

TREDEGAR TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held via Microsoft Teams / hybrid on Wednesday, 19th March, 2025 at 6.00 p.m.

Present: Councillors K. Phillips (Chair)
M. Turner
A.E. Tippings
A. Jones
E. Jones
G. Jones-Griffiths
G. Meredith
J. Thomas
G. Walters

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

331) Apologies. Councillors E. Griffin, G. Badham, A.E. Evans, S. Mavar,
D. Rowberry, H. Trollope, S. Trollope and K. Waldron

332) Declarations of Interest

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

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

It was agreed the recommendation of the Policy Sub-Committee held prior to Council be approved accordingly.

- The following Policies be unanimously recommended for approval to the next full meeting of Council, subject to amendment:

- Standing Orders 2025

The cycle be amended to reflect that one meeting would be held on the second Wednesday in December, rather than the first and third Wednesday of the month, incorporating a joint agenda of items generally considered at both the Civic and Ordinary meeting of Council.

- Allotments – Management and Policy

It was agreed that the amount payable for each full-sized allotment plot be increased from £10.00 per annum to £12.00 per annum.

It was agreed that the Clerk liaise with the Allotment Associations to obtain up-to-date information in respect of livestock and these points be amended accordingly. Also, in respect of prior permission, all Allotment Associations should obtain Town Council consent before undertaking remedial works within the allotment site.

334) To consider a Schedule of Accounts for payment in March, 2025

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.

- SSE – Town Clock Xmas Lights: the payment had provisionally been approved the previous month in the hope this would be processed in February. Unfortunately, the details differed on the invoice received and the RFO was therefore liaising with the company to ascertain the correct information.

The RFO had been asked to look into the possibility of sensory switch for timing of lights on the Clock, as Members were made aware that historically Council had been paying a considerably lower level than required and this metered supply would now be charged differently.

- Petty Cash – the RFO needed to discuss with Barclays Bank how to move forward with the petty cash process following the Bank closure, as the Officer previously submitted receipts in order to cash a cheque to replenish funds: Council no longer had this facility available locally. One solution could be that the amount of petty cash be increased in order that the funds would need replenishing less frequently. It was noted that the nearest Barclays branch was located either Newport or Cardiff.
- Online Payments – Council needed to move forward with online payments, including grants awarded to local groups in the community. However, appropriate procedures had to be in place before progressing.

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.

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

- a) Events Sub-Committee – 5th February, 2025
- b) Civic Meeting of Council - 5th February, 2025
- c) Civic Sub-Committee - 19th February, 2025
- d) Ordinary Meeting of Council - 19th February, 2025

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

336) Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales Annual Report February 2025

To receive report to take effect during the financial year 2025 / 2026

The Clerk spoke to the Final Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales, highlighting any changes and salient points for consideration, to be agreed by town and community councils.

Council noted all options in relation to allowances / payment for Members; observing that Senior roles and allowances were agendaed on an annual basis for ratification at the Annual

Meeting of Council. The Clerk highlighted there were no changes to the payments and benefits paid to Elected Members to the Determination made the previous year.

Council noted and agreed:

- Determination 7: Community and Town Councils mandatory payments
 - Payment for extra costs of working from home
 - Set payment for consumables
 - Attendance Allowance
- Determination 8: Compensation for Financial Loss

337) 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.

338) Correspondence

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| 1) BGCBC | List of applications received, week ending 07.03.2025.

- Noted. |
| 2) One Voice Wales | National Awards Conference – Wednesday, 30 th April, 2025, Royal Welsh Showground. Agenda and booking form.

- Noted. |
| 3) Cllr Griffin | Resignation letter.

- Noted. Council extended their appreciation and sincere thanks for their contribution to Council.

Council formally declared a vacancy within the Central and West Ward following the resignation; Clerk to commence the process to fill the vacancy. |
| 4) Marie Curie | Re: Great Daffodil Appeal. Asking for consideration of a donation.

