

NANTYGLO & BLAINA TOWN COUNCIL CYNGOR TREF NANT-Y-GLO A BLAENAU

Mrs T Hughes Town Clerk/RFO

Council Offices, Blaina Institute, High Street, Blaina NP13 3BN
Swyddfa'r r Cyngor, Sefydliad Blaenau, Y Stryd Fawr, Blaenau, NP13 3BN
Tel: 01495 292817 e-mail: clerk@nantygloandblainatc.co.uk

Dear Member,

You are summoned to attend a hybrid meeting of the Town Council to be held at **6.00pm on Tuesday 23rd January 2024** at the Council Chamber, Blaina Institute, High Street, Blaina.

If any member of the public wishes to attend the meeting, please contact the Town Clerk at the above e-mail by 3pm on 23rd January 2024 for details of how to access the meeting.

Yours sincerely,



Town Clerk

AGENDA

A meeting to which members of the public are entitled to attend.

Declaration of Interest

Members are invited to declare matters of interest either at the beginning or at any time during the proceedings. Please note that all declarations of interest must be recorded in the book provided.

1. **Apologies:**
Members are invited to consider the apologies for absence received and to formally resolve to accept.
2. **Town Mayor's Communications:**
The Town Mayor's communications for December 2023 and January 2024.
3. **Questions from the Public:**
To receive any questions from the public regarding matters on the agenda (please note this is limited to 10 minutes).
4. **Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held 28th November 2023 (pages 79 – 83)**
Members are invited to consider the above minutes and if appropriate to approve them as an accurate record of proceedings.
 - a) Matters arising for information & clarification only:

5. Minutes of the Events Committee Meeting held 28th November 2023 (pages 84 - 86)

Members are invited to consider the above minutes and if appropriate to approve them as an accurate record of proceedings.

- a) Matters arising, for information & clarification only:

6. Minutes of the Planning & Highways Committee Meeting held 12th December 2023 (pages 87 - 88)

Members are invited to consider the above minutes and if appropriate to approve them as an accurate record of proceedings.

- a) Matters arising, for information & clarification only:

7. Minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee Meeting held 12th December 2023 (pages 89 - 92)

Members are invited to consider the above minutes and if appropriate to approve them as an accurate record of proceedings.

- a) Matters arising, for information & clarification only:

8. Minutes of the Planning & Highways Committee Meeting held 9th January 2024 (pages 93 - 95)

Members are invited to consider the above minutes and if appropriate to approve them as an accurate record of proceedings.

- a) Matters arising, for information & clarification only:

9. Minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee Meeting held 9th January 2024 (pages 96 - 102)

Members are invited to consider the above minutes and if appropriate to approve them as an accurate record of proceedings.

- b) Matters arising, for information & clarification only:

10. Correspondence:

Members are invited to consider the listed correspondence, plus with the Chairman's permission, any urgent information that may be received prior to the date of the meeting:

- a) Blaenau Gwent CBC – (For information/consideration – copy attached):

Letter informing of Blaenau Gwent's forthcoming Revenue Budget Consultation with Town & Community Councils for 2024/25 to take place at 10.30am on Friday 16th February 2024 via MS Team.

11. Councillor Sonia Behr – Former Scouts Hall, Attlee Road, Nantyglo:

Members are invited to consider and discuss a proposal & business plan in relation to the former Scouts Hall (formerly Coed Cae Community Centre) at the end of Attlee Road, Nantyglo (*copies attached*).

12. Application to the Community Grant Fund:

Members are invited to consider the listed application(s). Members are also reminded that applications will need to be considered in conjunction with the current policy.

- *None received to date.*

13. Confidential Information:

The following item(s) may contain information that is of a confidential or personal nature and is therefore exclusive to Members of the Town Council only. (Public Bodies Admission to Meetings Act 1960).

Hem no. 4

NANTYGLO & BLAINA TOWN COUNCIL

CYNGOR TREF NANT-Y-GLO A BLAENAU

Mrs T Hughes Town Clerk/RFO
Council Offices, Blaina Institute, High Street, Blaina NP13 3BN
Swyddfa'r r Cyngor, Sefydliad Blaenau, Y Stryd Fawr, Blaenau, NP13 3BN
Tel: 01495 292817 e-mail: clerk@nantygloandblainatc.co.uk

Minutes of the hybrid Meeting of the Town Council held at 2.00pm Tuesday 28th November 2023 at Council Chamber, Blaina Institute, High Street, Blaina.

A meeting to which members of the public were entitled to attend.

Present: Councillor K Jenkins, presiding, Town Mayor
Councillors G Morvan, D Hillman, C Hillman (remote), K Jones JP, L Harris & M Williams (remote).

In attendance: Mrs T Hughes, Town Clerk / RFO
Mrs N Horner, Assistant Officer

Prior to the start of the meeting, the Town Clerk informed that no members of the press or public were in attendance. **Resolved** to note the information received.

Declaration of Interest

Members were invited to declare matters of interest either at the beginning or at any time during the proceedings. Please note that all declarations of interest must be recorded in the book provided. **Resolved** to note that no such declarations were received.

1. Apologies:

Members were invited to consider the apologies for absence received and to formally resolve to accept. **Resolved** to note that apologies were received from Councillors L King & J Bond. **Further Resolved** to accept the apologies received.

2. Town Mayor's Communications:

The Town Mayor's communications for November 2023.

The Town Mayor informed that he was honoured to have taken part in the Remembrance Sunday service.

Resolved to note the information received.

3. Questions from the Public:

To receive any questions from the public regarding matters on the agenda (please note this was limited to 10 minutes).

Resolved to note that no questions were received.

4. **Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held 24th October 2023 (pages 64 – 67)**
Members were invited to consider the above minutes and if appropriate to approve them as an accurate record of proceedings.
- a) Matters arising, for information & clarification only:
- Page 65 (item 4a) in response to a query, the Town Clerk informed that she had discussed this with G Collier (Nantyglo & Blaina Charter Group) and that he had tried and failed to contact the organisation in question. Cllr M Williams also informed that had had been unable to contact the organisation.
- Page 66 (Item 8b) in response to a query, the Town Clerk informed that the requested information had been sent to members via e-mail.
- Resolved** that the minutes be approved.
5. **Minutes of the Events Committee Meeting held 24th October 2023 (pages 68 - 70)**
Members were invited to consider the above minutes and if appropriate to approve them as an accurate record of proceedings.
- a) Matters arising, for information & clarification only:
- Page 69 (item 4) in response to a query, the Town Clerk informed that Chapels and Churches would be included in the report.
- Page 69/70 (item 6) in response to a query, the Town Clerk informed that all Christmas Lights were now erected and that there were some gaps in the lighting due to the costs of complying with the requirements of Blaenau Gwent CBC in respect of lamp posts. If lights were to have been erected on lamp posts, a considerable inspection fee per post would be payable and the large increase in contractor's public liability insurance premium (as required by BGCBC) would have meant the current contractor could not have erected the lights. The Town Clerk informed that this was the case for any council/group/organisation looking to attach Christmas lights to lamp posts anywhere in Blaenau Gwent.
- Members discussed the information and stated that Christmas Lights were a large part of community and local council life. A suggestion was made to write to local residents to request if Christmas lights could be attached from individual properties – it was commented that this suggestion would incur probable liability issues for the Town Council.
- Resolved** that the minutes be approved.
6. **Minutes of the Planning & Highways Committee Meeting held 14th November 2023 (pages 71 - 73)**
Members were invited to consider the above minutes and if appropriate to approve them as an accurate record of proceedings.
- a) Matters arising, for information & clarification only:
- Resolved** that the minutes be approved.

