

TREDEGAR TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held via Microsoft Teams / hybrid
on Wednesday, 20th November, 2024 at 6.00 p.m.**

Present: Councillors A.E. Tippings (Chair)

E. Griffin
M. Turner
A. Jones
E. Jones
S. Mavar
H. Trollope
S. Trollope
K. Waldron
G. Walters

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

By invitation: Aneurin Bevan University Health Board
Chief Executive, Nicola Prygodzicz
Director of Strategy, Planning & Partnerships, Hannah Evans

200) Apologies. Councillors K. Phillips, G. Badham, A.E. Evans, D. Rowberry
and J. Thomas

201) Declarations of Interest

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

202) Change of Order of Agenda

It was agreed that Council continue consideration of the agreed agenda while awaiting the arrival of the Aneurin Bevan UHB representatives, who had indicated they would be delayed due to an urgent matter requiring the attention of the Chief Executive.

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

It was agreed the recommendations of Sub-Committees held prior to Council be approved accordingly

- **Events sub-Committee – 20th November, 2024**

- **Christmas Lights**

- - Agreed: hire of a generator, as a contingency, for the electrics.

- **Mayor's Christmas Visits – Residential / Care Homes**

- Agreed, a gift of chocolates and / or biscuits to be purchased for each Residential / Care Home.
- Clerk to seek expressions of interest to tender for the transport opportunity.

204) To consider a Schedule of Accounts for payment in November 2024

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

- Window Dressing Competitions – the cheques had been written in readiness for the judging.
- Quadient UK Ltd. – still awaiting confirmation of the Direct Debit.
- Signatories – it was agreed that the Clerk sign one urgent cheque for issue.
- 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 £420.00.

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

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

- a) Civic Meeting of Council - 2nd October, 2024**
- b) Performance Review Sub-Committee - 16th October, 2024**
- c) Ordinary Meeting of Council - 16th October, 2024**
- d) Special Meeting of Council - 30th October, 2024**

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

206) 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.

207) National Salary Award 2024 / 2025

(N.B. Agreed rates of pay applicable from 1st April, 2024)

Consideration was given to the National Association of Local Councils' new pay scales for 2024 / 2025; the Clerk referred to the proposed pay scales, to be implemented and backdated from 1st April, 2024, 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, 2024.

208) Aneurin Bevan University Health Board Chief Executive, Nicola Prygodzicz, and Director of Strategy, Planning & Partnerships, Hannah Evans, invited to attend to provide an update on the Tredegar Health and Wellbeing Centre and respond to

questions raised

The Chair extended a welcome to the Chief Executive and Director of Strategy, Planning and Partnerships, ABUHB, who had been invited to attend this meeting of Council to provide an update on the Tredegar Health and Wellbeing Centre and respond to any questions raised.

Council was thereupon informed of ongoing actions in respect of addressing issues:

- There was a lot on work ongoing with a current plan, which was resilient.
- Vaccination programmes in place, working with Local Authorities to undertake a fifty-day challenge and community teams to look at that service, considering particular areas, e.g. people coming out of hospital as quickly as possible with a view to reducing new patient delays.
- Benchmarking to inform decision-making to ascertain where additional capacity was needed and offering additional assessments to plan for discharge to prevent holding-up availability of beds.
- Welsh Government had allocated £28m, with £5m assigned to treatment in respect of knees, hips and spine. The ENT service had made good progress and treatment of cataracts, with Nevill Hall Hospital designated as an additional hub. The NHS had been given an additional £7m funding for the region to undertake another 5,000 treatments across the three Health Boards. The NHS would be looking to outsource where appropriate to meet the backlog and would be outsourced privately to meet demand.
- Undertaking cancer screening rather than treatment; a significant increase in demand had been noted; from 26,000 per year to 42,000 – the highest increase across Wales. Work was currently being undertaken in respect of the backlog.
- CAMHS and Neurodevelopmental Pathway; hoping for an announcement of an additional funding of £3m.
- A Member referred to issues reported in respect of the 101 telephone system, particularly those with Alzheimer's and in respect of capacity of mental health, including dementia, stroke and learning difficulties, with patients hanging up - the Chief Executive was aware that the Patient Care Team had raised an issue with the amount of answer phones across the Health Board and shared this concern. The Member added, on contacting the local GP practice, he had waited one hour ten minutes without a response and had attended the surgery in person.
- Phase Two of the development was to start imminently with the old Tredegar Health Centre being demolished to make way for the car park for the new Wellbeing Centre. During Phase Two, additional services such as the pharmacy and dental, would be integrated and open to the public.
- eHarley Street – Members said that concerns had been raised in respect of staffing issues, as staff had not been paid, and understood this related to the same owner of both the Brynmawr and Tredegar wellbeing centre. The representatives said that some concerns had been raised in relation to eight practices across the Health Board, including Brynmawr and Tredegar. The two practices operated on an independent basis from the Wellbeing Centre with three salaried staff and one locum for each; both practices had a designated phone line for their patients.
- A Member referred to an issue with waiting times for the diabetic nurse, as she was aware of a patient who had needed to cancel an appointment due to snow and had been informed there was a six-month wait for another appointment.
- Contractors – Elected Members and the public had been subjected to abuse by the

