

NANTYGLO & BLAINA TOWN COUNCIL

CYNGOR TREF NANT-Y-GLO A BLAENAU

Mrs V Williams - Town Clerk/RFO

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Minutes of the hybrid meeting of the Task & Finish Group held at 09:30 pm on Monday 10th August at the Council Chamber, Blaina Institute, High Street, Blaina.

A meeting to which members of the public were NOT entitled to attend

(Public Bodies Admission to Meetings Act 1960)

Present: Councillor G Morvan, Town Council Leader, presiding.
Councillors L Higgins, L Harris, D Hillman, C Hillman, L Emanuel, S Howlett, M Williams and M Evans.

In attendance: V Williams, Town Clerk/RFO

K Rowland, Assistant Officer

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 no declarations of interest were made.

1. Apologies for absence:

Members were invited to consider the apologies for absence received and to formally resolve to accept. Apologies were received from Cllr's A Fryer and D Finch.

Resolved to accept those apologies

2. Upgrading of Blaina Skatepark:

Members were invited to discuss the upgrade of Blaina Skatepark and to consider donating towards the cost of refurbishment.

Members discussed whether investigating the costs to the upgrade of the skatepark ourselves would be beneficial to better understand what is achievable so we can give as much as possible. Members were still frustrated that no costings had been put forward. The Town Clerk stated that Alun Watkins of BGCBC and our point of contact for matters relating to the Skatepark said that while they have one company in mind they will get costs from three separate companies to be sure

of the best price based on what is achievable for Blaina Skatepark.

Member questioned that we should push back due to social media and emails as its being made to look like Nantyglo and Blaina Town Council are holding up progress, but it is so important to follow all the regulations. The community may look to blame us, but we need to get some form of costings. It was also stated that we feel very constrained by the legal issues and information that had been provided. It was also mentioned that it was a very 'political' climate currently with elections coming next year. It was felt important by members that the public should know we contribute when plans start to move forward. A plaque could be placed to publicize Town Council's involvement.

Member noted that security was also an issue, as they had previously seen a lack of parents at the skate park. Another member said it wasn't a safe area and that drugs may be dealt at the location. The Chair did however mention that these issues can happen anywhere in the area and that Police consultation will be part of the process when upgrading an area for youth involvement, especially at an area they have already worked in before like the Skatepark. Member queried whether Town or Borough Council could also contribute towards the cost of security cameras.

Resolved that the Town Clerk contact Alun Watkins and ask for 3 quotes in regard to the skatepark site and to find out how Nantyglo and Blaina Town Council can be more involved in the process and to contribute.

3. Request for contribution for Defibrillator to be located on Blaina Institute:

Members were invited to discuss contributing towards the cost of having a defibrillator on Blaina Institute.

Members agreed this was a good idea but wanted to know if maintenance and service costs had been factored in and if something could be given in writing, members agreed that Nantyglo and Blaina Town Council would pay for the cost of the defibrillator as long as Blaina Community Institute would pay for any ongoing costs.

Resolved that subject to an agreement that Blaina Community Institute would pay for ongoing costs in regard to maintenance, servicing and registration of the unit, that will pay for the initial cost of the defibrillator in full.

4. Discussion and resolution to act as point of contact for David Arnold and David Leech in relation to 'The Deal' activities:

The nominated person will maintain contact with David Leech/David Arnold and act as a point of contact, relay information to the Council Members and also put forth any queries or requests that

Town Council has in relation to 'The Deal'.

Councillors A Fryer and D Finch both nominated themselves to be the point of contact. Members agreed that both should be put forward to act as representatives for Nantyglo and Blaina Town Council and to be in contact with D Leech and D Arnold in regards to 'The Deal'.

Resolved that Town Councillors A Fryer and D Finch be the points of contact with David Arnold and David Leech to discuss The Deal.

5. Questionnaire at Blaina Food Festival:

Councillors were invited to consider the questions to be asked at the Food Festival in relation to the skate park provisions and possible other areas the community would like to see the Town Council focus on and who would be present to talk to the community on this day.