7. **Minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee Meeting held 14th November 2023 (pages 74 - 78)**

Members were invited to consider the above minutes and if appropriate to approve them as an accurate record of proceedings.

a) Matters arising for information & clarification only:

Page 75 (item 3ai) in response to a query, the Town Clerk informed that, currently not all Town/Community Councils had responded to the request for a pre-meeting. Cllr D Hillman informed that he would query the issue of Christmas Lights at the meeting.

Page 75 (item 5) in a response to a query, the Town Clerk informed that the replacement ARC Awards had not yet been received.

Page 77 (item 9a) – in response to a query, the Town Clerk informed that some of the recently purchased Christmas lights were replacements.

Resolved that the minutes be approved.

8. **Correspondence:**

Members were invited to consider the listed correspondence, plus with the Chairman's permission, any urgent information that might be received prior to the date of the meeting.

a) South East Wales Regional Ophthalmology – (for information):

Briefing Document – Planning Future Cataracts Services in South West Wales.

Resolved to note the information received.

b) Planning Department, Blaenau Gwent CBC – (For information/consideration):

Email response to planning application query (Ystruth School).

Members considered the response, and the following comments were made:

- There had been considerable public opinion as to the proposed width of the footpath and the possibility of it being used by unlawfully by certain vehicles.
- The response by the Planning Department had looked at the concerns raised and detailed the method to prevent that possibility from happening.

Resolved to note the information received.

c) One Voice Wales – (For Information / consideration):

- i. Welsh Government Consultation – Road Safety (paper copies were made available at the meeting).

Resolved to note the information received.

- ii. Information re: One Voice Wales Cost of Living Team.

Resolved to note the information received.

- iii. Letter informing of recycling requirements for businesses.

Resolved to note the information received.

- iv. Written Statement & Summary of Responses to the consultation on recommendations of the Independent Review of the Ethical Standards Framework (Richard Penn report).

Resolved to note the information received.

- d) Gwent Archives – (for information):

Email informing of free event at Gwent Archives.

Resolved to note the information received.

Additional correspondence received with permission of the Chair:

- e) Brynawr Rotary (Michelle Hurter) – (for consideration):

Members were invited to consider the e-mail response received in respect to a query regarding anticipated numbers of Nantyglo & Blaina residents assisted by the project.

The Town Clerk informed that even based on 15 families from Nantyglo & Blaina already stated, a £100 donation made would be equivalent to £6.66 per family, although there were likely to be additional people and families when all referrals were made.

Members agreed that the information satisfied all the conditions.

Resolved that a financial donation of £100 be made.

9. **Application to the Community Grant Fund:**

Members were invited to consider the listed application(s). Members were also reminded that applications will need to be considered in conjunction with the current policy.

- *None received to date.*

Resolved accordingly.

10. **Members Updates:**

Members were invited to inform and provide updates of any recent activities and / or concerns:

Councillor D Hillman:

Cllr D Hillman informed that he, Cllr C Hillman and Cllr L Harris attended the Christmas Extravaganza at Central Park on Saturday 25th November 2023.

Councillor G Morvan:

Cllr G Morvan informed that he assisted Santa from 9am until 3pm at the Christmas Extravaganza at Central Park on Saturday 25th November 2023.

Councillor M Williams:

Cllr M Williams informed that he assisted at the Christmas Extravaganza at Central Park on Saturday 25th November 2023.

Councillor L Harris:

Cllr L Harris informed that she attended the Christmas Fete at Cwmcelyn House held recently. Cllr Harris informed that it was a lovely day and very nice to meet the residents and staff again.

Resolved to note the information received.

11. Confidential Information:

The following item(s) might contain information that was of a confidential or personal nature and was therefore exclusive to Members of the Town Council only. (Public Bodies Admission to Meetings Act 1960). **Resolved** that the motion be supported.

a) Salem Chapel:

The Town Clerk provided a verbal update:

The Town Clerk informed that discussions were had with both Garth Collier and Russell Dunham of Nantyglo & Blaina Charter Group (separately) and that a few items belonging to the Charter Group were still remaining in the Chapel due to difficulty in removing & relocating, mainly the large sheet of glass from the display cabinet. R Dunham informed that he would make enquiries to get this removed G Collier informed that the Charter Group was still a registered charity at the moment. The Town Clerk would arrange for another copy of the Formal Deed of Surrender to be sent to the remaining members of the Charter Group for signature.

Members considered the information received and the following comments were made:

- There was a need to specify a date for completion.
- Legal advice had already been sought for this issue and has been followed although contacting the solicitor for further advice would be required if the Formal Deed of Surrender was not signed within a reasonable time limit.
- The building would continue to deteriorate and costs such as gas and electricity still needed to be paid. The Council needed to sell the building as previously resolved.

Resolved that the Formal Deed of Surrender be sent to all remaining members of the Nantyglo & Blaina Charter Group for signature within a reasonable and specified time period. **Further Resolved** that the Solicitor be contacted for further legal advice if the Formal Deed of Surrender was not signed within the specified period of time.

Meeting declared closed at 2.40pm

7km no. 5

NANTYGLO & BLAINA TOWN COUNCIL

CYNGOR TREF NANT-Y-GLO A BLAENAU

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**Minutes of the Meeting of the Events Committee held at the Council Chamber,
Blaina Institute, High Street, Blaina. Immediately following the Meeting of the Town
Council on Tuesday 28th November 2023.**

A meeting to which members of the public were entitled to attend.

Present: Councillor L Harris, Chair of the Events Committee, Presiding
Councillors: D Hillman; K Jenkins, K Jones JP, M Williams (remote)
& C Hillman (remote).

In attendance: Mrs Tracy Hughes, Town Clerk
Mrs N Horner, Assistant Officer

Prior to the commencement of the meeting the Town Clerk informed that no members of the press or public were in attendance. **Resolved** to note the information received.

Declaration of Interest

Members were invited to declare matters of interest either at the beginning or at any time during the proceedings. Please note that all declarations of interest must be recorded in the book provided.

Resolved to note that no declarations were received.

