

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

Mrs T Hughes Town Clerk/RFO

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Minutes of the Meeting of the Full Council held via a remote meeting at 2.00pm on Tuesday 23rd March 2021.

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; C Hillman & L Harris.

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

Prior to the commencement of the Meeting, the Town Mayor led the Council in a one minute's silence in respect of the UK's National Day of Reflection for the Coronavirus Pandemic.

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 Councillors D Hillman and C Hillman declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 7d.

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 Councillors K Treharne, L Emanuel, T James, G Watkins, R Pagett & M Williams.

Further Resolved that the apologies be accepted.

2. Town Mayor's Communications:

The Town Mayor informed that today (Tuesday 23rd March 2021) was a national day of remembrance in respect of the first year of the Covid 19 pandemic and for the many thousands of people who had died as a result. The Town Mayor added that the virus had completely changed many aspects of people's lives and that there was hope for better days ahead. The Town Mayor also informed that the Town Council Office windows featured a display of yellow hearts in remembrance.

Resolved to note the information received.

3. **Minutes of the Events Committee Meeting held 23rd February 2021 (pages 119 - 123)**
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.122: It was clarified that no decision was made whereby Members could not take part in the 'In Bloom' competition but to appoint judges from outside the area to ensure fairness.

Resolved that the minutes be approved.

4. **Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held 23rd February 2021 (pages 124 - 131)**
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. 128 – add 'childcare grant decreased'.

p.129 – general reserves – add 'to possibly reduce council tax to a 3.5% increase'. This had led to a 3.5% increase in council tax not 4% increase as Blaenau Gwent CBC had previously planned. It was believed that the comments made had helped to influence the lower council tax increase.

p.130 – add 'Councillor D Hillman of Nantyglo and Blaina Town Council as spokesman of Joint Committee of Local Councils.

p.130 – add 'Unions had agreed a wage freeze'.

p.130 – 'Community hubs – Blaenau Gwent CBC had now stated that the Civic Centre in Ebbw Vale was to be demolished and that most staff would work from home and hubs'. The committee had queried this, and it was confirmed by Blaenau Gwent CBC that the community hubs would be located at local libraries.

Resolved that the minutes be approved.

5. **Minutes of the Planning & Highways Committee Meeting held 9th March 2021 (pages 132 - 134)**

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 2021 (pages 135 - 139)**

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.135: should be 'Aneurin Bevan Community Health Council'.

p.136: should be 'is'.

Resolved that the minutes be approved.

7. 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) Aneurin Bevan University Health Board (for information):

i Vaccination Update for week commencing 15th March 2021.

Resolved to note the information received.

ii Vaccination Update for week commencing 22nd March 2021.

Resolved to note the information received.

b) Blaenau Gwent CBC:

i E-mail in respect of planning application no. C/2021/0039 – Yew Tree Inn, Blaina.

Members considered the e-mail and confirmed that the representations previously made to the Planning Department remained the same.

Resolved to note the information received.

ii E-mail in respect of planning application no. C/2021/0030 – Rear garden of 78 Cwmcelyn Road, Blaina.

Members considered the e-mail and confirmed that the representations previously made to the Planning Department remained the same.

Resolved to note the information received.

iii E-mails (x2) in respect of query regarding Change of Use notification.

Members considered the e-mail response received and stated that the lack of notification was a concern and could impact upon the Town Council representation for local people regarding change of use to properties.

Resolved to note the information received.

iv Notification of appeal in respect of 1 Hawthorne Glade, Blaina. Members were informed that the Town Council did not make any objections or representations in respect of the application. A copy of the original planning application received was attached for Members' information.

Members noted that this appeal was a matter for the Inspectorate only.

Resolved that there were no representations to be made in respect of the appeal and **Further Resolved** to note the information received.

- c) Threshold DAS (for information):
E-mail informing of education courses available.
Resolved to note the information received.

*Councillors D Hillman and C Hillman declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 7d. **Resolved** that they remain in the meeting for the item as it was for information only.*

- d) Aneurin Bevan Community Health Council (for information):
Notification of an Executive Meeting of Aneurin Bevan Community Health Council to take place on 25th March 2021.
Resolved to note the information received.

Additional correspondence with permission of the Chair:

- e) One Voice Wales (for information):
E-mail informing of a joint One Voice Wales/SLCC Event taking place on 13th May 2021.
Any Member who wanted to attend the event was to contact the Town Clerk.
Resolved to note the information received.

