

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 meeting of the Planning and Highways Committee held at 6:00pm on Tuesday 9th December 2025 the Council Chamber, Blaina Institute, High Street, Blaina.

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

Present: Cllr K Jones JP, Chair of Planning & Highways Committee, presiding
Councillors C Hillman (remote), L Harris, D Hillman(remote),
D Finch, L Emanuel & M Williams (remote).

In attendance: Mrs T Hughes, Town Clerk / RFO
Mr K Rowland, Assistant Officer

Prior to the start of the meeting, The Chair informed of the procedures to be taken in the event of an emergency. **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 of interest must be recorded in the book provided. **Resolved** to note that Cllr K Jones JP declared a person interest in item 4b.

1. Apologies for absence:

Members were invited to consider the apologies for absence and to formally resolve to accept. **Resolved** to note apologies were received from Councillors G Morvan, D Wright, A Fryer, W Lewis, E Singleton, M Evans, L Higgins & S Howlett. **Further resolved** that the apologies be accepted.

2. Questions from the public:

To receive any questions from the public regarding matters on the agenda. There was a 10-minute allocation time for any questions from the public. **Resolved** to note that no questions were received and **Further Resolved** to note that no members of the public or press were in attendance.

3. Correspondence:

Members were invited to consider the listed correspondence, plus with the Chair's permission, any urgent information that may well be received prior to the date of the meeting.

Additional correspondence received with permission from the Chair:

Sale of Salem Chapel:

The Town Clerk informed that she had been made aware of emails received on Friday 5th December 2025 regarding the proposed sale of Salem Chapel.

An email had been received from Blaenau Gwent CBC Ward Councillors Lisa Winnett (Blaina) which detailed the complaint and an email response from Councillor Sonia Behr (Nantyglo).

The Town Clerk informed that she had been made aware by the Town Mayor / Leader of the Council of the issue and that he had spoken to both Cllr Winnett and the complainant.

Members were asked for their response to the request contained in the email, i.e. that the sale of the Chapel be stopped and for the Town Council to consult with residents of Nantyglo & Blaina regarding the future of the Chapel.

The Town Clerk informed that a public consultation regarding Salem Chapel was conducted between March and May 2021 (started on 15/03/21 and ended 27/06/2021). The consultation form and an expression of interest form (in purchasing the chapel) were sent to Le Gros Solicitors and One Voice Wales for comments and legal advice. The consultation and expression of interest forms were advertised via the Town Council's website, Blaina and Nantyglo Post Offices, Town Council Offices, BGfM Radio, local shops and also emailed to appropriate stakeholders of the Town Council. On 27th April 2021, Council resolved to extend the consultation period by one month and that 9 completed consultation forms were received. The consultation forms were considered by a Task & Finish Group on 20/07/21. The majority stated that the Town Council should sell Salem Chapel.

Members stated that in a previous meeting the reason that no 'For Sale' board was added to the building was to help to avert any potential vandalism that had been experienced by other empty buildings elsewhere throughout Blaenau Gwent. This was resolved by majority vote in February 2025.

It was also stated that when it was decided to put Salem Chapel up for sale that the money raised would be to benefit the residents of Nantyglo and Blaina.

Members noted that all evidence in respect of public consultation in regard to Salem Chapel had been retained and comments by Sonia Behr was correct in that all procedures were carried out correctly.

Whilst Salem Chapel was purchased by Nantyglo and Blaina Town Council, Nantyglo & Blaina Chartist Group (to whom a peppercorn lease of the chapel had been granted) attained the finances with which to organise the renovation of the building. None of the current Town Council Members or Officers involved in this matter were involved with Nantyglo and Blaina Town Council during that time.

It was enquired as to would there be a benefit if the auction of Salem Chapel was postponed and a 'For Sale' sign erected for a short amount of time. The Town Clerk / RFO informed that this had been queried with the Auction company but had been informed that as bidding was live and the reserve had already been met before the meeting was held, it would not be possible to do so.

Alun Davies MS had previously been contacted in regard to enquiries regarding the ongoing issues with Salem Chapel.

Members praised the Town Clerk/RFO for her diligence in dealing with the many issues regarding the Chapel which included, but which were not limited to the sale procedurally and legally, its status as a listed building.

Resolved to note information received and **Further Resolved** that the Town Clerk to respond to the procedures of sale of Salem Chapel and no 'For Sale' sign being displayed.

4. Planning Applications:

Members were invited to consider the applications listed below and, with the permission of the Chair, any further applications that may be received prior to the date of the meeting:

- a) Plan Application No. P/2025/0316 - Evie Engineering Site Services Ltd, Unit J Blaenant Industrial Estate, Main Spine Road, Brynmawr, Ebbw Vale, NP23 4AZ

Proposed new steel frame commercial building and associated work.

Resolved that no representations or objections be made.

Cllr K Jones JP declared a personal interest in item 4b. **Resolved** to note the interest and **Further Resolved** that Cllr K Jones JP remain in the meeting but not take part in any discussion or vote.

- b) Plan Application No. P/2025/3028 – The Magpies Gwaun Delyn Close, Blaina, Ebbw Vale, Blaenau Gwent, NP234NQ

Expansion to existing bungalow to create additional bedroom and ensuite bathroom facility. Relocation of front door to form required circulation space.

Resolved that no representations or objections be made.

5. Licence Applications:

Members were invited to note the application(s) **for information only**:

None received to date.

Resolved accordingly.

Meeting declared closed at 18:25 pm