

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 Cyngor, Sefydliad Blaenau, Y Stryd Fawr, Blaenau NP13 3BN

Tel: 01495 292817 e-mail: clerk@nantygloandblainatc.co.uk

**Minutes of the hybrid meeting of the Finance & General Purposes Committee at 6.20pm
Tuesday 9th January 2024 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, M Williams (remote), L Harris, K Jenkins,
C Hillman (remote) & L King.

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

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and informed of the fire regulations. **Resolved** to note the information received.

Prior to the start of the meeting, the Town Clerk informed that no members of the public or press were in attendance. **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 an apology was received from Cllr J Bond. **Further Resolved** to accept the apology 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 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) Society of Local Council Clerks – (for consideration)

Renewal of subscription for 2024 membership.

Members considered the subscription and agreed that it be renewed for 2024 at a cost of £288 per year.

Resolved that the membership to Society of Local Council Clerks for 2024/25 be renewed.

b) One Voice Wales (for information):

i. Training Modules & Dates January – March 2024.

Resolved to note the information received.

ii. Cost of Living – Community & Town Council Activity in Wales.

Chair queried if there were any suitable projects for consideration.

Councillor Morvan informed that this was a new team set up by One Voice Wales and suggested that the team could be invited to attend a future meeting as a guest speaker.

Resolved to note the information received and **Further Resolved** to invite the Cost of Living Team to a future meeting of the Town Council as a guest speaker.

iii. Free Online Training Courses re: Digital Health of Community & Town Councils.

Councillor M Williams informed that he would like to attend the session held on 23rd January 2024.

The Town Clerk and Assistant Officer informed that they would like to attend the session held on 12th March 2024.

Resolved to note the information received and **Further Resolved** that Officer and Members would attend the training as detailed.

Additional correspondence received with permission of the Chair:

c) Donna Wallbank – Brynmawr Rotary (for information):

Letter of thanks and information re: grant donation received and an invitation for a representative of the Town Council to attend an update and presentation (including a buffet) about the project at 6pm on 23rd January 2024.

Members welcomed the letter and the detailed information provided regarding the Christmas Hamper project and thanked all involved for the hard work.

As the date of the presentation coincided with the Meeting of the Full Council, Members suggested that a letter of explanation be sent to Brynmawr Rotary as to why a representative of the Town Council was unable to attend and invited a representative from Brynmawr Rotary to a future meeting of the Town Council as a guest speaker.

Resolved to note the information received and **Further Resolved** that a letter of explanation and invite a representative of Brynmawr Rotary to attend a future meeting of the Town Council.

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d) Councillor S Behr – Blaenau Gwent CBC (for information):

Letter re: proposed proposal and business plan in relation to the former Scouts Hall (formerly Coed Cae Community Centre) at the end of Attlee Road, Nantyglo.

Chair read out the letter to Members.

The Town Clerk advised that as not all Members used e-mail and, as such would have received prior notification of the letter, to resolve to note the information received and to include the letter as a separate agenda item for proper and appropriate consideration at a future meeting.

Resolved that the item be listed as a separate agenda item at a future meeting of the Town Council.

4. Draft Annual Report 2022/23:

Members were invited to consider the attached report, and if appropriate, to resolve for publication.

Members considered the draft annual report for 2022/23 and the following points were made:

Page 2 – amend number of vacancies.

Page 3 – amend spelling of name.

Page 4 – query position of representative to Blaina Institute Trust Fund (no contact received).

Page 7 – check and amend precept amounts.

Page 8 – replace bar chart with a more appropriate chart or graph.

Page 8 – grant donations, include community project to R. Abbas.

Page 11 – amend Christmas Fair to occasional.

Page 12 – should read 'mark'.

Page 12 – include s.137 donations.

Resolved to approve the plan with the alterations stated above.

5. 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 January 2024.

Resolved that a donation of £200 be made to Blaenau Gwent Foodbank to assist Nantyglo & Blaina residents for the month of January 2024.

6. 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.

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None received to date.

Resolved accordingly.

7. Salem Chapel:

Members were invited to consider the attached inspection report:

- December 2024:

Comments and queries were invited:

In response to a queries, the Town Clerk informed that, in her opinion, the condition of the Chapel continued to deteriorate as detailed previously and that there were two keyholders – the Town Council and Mr R Dunham (for Christmas Lights & any maintenance issues). It was also thought that lights may have possibly been on in the Chapel due to Mr R Dunham altering, storing or taking down Christmas Lights or possibly moving some of the remaining items belonging to the Charter Group.

Resolved that the report be approved.

8. Members Updates:

Members were invited to provide any updates or information:

a) Councillor G Morvan:

Councillor Morvan informed that Reverend Roy Watson had been awarded the British Empire Medal in the New Years Honours List following an application submitted by Councillor Morvan on behalf of the Town Council. Reverend Watson had phoned Councillor Morvan to inform him of the honour and thank him for submitting the application. The Town Clerk had made early enquiries with the Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Gwent regarding possible plans to present the award to Reverend Watson in the Council Chamber. Members agreed that this would be an excellent idea and that a letter of congratulations be sent to Reverend Watson from the Town Mayor on behalf of the Town Council.

Resolved to note the information received, **Further Resolved** to further investigate the possibility of presenting Reverend Watson with his award in a ceremony at the Council Chamber and **Additionally Resolved** that a letter of congratulations be sent to Reverend Watson from the Town Mayor on behalf of the Town Council.

b) Councillor D Hillman:

Councillor D Hillman informed that weather conditions meant that he had attached metal signs to 2 of the large planters although the remainder of the signs would be attached to the remaining planters when weather conditions allowed.

Resolved to note the information received.

9. 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.

99 (2023/24)

Meeting declared closed at 7.45pm

102 (2023/24)

DRAFT