Members agree that we need to ask 'What can we do for you that you can be involved with?' Members stated that Abertillery and Llanhilleth Community Council had also conducted a survey recently and to look at for ideas, and that Brynmawr Town Council may also have done something asking for which street in Brynmawr the residents would like to see improved. Members should get in touch with the Clerk with feedback to finalize a survey ready for the Food Festival on the following Saturday, 15th August in Blaina. Getting a directory of local organisations and volunteer groups would be beneficial also.

Resolved to email members with ideas and to finalize a survey ready for the Food Festival on the 15th August.

6. Discussion of 'The Salem List':

Councillors were invited to discuss what points can be progressed, added and a time frame for completion of the chosen points.

Members discussed looking for venues in Nantyglo to do more for the residents there, including having a meeting there. Town Council should be doing more to work in partnership with other organisations. The Vicar at St Peters was enthused by the turnout of the Outdoor Cinema even that had taken place on the Saturday previously and would be willing to put on more events with Nantyglo and Blaina Town Council

Hanging Baskets – Need to look at how best to maintain long term and look into partnerships. If plants were plastic, maintaining would not be a problem. The Town Clerk updated Town Council that they and the Assistant Officer visited Abertillery and Llanhilleth Community Council who mentioned they had over 100 planters but had experience problems with how spaced out there

were in terms of locations and were looking to consolidate their planters into small groups so less stops were needed to maintain them. Must consider Nantyglo also. Could areas adopt a planter provided by N&BTC.

- Check where they can be placed.
- What lamp posts can be used.

Craft Fair/Flower Show at In Bloom –

- Speak with local allotments to see if interest in being involved
- Art and poetry, local school involvement could be pursued.
- Getting local groups and organisations involved.

Xmas Dinner for OAPS – Some pensioners have no family or are part of a group, vulnerable and need help. Need to see Town Councillors doing something positive, in both Blaina and Nantyglo. Otherwise find groups already doing such and help them.

Cinema Playscheme – Something around Bank Holiday in August would be a prime time to organise an event. Halloween was also mentioned as a possible Outdoor Cinema time, potentially involving other groups in an event at St Peters. The creation of an events calendar was also discussed.

- Reserve a date around Halloween for an outdoor cinema screening.

Youth Services – Members spoke of the disappointment that things had not worked out with BGYS. Gavo was mentioned to contact to see if N&BTC could work with them, be mutually beneficial

- Reach out to GAVO
- Video – Members feel it is best to wait on making any kind of video, unsure what N&BTC would get from it.

Flag Poles – Members queried if the flag poles by the coop could be moved to the square opposite Blaina Institute and next to the Red Lion. Square is underused, flags by the Coop is a waste of time. Tree coverage could be an issue.

Grass Roots Sports Clubs – TC would support if they apply for grants. A member suggest a specific Sports Grant to appeal more to them. It was mentioned that Nantyglo and Blaina Town Council should advertise the grants more. Members stated that s137 can also be used to give more to applicants should the £200 maximum not be enough.

- Advertise grants from N&BTC on Facebook.
- Mayoral certificate to sports clubs that do well.

Park Running – Member stated that there wasn't anything in the area.

- Contact park run organisation
- Permission from authority
- Make any other enquiries

Leaflets – Members agreed that creating any kind of leaflet would need a lot of thought and planning.

Railings – It was discussed this would be a bigger job than first thought due to the area of the railings and the amount of work needed. Some railings may not be fit for purpose either, and would need to be potentially removed. The Town Clerk reminded members to use the BGCBC app to report such things. Worth advertising the app on Facebook also.

Billboards at Sports Grounds – could cost depending on sponsorship, would need a new logo designed as current one is low quality. Member volunteered to design new logo.

Area close to Skatepark – unusable and should be removed from list.

Dog Bins – Consult with the local authority to add more and make sure collected. Consult with residents to see where best have new dog bins located.

Self Defence Classes – costing would be £500 for 30 girls on a 4 week course. Members thought this would be a great addition to the survey.

Additional Update from the Chair:

The Chair informed members that he and the Assistant Officer were to begin investigation a location for a mural to be created in Nantyglo.

Meeting declared closed at 11:03am

Signed by Town Mayor _____ .