- Noted. Due to financial constraints in the current climate, it was considered the Town Council could not support the request, as monies should be utilised in the community of Tredegar. |

5) PUBLICATIONS

BGCBC Roadworks report, week ending 14.03.2025 and 21.03.2025; Communicorp Clerks & Councils Direct March 2025 Issue 158; Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum meeting 17.03.2025 at 10.00 a.m. Tredegar Library; OVW Upcoming Online Events from the Cost of Living Crisis Support Team; OVW Re: Digital Guidance. Further guidance Councils; OVW Exciting News: Launch of the New One Voice Wales Website!; OVW Child Poverty Innovation and Supporting Communities grant fund – ***distributed to Members:*** Received.

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

339) Planning:

- a) i) List of planning applications received in week 10
- ii) List of planning applications received in week 11

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

App. No.	Applicant	Proposal
C/2025/0086	Mr. M. Hayes & E. Marlin 31 Northgate Ebbw Vale	Proposed single storey rear house extension and raised patio area, Hiranfach Farm, Tyntyla, Crown Avenue, Tredegar.
<i>No objections</i>		

c) To consider other planning matters – Evans Banks Planning Ltd Re: Proposed development of 37 affordable dwelling houses and residential apartments, access road and associated infrastructure, land off Cefn Glas, Tredegar. Pre-application consultation period, responses by Friday, 11th April, 2025.

All Members were encouraged to comment, as this was a large development within the Ward.

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

- Update on Sirhowy village green - fencing required – a pathway had been made through the shrubbery at Sirhowy village green leading towards Sirhowy woodlands, as the wooden slats on the fencing had been stolen. There was a need to secure this area: the Member had spoken with Sirhowy Woodlands had offered to provide pieces of wood / off-cuts to stop people using this pathway and recommended that someone local could install stockproof fencing. It was agreed that staff seek costings accordingly.
- Update on Deighton – the Deputy Leader had visited the area on Friday to plant trees, however sheep had gained access through the gate. The Leader of the Local Authority had been contacted and the sheep rounded up. The issue of the pedestrian gate at the rear of Deighton Primary School needed to be addressed to prevent issues such as this, as there had also been an incident with youngsters lighting fires. The Member also confirmed she had secured a patrol of Deighton playing field with the Local

Authority.

- SSSI, Trefil – notices had been erected in the village of Trefil, e.g. past the rugby pitch, two fields and on the mountainside to the railway line, stating that NRW were advising of a new SSSI for a large area being located at Mynydd Llangynidyr. This would be quite a substantial SSSI and put a stop to quarrying.

No notification had been sent to the Town Council to advise of quite a substantial piece of legislation. Therefore, it was proposed that representatives of both Blaenau Gwent CBC and the NRW be invited to a formal meeting of Council. The Leader confirmed that, as TTC representative, he would check with the Bannau Brycheiniog [Brecon Beacons] National Park.

- Tredegar Town Band – the Leader was disappointed to report, once again, that Tredegar Town Band was not available to perform on Armistice Sunday, due to another commitment. He would therefore be contacting Ebbw Valley Brass to ascertain availability and would liaise with the Royal British Legion representative accordingly.

However, the Member was pleased to report the success of both Tredegar Town Band and Ebbw Valley Brass at the Welsh Regional Championships held in Swansea, which was commendable. It was therefore agreed that a letter of congratulations be sent.

- Crime and Anti-social Behaviour – the Chair sought confirmation when the Police was next due to attend a formal meeting of Council. The issues in the town centre were at an atrocious level - with windows smashed in The Lounge and the Coalfields Regeneration Trust; graffiti; and illegal bikes. There appeared to be no consequence for individuals in correlation with the offence. On speaking to the Police, the public were informed that Police Officers could not give chase due to internal regulations placed on the Police throughout Gwent.
- School Governor – Councillor Gerran Walters informed Council that he had been elected on the School Governing Body of Tredegar Comprehensive School as a 'local community representative'.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 6.39 p.m.

Chair