**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**

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**Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on Tuesday 26th January 2021 via a remote meeting at 1.45pm**

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

**Present**: Councillor K. Jones JP, Town Mayor, presiding

Councillors G. Morvan, K Jenkins, D. Hillman, R. Pagett,

L. Harris and C. Hillman

**In attendance:** Mrs T Hughes, Town Clerk / RFO

Mrs N Horner, Assistant Officer

Prior to the commencement of the meeting, the Town Mayor informed that the meeting would continue on from the Events Committee before a five minute break would be held. **Resolved** accordingly.

The Town Clerk informed that no members of the 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 Councillor K Treharne.

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

**2. Town Mayor’s Communications:**

The Town Mayor’s communications for December and January 2021.

The Town Mayor informed that due to ongoing Covid 19 and the subsequent restrictions in place due to lockdown measures, no events had taken place with the exception of the Town Council’s Santa’s Sleigh Ride throughout Nantyglo and Blaina, which went very well.

The Town Mayor also informed that his mother-in-law passed away on Boxing Day. Council Members offered their condolences to the Town Mayor,

**Resolved** to note the information received.

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**3. Minutes of the Events Committee Meeting held 24th November 2020 *(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:

p.69 – In response to a query, Members were informed that actual site locations were required for the proposed street banners throughout Nantyglo and Blaina. The locations would be confirmed in the near future.

p.70 – Christmas Tree: Members noted R Dunham’s comments regarding the issues in siting a Christmas Tree in the Square opposite Blaina Institute and **Resolved** to investigate the possibility of siting a Christmas Tree on the land to the south of Blaina Institute.

p.70 – Christmas Lights: The Town Mayor informed that some of the Christmas lights in the area were not lit during the Christmas period. Other Members informed that there was a good display of Christmas lights in area of Nantyglo opposite Wesley Church. **Resolved** that this be queried with the Christmas lights contractor.

**Resolved** that the minutes be approved.

**4. Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held 24th November 2020 *(pages 71 - 75)***

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.74 – Item 12 Confidential Items: This should be marked as a resolution. **Resolved** that confidential items in future minutes would have the resolution minuted.

**Resolved** that the minutes be approved.

**5. Minutes of the Planning & Highways Committee Meeting held 8th December 2020 *(pages 76 - 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:

In response to a query regarding Change of Use notifications from Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council, it was **Resolved** to query this with the Planning Department.

**Resolved** that the minutes be approved.

**6. Minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee Meeting held 8th December 2020 *(pages 79 - 84)***

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.81 – school governor: The Town Clerk informed that no response had been received from

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the Education Achievement Service (Governor Support) to date.

p.81 – Cheque/online counter signatory: The Town Clerk informed that an e-mail had been sent to Members of the Minority Group and was still awaiting a response from one Member. Councillor R Pagett informed that he would act as counter signatory if required.

p.82 – meetings in person: Council were informed that meetings had recently been held with Members at Abertillery and Llanhilleth Community Council. The Town Clerk agreed to contact the Acting Clerk at Abertillery and Llanhilleth Community Council to enquire.

p.83 – It was agreed that the confidential information paragraph should be minuted as Resolved by Council.

**Resolved** that the minutes be approved.

**7. Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Council held 8th December 2020 *(pages 85 – 88)***

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

1. Matters arising, for information & clarification only:

p.87 – Leader of the Minority Group: The Town Clerk informed that there was no notification of this to date.

p.88 – Blaen y Cwm school governor: The Town Clerk informed that no response had been received to date in respect of this query.

**Resolved** that the minutes be approved.

*The Town Mayor informed that the duration of the meeting was currently 55 minutes and that a five minute break would take place at 1.50pm and that the meeting would reconvene at 1.55pm.* **Resolved** accordingly.

**8. Minutes of the Planning & Highways Committee Meeting held 12th January 2021 *(pages 89 - 91)***

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.91 – Unit 21 Rising Sun Industrial Estate: Include ‘and the amount of bvolume of hazardous substances’.

**Resolved** that the minutes be approved.

**9. Minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee Meeting held 12th January 2021 *(pages 92 - 97)***

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.93 – Aneurin Bevan Community Health Council: Councillor D Hillman informed that he would attempt to forward the information to all Members.

p.96 – include ‘underspend due to the Covid 19 pandemic’.

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p.96 – include ‘to provide services jointly where possible’.

**Resolved** that the minutes be approved.

**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.

*Councillors D Hillman and C Hillman declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 10a.*

a) Aneurin Bevan Community Health Council *(for information)*:

Notice of a meeting of the Aneurin Bevan Community Health Council.