1. Apologies: Members were invited to consider the apologies for absence received and to formally resolve to accept.

Resolved to note that apologies were received from Cllr J Bond and Cllr L King and **Further Resolved** to accept the apologies received.

2. Questions from the public: To receive any questions from the public on matters on the agenda.

Resolved to note that there were no public in attendance and no questions from public received.

3. Correspondence:

Members were invited to consider the listed correspondence, plus with the Chair's permission, any urgent information that might be received prior to the date of the meeting.

No correspondence received to date.

Additional correspondence received with permission of the Chair:

Karen Williams, Town Centre Manager BGCBC:

E-mail in which she expressed her thanks for the kind donation and confirmed that the event went well on Saturday.

Chair explained that she had noticed that there was no reindeer food around the event. Cllr G Morvan confirmed that he had given out the 400 reindeer food bags to children who visited Santa in his grotto. AO, also confirmed that she had taken her Granddaughter to see Santa and a reindeer food bag was received.

Resolved to note information was received.

4. Forthcoming Events: Members were reminded that the forthcoming events would take place on the following:

- Christmas Extravaganza, Saturday 25th November, Central Park, Cwmcelyn, Blaina. 12 – 9pm.

Cllr D Hillman asked if there was any road closure planning application form had been submitted in respect of the event. Town Clerk confirmed that Town Council had not received an application form.

Chair explained that she had called into the office to ask if she was able to sell raffle tickets 'Name the doll', to raise funds for 'League of Friends'. To which Town Clerk informed that she would need ask Town Centre Manager as this was not Town Council event. Town Clerk asked TCM to telephone to confirm or not to confirm. Chair relayed that TCM had left a voice mail explaining that a form needed to be completed and to call TCM back to give an email address. However, the form stated that the form had to be returned by 2pm that day.

Cllr D Hillman explained that he tried several times to return form via email, but it kept getting returned. He also informed he thought there was enough space for Town Council and League of Friends to have a stand/stall at the event. A Member opined that BGFM were at the event and couldn't understand why an announcement couldn't have been made to say the lights within Nantyglo & Blaina are being switched on?

Two Members also opined that the event was heavily set around a local Blaenau Gwent Councillor and that people approached a Town Councillor expressing and/or asking if the event was held by the Labour Group.

Resolved to note information received.

- Christmas Carol Concert, Tuesday 28th November, Blaen y Cwm Primary School. 4:30 – 5:30.

Cllr D Hillman asked if all arrangements for concert were in place i.e., Selection packs and Santa. Clerk confirmed that selections packs and programmes had been delivered and Blaen Y cwm School is providing the Santa. The remaining selection packs would be delivered to each school at a later date.

Resolved to note information received.

5. Cinema Project for 2024 summer: Email quotation received from Cymru Creations Film & Media.

Members thought that the quotation is an excellent value for money. It was suggested that clerk contact company to ascertain what notice would they need for cinema event to take place.

A discussion took place about weather and to look at a possible site and dates at a future meeting.

Resolved to note information received and further **Resolved** for clerk to ascertain what notice is required from Cymru Creations and to agenda the item at a later date in the New Year.

6. Plants for planters: Members suggested to consider the purchasing of plants for planters and the costs.

A Member informed that the planters were looking rather poor with all the dead plants remaining. Cllr D Hillman suggested that council refrain from fitting the signs until planters are looking healthier. Cllr D Hillman informed that he could purchase, on behalf of Town Council, a 25kg bag of daffodils bulbs £39.99, which would fill all planters.

Members agreed that the cleaning up of planters to remove all debris, which would look far better empty than what they look like at present.

A discussion ensued regarding purchasing more compost and winter pansies at the cost of £2.96 for a tray of 6 at Trago Mills and Cllr D Hillman confirmed that he would receive 10% discount if purchased on a Thursday.

Members agreed to purchase the daffodil bulbs for now and look at purchasing pansies and compost once the planters have been cleaned up.

Cllr M Williams offered to help with the clean-up of planters.

Resolved for Cllr D Hillman to purchase daffodil bulb and **Further Resolved** to remove all debris from planters and look at purchasing pansies and compost once planters are cleared. Cllr D Hillman and Cllr M Williams agreed to clear the debris from planters.

Meeting closed at 3.15pm

NANTYGLO & BLAINA TOWN COUNCIL CYNGOR TREF NANT-Y-GLO A BLAENAU

Mrs T Hughes - Town Clerk/RFO

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Minutes of the Planning & Highways Committee Meeting held via a hybrid meeting at Council Chamber, Blaina Institute, High Street, Blaina at 6pm, Tuesday 12th December 2023.

A meeting to which members of the public were entitled to attend.

Present: Chair: K Jones JP, presiding, Chair Planning & Highways Committee
Councillors: G Morvan, D Hillman, K Jenkins, L Harris, M Williams (remote)
& J Bond (remote).

In attendance: Mrs T Hughes – Town Clerk
Mrs N Horner - Assistant Officer

Prior to the start of the meeting, the Town Clerk informed that there were no members of the public in attendance. **Resolved** to note the information received.

The Chair welcomed and introduced Councillor John Bond to his first meeting.

Declaration of Interest

Members were invited to declare matters of interest either at the beginning or at any time during the proceedings. Members were reminded that all declarations of interest must be recorded in the book provided.

Resolved to note that no such declarations were received.

1. Apologies for absence:

Members were invited to consider the apologies for absence and to formally resolve to accept.

Resolved to note that Cllr C Hillman was having difficulties joining the meeting online.

2. Questions from the public:

To receive any questions from the public regarding matters on the agenda. There was a 10 – minute allocation time for any questions from the public.

Resolved to note that no members of the public or press in attendance and no questions put forward.

3. Correspondence:

Members were invited to consider the listed correspondence, plus with the Chairman's permission, any urgent information that might be received prior to the date of the meeting.

a) Email from Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council, Mark Howland:

Information regarding a Lease at Nantyglo RFC.

Members noted the e-mail requested views in respect of Nantyglo RFC in applying for a lease in respect of the pavilion, rugby field and former bowling green at Banna Park. Members noted that the date for views had already passed and would wait for formal notification.

Resolved to note information received.

b) Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council (Mark Howland):

E-mail response from questions put forward from previous planning query.

Members noted the responses received in respect of previous queries and agreed to await the formal planning application.

Resolved to note information received and **Further Resolved** to await the formal planning application.

Cllr M Williams joined the meeting at this juncture.

c) Email from Blaenau Gwent and Torfaen Local Nature Partnership

Local Nature Recovery Action Plan.

Resolved to note information received.

4. Planning Applications:

Members were invited to consider any further applications that may be received prior to the date of the meeting:

No Planning Applications received to date.

Resolved accordingly.

5. Licence Applications:

Members were invited to note the application(s) **for information only**:

No applications received to date.

Resolved accordingly.

