

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 r Cyngor, Sefydliad Blaenau, Y Stryd Fawr, Blaenau, NP13 3BN
Tel: 01495 292817 e-mail: clerk@nantygloandblainatc.co.uk

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held via remote meeting held at 14.05pm on
Tuesday 27th 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; K Jenkins; G Morvan; L Harris & L Emanuel

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

Prior to the commencement of the meeting, the Town Clerk confirmed that no members of the press or 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. 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 Councillors G Watkins; K Treharne; R Pagett & T James. Councillor C Hillman informed that she would need to leave the meeting at 2.35pm. **Resolved** to note the information received. **Additionally Resolved** to accept the apologies received.

2. Town Mayor's Communications:

The Town Mayor's communications for April 2021:
The Town Mayor informed that following the Council's resolution, in excess of one thousand Easter eggs had been donated to the local primary schools for all pupils. Photos of the Town Mayor at each of the primary schools were displayed on the Town Council's website. The Deputy Mayor informed that there was excellent feedback posted on Blaen y Cwm Primary school's website regarding this. The Town Mayor also informed that he laid a wreath at the War Memorial, Central Park, Blaina on 9th April 2021 in respect of the funeral of the Duke of Edinburgh. Also in attendance were Councillors D Hillman; C Hillman; L Harris; K Jenkins and M Williams. The Town Mayor thanked Councillor K Jenkins for the reading of a prayer and to Councillor M Williams for taking photos of the event. The Town Mayor gave his apologies for not being able to attend the virtual 30th celebration of Cwmcelyn House due to an IT issue.

The Town Clerk additionally informed that Reverend Roy Watson had telephoned and gave his apologies for not being available to attend the laying of the wreath at Central Park.

Resolved to note the information received.

3. **Minutes of the Personnel Committee Meeting held 22nd March 2021 (pages 140 – 141)**
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.

4. **Minutes of the Events Committee Meeting held 23rd March 2021 (pages 142 - 145)**
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.144 – the Deputy Town Mayor reiterated that a dog show had previously taken place in the grounds of St Peter’s Church.

p.145 – should read ‘Town Mayoral Appeal’.

p.145 – should read ‘of’ and to include ‘some Members also adorned their homes as a mark of respect’.

Resolved that the minutes be approved.

5. **Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held 23rd March 2021 (pages 146 - 152)**
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.147 – general reserves – should read ‘proposed 4% increase’ and ‘3.3% increase. Additionally to include ‘the business case and comments made by the Town Council’.

p.150 – Risk Management Policy include ‘be’ and ‘to the public’ (page 13).

Councillor L Emanuel re-joined the meeting at this juncture.

Resolved that the minutes be approved.

6. **Minutes of the Planning & Highways Committee Meeting held 13th April 2021 (pages 153 - 155)**

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. 154 – should be ‘site plan’ and alter to ‘anyone could propose’.

Resolved that the minutes be approved.

7. **Minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee Meeting held 13th April 2021 (pages 156 - 161)**

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. 154 – include 'media'.

p.158 – add 'and action plan'.

p. 160 – Members considered this to be an issue and that the Town Clerk investigates if Blaenau Gwent Foodbank's accounts and audit could be inspected.

Resolved that the minutes be approved.

8. **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.

Resolved to note the information received.

b) One Voice Wales (for information):

i E-mail in respect of chargeable dwellings and membership fee.

In response to a query, the Town Clerk confirmed that the membership fee charged by One Voice Wales was correct.

Resolved to note the information received.

ii Welsh Government Race Equality Action Plan – Consultation.

Resolved to note the information received.

c) Audit Wales (for information):

E-mail letter informing of the Audit of Accounts 2020/21.

Resolved to note the information received.

Additional correspondence received with permission of the Chair:

d) One Voice Wales (for information):

Remote training sessions taking place in April & May 2021.

Resolved to note the information received.

e) Cllr Lisa Winnett (for information):

E-mail informing of the work undertaken by Nantyglo FC with children in the local area.

The Town Clerk read out the e-mail received and Members agreed that a letter of thanks to Nantyglo FC be sent for the work undertaken with children in the local area.

Resolved that a letter of thanks and congratulations be sent to Nantyglo FC in respect of the work undertaken with children from the local area.

9. **Donations to Blaenau Gwent Foodbank:**

Members were informed of the continuing thanks by the manager of Blaenau Gwent Foodbank, Mr Wayne Evans, in respect of the Town Council's financial donations made during the financial year 2020/21. As resolved at the Finance & General Purposes Committee Meeting which took place on 13th April 2021, Members were requested to consider providing further financial donations to Blaenau Gwent Foodbank in light of the continuing Covid 19 situation and the financial hardship as a result.

