

# 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 via a remote meeting at 1.25pm on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> April 2021.

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

Present: Councillor K Jones JP, Town Mayor, presiding  
Councillors D Hillman; C Hillman; R Pagett; K Jenkins & L Harris.

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

Prior to the commencement of the meeting, due to the apologies given by the Chair of the Finance & General Purposes Committee, it was proposed, seconded and **Resolved** that Councillor K Jones JP act as Chair for the meeting.

### 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 2C(i&ii). **Resolved** to note and **Further Resolved** that Councillor D Hillman and C Hillman remain in the meeting for the item (information only).

### 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 G Morvan; G Watkins; K Treharne; L Emanuel & M Williams.

**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 might be received prior to the date of the meeting.

#### a) Aneurin Bevan University Health Board (for information):

i Vaccination Update for week commencing 6<sup>th</sup> April 2021.

**Resolved** to note the information received.

ii Vaccination Update for week commencing 12<sup>th</sup> April 2021.

**Resolved** to note the information received.

- b) Welsh Government (for information):
- i Electoral Reform Newsletter (March 2021).  
**Resolved** to note the information received.
- ii Letter from Julie James MS informing of the Welsh Government's Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) Manual.  
It was noted that this item should have been included on the agenda for the Planning Committee rather than the agenda for Finance & General Purposes Committee.  
The Town Clerk confirmed that a hard copy of the guidance was available at the Town Council offices.  
**Resolved** to note the information received.
- iii E-mail response in respect of listing query re: Salem Chapel.  
It was discussed that Monmouth County Council appeared to dealing with listed building within Blaenau Gwent following the retirement of the Heritage & Conservation Officer (Frank Olding) from Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council. The contact details were noted.  
**Resolved** to note the information received.
- iv Welsh Government – Use Your Views Toolkit & QFC's Resources.  
Members discussed the use of social as being another method by which the public, especially younger voters, being kept informed.  
**Resolved** to note the information received.
- c) Aneurin Bevan Community Health Council (for information):
- i Notice of the meeting of the Aneurin Bevan Community Health Council to be held on 14<sup>th</sup> April 2021.  
**Resolved** to note the information received.
- ii Notice of the AGM of the Aneurin Bevan Community Health Council to be held on 14<sup>th</sup> April 2021.  
**Resolved** to note the information received.
- d) One Voice Wales (for information):  
Remote Training Sessions taking place during April 2021.  
Any Member was interested in attending any of the training sessions was to contact the Town Clerk.  
**Resolved** to note the information received.

e) Shaw Healthcare – Cwmcelyn, Blaina (for information):

E-mail invitation received for the Town Mayor & Councillors to attend a remote celebration of their 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, which is to take place via Zoom on 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2021.

Any Members who wanted to attend were requested to inform the Town Clerk.

Councillors K Jones JP; D Hillman; C Hillman and K Jones confirmed they would be in attendance at the event

**Resolved** to note the information received.

*Additional correspondence received with permission of the Chair:*

f) Aneurin Bevan UHB (for information):

E-mail informing of free online courses: Thriving & Surviving (Dealing with life after cancer); Carers Course & Long Covid Management Course.

**Resolved** to note the information received.

g) Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales (for information):

E-mail informing of the details of the review group allocated to the Town Council for participation – group B session which was to take place at 10am – 12 noon on 29<sup>th</sup> April 2021.

**Resolved** to note the information received.

**3. Implementation of the Local Government & Elections (Wales) Act 2021:**

Members considered the letter received from Julie James MS and the guidance in respect of the commencement, implantation and guidance and the following comments were made:

p.3 – in response to a query, it was confirmed that the Council's Internal Auditor had received the same information and was aware of the proposed changes.

p.5 – The requirements in respect of Town & Community Councils holding electronic meetings was discussed and it was noted that much more information was required.

p.5 – In response to a query in respect to the safe retention of documents for the appropriate length of time, the Town Clerk informed that paper records would be stored at Gwent Archives as per normal practice and that retention of electronic records would be discussed with the Council's website and e-mail provider (Vision ICT) and an appropriate IT service provider.

p.6 – The duty for Town & Community Councils to produce and report on an annual report was noted. It was also noted that the Town Council needed to expand on it's vision statement.

p.7 – The abolition of polls (section 162) was unclear.

p.8 – The information in respect of the General Power of Competence required more explanation and it was thought that this would be difficult for many Town & Community Councils to achieve. It was noted that the Town Clerk already held an appropriate qualification.

p.8 – It was noted that the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 was due to be repealed and replaced with the General Power of Competence and that there was a requirement for Town & Community Councils to be competent.

Members also considered that much more information in respect of the implementation of the Local Government & Elections (Wales) Act 2021 required much more information and detail. The Town Clerk informed that this legislation was discussed at the recent 'Clerks Forum' with officers from Blaenau Gwent CBC and it was agreed that it would be a lot of additional work for Town & Community Councils. It was also agreed that many Town & Community Councils faced a number of practical issues such as IT & technology

**Resolved** to note the information received and **Further Resolved** to review the legislation and its requirements as more information and requirements were received.

#### 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 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) *None received to date.*

**Resolved accordingly.**

#### 5. **Salem Chapel:**

Members were invited to consider the attached inspection report:

- March 2021.  
The following comments, questions/queries were invited:
- The Town Clerk informed that there were no additional matters to update from the last report (February 2021).
- Councillor Pagett queried if the kitchen floor would be repaired as this would be a risk hazard for anyone entering the Chapel?
- Members were informed that there were three sets of keys to the building which were held by: The Town Clerk; Councillor R Pagett & Mr R Dunham (local Building Contractor – in case of maintenance emergency). No-one else would be able to gain access to the Chapel and those who could were well aware of the issues within the Chapel.
- It was suggested that more warning signs and/or barriers be erected within the Chapel.

**Resolved** that the report be approved and **Further Resolved** that additional warning signs in respect of the kitchen be erected.

#### 6. **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). **Resolved** that the item remain confidential.