Meeting declared closed at 6.15pm

NANTYGLO & BLAINA TOWN COUNCIL CYNGOR TREF NANT-Y-GLO A BLAENAU

Mrs T Hughes - Town Clerk/RFO

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Minutes of the hybrid Finance & General Purposes Committee Meeting held 6.15pm on Tuesday 12th December 2023 at the Council Chamber, Blaina Institute, High Street, Blaina.

A meeting to which members of the public were entitled to attend.

Present: Councillor D Hillman, presiding, Chair, Finance & General Purposes Committee
Councillors G Morvan, K Jones JP, K Jenkins, M Williams (remote), J Bond (remote),
C Hillman (remote).

Prior to the commencement of the meeting, the Town Clerk informed that no members of the press or public were present. **Resolved** to note the information received.

The Chair informed of the fire procedures and that no fire alarm test was planned. **Resolved** to note the information received.

Declaration of Interest

Members were invited to declare matters of interest either at the beginning or at any time during the proceedings. Members were reminded that all declarations must be recorded in the book provided. **Resolved** to note that no such declarations were received.

1. Apologies for absence:

Members were invited to consider the apologies for absence and to formally resolve to accept. **Resolved** to note that no apologies were received.

2. Questions from the Public:

To receive any questions from the public regarding matters itemised on the agenda (limited to 10 minutes total).

Resolved to note that no such questions were received.

3. Correspondence:

Members were invited to consider the listed correspondence, plus with the Chairman's permission, any urgent information that might be received prior to the date of the meeting.

a) Blaen y Cwm Primary, Coed y Garn Primary & Ysgol Bro Helyg – (for information)

E-mails of thanks in respect of the recent Christmas Carol Concert held with the four local primary schools.

Members agreed that the joint Christmas Carol Concert with the four local primary schools was an excellent & successful event. It was hoped that the Santa in attendance could be invited to take part in next year's event. Cllr K Jones JP thanked the Town Clerk and Assistant Officer for their work in arranging the Carol concert.

Resolved to note the information received.

b) One Voice Wales (for information):

i. Information re: Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales (member allowances).

The Chair provided a brief overview of Members Expenses.

The Town Clerk / RFO informed that all determinations had already been implemented by the Town Council.

Resolved to note the information received.

Cllr C Hillman joined the meeting at this juncture.

ii. One Voice Wales National Awards Conference 2024.

Resolved to note the information received and **Further Resolved** that the Town Clerk provide further information about the conference to Members.

c) Welsh Government – (for information):

Information re: Section 137 Expenditure Limit for 2024/25.

The Town Clerk / RFO informed that based on Nantyglo & Blaina's electorate of approximately 6,942, the maximum amount the Town Council *could* spend under s.137 (from its budget &/or reserves) was £75,043.02 for the financial year 2024/25 (total electorate multiplied by the amount per elector i.e. 6,942 x £10.81).

Resolved to note the information received.

d) Independent Remuneration Panel (for information):

Draft copy of the IRPW's draft Annual Report for 2024/25.

Queries and comments were invited – none received.

For information, Members were reminded that the Town Council was classed as a group 3 council by IRPW.

Resolved to note the information received.

Additional correspondence received with permission of the Chair:

e) Councillor L Winnett (Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council):

E-mail informed that Christmas Lights on Christmas tree at Cwmcelyn had been cut down and removed. Christmas Lighting contractor, Russell Dunham confirmed that replacement

lights (currently unused) could be used as replacement lights on the tree for this year. The Town Clerk informed that Russell Dunham was erecting the lights as his own contribution.

There was a brief discussion as to who actually owned the lights that had been cut down and stolen. Cllr G Morvan informed that Russell Dunham had contacted him on Friday evening and asked if an unused set of lights could be erected in the tree and that he had agreed as a gesture from the Town Council to the residents of Cwmcelyn. Cllr Morvan confirmed that the lights currently on the Christmas Tree at Cwmcelyn were supplied by the Town Council and erected by Russell Dunham at no financial cost to the Town Council.

The Town Clerk informed that Cllr L Winnett had thanked the Town Council via Facebook for their help and assistance to the local community.

Resolved to agree to the use of Christmas Lights for the Christmas Tree at Cwmcelyn.

4. S.137 donations (Local Government Act 1972 & Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015:

As previously resolved, Members were invited to consider making further financial donations to Blaenau Gwent Foodbank to assist residents of Nantyglo and Blaina for the month of December 2023.

Additionally, The Town Clerk reminded Members of the suggestion agreed by Members to donate the surplus selection packs from the joint schools Carol Concert to Blaenau Gwent Foodbank for distribution to Nantyglo & Blaina residents. Members were also informed that Blaenau Gwent Foodbank had already collected the selection packs. Cllr K Jones thanked the Town Clerk and Assistant Officer for arranging this.

Resolved that a donation of £200 be made to Blaenau Gwent Foodbank for the month of December 2023, in respect of residents from Nantyglo & Blaina.

Ratified the agreement to donate the surplus selection packs to Blaenau Gwent Foodbank for distribution to Nantyglo & Blaina residents.

5. Application to the Community Grant Fund:

Members were invited to consider the listed application(s), plus with the Chairman's permission any additional applications that might be received prior to the date of the meeting. Members were also reminded that applications would need to be considered in conjunction with the current policy.

None received to date.

Resolved accordingly.

6. Salem Chapel:

Members were invited to consider the attached inspection report:

- November 2023

Mem no. 8

NANTYGLO & BLAINA TOWN COUNCIL CYNGOR TREF NANT-Y-GLO A BLAENAU

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**Minutes of the hybrid Meeting of the Planning & Highways Committee held at 6pm on
Tuesday 9th January 2024 at the Council Chamber, Blaina Institute, High Street,
Blaina.**

A meeting to which members of the public were entitled to attend.

Present: Councillor K Jones JP, presiding, Chair, Planning & Highways Committee
Councillors G Morvan, D Hillman, C Hillman (remotely) M Williams (remote),
L Harris, K Jenkins and L King.

In attendance: Mrs T Hughes, Town Clerk / RFO
Mrs N Horner, assistant Officer

Prior to the start of the meeting, the Town Clerk informed that no members of the public or press were present. **Resolved** to note the information received.

Declaration of Interest

Members were invited to declare matters of interest either at the beginning or at any time during the proceedings. Members were reminded that all declarations of interest must be recorded in the book provided. **Resolved** to note that no such declarations were received.

Chair wished all a Happy New Year and informed of the fire regulations. **Resolved to note the information received.**

Cllr M Williams joined the meeting at this juncture.

1. Apologies for absence:

Members were invited to consider the apologies for absence and to formally resolve to accept.

Resolved to note that apologies were received from Cllr J Bond. **Further Resolved** to accept the apology received.

2. Questions from the public:

To receive any questions from the public regarding matters on the agenda. There was a 10-minute allocation time for any questions from the public.

Resolved to note that no such questions were received.

