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

Mrs T Hughes - Town Clerk/RFO
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Minutes of the hybrid Finance & General Purposes Committee Meeting held 6.15pm on Tuesday 12th December 2023 at the Council Chamber, Blaina Institute, High Street, Blaina.

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

Present: Councillor D Hillman, presiding, Chair, Finance & General Purposes Committee
Councillors G Morvan, K Jones JP, K Jenkins, M Williams (remote), J Bond (remote), C Hillman (remote).

Prior to the commencement of the meeting, the Town Clerk informed that no members of the press or public were present. **Resolved** to note the information received.

The Chair informed of the fire procedures and that no fire alarm test was planned. **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. Members were reminded that all declarations must be recorded in the book provided. **Resolved** to note that no such declarations were received.

1. Apologies for absence:

Members were invited to consider the apologies for absence and to formally resolve to accept. **Resolved** to note that no apologies were received.

2. Questions from the Public:

To receive any questions from the public regarding matters itemised on the agenda (limited to 10 minutes total).

Resolved to note that no such questions were received.

3. 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) Blaen y Cwm Primary, Coed y Garn Primary & Ysgol Bro Helyg – *(for information)*

E-mails of thanks in respect of the recent Christmas Carol Concert held with the four local primary schools.

DRAFT

Members agreed that the joint Christmas Carol Concert with the four local primary schools was an excellent & successful event. It was hoped that the Santa in attendance could be invited to take part in next year's event. Cllr K Jones JP thanked the Town Clerk and Assistant Officer for their work in arranging the Carol concert.

Resolved to note the information received.

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

i. Information re: Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales (member allowances).

The Chair provided a brief overview of Members Expenses.

The Town Clerk / RFO informed that all determinations had already been implemented by the Town Council.

Resolved to note the information received.

Cllr C Hillman joined the meeting at this juncture.

ii. One Voice Wales National Awards Conference 2024.

Resolved to note the information received and **Further Resolved** that the Town Clerk provide further information about the conference to Members.

c) Welsh Government – *(for information):*

Information re: Section 137 Expenditure Limit for 2024/25.

The Town Clerk / RFO informed that based on Nantyglo & Blaina's electorate of approximately 6,942, the maximum amount the Town Council *could* spend under s.137 (from its budget &/or reserves) was £75,043.02 for the financial year 2024/25 (total electorate multiplied by the amount per elector i.e. 6,942 x £10.81).

Resolved to note the information received.

d) Independent Remuneration Panel *(for information):*

Draft copy of the IRPW's draft Annual Report for 2024/25.

Queries and comments were invited – none received.

For information, Members were reminded that the Town Council was classed as a group 3 council by IRPW.

Resolved to note the information received.

Additional correspondence received with permission of the Chair:

e) Councillor L Winnett (Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council):

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E-mail informed that Christmas Lights on Christmas tree at Cwmcelyn had been cut down and removed. Christmas Lighting contractor, Russell Dunham confirmed that replacement

lights (currently unused) could be used as replacement lights on the tree for this year. The Town Clerk informed that Russell Dunham was erecting the lights as his own contribution.

There was a brief discussion as to who actually owned the lights that had been cut down and stolen. Cllr G Morvan informed that Russell Dunham had contacted him on Friday evening and asked if an unused set of lights could be erected in the tree and that he had agreed as a gesture from the Town Council to the residents of Cwmcelyn. Cllr Morvan confirmed that the lights currently on the Christmas Tree at Cwmcelyn were supplied by the Town Council and erected by Russell Dunham at no financial cost to the Town Council.

The Town Clerk informed that Cllr L Winnett had thanked the Town Council via Facebook for their help and assistance to the local community.

Resolved to agree to the use of Christmas Lights for the Christmas Tree at Cwmcelyn.

4. S.137 donations (Local Government Act 1972 & Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015:

As previously resolved, Members were invited to consider making further financial donations to Blaenau Gwent Foodbank to assist residents of Nantyglo and Blaina for the month of December 2023.

Additionally, The Town Clerk remined Members of the suggestion agreed by Members to donate the surplus selection packs from the joint schools Carol Concert to Blaenau Gwent Foodbank for distribution to Nantyglo & Blaina residents. Members were also informed that Blaenau Gwent Foodbank had already collected the selection packs. Cllr K Jones thanked the Town Clerk and Assistant Officer for arranging this.

Resolved that a donation of £200 be made to Blaenau Gwent Foodbank for the month of December 2023, in respect of residents from Nantyglo & Blaina.
Ratified the agreement to donate the surplus selection packs to Blaenau Gwent Foodbank for distribution to Nantyglo & Blaina residents.

5. 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 that applications would need to be considered in conjunction with the current policy.

None received to date.

Resolved accordingly.

6. Salem Chapel:

Members were invited to consider the attached inspection report:

- November 2023

In response to a query, the Town Clerk informed that the condition of the annexe floor had deteriorated further and was now unsafe to walk on.
In response to a query, the Town Clerk informed that neither herself nor the Assistant Officer inspected the Chapel alone due to Health and Safety requirements.

Resolved that the report be approved.

7. 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** that the motion be supported.

The Chair thanked the Town Clerk and Assistant Officer for their hard work during 2023 and wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Meeting closed at 6.55pm

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