contractors (e.g. swore in response) undertaking work in the vicinity of Market Street when relaying issues of concern, i.e. mud on the highway, parking anywhere, causing congestion and taking up spaces used by residents, also parking on pathways. There was muddy water running down Market Street and the sweeper did not appear to be doing the job it was supposed to do and there was an issue in respect of potholes.

A Member said that there was an opportunity for the Highways Department to attach appropriate clauses to the planning application to ensure the developers made good / resurface the highway and the Local Authority needed to carry out due diligence.

This had been reported to Kier previously, who were aware of the issues throughout the project, and the ABUHB representatives were disappointed this issue still persisted. The Director of Strategy, Planning and Partnerships said it was really important to learn from this experience, particularly in respect of contractual issues, and recognised the frustration of the residents and local communities. She recognised this development had been a challenge for all concerned and this feedback would be taken on board for future projects.

Council thereupon thanked the Chief Executive and Director of Strategy, Planning and Partnerships for attending and responding to questions raised, which had been most informative, and Members looked forward to future updates.

209) Correspondence

1) BGCBC

- a) H. Cunningham Re: Further Information. Update from a relevant department regarding the lamp-post structural testing.

- Noted; the Clerk confirmed that verbal confirmation had been received that all lamp-posts had passed the structural testing – the majority for two years and some for one-year only. The Officer had informed Council verbally as she was taking annual leave and the necessary paperwork would be circulated on her return.

Members asked that a copy of the certification be sent to Council to be retained on record.

- b) 1) List of applications received, week ending 08.11.2024.

- i) Full variation of premise licence – 41A Castle Street
- ii) Street Trading Consent – Tredegar Town Council
- iii) Temporary Event notice, sale of alcohol 19th to 24th.12.2024 – Lidl's

- 2) List of applications received, week ending 15.11.2024.

- i) Variation of designated premise supervisor – The Railway

- Noted.

- 2) One Voice Wales
- a) RE: Peace Ambassadors. Peacebuilding Network are trying to create the role of Peace Ambassador in local authorities throughout Wales. The role aims to ensure that peace is a key consideration, when creating policy in local communities, in line with the Well-being Goals in the Well-being of Future Generations Act (2015).
 - Noted; forward to Councillor A.E. Tippings.
 - b) National Conference 2024 report.
 - Noted.
 - c) Ystadau Cymru Conference 2024 28.11.2024 Teams.
 - Noted.
 - d) Publication of consultation papers: Planning resilience and preserving trees. Response by 17.01.2025.
 - Noted; forward to Councillor A.E. Tippings.
- 3) Nantyglo & Blaina Town Council
- Re: Action Required Council's Peer Assessment, One TCC Representative at focus group (Week Commencing 18th November). Copy of email sent to A. Parker confirming Cllr D. Hillman has been nominated for this position.
- Noted.
- 4) Welsh Government
- Appropriate Sum under Section 137 (4)(a) of the Local Government Act 1972: Section 137 Expenditure Limited for 2025-2026. £11.10 per elector.
- Noted.
- 5) Inspector Richard Tovey
- Re: Council Meetings. Will check availability of staff to identify meetings they can attend, hoping to they can attend at least one meeting per month. Asking for Council to let them know what sort of updates they want to enable them to put facts and figures together.
- Noted.