3. Decisions taken under delegated powers during December 2023:

a) Planning Application No C/2023/0256 – Proposed development at: 126 High Street, Blaina, NP13 3AF.

Demolition of existing lean to, single storey rear extension, outbuilding and construction of a proposed rear single storey extension.

Resolved that no representation or objections made.

Resolved to support the decision above.

4. Correspondence:

Members were invited to consider the listed correspondence, plus with the Chairman's permission, any urgent information that might be received prior to the date of the meeting.

None received to date.

Additional correspondence received with permission of the Chair:

a) Welsh Government (for information):

Letter (via e-mail) re: Town & Country Planning Act 1990 – section 62D.

The developments of National Significance (Wales) Regulations 2016, application by Pennant Walters Ltd for a proposed development of a wind farm of up to 8 turbines & associated infrastructure at land to the west of Abertillery, Blaenau Gwent (app ref: DNS/3270299).

Resolved to note the information received.

5. Planning Applications:

Members were invited to consider the applications listed below and, with the permission of the Chair, any further applications that might be received prior to the date of the meeting:

Planning Application No. C/2023/0265 – Proposed development at Blaina Integrated Childrens Centre, High Street, Blaina, NP13 3BN:

The demolition of the existing demountable classroom & existing landscaping strip & the construction of two single storey extensions, internal remodelling & new landscaping & car parking area. Inclusion of PV panels to be installed on the roofs, change of use of land and 2no. canopies.

Members considered the application and stated the following concerns/representations:

- Concerns for pedestrian and vehicle safety as the proposal was for additional car parking and additional staff but, the entrance and exits to the building (and car park) remained the same.

- The hours of the business were to be extended but no neighbourhood consultations had been carried out despite the building being located in a residential area.
- One of the plans (showing the proposed ground floor) stated a wet play area in the car park.
- The additional jobs were welcome news for the area.

Clerk explained that consultations were usually carried out at a later stage of application form being received as per previous information received from Planning Officers at Blaenau Gwent CBC.

Resolved that no objections made but clarification required on the above representations.

6. Licence Applications:

Members were invited to note the application(s) **for information only:**

None received to date.

Resolved accordingly.

Meeting declared closed at 18:18

NANTYGLO & BLAINA TOWN COUNCIL CYNGOR TREF NANT-Y-GLO A BLAENAU

Mrs T Hughes - Town Clerk/RFO
Council Offices, Blaina Institute, High Street, Blaina NP13 3BN
Swyddfa'r Cyngor, Sefydliad Blaenau, Y Stryd Fawr, Blaenau NP13 3BN
Tel: 01495 292817 e-mail: clerk@nantygloandblainatc.co.uk

**Minutes of the hybrid meeting of the Finance & General Purposes Committee at 6.20pm
Tuesday 9th January 2024 at the Council Chamber, Blaina Institute, High Street, Blaina.**

A meeting to which members of the public were entitled to attend.

Present: Councillor D Hillman, presiding, Chair, Finance & General Purposes Committee
Councillors G Morvan, K Jones JP, M Williams (remote), L Harris, K Jenkins,
C Hillman (remote) & L King.

In attendance: Mrs T Hughes, Town Clerk / RFO
Mrs N Horner, Assistant Officer

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and informed of the fire regulations. **Resolved** to note the information received.

Prior to the start of the meeting, the Town Clerk informed that no members of the public or press were in attendance. **Resolved** to note the information received.

Declaration of Interest

Members were invited to declare matters of interest either at the beginning or at any time during the proceedings. Members were reminded that all declarations must be recorded in the book provided. **Resolved** to note that no such declarations were received.

1. Apologies for absence:

Members were invited to consider the apologies for absence and to formally resolve to accept. **Resolved** to note that an apology was received from Cllr J Bond. **Further Resolved** to accept the apology received.

2. Questions from the Public:

To receive any questions from the public regarding matters itemised on the agenda (limited to 10 minutes total).

Resolved to note that no questions were received.

3. Correspondence:

Members were invited to consider the listed correspondence, plus with the Chairman's permission, any urgent information that might be received prior to the date of the meeting.

a) Society of Local Council Clerks – (for consideration)

Renewal of subscription for 2024 membership.

Members considered the subscription and agreed that it be renewed for 2024 at a cost of £288 per year.

Resolved that the membership to Society of Local Council Clerks for 2024/25 be renewed.

b) One Voice Wales (for information):

i. Training Modules & Dates January – March 2024.

Resolved to note the information received.

ii. Cost of Living – Community & Town Council Activity in Wales.

Chair queried if there were any suitable projects for consideration.

Councillor Morvan informed that this was a new team set up by One Voice Wales and suggested that the team could be invited to attend a future meeting as a guest speaker.

Resolved to note the information received and **Further Resolved** to invite the Cost of Living Team to a future meeting of the Town Council as a guest speaker.

iii. Free Online Training Courses re: Digital Health of Community & Town Councils.

Councillor M Williams informed that he would like to attend the session held on 23rd January 2024.

The Town Clerk and Assistant Officer informed that they would like to attend the session held on 12th March 2024.

Resolved to note the information received and **Further Resolved** that Officer and Members would attend the training as detailed.

Additional correspondence received with permission of the Chair:

c) Donna Wallbank – Brynmawr Rotary (for information):

Letter of thanks and information re: grant donation received and an invitation for a representative of the Town Council to attend an update and presentation (including a buffet) about the project at 6pm on 23rd January 2024.

Members welcomed the letter and the detailed information provided regarding the Christmas Hamper project and thanked all involved for the hard work.

As the date of the presentation coincided with the Meeting of the Full Council, Members suggested that a letter of explanation be sent to Brynmawr Rotary as to why a representative of the Town Council was unable to attend and invited a representative from Brynmawr Rotary to a future meeting of the Town Council as a guest speaker.

Resolved to note the information received and **Further Resolved** that a letter of explanation and invite a representative of Brynmawr Rotary to attend a future meeting of the Town Council.

d) Councillor S Behr – Blaenau Gwent CBC (for information):

Letter re: proposed proposal and business plan in relation to the former Scouts Hall (formerly Coed Cae Community Centre) at the end of Attlee Road, Nantyglo.

Chair read out the letter to Members.

The Town Clerk advised that as not all Members used e-mail and, as such would have received prior notification of the letter, to resolve to note the information received and to include the letter as a separate agenda item for proper and appropriate consideration at a future meeting.

Resolved that the item be listed as a separate agenda item at a future meeting of the Town Council.

4. **Draft Annual Report 2022/23:**

Members were invited to consider the attached report, and if appropriate, to resolve for publication.

Members considered the draft annual report for 2022/23 and the following points were made:

Page 2 – amend number of vacancies.

Page 3 – amend spelling of name.

Page 4 – query position of representative to Blaina Institute Trust Fund (no contact received).

Page 7 – check and amend precept amounts.

