

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

Mrs T Hughes Town Clerk/RFO

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Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on Tuesday 28th July 2020 via a remote meeting. A meeting to which members of the public were entitled to attend

Present: Councillor K Jones JP, Town Mayor
Councillors G. Morvan, R. Abbas, L. Harris, D. Hillman, C. Bridgeman,
K. Jenkins, G. Watkins and C. Hillman

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. Please note that all declarations of interest must be recorded in the book provided. **Resolved** to note that declarations of interest were received from Councillors D Hillman and C Hillman (item 10a, non-pecuniary); Councillor K Jones (items 15b&c) and Councillor R Abbas (item 15c).

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 Councillor T James.
Further Resolved to accept the apologies received.

2. Town Mayor's Communications:

Councillor K Jones, Town Mayor informed that he attended VE Day with a small congregation at Central Park, Blaina on 8th May. The Town Mayor additionally informed that he attended the Common Wealth Day 9th March organised by Tredegar Town Council.
Resolved to note the information received.

3. Minutes of the Events Committee Meeting held 25th February 2020 (pages 153 - 155)

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:

p.154a – Should read '£2,500' not £5000

p.154b – Councillor K Jenkins informed that he had discussed the matter with Mr R Dunham who advised that the flagpoles would be too difficult for him to relocate. The Clerk informed that

this matter was still under discussion with Blaenau Gwent CBC and that all options were being investigated.

Resolved that the minutes be approved.

4. Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held 25th February 2020 (pages 156 - 160)

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:

p.157 -6b Awaiting further information.

p.158: To be removed, Cllr K Treharne left at this juncture.

p.159: Lloyds Bank had verbally informed that online banking issues with full access for approved signatories had been resolved, although written confirmation was still outstanding. Members were additionally informed that a complaint in respect of Lloyds Bank's handling of this matter had been submitted to the bank.

p.160: It was requested that Members who were unable to attend training if they could participate in an online training session. Clerk Agreed to send training manual out to those who were not in attendance.

It was to be noted that Cllr D Hillman presented the training session with the Town Clerk.

Resolved that the minutes be approved.

5. Minutes of the Planning & Highways Committee Meeting held 9th March 2020 (pages 161 - 162)

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.

6. Minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee Meeting held 9th March 2020 (pages 163 - 166)

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 Town Council Meeting held 24th June 2020 (pages 1 – 5)

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.

8. **Minutes of the Planning & Highways Committee Meeting held 14th July 2020 (pages 6-8)**

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:

p. 6: Amendment: Cllr C Bridgeman was in attendance

Resolved that the minutes be approved.

9. **Minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee Meeting held 14th July 2020 (pages 9- 13)**

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

a) Matters arising, for information & clarification only:

p. 9: Amendment: Cllr C Bridgeman was in attendance.

p 11: Paragraph f: Amendment to be reworded to: "Issues with regarding online payment authorisation for LGPS payments only. All other payments had been made by cheque payment.

p 12: should read: Annual meeting to be reviewed in 6 months' time

Resolved that the minutes be approved.

*Cllr D Hillman and Cllr C Hillman declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 10a. **Resolved** that Councillors D & C Hillman remain in the meeting as item was for information only.*

10. **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) Community Health Council – (for information):

Notice of an Executive Meeting of the Aneurin Bevan Community Health Council on 30th July 2020.

Resolved to note the information received.

b) One Voice Wales – (for information):

i E-mail informing of intended procedures in respect of One Voice Wales meetings.

Resolved to note the information received.

ii July Newsletter:

A Members requested if OVW could supply the newsletter in English only (with a link in respect of the Welsh Version) to reduce paper waste.

Resolved to note the information received. **Further Resolved** to request the information be supplied in English only with a link to the Welsh version of the newsletter.

11. Council Meetings:

- a) Members were reminded that traditionally there are no meetings of the Council during August. Members were further reminded that in line with the Council's Standing Orders, delegated powers were given to the Town Clerk and Leader of the Council within this period.

Resolved to note the information received.

- b) Members were invited to consider the time and day that Council and Committee Meetings are held. Traditionally there were committee meetings held at 7pm on the second Monday of the month and another committee meeting and the Full Council meeting was held at 7pm on the fourth Tuesday of the month.

Members were invited to consider:

- Rearranging the day of the (Monday) meeting to a Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday to avoid Bank Holidays and
- Changing the start times of each meeting from 7pm to either 11am, 1pm or 3pm.