The Town Clerk additionally informed that the Council's internal financial controls had identified that a cheque payment to Blaenau Gwent Gwent Foodbank issued in March 2021 was un-presented. E-mail correspondence with the Foodbank Manager had stated that the cheque had not been received (probably due to a recent change of address) and requested that the amount be paid online. An e-mail received from the foodbank manager (21st April 2021) also confirmed safe receipt of the online payments as previously resolved.

A discussion ensued and the following comments were made:

- There was an ongoing issue in respect of cheque payments not being presented to the bank for payment.
- The Town Council had supported local residents via Blaenau Gwent Food during the past twelve months of the Covid pandemic. Many families and residents were still in need of this support.
- There were requests to provide further monthly financial donations to Blaenau Gwent Foodbank and also to provide a further £200 donation for April 2021 but to review such financial donation on a monthly basis.
- In light of the recent issue concerning cheque payments, any financial donations should be made via online banking.

Resolved that a financial donation of £200 be paid via online banking to Blaenau Gwent Foodbank for April 2021 and **Further Resolved** that any other payments be reviewed by the Council or a committee on a monthly basis.

10. **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) Retired Police Dogs of Gwent.

Members considered the application and appreciated the good work that was undertaken. Due to the application and organisation set up appearing complex it was requested that

addition information and advice be sought to clarify if the Council had the legal authority to provide such a financial donation.

Resolved that additional information and advice be sought to clarify if the Council had the legal authority to provide such a financial donation. **Further Resolved** that the application be re-submitted to Council for further consideration as to the benefit to the area of Nantyglo and Blaina.

*Councillor L Harris declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 10b as a volunteer at the Church but not a member. **Resolved** that Councillor Harris remains in the meeting for the item.*

b) Cwmcelyn Methodist Church.

The Town Clerk informed that due to legislation – any donation could only be made in respect of the youth club and not the Church.

Resolved that a donation of £100 be made in respect of the youth club only.

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 may be received prior to the date of the meeting.

None received to date.

Resolved accordingly.

13. **Members' Updates:**

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

a) Councillor D Hillman (Deputy Town Mayor):

Councillor Hillman informed that both he and Councillor C Hillman attended the 30th Anniversary of Cwmcelyn House held via Zoom. Councillor Hillman submitted the Town Mayor's apologies for not being able to attend. The event was a success with a number of different people and representatives in attendance including the directors of Cwmcelyn House. The event included an online tour of Cwmcelyn House and its' gardens which was decorated with balloons etc for the event of which Cwmcelyn House were pleased that the Town Council was in attendance. On behalf of the Town Council, Councillor Hillman thanked Cwmcelyn House and its staff for the excellent service it provided. Councillor K Jenkins apologised for his absence at this event.

14. 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).

a) Salem Chapel – Public Consultation:

The Town Clerk to provide a verbal update.

The Town Clerk informed:

That due to the ongoing restrictions due to the Covid pandemic there was limited opportunities to place notices due to non-essential shops, doctor surgeries & waiting rooms not being open etc. Notices had been placed in Nantyglo and Blaina Post Offices, Winchestown General stores, Blaina Institute and Blaina Community Centre. The consultation was also placed on the website and a request had been made to BGfM radio to advertise the consultation. To date only 2 responses had been received.

Blaenau Gwent Councillor G Collier (postmaster at Blaina Post Office and Chair of the apparently now defunct Nantyglo and Blaina Charter Group) stated to both the Town Clerk and Assistant Officer that he was unhappy with the public consultation and he had stated that the consultation form was not legally correct and that 'there would be a public backlash'.

In view of the updates, it was suggested that an extension to the public consultation period could be considered.

A discussion ensued which was summarised as:

- The consultation needed to be available on social media in order to give the public an opportunity to respond and to obtain public opinion.
- It was previously resolved not to advertise the public consultation on social media as it would not necessarily obtain a meaningful consultation but would probably encourage many negative comments which would not be related to the public consultation.
- The Town Council does not have its own Facebook page and it would be inadvisable to put the consultation on the Community Centre's Facebook page.
- It was agreed that the public consultation required transparency and as that restrictions were beginning to lift, it might begin to be easier to advertise the consultation more widely in the local area.

Resolved that the public consultation in respect of Salem Chapel be extended locally for two months. **Further Resolved** that the response to the consultation be monitored for one month and reviewed by Council.

Meeting declared closed at 15.00.

Date of next meeting: Tuesday 11th May 2021 at 13.00

171 (20/21)

