**NANTYGLO & BLAINA TOWN COUNCIL**

**CYNGOR TREF NANT-Y-GLO A BLAENAU**

**Mrs T Hughes - Town Clerk/RFO**

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**Minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 12th January 2021 at 1.45pm via a remote meeting.**

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

Present: Councillor G Morvan, Chair, Finance & General Purposes Committee, presiding.

Councillors R Pagett; K Jenkins; L Harris; D Hillman; C Hillman & K Jones

In attendance: Mrs T Hughes, Town Clerk / RFO

Following a five minute break from the conclusion of the Planning and Highways Committee meeting, the Chair welcomed Members back and wished all a Happy New Year.

**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 Councillors D Hillman and C Hillman declared a non-pecuniary interest in items 2b & 2f.

**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 Mrs N Horner (Assistant Officer) and Councillors G Watkins and K Treharne.

**Resolved** to accept the apologies received.

**2. 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) One Voice Wales – (for information)

i E-mail informing of Covid 19 vaccine scam alert.

The Town Clerk informed that this information would be displayed on the Town Council’s website.

**Resolved** to note the information received.

92 (20/21)

ii E-mail informing of postponement of by-elections.

**Resolved** to note the information received.

*Councillors D Hillman and C Hillman declared a non-pecuniary interest in this item.*

b) Aneurin Bevan Community Health Council – *(for information):*

Notice of meeting of Aneurin Bevan Community Health Council on 13th January 2021.

Councillors D Hillman and

C Hillman informed that they would attend this meeting.

**Resolved** to note the information received.

c) Society of Local Council Clerks*:*

Invitation to renew membership of SLCC.

Members were informed that the Town Council had been a member of SLCC for many years and had benefited from its services and advice. Additionally, all other Town/Community Councils within Blaenau Gwent were also members of SLCC.

**Resolved** that the subscription to SLCC be renewed for 2021/22.

d) Park View Allotments – *(for information):*

Letter of thanks and safe receipt of recent financial donation received.

**Resolved** to note the information received.

*Additional correspondence received with permission of the Chair:*

e) Raffi Abbas- Men’s Den:

E-mail informing that ‘Men’s Den’ will commence a Zoom gathering every Wednesday mornings at 10am for one hour.

**Resolved** to note the information received.

*Councillors D Hillman & C Hillman declared a non-pecuniary interest in this item.*

f) Aneurin Bevan Community Health Council:

E-mail requesting donation of items required for patients due to the Covid 19 pandemic and subsequent restrictions on visiting.

Members were informed that the boiled sweets requested were for staff and were to be individually wrapped for hygiene reason. Additionally, the League of Friends were already supporting this initiative. The Town Clerk informed that this information would be displayed on the Town Council’s website.

**Resolved** to note the information.

93 (20/21)

**3. Future Audit Arrangements for Community and Town Councils in Wales:**

Members were invited to consider the Wales Audit report in respect of future audit arrangements for Town and Community Councils detailing the audit arrangements for the audit of the 2020/21 accounts onwards together with timelines of the Council’s basic and full audits*.*

The Chair informed that the information contained details of the Town Council’s audit for the forthcoming three years together with information about how the audit would be carried out. The Chair also informed that the Town Council’s own internal audit has continued to provide an excellent and very thorough service. The Town Council’s external audit for 2019/20 was clear with no recommendations recommended by Wales Audit.

In answer to a query regarding the cost of the forthcoming external audit the Town Clerk informed that this was not known although Wales Audit had issued details of fees charged, these are charged depending upon the time taken and any additional queries or information requested. The cost of the 2019/20 external audit was £225. Another Member complimented the Town Clerk/RFO on providing first class accounting work for the audits.

**Resolved** to note the information received.

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

Further to very recent (19th December 2020 & 4th January 2021) announcements made in respect of further lockdowns and restrictions in Wales due to the Covid 19 situation, Members were invited to consider making further financial donations to Blaenau Gwent Foodbank to assist residents of Nantyglo and Blaina.

The Chair informed Members that the Town Council had made a £200 financial donation to Blaenau Gwent Foodbank in respect of Nantyglo and Blaina residents from April 2020 to and including December 2020. The Chair proposed that in view of the current restrictions and lockdown due to Covid 19 that a monthly £200 financial donation be made to Blaenau Gwent Foodbanks continue to be made until (and including) March 2021, an additional £600.

**Resolved** that a financial donation of £200 per calendar month be made to Blaenau Gwent Foodbank for the next three months – January to March 2021.

**5. Application in respect of Co-option to the Town Council:**

Members were invited to consider the application received for co-option to the Town Council for the Blaina Ward:

* Mr Michael Lloyd Williams

Members considered the application received in respect of co-option to the Town Council but opined that the covering letter did not contain enough information about Mr Williams. Members agreed that there was a need for additional members but that members needed to be active not just a number. Additionally, all Members, new and old were subject to confidentiality resolutions regardless of their occupation and that the Members Code of Conduct provided this framework.

94 (20/21)

Members also commented that the Town Council’s own Standing Orders required such a decision to be made via a secret ballot.

**Resolved** that Mr Williams be contacted to provide a more detailed application letter for consideration for co-option and **Further Resolved** to agree a voting procedure (to comply with Standing Orders) at a later date.

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

a) Relate (Cymru):

**Resolved** that a donation of £50 be made.

b) Sparkle South Wales Ltd:

**Resolved** that a donation of £100 be made.

c) Nantyglo Action Group:

Members agreed that the application as it was submitted did not meet the terms of the Council’s grant policy i.e. the application requested a donation in respect of running costs rather than for a project.

**Resolved** that Nantyglo Action Group be contacted to re-submit the application to provide details of the project and request the donation in respect of the project rather than running costs.

**7. Salem Chapel:**

Members were invited to consider the attached inspection report:

* December 2020:

Questions / queries were invited:

Q: How were inspections being carried out during the latest lockdown restrictions – concerns as to the safety of the officers carrying out the inspections?

A: The inspection report covers the month of December (just prior to the latest restrictions) and there were no inspections undertaken in the last week of December 2020 due to the Christmas period (as indicated on the report). The latest lockdown restrictions will impact upon inspections undertaken in January 2021.

**Resolved** that the report be approved.

**8. Confidential Information:**

The following item(s) may 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).

95 (20/21)

96 (20/21)

97 (2021)