

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

Mrs T Hughes - Town Clerk/RFO

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## Minutes of the Events Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> July 2020 held via a remote meeting.

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

Present: Councillor K Jenkins, Chair of the Events Committee  
Councillor K Jones, Cllr G Morvan, Cllr C Hillman, Cllr L Harris Cllr D Hillman,  
Cllr C Bridgeman, Cllr G Watkins and Cllr R Abbas.

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

#### 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 Mrs N Horner declared an interest in item 2a.

#### 1. Apologies for absence:

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 T James.

**Further Resolved** to accept the apologies received.

#### 2. Correspondence:

*Mrs N Horner declared an interest in this item but remained in discussion for information only.*

##### a) Keep Wales Tidy:

An email informed that the Town Council's application for the butterfly garden kit had been successful. Members were additionally informed that upon receiving the information, The Town Clerk and Assistant Officer had concerns that the previously identified site would not be suitable. Further investigations and discussions had identified the area of land most suitable to be between the Community Centre and the Police station in Blaina due to health and safety issues, the ability to store the materials within the Community Centre and permission from the landowner. Members were further informed that Keep Wales Tidy had agreed to a change in the location. Members were also informed that Tai Calon had been contacted for help and assistance with this project although they had informed that staff was still furloughed at this time.

A discussion ensued regarding positioning of butterfly garden within the area of Nantyglo at the brick sign and that of Cwmcelyn at the brick seating area, but it was deemed both were unsuitable due to issues including accessibility, health and safety of the volunteers and permission from the landowner. Members were also informed that the contents of the butterfly garden could not be positioned between two sites. However, members did agree that they would purchase some bulbs for the areas to be planted if permission from landowner(s) could be obtained. Members also agreed that Keep Wales to be contacted of new site and for Cwmcelyn Tenants and Residents to be invited for volunteer support.

**Resolved** to support the location of the Butterfly Garden, **Resolved** to purchase additional flowering bulbs to be planted near the A467 and at the site of the Nantyglo stone sign. **Further Resolved** to invite the members of Blaina Community Centre to participate and support the Butterfly Garden.

### 3. **Visual Enhancements throughout Nantyglo and Blaina:**

Members were invited to consider the proposals in respect of:

#### a) Additional Planters throughout Nantyglo and Blaina:

The Chair requested permission to purchase 4 additional planters – outside Red Lion - Blaina, Nantyglo and Blaina signs, Garn Cross and Shell garage roundabout. Planters would be half barrel size 600 x 600 fibre glass with 5-year guarantee.

Cllr Bridgeman asked if the position of planter near the junction of the old Blaina District Hospital were safe, Chair confirmed that the planter needed to be moved to the opposite side of the road as per Blaenau Gwent CBC instructions. A discussion ensued regarding what the issues are as the bollards are there for a safety measure.

A discussion ensued regarding the change of mind from what previous planters were agreed. A Member expressed that he thought the planters at 3 locations are a trip hazard. There were also concerns of planter at Coed Y Garn School, with the close proximity of cars when schools' re-open. Clerk informed Members that the planter at Coed Y Garn school on pavement / island which separates carpark from road and that of the positioned on the corner pavement had been deemed that they are safe by BG CBC (Highways Department), the only one that required to be moved was the planter located at the junction to the former Blaina District Hospital.

Members were informed that Rogerstone Council had confirmed that their stone planters had been provided by the Principal Authority a number of years ago and that the supplier was unknown by both Rogerstone Town Council and Newport County Council. Pontypool Community Council confirmed that they also received theirs from the Principal Authority some years prior. The Chair had also investigated the cost of very large planters for siting at the Square in Blaina but due to the high cost, alternative planters were being identified and costed.

Clerk confirmed that 2 more quotes were required and to satisfy audit and financial regulations.

Cllr Jenkins asked if he could have permission to purchase 4 more half barrel planters, 1 at Nantyglo and Blaina brick sign, Red Lion Pub, Garn Cross and winter bulbs, Cllr D Hillman agreed and recommends Cllr Jenkins's expertise. There was a suggestion for a planter to

be placed at Cwmcelyn. Cllr Harris announced that a planter could be problematic there with the congregation of youths but think it would be more suitable to plant daffodils on the banking behind the brick seating at Cwmcelyn.

**Resolved** that additional quotes be obtained in respect of the larger planters. **Further Resolved** that two barrel planters be purchased as required and placed at each side of the stone place signs. **Also Resolved** to investigate permission (from the landowner) for the planting of bulbs at the 'banking' in Cwmcelyn.

b) Watering planters throughout Nantyglo & Blaina:

A discussion ensued regarding the time it takes to water plants and the price of quotes that have been received in respect of this. The price of the quotations was considered to be too costly. Cllr Jenkins confirmed that he was happy to continue watering plants and Cllr Morvan had confirmed that he would assist when required. In response to a query, the Clerk confirmed that both the Scouts and ATC were not meeting and not able to assist with this at the moment. Additionally, the two organisations had stated there were child protection and health and safety issues to consider. Cllr Jenkins reiterated to Council that he was happy to continue with the watering of all the planters as required.