The Town Clerk informed that Representation of the People Act 1983 allowed employers reasonable time off from work to represent community in their capacity of Community/ Town Councillors.

Resolved that meetings be held on Tuesday evenings instead of a Monday evening.

Members discussed possible alterations to the time of the meetings to 1pm. It was commented that an afternoon meeting would be impossible for a Member to attend due to family commitments. All meetings post covid – 19 will be second Tuesday of the month, first meeting to be held on 8th September at 7pm and will be reviewed for a later date.

Resolved that all established Council Meetings (not remote meetings) continue to take place at 7pm as existing practice. **Further Resolved** to review the time of meetings at a later date.

12. Reappointment of Internal Auditor:

Following the review of the Internal Audit Service (June 2020), Members were invited to consider the reappointment of the Town Council's Internal Auditor Mr Stuart Bees and the e-mail received.

Unanimously Resolved that Mr Stuart Bees be reappointed as the Internal Auditor for the Council for the financial year 2020/21.

13. Environment (Wales) Act 2016 section 6 Biodiversity:

Members were informed that 'The Biodiversity & Resilience of Ecosystems Duty' report 2019 had been submitted to the Welsh Government to comply with time limits (24th July 2020). This report was for the Town Council to self-monitor on an annual basis.

Members were kindly asked to consider supporting and ratifying the attached report.

Members were informed that the document was self-governing by Nantyglo & Blaina Town Council and was to be reviewed annually. The report would also assist the Council to focus on Biodiversity in the locality.

Resolved that the report be ratified.

14. Planning Applications:

Members were invited to consider the listed application(s), plus with the Chair's permission any additional applications that may be received prior to the date of the meeting.

a) Plan Application No. C/2020/0154 – 20 Bournville Road, Blaina.

Proposed steel frame over existing flat roof garage to support raised amenity area and balustrade.

Members were informed that whilst the application was just outside of the Nantyglo & Blaina Town Council boundary, the Planning Department had consulted as a matter of courtesy. The height of overhanging balustrade was noted as a possible safety issue as it was above a walkway.

Resolved that no objections to be made but **Further Resolved** to make the representation detailed above.

15. 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 may be received prior to the date of the meeting. Members were also reminded that applications will need to be considered in conjunction with the current policy.

a) Llys y Capel Social Fund:

It was commented that the application evidenced and corresponded with the Town Council's biodiversity policy.

Resolved that a donation of £100 be made.

Councillor K Jones declared an interest in items 15 b & c and left the meeting.

Resolved the Deputy Town Mayor, Councillor D Hillman chaired items 15 a and b.

b) Friends of Cwrt Mytton Residential Home:

Members discussed if the application was considered to make a significant enough impact for the residents of Nantyglo and Blaina as set out in the Terms of Reference. Members were informed that there were currently 9 residents from Nantyglo and Blaina out of a total of 34 residents at the home.

Resolved that a donation of £100.00 be made.

additional application received with permission of the Chair:

Councillor R Abbas declared an interest in this item and left the meeting:

c) Friends of Coed y Garn Primary School:

Resolved that a donation of £100.00 be made.

Councillors K Jones and R Abbas re-joined the meeting at this juncture. Cllr K Jones requested that Cllr D Hillman to continue to act as Chair for the remainder of the meeting.

16. Licensing Applications:

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.

None received to date.

Resolved accordingly.

17. Members' Items:

Councillor R Abbas:

Members were invited to consider the proposals contained within the e-mail received from Councillor Abbas on which Councillor Abbas explained in further detail.

A lengthy discussion ensued in respect of requesting that a letter to be sent to Leader of Blaenau Gwent Council, Cllr Nigel Daniels asking to share his experiences and knowledge of Covid -19. **Resolved** that such a request be made.

Cllr Abbas explained that the mapping exercise would be better considered to be a working document and used as a catalyst for change in order for the Town Council to work with an increased number of outside organisations in our communities. The Town Council would need to think on how to approach, motivate and work together for the benefit of our local community.

Cllr Abbas was asked to explain how he envisaged an active working project for Council, e.g. through surveys and if this could be incorporated into the Town Council Action Plan and Vision Document for use as a working document.

It was proposed by Cllr Abbas that all members could link to all organisations on mapping exercise to work with all local organisations/ schools / businesses. It was noted that this would currently be difficult to action due to most groups and organisations not meeting due to Covid 19.

Resolved that Members to make suggestions as on how to take project forward

Councillor K Jones thanked all Members for their positive contributions in such a difficult and challenging meeting.