**Resolved** to note the information received.

b) Aneurin Bevan University Health Board *(for information):*

i Vaccination update:

**Resolved** to note the information received.

ii Health Board Update:

**Resolved** to note the information received.

iii Connect 5 – Mental Health Training:

Councillors C Hillman and G Morvan expressed an interest in attending this training,

**Resolved** to note the information received and **Further Resolved** to send the e-mail to all Members.

c) Blaenau Gwent CBC:

E-mail response in respect to query re: Unit 21 Rising Sun Industrial Estate, Blaina.

Members agreed that the additional information provided by the Planning Officer was very technical but still opined that the height of the stacks would be visible from some nearby dwellings. The Town Clerk informed Members that an additional item of correspondence in relation to this item had recently been received from the Planning Officer responding to the same query received from a Blaina Ward Member (Blaenau Gwent CBC). Members also expressed concern that a wider public consultation had not appeared to have been carried out by Blaenau Gwent CBC in respect of this #planning application.

**Resolved** that the Town Council objects to the planning application detailed above until a wider public consultation has taken place.

d) Hospice of the Valleys *(for information):*

January newsletter.

**Resolved** to note the information received.

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e) One Voice Wales *(for information):*

Larger Council Meeting dates for 2021.

**Resolved** to note the information received.

*Additional correspondence received with permission of the Chair:*

f) Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council *(for information):*

E-mail response from Planning Officer re: Unit 21 Rising Sun Industrial Estate, Blaina providing information regarding stack height and solvent emissions.

This item was discussed in conjunction with item 10c (above).

**Resolved** accordingly.

g) Dyfed Powys Police *(for information):*

Press release re: Courier Fraud.

**Resolved** to note the information received **Further Resolved** to send the information to all Members.

h) Aneurin Bevan Community Health Council *(for information):*

Notice of an Executive Meeting of the Aneurin Bevan Community Health Council to take place via Microsoft Teams at 10.30am on 3rd February 2021.

**Resolved** to note the information received.

i) Aneurin Bevan University Health Board *(for information):*

Vaccination Update – issue 2 week commencing 25/01/2021.

**Resolved** to note the information received and **Further Resolved** to send the information to all Members.

**11. 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.

a) *None received to date*

**Resolved** accordingly.

**12. Planning Applications:**

Members were invited to consider the listed application(s).

a) *None received to date.*

**Resolved** accordingly.

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**13. Licensing Applications:**

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

*None received to date.*

**Resolved** accordingly.

**14. Members’ Updates:**

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

a) Councillor D Hillman & Councillor K Jenkins:

Remote meeting attended on 20th January 2021 – Town & Country Planning Strategic Development Plan Wales Reg 2021 & Regulations to establish Corporate Joint Committees.

Councillor Hillman informed that a number of Corporate Joint Committees were being set up throughout Wales, including 10 in South East Wales. The Committees would employ staff and report to the Welsh Government and the scope of work would include regional working, establishing statues and regulations. Royal assent was granted on 20th January 2021 and the committees must meet by September 2021. The chair and members of the committees would consist of appointments from leaders of Principal Authorities. The functions will also include assisting each Principal Authority in respect of regional transport plan; economic matters and Local Development Plans. The CJCs were not a quango but another tier of local government.

In response to queries received, Councillor Hillman informed that terms of reference for members were being prepared and that copies of the presentation attended would be distributed to Members when received. Community/Town Councils were to be stakeholders and consultees and there was a possibility of an appointee position (via the Principal Authority). It was also confirmed that this development was not a precursor to local government reorganisation and that there was no ‘opt-out’ for member councils. The CJCs would be co-terminus with regional authorities and there would be no impact upon election timetables.

The Town Mayor thanked Councillors D Hillman and K Jenkins for attending the presentation and for resenting the information to Council Members.

**Resolved** to note the information received.

b) Councillor G Morvan & Councillor K Jenkins:

Remote meeting attended on 19th January 2021 – One Voice Wales Gwent Valleys Area Committee Meeting.

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Councillor Morvan informed that a presentation was given by Blaenavon Town Council detailing their ongoing community work (the Town Council had received this same presentation from Blaenavon Town Council in January 2020) and that the Welfare Officer was still in post at Blaenavon Town Council.

Councillor Morvan informed that future presentations at forthcoming meetings of One Voice Wales would be Section 6 Environmental Wales Act (Part 4) and Land Registry Regulations – Disposal of Assets.

The Town Mayor thanked Members for their updates.

**Resolved** to note the information received.

**15. 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 accordingly.**

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