Page 8 – replace bar chart with a more appropriate chart or graph.

Page 8 – grant donations, include community project to R. Abbas.

Page 11 – amend Christmas Fair to occasional.

Page 12 – should read 'mark'.

Page 12 – include s.137 donations.

Resolved to approve the plan with the alterations stated above.

5. **S.137 donations (Local Government Act 1972 & Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015:**

As previously resolved, Members were invited to consider making further financial donations to Blaenau Gwent Foodbank to assist residents of Nantyglo and Blaina for the month of January 2024.

Resolved that a donation of £200 be made to Blaenau Gwent Foodbank to assist Nantyglo & Blaina residents for the month of January 2024.

6. **Application to the Community Grant Fund:**

Members were invited to consider the listed application(s), plus with the Chairman's permission any additional applications that might be received prior to the date of the meeting. Members were also reminded that applications would need to be considered in conjunction with the current policy.

None received to date.

Resolved accordingly.

7. Salem Chapel:

Members were invited to consider the attached inspection report:

- **December 2024:**
Comments and queries were invited:
In response to a queries, the Town Clerk informed that, in her opinion, the condition of the Chapel continued to deteriorate as detailed previously and that there were two keyholders – the Town Council and Mr R Dunham (for Christmas Lights & any maintenance issues). It was also thought that lights may have possibly been on in the Chapel due to Mr R Dunham altering, storing or taking down Christmas Lights or possibly moving some of the remaining items belonging to the Charter Group.

Resolved that the report be approved.

8. Members Updates:

Members were invited to provide any updates or information:

a) Councillor G Morvan:

Councillor Morvan informed that Reverend Roy Watson had been awarded the British Empire Medal in the New Years Honours List following an application submitted by Councillor Morvan on behalf of the Town Council. Reverend Watson had phoned Councillor Morvan to inform him of the honour and thank him for submitting the application. The Town Clerk had made early enquiries with the Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Gwent regarding possible plans to present the award to Reverend Watson in the Council Chamber. Members agreed that this would be an excellent idea and that a letter of congratulations be sent to Reverend Watson from the Town Mayor on behalf of the Town Council.

Resolved to note the information received, **Further Resolved** to further investigate the possibility of presenting Reverend Watson with his award in a ceremony at the Council Chamber and **Additionally Resolved** that a letter of congratulations be sent to Reverend Watson from the Town Mayor on behalf of the Town Council.

b) Councillor D Hillman:

Councillor D Hillman informed that weather conditions meant that he had attached metal signs to 2 of the large planters although the remainder of the signs would be attached to the remaining planters when weather conditions allowed.

Resolved to note the information received.

9. Confidential Information:

The following item(s) might contain information that was of a confidential or personal nature and was therefore exclusive to Members of the Town Council only. (Public Bodies Admission to Meetings Act 1960). **Resolved** that the motion be supported.

Damien McCann,
Interim Chief Executive / Prif Weithredwr Interim

T: 01495 356011 DX: 43956
E: committee.services@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk

Our Ref./Ein Cyf. MH

Your Ref./Eich Cyf.

Contact:/Cysylltwch â: Michelle Hicks



Item no. 10a

**NOT OPEN TO THE PUBLIC - THIS IS NOT
A MEETING TO WHICH SECTION 100 (A) TO (K) OF
THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 APPLIES**

15th January, 2024

Dear Sir/Madam

**REVENUE BUDGET 2024/2025 CONSULTATION WITH
TOWN AND COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

I write to advise that arrangements have been made for a meeting to discuss the Revenue Budget 2024/2025. The meeting will be held on **FRIDAY, 16TH FEBRUARY, 2024 AT 10.30 a.m.** via Microsoft Teams.

I trust it is convenient for you to attend.

Yours faithfully

NANTYGLO & BLAINA


Damien McCann
Interim Chief Executive

TOWN COUNCIL

A G E N D A

1. REVENUE BUDGET 2024/2025

To consider the report of the Chief Officer Resources.
(Copy to follow)

Mae'r Cyngor yn croesawu gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg a Saesneg a byddwn yn cyfathrebu gyda chi yn eich dewis iaith, dim ond i chi rhoi gwybod i ni pa un sydd well gennych. Ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn creu unrhyw bedi.
The Council welcomes correspondence in Welsh and English and we will communicate with you in the language of your choice, as long as you let us know which you prefer. Corresponding in Welsh will not lead to any delay.

General Offices
Steelworks Road
Tyllwyn, Ebbw Vale
NP23 6DN

Swyddfeydd Cyffredinol
Heol Gwaith Dur
Tŷ Llwyn, Glyn Ebwy
NP23 6DN

Tracy

From: Behr, Sonia - Councillor <Sonia.Behr@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk>
Sent: 05 January 2024 19:07
To: Clerk
Cc: Lee Watts; lindsayevans@sgiliau.wales; Men's Den Blaenau Gwent; antonia.l.brooks1988@gmail.com; johanna.reames; Darren Foote; brian eversfield; Baldwin, Peter - Councillor; Huw Lewis
Subject: Exciting proposal for Nantyglo and Blaina.
Attachments: business plan Coed cae 2.odt

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Dear Tracey,

I hope you had a good Christmas and may I wish you all the best for the New Year!

I have been asked to write to Nantyglo and Blaina Town Council on behalf of a community group, Friends of Coed Cae House, which is currently operating as a Community House at 101 Attlee Road, supported by Tai Calon and others. I am sure you and the Town Councillors are already aware of this group which offers support and activities for families and young people, operates a food pantry, a breakfast club in the school holidays and enables Flying Start to have a (rather cramped) meeting place since they had to leave the spacious Scout's Hall two years ago.

As you can imagine, the need for such a facility is very great in the present dire financial climate. Unfortunately, the small size of 101 Attlee Road means that they are unable to accommodate larger groups and their activities are necessarily restricted, in spite of growing demand. For example, they recently teamed up with Blaenau Gwent Food Partnership to provide healthy eating courses. Ideally, they would like a garden to grow food and a much larger kitchen. [Malnutrition, as evidenced by our high obesity rates, is a serious health problem in BG where our life expectancy is ten years less than neighbouring Monmouthshire].

Last year, it came to their attention that the Scouts Hall (formerly Coed Cae Community Centre) at the end of Attlee Road would be vacated by the Scouts as they no longer had a need for it. As you probably know, the community centre is a very large, purpose-built facility with an enormous hall, several rooms, a kitchen and sizeable grounds. I am told that it was actually paid for by the community years ago and only passed into Council ownership when, for some reason, it was no longer required and was then leased to the Scouts.

Times have changed (along with the climate) and there is a growing need and desire from communities to have their own facilities near to their homes (one in three households in

Blaenau Gwent has no car). The building and grounds would provide an ideal place for the myriad of activities which you'll find in the draft business plan annexed to this e mail.

