

TREDEGAR TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held via Microsoft Teams / hybrid
on Wednesday, 19th November, 2025 at 6.30 p.m.**

Present: Councillors A.E. Tippings (Chair)

A. Jones
L. Thomas Evans
E. Jones
G. Jones-Griffiths
S. Mavar
D. Rowberry
H. Trollope
S. Trollope
G. Walters

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

208) Apologies: Councillors M. Turner, K. Phillips, G. Badham, A.E. Evans,
J. Thomas, P. Tolley and K. Waldron

209) Declarations of Interest

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

210) To receive any 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

- **Christmas Lights**

Gazebo Hire: quote at a total cost of £240.00; the company had offered a discounted cost, reducing the quote to a cost of £180.00. Expenditure therefore agreed accordingly.

Europcar 'Van Hire': the Chair confirmed that the quote for the van hire was £60.00 per day plus a deposit of £250.00 and the cost of re-fuelling. It was agreed that two-day hire be approved: overall outlay of £370.00, with reimbursement of the £250.00 deposit.

211) Tredegar Recreation Ground: any update for discussion

No update received.

212) To consider a Schedule of Accounts for payment in November 2025

The RFO spoke to the report and explained that the bank reconciliations, valid to date, were available for Members at the meeting and to view upon request, which was noted accordingly.

- Accounts for Payment in October 2025
BGCBC information related to a change only to reflect a card payment.
Horeb Chapel would be paid via a bank transfer, rather than cheque, which had been Written Back accordingly.
- Accounts for Payment in November 2025
The information was split to reflect items that were for ratification only and the payment method applied, i.e. Debit Card, plus cheque and Direct payments for this month.
Members' Allowance: a cheque had been issued with the amount allocated pro rata – the onus was upon the individual Member to contact HMRC to declare any information relating to tax.
Ystrad Deri Community Centre: in response to a question raised, the RFO said that a replacement cheque had been raised and the recipient informed of release following approval of the Schedule outlining payments. The Mayor suggested presenting the cheque and certificate on a forthcoming visit, which had already been arranged.
- 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 £500.00.

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

213) To receive the Internal Audit Interim Report 2025 / 2026

The RFO spoke to the Internal Audit 2025 / 2026 Interim Report and drew Members attention to the table of recommendations therein, which outlined progress to date and intended course of action for each Recommendation:

- Christmas Lights Contract: assurance required that this significant contract be subject to procurements conditions outlined in the Council's Financial Regulations.
- Contingency arrangements to maintain accounting records in the event of prolonged absence of RFO: review and implementation of contingency arrangements were in progress.
- Formal Medium Term Corporate Plan: implemented.
- Classification of Expense Claims 2023 / 2024: a review had been undertaken analysing staff costs disclosed in Annual Return accounts to ensure no staff expenses were included.
- Cleaning Contract 'end date': the Council had reviewed options and applied a procurement process with the appointed contractor. Unfortunately, this piece of work was obsolete. In respect of the cleaning arrangements now in place, there was a need to put a contract in place rather an ad hoc basis.

The Interim Report was thereupon accepted accordingly.

Council extended thanks to the RFO for the work undertaken; the Officer confirmed she

would continue to work through the recommendations contained within the report in order to meet all targets.

214) Future Projects: To receive suggestions for the next financial year and longer-term

The RFO had received three responses to the request at the previous meeting, seeking suggestions for projects for the next financial year and longer-term.

- Refurbishment of the Burma Shrine
- Installation of a memorial bench at Troed; for information, the Chair explained that the WWII benches had been installed one per Ward to mark the centenary, however there was a bench outside the flats in Church Street and it was noted the bench at Nantybawch Senior Citizens, all the slats had been removed. Therefore, there was a need to look at the condition of all TTC benches.
- Choir Concert in memory of the Aberfan disaster

The RFO said the aim of the Finance Sub-Committee was to compile a budget for due consideration at that meeting and therefore urged Members to send in suggested projects as soon as possible.

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

- a) **Events Sub-Committee - 1st October, 2025**
- b) **Civic Meeting of Council - 1st October, 2025**
- c) **Performance Review Sub-Committee - 15th October, 2025**
- d) **Ordinary Meeting of Council - 15th October, 2025**

It was agreed that all Minutes presented be moved en bloc as a true record.

216) 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.

217) Correspondence

- 1) BGCBC
 - a) D. Arnold Re: The Blaenau Gwent Deal. Online public consultation to seek people's views about The Deal last week.
 - Noted.
 - b) Request for meeting with Tredegar Borough Members:
 - Cllr M Cross - Unavailable for two weeks from 28th November 2025.
 - Cllr J Thomas - Due to diary commitments, it may be best to contact democratic services.
 - Noted; following discussion, it was agreed that the BG Tredegar Ward Members be invited to

attend the first meeting in February. Clerk to notify Democratic Services to advise of the date.

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

- c) i) List of applications received, week ending 7th November 2025
New personal licence – Viviana Oliveira Figueiredo
TEN 22nd to 24th December – Lidl, Tredegar.
ii) List of applications received, week ending 14th November 2025

- Noted.

- 2) One Voice Wales a) Annual General Meeting 21st January, 2026. Notice of motions, date and time of Meeting.

- Noted; Council felt the timing was inappropriate due to councils budget-setting process.

- b) Re: Free Councillor training. Available on six of their core training modules with two free places also available on a selected number of additional modules.

- Noted.

- c) Re: Wales Regional Energy Strategic Plans (RESP). Latest details and weblinks regarding the NESO (National Energy System Operator) and RESP (Regional Energy Strategic Plans) consultation methodology. OVW has already established communication and engagement with the Wales RESPTeam. ***It is imperative that your Council engages in this wider consultation process.***

- Noted; it was suggested that a Member could look at the Plans and report back to Council.

- 3) Cllr Tippings Suggestions for improving the Burma Shrine.

- Noted.

- 4) Post Office Re: King Street drop & collect, NP22 4PA. New drop and collect service starting 17th November, 2025.

- Noted.

5) Keep Wales Tidy

Re: Green Flag Community Award. Information on how to apply.

- Noted; Members suggested this could be of interest to organisations, such as the Allotments Associations, Sirhowy Woodlands and Tredegar Angling.

6) **PUBLICATIONS**

BGCBC Roadworks report week ending 14.11.2025 & 20.11.2025; BGCBC Re: Shared Prosperity Fund Grant Application. This grant is under Community and Place, closing date Thursday, 20th November 2025; Keep Wales Tidy, Your Community group could win £100 with easy fundraising – find out how! – ***distributed to Members***: Received.

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

218) Planning:

a) i) List of planning applications received in week 43

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

App. No.	Applicant	Proposal
P/2025/0260	A .Brace AB Boxing Club Beaufort Road Tredegar	Proposed single storey rear extension, AB Boxing Club, Beaufort Road.

Observations

No objections: a Ward Member confirmed there was sufficient space at the rear for a small building. The Planning representative said there was a small extension at the rear now at the lane at the back and access was available from the side of the building to the main road; he did not feel therefore the proposed development would cause inconvenience.

c) **To consider other planning matters –** None received.

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

- Remembrance Sunday: write to WRU asking to refrain holding events on the Remembrance weekend. Members agreed it was disrespectful to hold matches on Remembrance Day and Council strongly supported their local RBL Branch.
- Civic Memorabilia: Lottie Dottie's had offered to produce a number of different versions of commemorative memorabilia for Council's consideration – bespoke, slate, working, etc. at a maximum cost of £25.00 – Clerk to liaise.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 7.25 p.m.

Chair