- f) Mr Lee Thomas:
E-mail received from Mr Lee Thomas informing of road safety issues at Chapel Road, Nantyglo. The Town Clerk / RFO informed that Mr Thomas had been responded to in the first instance.
The Town Clerk informed that Mr Thomas had witnessed a number of road safety issues at Chapel Road, Nantyglo. Members agreed that the issues were alarming and that a request be made to Gwent Police for speed camera vans to monitor the area. It was also agreed to ask Mr Thomas for his permission to forward his e-mail of complaint to Gwent Police.
Resolved to make a request to Gwent Police for speed monitoring to take place at Chapel Road, Nantyglo and **Further Resolved** to ask Mr Thomas for his permission to send his e-mail of complaint to Gwent Police.

8. **Renewal of Annual Subscription:**

Members were invited to consider the renewal of the Town Council's annual subscription to One Voice Wales.

Councillor Morvan stated that based on previous experience, the Town Clerk has contacted OVW on a regular basis for advice and that it is recommended that the Council renews its membership for 2021/22.

In response to a query, the Town Clerk informed that the membership fee for 2020/21 was £1429.

Resolved that the annual subscription to One Voice Wales be renewed for 2021/22 and **Further Resolved** to query with OVV details of the valuation list used to ensure that the membership fee was correct.

9. Review of Council Policies:

Members were invited to consider the policies listed below and if appropriate resolve to adopt for the year 2021/22:

a) Financial Regulations:

The Town Clerk / RFO informed that the main changes to the financial regulations were in relation to online payments. These changes were made after appropriate consultation with the Town Council's Internal Auditor.

Members considered the updated policy and made the following comments:

p.10 - 6.6: amend to take into account (hopefully the temporary) circumstances in respect of Covid 19.

p.11 – 6.15: it was confirmed that this was in respect of online payments only.

Resolved that the financial regulation for 2021/22 be adopted with amendments as listed.

b) Risk Management Policy:

The Town Clerk/RFO informed that the main changes to the policy was in respect of Covid 19 and these changes could be found mainly on pages 4 & 9 of the policy. The level in respect of terrorism had also been updated.

Members considered the updated policy and made the following comments:

p.7 – add 'accurate' (top of the page).

p.12 – in respect of technological risk, it was explained that the Council's IT system was very basic and required a service contract. This could be discussed in the forthcoming Clerks' Forum meeting which would be held with officers from Blaenau Gwent CBC.

p.13 – 'Customer/citizen risk' needed to be highlighted. The Council recognised and understood the need to continually relaying positive messages in public to help mitigate the high risk.

Resolved that the policy be adopted for 2021/22 with the amendments shown and **Further Resolved** to investigate appropriate computer service agreements.

10. Application to the Community Grant Fund:

Members were invited to consider the listed application(s). Members were also reminded that applications would need to be considered in conjunction with the current policy.

a) *None received to date.*

Resolved accordingly.

11. Planning Applications:

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

- a) *None received to date.*

Resolved accordingly.

12. 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.

Additional application received with permission of the Chair:

- a) Name & Address of applicant:

Amandeep Kaur & Sarbjit Singh; 5 Queen Street, Nantyglo

Details of application:

Application for the transfer of the premises licence & variation of the designated premises supervisor (Licencing Act 2003)

Premises Name & Address:

S & S Stores, 5 Queen Street, Nantyglo, NP23 4LX

Resolved that no representations or objections be made.

13. Members' Updates:

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

Councillor K Jenkins:

Councillor Jenkins informed that he had great concerns as to the safety issues in respect of the number of vehicles parking on double yellow lines throughout Nantyglo. Such issues gave many concerns for the safety of pedestrians in the area.

Members agreed with Councillor Jenkins' concerns and also stated there was a possibility that such enforcement action could be a devolved responsibility to Nantyglo and Blaina in the future.

Councillor Hillman complimented Councillor Jenkins in respect to the planting of daffodils on the roundabout planters.

Resolved that a letter be sent to Blaenau Gwent CBC to request that this issue is inspected and enforced in Nantyglo on a more regular basis.

Councillor L Harris:

Councillor Harris informed that Cwmcelyn Tenants and Residents had purchased a large number of crocus bulbs (200) which had been planted throughout Cwmcelyn and were now flowering.

Councillor Harris clarified her request for one planter to be supplied for Cwmcelyn and that 2 planters had been placed at the fisherman's car park by Cwmcelyn Tenants and Residents which was sponsored by a local business.

In response to a query, the Assistant Officer informed that permission had recently been granted from Blaenau Gwent CBC for crocus bulbs to be planted near Blaina Community Centre and that this would be completed as soon as possible.

Resolved to note the information received.

The meeting was declared closed at 2.55pm.

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