- 6) Financial requests:
- a) SLCC Membership annual renewal £240.00.
 - Noted; it was unanimously agreed the expenditure be approved accordingly.
 - b) Urdd Gobaith Cymru Re: Urdd's Fund for All Appeal. Aiming to offer 1,000 places at their Summer Camp to give disadvantaged children and young people in Wales an unforgettable summer holiday in 2025. A donation of £220.00 covers transport, accommodation, all activities and full board for up to five days at one of their residential centres. **2023/24 Dec'23 £180.00 donation to sponsor one place.**
 - Noted; Council enquired if a Tredegar child had attended last year; Clerk to liaise – dependent on feedback, one place agreed provisionally.
- 7) Cllr G. Badham Asking about Sports R Us located in Nantybwlch and what is happening with the building.
- Noted; write to Kidz R Us seeking an update.
- 8) Members of public correspondence:
- a) Mrs. A. Latham Re: Barclays closure. Response from Barclays.
 - Noted; forward to all Members.
 - b) H. Johnson Re: Christmas Poster Competition.
 - Noted; Clerk to highlight that Tredegar Town Council sent a request to all Schools to send in posters and it was not the responsibility of Council to vet these entries, which were accepted on good faith. Council would not condone dishonesty and supported the competition being undertaken in a fair and open manner.

9) PUBLICATIONS

BGCBC Roadworks report, week ending 15.11.2024; Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum Monday 18.11.2024 at 10.00 a.m. Tredegar Library – ***distributed to Members***: Received.

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

210) Planning:

- a) i) List of planning applications received in week 45
- ii) List of planning applications received in week 46

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

App. No.	Applicant	Proposal
C/2014/0206	Mr. D. Davies Ty Gwyn Banalog Terrace Hollybush	Proposed construction of 2 dwellings and associated works, Former Pochin Works Site, Newport Road.
<i>No objections</i>		
C/2024/0253	Mr. A. Warren Reserve Forces & Cadets Association for Wales Centre Block Maindy Barracks Cardiff	Traditional flat roof extension to the west of the existing cadet building, including access ramp to form disabled entrance. New external ramp and steps to main entrance of existing girl guides building to form disabled entrance. Covered connected pathway between the existing cadet building and girl guides building to connect the two buildings. New storage container. Replacement of existing metal rail fencing to the west and south boundaries of the girl guides site with chain-link fencing. Air Training Corps, Shop Row.
<i>No objections</i>		
C/2024/0278	Mr. J. Jones 12 Maes Glas Tredegar	Annex extension to side of dwelling with attic room, kitchen extension at rear, dormer to main roof at front and removal of existing garage and canopy, 12 Maes Glas.
<i>No objections</i>		
C/2024/0277	C. Jones Cefn Golau Together 87 Attlee Way Tredegar	Installation of storage container set on railway sleepers to maintain drainage, land on the corner of Walter Conway Avenue and Gainsborough Road.
<i>No objections</i>		
C/2024/0280	Mr. L. Wheeler c/o 6 High Street Crickhowell	Variation of condition 1 which requires submission of Reserved Matters within three years of planning permission application C/2014/0238 to allow time for submission. C/2014/0138 outline planning permission for construction of dwellings at Former

No objections

Pochin Works, Newport Road,
Development of Plot to provide a
detached dwelling and detached
garage.

c) To consider other planning matters – BGCBC

- H. Clatworthy Re: Diversion of the southern part of Public Footpath No. 63 in the community of Tredegar.
- H. Clatworthy Re: Public Footpath Nos. 149, 150, 151, 152 in the community of Tredegar.

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

- Congratulations to Councillor Gerraint Jones-Griffiths on being awarded the Breaking Down Barriers Award for a Person in Supported Employment.
- Town Clock garden surround – the Council's operative had done a brilliant job lifting the begonias and was to be commended, Abletouch had provided frost free garden riddles and the operative was going through the soil ready for planting. Councillor Alyson Tippings had checked the quality of the tulip bulbs and suggested re-stocking of new bulbs (100 / 150), which was agreed accordingly.
- Tredegar Quiz Wizards – a Member said it would be good for Council to support this competition.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 7.44 p.m.

_____ Chair