

# 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 Town Council held at 5.30pm Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2026 at the Council Chamber, Blaina Institute, High Street, Blaina.**

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

Present: Councillor G Morvan Jones, Town Mayor, presiding  
Councillors L Higgins; D Hillman; C Hillman; D Wright; A Fryer; W Lewis (remote);  
D Finch; M Williams (remote); K Jones JP & S Howlett (remote)

In attendance: 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.

**To receive: David Leech Torfaen County Borough Council (Strategic Director of Adults & Communities) with a presentation on The Deal.**

**Members were reminded to note the Standing Orders relating to guest speakers:**

1. Members received the presentation.
2. Questions were invited at the end of the presentation.
3. Members were requested to ask only one question each – if time allows AND with permission of the Chair, a second question may be asked.
4. Members were reminded that there was to be no discussion or exchange of points of view between Members and that all dialogue was to be directed through the Chair.

The Chair introduced David Leech of Torfaen County Borough Council and welcomed him to the meeting.

Mr Leech gave his presentation and talked about the different slides members were presented with prior to the meeting.

*Questions were invited at this juncture:*

Q. A member asked If Mr Leech could explain the Marmot Principle to newer members.

A. Mr Leech described how the study by Professor Sir Michael Marmot and how health and health inequalities are shaped by the social determinants of health.

Q. Regarding Town and Community Councils being mentioned in The Deal, how were we not included at an earlier stage?

A. The earliest meeting was with Abertillery and Llanhilleth in November, and with the Deal not

being finalised plans are now taking foot by opening up communication and to ask Town and Community Councils to be more involved.

Q. Member was worried that many services would be fulfilled by volunteers and how effective this may be in terms of quality.

A. Mr Leech informed members that many community groups were involved in services already and also count 'small deeds' volunteers like those who just help or spend time with a vulnerable neighbour. GAVO was also mentioned and the quality they help bring to services that rely on volunteers.

Q. Member asked if services will slip through use of volunteers.

A. Mr Leech explained when people buy into services, they are delivered better.

Q. Member made a statement about how they had been invited to a meeting regarding the Deal in Llanhilleth earlier that morning. They also mentioned how the Deal is not yet made and in motion, the process will evolve as more people get involved and Nantyglo and Blaina Town Council should get involved.

Q. Member asked how to get involved and how it would affect different areas.

A. Mr Leech wanted to make sure the people felt heard and that this isn't just 'another project'.

The Chair thanked David Leech for attending the meeting and providing his presentation.

*David Leech left the meeting at this juncture.*

## **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 apologies accepted from Councillors L Harris, M Evans and Town Clerk/RFO T Hughes.

### **2. Town Mayor's Communications:**

The Town Mayor's communications for December 2025 and January 2026.

The Town Mayor Councillor Glyn Morvan mentioned that December was a busy Xmas period. The Schools Joint Christ Carol on the 2<sup>nd</sup> was successful and first rate, mentioning that there is so much talent in the pupils of all schools that attended. On the 4<sup>th</sup> they attended Alzheimer's/Dementia support group Xmas party where members from Coed Y Garn sung carols and interacted with the people was really heart-warming. They also took part in the Santa Run and while a few areas were quiet other places had a lot of people excited to see the run. On the 17<sup>th</sup> they attended an event with Men's Den Blaenau Gwent having been invited by fellow N&BTC David Finch. It was well attended and fantastic to see

they had been awarded the Men's Shed of the year award for 2025. They also mentioned that the Men's Shed plans for Brynmawr were exciting and was looking forward to seeing what they do.

**Resolved** to note the information received.

**3. Questions from the Public:**

To receive any questions from the public regarding matters on the agenda (please note this was limited to 10 minutes). **Resolved** to note that no such questions were received and **Further Resolved** to note that no members of the public or press were present.

**4. Minutes of the Meeting of the Full Council held 25<sup>th</sup> November 2025 (pages 92 - 97)**

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:

Pg 93, Item 4a (pg. 74, item 8a) The acting Chair for the meeting challenged the accuracy of the minutes and gave an account to which he felt was accurate. It was mentioned that he had wanted to move the meeting forward and resolve the issue, but his words to members were 'what is your pleasure?'.  
Pg 94 Item 6a (pg 82 item 4) Was not an appraisal but concerns to stress and workload.  
Pg 95 Item 9a, to add that a brass sign was also discussed.  
Pg 96 Item 9d, enquiring if there had been interest regarding to the Notice of Vacancy from the people who had enquired. There had been none since.

**Resolved** that the minutes be approved and **Further Resolved** to amend the minutes as stated by the acting Chair.

**5. Minutes of the Events Committee held 25<sup>th</sup> November 2025 (pages 98 - 99)**

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 Planning and Highways Committee 9th December 2025 (pages 100 – 103)**

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:

**7. Minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held 9<sup>th</sup> December 2025 (pages 104 – 106)**

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.

**8. Minutes of the Meeting of the Planning and Highways Committee held 13<sup>th</sup> January 2026 (pages 107 - 110 )**

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:

Pg 109 Item 5a, In regards to change of use was there a policy in place that this should not be done as it was once in place.

**Resolved** that the minutes be approved and **Further Resolved** to investigate whether a policy was in place regarding change of use from shop to dwelling.

**9. Minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held 13<sup>th</sup> January 2026 (pages 107 - 117)**

Members were invited to consider the above minutes and if appropriate to approve them as an accurate record of proceedings.

Page 112 Item 3d – Town Council Leader gave an update that they had been contacted by Unison and had been asked to attend a meeting. They had contacted One Voice Wales and advised to make sure it was a ‘fact finding meeting; and that no decisions were to be made at this meeting of what was required from Nantyglo and Blaina Town Council. They asked for another member to attend the meeting, one asked if it was appropriate for them to go but it was said it would not be, so another member agreed to attend.

**Resolved** that the minutes be approved and **Further Resolved** that Town Council Leader G Morvan and Councillor A Fryer attend a meeting with Unison.

**10. Correspondence**

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

a) Response from One Voice Wales and Planning Aid Wales re: Training

Email from Tracy Gilmartin at One Voice Wales regarding members enquiring about other methods of training being presented at a lower cost.

Members were disappointed at the response as the costs could be expensive. Member to enquire more about the issue at a One Voice Wales meeting after it was mentioned members from Town Council's in Powys had theirs delivered from recorded training due to the region and range of travel.

**Resolved** to note the information received and Further Resolved for a One Voice Wales representative from N&BTC to bring up this issue.

b) Edwina Dixon:

Email regarding over 60's Pilates and dance class.

Members stated that there may be a health provision and that the organiser of the class should apply using the Nantyglo and Blaina Town Council Community Grant form.

**Resolved** to note the information received.

**11. 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.

*None received to date.*

**Resolved** accordingly.

**12. 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.

Meeting declared closed at 19:20pm