Realising early on that the project needed experienced, like-minded partners, contact was made with Sgiliau, Growing Spaces and Mens Den. These organisations expressed great interest (especially after a tour of the building!) and, with the help of Tai Calon, the draft business plan was drawn up - providing details of those organisations and detailing the different types of activities which could be considered suitable at that site.

I would point out that the business plan refers to a cooperative but, having discussed matters with Huw Lewis of GAVO, they will be forming a CIC (Community Interest Company) which will be the body responsible for holding the lease and the administration of the building and activities. Drawing up the documents for incorporation has already started and is not a lengthy process.

I am sure that Nantyglo and Blaina Town Councillors will be delighted to learn of this initiative which not only has the potential to enhance the often difficult lives of those living around the Coed Cae area, but also the whole of Nantyglo and Blaina which would benefit from such a facility in its midst – especially if the longer term plans around renewable energy are realised. If you would like anyone from the CIC to give a presentation to the N&BTC in due course I am sure they would be only too happy to meet up with you and involve you in this endeavour.

Currently, the building is being assessed by BG's technical team as obviously the electrics and heating need to be in safe working order before a lease can be signed. They are awaiting the outcome of this assessment (somewhat random figures of £100,000 then £60,000 have previously been mentioned). Meanwhile, they asked me to let you know that they intend to apply to N&BTC for support and funding to enable this project to proceed as soon as possible. I have downloaded your grants application form which will be completed once the CIC has been formed and we have a better idea of the cost of work to be undertaken in the first couple of years.

I note that N&BTC currently carries over £120,000 in reserves each year, so we're hopeful that a very substantial grant could be made towards this most worthwhile project – what better use of public funds could there be, after all?!?

I would be most grateful if you would forward this e mail to N&BT Councillors so that they already have some background information when the group formally submits its application for funding.

Meanwhile, if anyone has any questions, please don't hesitate to ask. You'll understand that this proposal is in its early stages and we'd appreciate any feedback or suggestions from anyone involved with the well being of those living in Nantyglo and Blaina. Peter

Baldwin is my fellow Nantyglo Councillor and is fully involved and supportive of this proposal too.

I look forward to hearing from you,
All the best,
Sonia

Sonia Behr
Borough Councillor for Nantyglo Ward
Climate Champion BGCBC

Mae'r Cyngor yn croesawu gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg a Saesneg a byddwn yn cyfathrebu gyda chi yn eich dewis iaith, dim ond i chi rhoi gwybod i ni pa un sydd well gennych. Ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn creu unrhyw oedi.

The Council welcomes correspondence in Welsh and English and we will communicate with you in the language of your choice, as long as you let us know which you prefer. Corresponding in Welsh will not lead to any delay.

Mae'r Cyngor yn croesawu gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg, Saesneg neu yn y ddwy iaith. Byddwn yn cyfathrebu â chi yn ôl eich dewis. Ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

Mae'r neges ebost hon, ynghyd ag unrhyw ffeiliau sydd ynghlwm wrthi, yn gyfrinachol ac at ddefnydd yr unigolyn neu sefydliad y cyfeiriwyd hi ato. Pe dderbynioch y neges hon mewn camgymeriad, byddwch mor garedig a rhoi gwybod i'r rheolwr system. Mae'r nodyn hwn hefyd yn cadarnhau bod y neges ebost hon wedi cael ei archwilio am bresenoldeb feirws cyfrifiadurol.

This e-mail and any files transmitted with it are confidential and intended solely for the use of the individual or entity to whom they are addressed. If you have received this e-mail in error please notify the system manager. This e-mail also confirms that this e-mail message has been swept for the presence of computer viruses.

Business Plan: Cooperative venture to transfer the lease of the building and land in the Coed Cae Blaina area from the local authority.

1. Executive summary.

This business plan outlines the establishment of a cooperative venture comprising 3 charity partners, aimed at securing a lease of a building and land from the local authority. The cooperative's mission is to support and empower the local community by providing services that cater to the needs of the following families, young people in education and training, individuals with mental health challenges, and those seeking alternative health and well-being opportunities through garden and vegetable cultivation. By fostering community engagement, our cooperative aims to build a stronger, more sustainable future for all.

2. Introduction.

The purpose of this cooperative venture is to bring together the expertise, resources, and shared vision of three organisations to acquire and manage a building and accompanying land from the local authority. This facility will serve as a foundation for a community-focused initiative, that combines various support services with gardening and vegetable growing activities and much more.

3. Cooperative partners.

The cooperative comprises four partner organisations, each with a distinct focus on expertise, collaborating to achieve the shared goal of community empowerment:

- **Partner 1: Sgiliau**

was established in May 2016 primarily to work with young people who have left school and are 'NEET' (not in employment, education, or training) as well as with school pupils who are at risk of becoming 'NEET' after they leave school.

In Blaenau Gwent Sgiliau has delivered many very successful programmes working with young people since 2016 from our centre in Brynmawr and outreach projects in various communities throughout Blaenau Gwent. Over the past seven years, we have helped over 1 million to break the Gwent to support very vulnerable young people with multiple needs such as: -

- additional learning needs.
- Learning difficulties.
- Offending behaviour.
- Behavioural issues.
- Mental health issues.
- No qualifications.
- Low level or no school attendance.
- Unemployed.
- Not in educational or training.
- Drug and alcohol issues.
- Antisocial behaviour issues.

NANTYGLO & BLAINA

TOWN COUNCIL

To address these issues, Sgiliau I have secured funding from the following initiatives specifically for Blaenau Gwent.

- Traineeships (funded by the Welsh government).
- Active inclusion (funded by WCVA).

- Community renewal fund (BGCBC and the UK government levelling up).
- Employment skills programme (Welsh government).
- Kickstart (department for work and pensions).
- Thriving Minds (UK youth grant).
- My best friend (grant to support young women and non-binary young people).
- Winter of well-being (BGCBC).
- BGCBC inclusion services (supporting very vulnerable school pupils).

We have supported over 700 young people in the past seven years and delivered all the outcomes required for each of the above programmes such as employment, further education, training, volunteering, and qualifications. During the COVID-19 lockdowns, we only closed for the first lockdown from March to June 2020 and remained open after as we were working with very vulnerable young people who needed social interaction and face-to-face support. Much of our work is around creative arts and using technology as well as promoting the use of the Welsh language hence our name 'Sgiliau' Welsh for skills.

- **Partner 2: - Growing Space.**

A registered mental health charity that was founded in 1992. Growing Space specialises in supporting individuals with mental ill health, autism, or a learning disability to build confidence, develop social skills and improve their quality of life through the provision of therapeutic training, vocational skills, creativity and work experience. Growing space provides a network of support projects across our sites, to develop the skills and knowledge of our participants, whether that be personal development, vocational or employability.

