees / shrubbery, etc.
- The Leader met with The Strategic Director for Adults & Communities, David Leech, who had ascertained why, as a Council, Tredegar Town Council had decided not to sign the Charter. The Leader had conveyed Council would be unwilling to sign until the Local Authority demonstrated they would 'mean what they say'. He said Tredegar was being left behind as a town, and this was not only this Town Council within the County Borough and not receiving the same level of service.
- Meeting on Monday with Business Forum: the Leader said he expressed concern of Tredegar being 'the poor relation', with a new application for McDonalds originating elsewhere in Blaenau Gwent, gaining capital business from the A465 next place built. He had pointed this out to the BG Cabinet Member and Regeneration Team in respect of Tredegar yet again missing out; Burger King being sited opposite McDonalds in Brynmawr; Costa Coffee opposite KFC in Ebbw Vale, highlighting such areas progressed as one building was introduced. Tredegar was not having the same opportunity and concerns were expressed in respect of the demise of town centre / The Circle. Blaenau Gwent was not affording the same opportunity across the County Borough and had even agreed that Commercial Street would look better if re-painted. Town Council would need to push Blaenau Gwent CBC to get what was deserved; Members agreed considering Town Council should have the support of the Local Authority.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 8.07 p.m.

Chair