**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**

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**Minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee held via a remote remoting on Tuesday 9th February 2021 at 1.20pm**

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

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

Councillors D Hillman; C Hillman; K Jenkins; K Jones & L Harris.

In attendance: Mrs T Hughes, Town Clerk / RFO

Mrs N Horner, Assistant Officer

Prior to the commencement of the meeting the Town Clerk informed that no members of the public were in attendance. **Resolved** accordingly.

**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 item 2i.

**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 Councillors K Treharne, L Emanuel; G Watkins and R Pagett. **Further 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 may be received prior to the date of the meeting.

a) One Voice Wales – (for information):

i E-mail informing of additional free places on core modules.

**Resolved** that any Members interested in attending any training to contact the Town Clerk.

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ii Press release informing of new Chair for One Voice Wales.

**Resolved** to note the information received.

b) Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council – *(for information):*

i Notice and agenda in respect of Town / Community Council Consultation – Revenue Budget 2021/22 to take place at 11.30am on Thursday 18th February 2021.

In response to a query, the Town Clerk informed that aside from the agenda attached, no other paperwork had been received in relation to this meeting. The Town Clerk also informed that to date, no pre-meeting had been arranged by Blaenau Gwent CBC.

**Resolved** that the Town Clerk query the two issues listed with Blaenau Gwent CBC.

ii Letter informing that there was no demand for an election in respect of recent vacancies.

The Town Clerk informed that the vacancies were now advertised on the Town Council’s website.

**Resolved** to note the information received.

c) South Wales Education Achievement Service (Governor Support)*:*

E-mail response to queries.

Members discussed the response in relation to the first issue i.e. when a Town Council appointed governor resigns as a Town Councillor. Members **Resolved** to delay this decision until the possible co-option of further members.

In respect of the possible vacancy for school governor to Blaen y Cwm Primary, the Town Clerk informed that the previous Town Council school governor representative was a member from Brynmawr Town Council and that this had been queried with the SWEAS and was awaiting a response. It was proposed, seconded and **Resolved** that Councillor Carole Hillman be nominated as the Town Council school governor representative in respect of Blaen y Cwm Primary.

d) Local Democracy & Boundary Commission for Wales*:*

Electoral Review of Blaenau Gwent.

Members were reminded that the Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales had previously taken into account the views of the Town Council.

**Resolved** to note the information received.

e) Dewis Cymru *(for information):*

Poster informing of virtual coffee morning to take place on 2nd March 2021.

**Resolved** to note the information received.

f) Welsh Government *(for information)*:

Preparation & publication of Statutory Financial Accounts for 2020/21.

**Resolved** to note the information received.

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

i Vaccination update.

**Resolved** to note the information received.

ii E-mail informing of Community Food and Nutrition course.

**Resolved** to note the information received.

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

Notification re: Scam NHS Covid vaccine e-mails.

The Assistant Officer confirmed that this information had been publicised on the Town Council’s website.

**Resolved** to note the information received.

*Councillors D & C Hillman declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 2i.*

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

Hearing Impairment Survey.

**Resolved** to note the information received.

*Additional correspondence received with permission of the Chair:*

j) Mr M Dally - letter:

Letter received querying Mr Dally’s name stated as a vice -president on the Nantyglo and Blaina Charter Group board located at Salem Chapel and his attendance at a Town Council/Welsh Government Consultation event held in May 2018.

The Town Clerk provided a summary of the correspondence to date.

A Member informed that he too had been incorrectly stated as a vice -president of the Nantyglo and Blaina Charter Group and it was thought that the inclusion of the names of some people as vice presidents of the Charter Group may have been for political purposes.

The letter received had made reference to grant funding received in respect of Salem Chapel although previous enquiries made to the Welsh Government by the Town Council had concluded that no ‘claw back’ of grant funding was applicable.

Members present were keen to reiterate that the current membership, including staff, of the Town Council did not have any involvement with decisions or actions taken in the refurbishment of Salem Chapel or the decision to purchase it. Members were informed that the grant funding was applied for and received by the Nantyglo and Blaina Charter Group and that the contract for refurbishment appeared to be handled by the Nantyglo and Blaina Charter Group.

Members were aware that public perception of Salem Chapel and the actual involvement of the Town Council in its refurbishment could be incorrect.

The Town Clerk informed that a copy of an attendance sheet in respect of the Welsh

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Government Public Consultation event which was held at the Town Council Chamber on 24th May 2018 had been retrieved and that Mr Dally had signed this sheet to confirm his attendance at the event. The Town Clerk also informed that Mr Dally’s name as a vice president of Salem Chapel (on the board located inside the chapel) had been covered up as requested.

**Resolved** that the Town Clerk respond to Mr Dally’s letter and include a copy of the attendance sheet for 24th May 2018 and a copy of a photograph showing his name covered up. **Further Resolved** that a copy of the letter and attachments be sent to all Members of the Council.

*The Chair informed that the meeting had lasted 55 minutes and asked those Members who had telephoned in if a break to re-dial back into the meeting was required.* ***Resolved*** *to continue the meeting without a break.*

k) One Voice Wales:

Members were informed of an e-mail regarding a consultation in respect of new draft guidance in respect of the Code of Conduct.

**Resolved** that the Town Clerk and Assistant Officer respond to the consultation and **Further Resolved** that the e-mail and information be sent to all Members.

**3. Town Council Vacancies:**

Members were invited to consider the attached application received in respect of the vacancy in the Blaina Ward for co-option to the Town Council:

Members were reminded of the Council’s Standing Orders in respect of co-option.

* Michael Lloyd Williams *(copy attached)*

The Town Clerk informed that one ballot paper and stamped addressed envelope had been sent to each current Member of the Town Council. A total of 11 ballot papers were sent out. The Town Clerk also informed that 8 ballot papers were returned. The Town Clerk and Assistant Officer informed that the ballot papers contained the following results:

* 7 ballot papers voting yes to co-opt Michael Lloyd Williams
* 1 ballot paper voting no to co-opt Michael Lloyd Williams

**Resolved** that Michael Lloyd Williams be co-opted as a Member of Nantyglo and Blaina Town Council for the Blaina Ward.

**4. 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 of that applications will need to be considered in conjunction with the current policy.

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a) Urdd Eisteddfod:

Members considered the application and made the following comments:

* The application requested a donation in respect of staging/overall costs.
* Any donation should be for a project only, as the Council’s decision in respect of the previous application indicated although other Members disagreed with this comment.
* Local children attending the local Welsh Medium Primary school would benefit.
* There was a possibility that the Urdd might not take place in 2021 (as it didn’t in 2020).
* A donation of £50 was proposed and seconded with one Member (Councillor K Jenkins) voting against making a donation.

**Resolved** that a donation of £50 be made and **Further Resolved** that the letter to the Urdd states that the amount was not to be used for core costs.

**5. Salem Chapel:**

Members were invited to consider the attached inspection report:

* January 2021*.*

Queries/comment were invited – none received.

**Resolved** that the report be approved.

**6. 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.

Meeting declared closed at 2.15pm

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