Are accredited and non-accredited opportunities include experiencing and interacting with nature, horticulture, woodwork, social enterprise, personal development and life skills, well-being digital and creative arts, technology, employability skills and information technology. For many of our participants, engagement is one of many steps towards voluntary work, sustainable job opportunities, or further education. As an organisation, with 30 years of experience, Growing Space recognises that social exclusion is often experienced by people with mental ill health. Growing space therefore really makes a difference in getting people back into society, reducing social isolation and loneliness, and combating the stigma associated with mental ill health, autism, or a learning disability by concentrating upon each participant's ability and not inability. Growing space has supported many participants through their process of change, where they have opportunities to form new friendships, some have significantly repaid former poor relationships with families and friends. Growing space encourages participants to see themselves in a positive and constructive light and helps to maximise their unlimited potential with so many examples of how self-esteem and self-worth have increased through involvement with the projects. In Blaenau Gwent, we have two well-established community projects.

Terence Gardens

Our site Terence Gardens is one of our newest sites and has undergone A tremendous transformation thanks to the hard work of all on site. You will find a decked area, a memorial garden area, an art studio, a site café, and a wood workshop, our 25-foot polytunnel will also help extend the growing season. The site offers the opportunity to spend some time outdoors, whether that be exerting physical energy, or taking time to relax from everyday pressures. There is the opportunity to get involved in horticulture, art, craft, woodwork, or the cafe, with participants also working towards accredited and non-accredited qualifications. We offer a variety of creative woodwork or arts and crafts activities that participants and volunteers can get involved in, and we love getting ideas for

future activities too. We are very these activities using as many natural objects as possible such as wooden mobiles wooden love spoons painting on slate, spray painting and other craft activities. While supporting participants we also make this a sustainable project that can benefit the local and wider community. There is the intention to create an onsite shop that will sell some amazing crafts created by some very talented participants and volunteers, as well as a plant shop where you can buy your garden seeds and cuttings. Staff are also working towards offering healthy fruit and veg to the local community. Growing space levers in funding from a variety of sources supporting adults in the Blaenau Gwent including:

- Aneurin Bevan University Health Board.
- BGCBC.
- Welsh Government.
- WCVA.
- Coalfields Regeneration Trust.
- Grants from various bodies.

Brynithel:

The carpentry workshop operates on our site by Penrhiw quarry in Brynithel. Participants can learn carpentry construction and joinery skills, whilst also gaining qualifications. We saw many of the items made for sale in our social enterprise shops.

We have supported many hundreds of adults with mental health issues living in Blaenau Gwent over the years helping them manage their condition as well as supporting them via many therapeutic activities as well as securing them employment, training, and education opportunities as well as qualifications.

Partnership:

Sgiliau and growing space have worked in a very close partnership since 2016 developing joint initiatives and sharing resources, including staff, and expertise. This partnership goes back even further to 2004. Before Sgiliau was established, it was previously part of ACT- Learn About, which was acquired by Cardiff and Vale College in 2016. Sgiliau retained the creative arts, music and technology provision focusing on young people and continuing the partnership working with growing space.

Partner 3 Friends of Coed Cae Community House.

Friends of Coed Cae Community House I believe that the work and activity that they do and provide are integral to supporting the needs of this super output area. Coed Cae has been a forgotten community for many years with little investment to improve the lives of its community members and we intend to forge forward to effect change. We play an integral part within our community with support from all of its members through activities such as: -

- Provide a food pantry three days per week.
- Breakfast club during school holidays. Fit and fed in partnership with Aneurin Leisure during the school holidays.
- Provide weekly space to flying start BGCBC.
- Provide activities for the children and young people at key events EG Christmas, and Halloween.
- Tai Calon staff provide advice/repair surgery fortnightly.
- Provide healthy eating courses to adults and young community members.

Partner 4 Men's Shed.

It is all about well-being. As a gender, men do not tend to form the same support networks and groups as women, and traditionally men in Wales have talked and socialised at the local pub, or during sporting activities. Life presents many challenges; retirement, unemployment, physical or mental health – men often find themselves with time on their hands, have become socially isolated or lonely. Men Sheds Cymru volunteers offer a health-by-stealth approach encouraging friendships, community and service networks through the formation and support for Men's Shed. The inclusive ethos we provide offers shedders a sense of belonging, acceptance, and fellowship experienced shoulder to shoulder through shared activities. The Coed Cae is an area that would be well suited to position a man shed in the proposed building to support local men of all ages and abilities in being able to live a life of health and well-being by being able to interact with fellow Men shed members.

4. Business Concept.

Our cooperative venture aims to create a multi-faceted community hub that addresses the needs of different target groups. Through a combination of support services and gardening activities, we will foster physical and mental well-being, skill development, and community cohesion.

Target Beneficiaries: -

- Young families such as parenting workshops, childcare assistance, family counselling, and recreational programs
- Young people in education & training, various courses will be offered as well as qualification programmes that will be offered to individuals, including mentoring, tutoring, vocational training, and career guidance.
- Mental health support, such as counselling, support groups, and wellness workshops, would include woodcraft (men's shed).
- Alternative health & well-being through gardening, growing vegetable initiatives, highlighting the therapeutic benefits, education workshops, and community involvement opportunities.
- Housing matters regarding Tai Calon workshops.
- Employment and job search (Job Centre)
- Community winter-warm hub.
- Community hub, for all information and support.

4.1 Legal Structure & Governance.

The cooperative will be run equally as a joint venture and all parties will sign up for this in a written agreement when taking the lease for the land and building from the present leaseholders (Local authority), Decisions regarding the building and land will be made by all interested parties that have been signed up on the lease.

5. Target Community

The area where the community centre and land are situated is based in the Coed cae area of Blaina which is described as a '**super output area**' The area itself is an isolated area with high unemployment and anti-social behaviour, within a community such as this it brings its challenges and needs, all of which the cooperative aims to address.

5.1 Marketing & Outreach Strategy.

Once the partnership has been formed the marketing & outreach plan will be to use social media, campaigns, community events, and partnerships with local health boards/social services.

6. Financial.

We will hope that the local authority will be able to fund a basic get-you-in package, and an agreement with the cooperative to add funds to make the initial handover of the premises meet the safety standards required, to be able to operate with immediate effect. (a discussion with Sgiliau and the local authority on this matter will be set up to negotiate initial handover costs)

As a cooperative, we will be able to apply through various streams such as grants/lottery funding etc. to financial support the ongoing various activities run at the centre. There will also be a community café set up at the centre which will be self-sustainable. There will also be an opportunity to hire rooms out for meetings/courses etc (Flying Start already rent out one area of the building). when the centre is back to full functionality. We will be looking at setting up a craft shop, and a flower & vegetable seed shop. Grants for Heat pumps & solar panels will also be applied for which can significantly contribute to reducing carbon emissions and prompting sustainability, the grants that we will be applying for and subsidies or other financial incentives to encourage the adoption of renewable energy technologies like the heat pumps and solar panels, thus saving energy bills in the long term.