**Resolved** that Councillor K Jenkins continues to water the Town Council planters.

c) Quotes for planter signs:

It was suggested that all planters could have a sign on both sides of planters also that sign should read supplied and maintained by N&BTC. A4 size signs would be recommended. Members were provided with three quotations and the quote from JP Print was agreed due to cost, location and their ability to fix the signs to the planters. It was anticipated that the cost of fixing the signs would now increase with the request of two signs on each planter. Members also discussed the need to resolve the same signs to be purchased and fixed to any additional planters purchased.

**Resolved** that 2 x A4 signs be purchased from JP Print for each planter purchased and maintained by the Town Council. **Also Resolved** that JP Print fix the signs to the planters and **Further Resolved** to purchase and have the signs fixed by JP Print on any additional planters purchased by the Town Council.

d) Design for banners and quotes throughout Nantyglo and Blaina:

The Chair thanked Cllr Morvan for assisting with identifying suitable locations for street banners within Nantyglo and Blaina. Local contractor Russel Dunham confirmed Town Council already own 10 brackets to secure such banners. A discussion ensued regarding sizes. 2 x 4 ft size would be recommended and have the local schools to design one banner each. It was confirmed that the siting of the banners would require permission from the Highways Department at Blaenau Gwent CBC.

**Resolved** that the street banner size to be 2' x 4' and **Further Resolved** to contact the local primary schools to request that they design the banner for display throughout Nantyglo and Blaina.

#### 4. Other Events:

Members were invited to consider the proposals in respect of:

- a) VJ Day 15<sup>th</sup> August 2020 - Royal British Legion were considering holding a small service to lay a wreath. When this was finalised the Town Mayor would be invited to lay wreath on behalf of Nantyglo and Blaina Town Councils. Members were informed that to comply with current safeguarding legislation, the Royal British Legion has advised that attendance was by invitation only and restricted in numbers.

Confirmation had been received that the order of service would proceed as VE Day (May 2020).

**Resolved** that the Town Mayor attend on behalf of the Town Council.

- b) 275 Squadron ATC was looking at partnership working with Royal British Legion and Nantyglo & Blaina TC by putting seasonal bunting up in towns. Members to consider the purchase of suitable bunting:

Heavy duty bunting was expensive with using 200 meters used in blaina and 200 meters in Nantyglo would total approximately £8000.

British Legion received the bunting from the poppy shop and therefore would not be able to get any more.

**Resolved** that Officer and Members investigate other suppliers for competitively priced quotes for suitable bunting.

- c) Merchant Navy Day – 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2020. Members were invited to consider a suitable tribute to comply with current legislation.

It was suggested that the Red Ensign be flown from Town Council premises on 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2020 only due to the ongoing Covid 19 situation.

**Resolved** that the Red Ensign be flown from the Town Council Offices (Blaina Institute) on 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2020.

- d) Christmas Events – Members were invited to consider and discuss appropriate Christmas events whilst giving consideration for current (and possible amended) legislation. This could possibly be overcome by providing longer Santa sleigh routes with 2 separate evenings 1 for Nantyglo and 1 for Blaina.

A discussion ensued that should Covid -19 still be around would the sleigh route would be allowed?

It was stated that a long route had taken place in previous years and it was suggested that the route was too long for walkers.

A Member informed he was in attendance with Gwent Police who confirmed that they will no longer be able to assist with walking on Town Council's Christmas sleigh route and that Town Council would need to organise Marshals to assist. It was agreed that additional investigations into the practicality of such an event would be required.

**Resolved** to investigate traffic management issues and possible assistance from Gwent Police and Blaenau Gwent CBC and to report to Committee at a future meeting.

- e) 2020 ARC Awards – suggestions on how best to distribute awards.

Members considered the most suitable and safest way to distribute the 2020 ARC Awards taking into account the current situation and any possible developments.

**Resolved** that each winner of an ARC Award be invited to attend the next Council meeting (at the Council Chamber) to take place in person to be presented with their award.

## 5. **Christmas Lights:**

Consideration to replace the remaining old-style lights to new robust LED display Christmas Lights which was more energy efficient within Nantyglo and Blaina. Members were additionally requested to consider the purchase of additional LED Christmas lights to enhance to displays in both Nantyglo and Blaina.

Members were informed that three quotations in respect of LED lengths and corresponding transformers had been requested but not all quotations had been received to date.

**Resolved** that additional Christmas Lights (LED lengths and transformers) be purchased in line with the resolutions previously detailed within the precept and budget for 2020/21.

**Additionally Resolved** to await further quotations before purchasing additional Christmas Lights and transformers.

**Further Resolved** that Christmas Lights Contractor, Mr R Dunham be provided with written authorisation on behalf of the Town Council to legally dispose of the old, broken (and irreparable) Christmas Lights.

*Cllr K Jones thanked Cllr K Jenkins and Cllr T James on their hard work and commented on how it has improved the area.*

