

NANTYGLO & BLAINA TOWN COUNCIL

CYNGOR TREF NANT-Y-GLO A BLAENAU

Mrs T Hughes Town Clerk/RFO

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Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on Tuesday 28th January 2020 at the Town Council Chamber, Blaina Institute, High Street, Blaina

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

Present: Councillor D Hillman, Deputy Town Mayor
Councillors T James; G Morvan; R Abbas; K Jenkins; C Hillman; D Hillman & L Harris

In attendance: Mrs T Hughes, Town Clerk / RFO

In the absence of the Town Mayor it was **Proposed and Resolved** that Councillor D Hillman act as Chair for the meeting.

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 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 that apologies were received from Councillors K Jones; L Emanuel; C Bridgeman and R Pagett. **Resolved** that the apologies be accepted.

2. Town Mayor's Communications:

The Town Mayor to inform of his activities during December 2019 and January 2020. Due to the apologies received from the Town Mayor no such communications were received.

Resolved accordingly.

3. Minutes of the Events Committee Meeting held 26th November 2019 (pages 101 - 105)

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:

page 102 – should read Councillor Keith Jenkins.

Page 103 – Councillors D Hillman, C Hillman and L Harris attended.

Resolved that the minutes be accepted.

4. **Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held 26th November 2019 (pages 106 - 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:
page 107 – include 'vision statement'.
Resolved that the minutes be accepted.
5. **Minutes of the Planning & Highways Committee Meeting held 9th December 2019 (pages 111 - 112)**
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 accepted.
6. **Minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee Meeting held 9th December 2019 (pages 113 - 116)**
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:
page 115 – appropriate documents have been provided to new Members of staff.
Page 116 – the issue of street lighting was ongoing.
Resolved that the minutes be accepted.
7. **Minutes of the Personnel Committee Meeting held 9th December 2019 (pages 117 – 118)**
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 accepted.
8. **Minutes of the Personnel Committee Meeting held 9th January 2020 (pages 120 – 121)**
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:
Councillor Morvan informed that the recommendation of the Personnel Committee was unanimous.
Council **Unanimously Ratified** the recommendation of the Personnel Committee.
Resolved that the minutes be accepted.

9. Minutes of the Planning & Highways Committee Meeting held 13th January 2020 (pages 122 – 126)

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:

pages 122 – 124 – comments made: good attendance by Members, an excellent presentation provided by the guest speakers and noted the planned increase in the Council's precept.

page 123 – the Town Council also has ongoing public consultation. The Town Council could also apply for similar funding.

Page 124 – should read 'service board'.

Resolved that the minutes be accepted.

10. Minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee Meeting held 13th January 2020 (pages 127 – 132)

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:

page 128 – the short notice in respect of BGCBC's equality plan consultation was explained at the recent liaison meeting with BGCBC.

page 130 – to be made by the Events Committee.

Page 131 – consultation form to be reviewed.

page 131 – include 'considerations' and 'public consultations evidenced that the public would be prepared for the precept to increase'.

Resolved that the minutes be accepted.

11. 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) Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council:

- i. E-mail – Local Development Plan 2018-2033 Preferred Strategy Consultation. Members were advised that hard copies of the documentation received are placed in the Council Chamber.

Resolved to note the information received.

- ii. E-mail detailing straying animals meetings for the Ebbw Fach Valley on Monday 17th February 2020.

Members were to inform the Town Clerk if they wished to attend.

Resolved to note the information received.

iii. E-mail in respect of faulty street lighting within Blaina.

Resolved to note the information received.

b) Aneurin Bevan Health Board– (for information):

Your Local Health News – December 2019.

Resolved to note the information received.

Councillors D Hillman and C Hillman declared a non-pecuniary interest in the following item.

Resolved to remain in the meeting for the item as for information only.

c) Community Health Council – (for information):

Notice of a Meeting of the Aneurin Bevan Health Council on 11th February 2020.

Resolved to note the information received.

d) British Gas – (for information):

Details of the new energy plan in respect of Salem Chapel.

The Town Clerk informed that the energy plan had a zero rate standing charge and was in respect of the gas supply only. Investigations into a new electricity plan were ongoing. Councillor Jenkins thanked the Town Clerk for her work in this matter.

Resolved to note the information received.

12. **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.

a) *None received to date.*

Resolved accordingly.

13. **Planning Applications:**

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.

a) Plan Application No. C/2020/0011 – 23 Pant View, Nantyglo:

Re-profiling of front garden to provide car parking, raised patio, steps and disabled stair lift.

Resolved that no representations or objections be made.

Councillors D Hillman and C Hillman declared an interest in the following item as non-active members of the club. **Resolved** that Councillors D Hillman and C Hillman take no part in the discussion but remain in the meeting.

- b) Plan Application No. C/2020/0013 – The Pavilion, Central Park, Surgery Road, Blaina:
External alterations to windows/doors to south east elevation and east elevation together with access ramp and roller shutters.

Resolved that no representations or objections be made.

14. **Licensing Applications:**

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.

None received to date.

Resolved accordingly.

15. **Members' Updates:**

Members were invited to inform and provide updates of any recent activities and/or concerns:

- Budget Meeting with Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council:

Councillors D Hillman, C Hillman and K Jones attended this meeting at the Civic Centre on 24th January 2020.

Blaenau Gwent CBC informed that although they were to receive £3.9 million from the Welsh Government, it was recommending that the Council Tax would increase by 4%. This recommendation was due to be ratified by the Full Council.

Resolved to note the information received.

- 'Our Valleys' workshop at Blaenau Gwent CBC & Interfaith Networking event at Gwent Police HQ :

Councillor R Abbas attended this workshop at Blaenau Gwent CBC on 22nd January 2020 which informed about new development plans for Blaenau Gwent up to 2033 and provided hard copies. Councillor Abbas informed of the 'Building Musical Bridges' project at this workshop.

Councillor Abbas also informed that he was able to act as a liaison to Gwent Police in respect of interfaith.

Resolved to note the information received.

- One Voice Area Meeting:

Councillors G Morvan and K Jenkins attended this meeting on 21st January 2020 whereby a guest speaker attended and gave a presentation regarding time credits and its benefits for volunteers. One Voice Wales National Committee would also be lobbying to abolish tax payable on Member allowances.

Councillor Morvan informed that he would be attending the One Voice Wales Awards Conference on 26th March 2020 and the One Voice Wales Annual Practice Conference which was to be take place on 8th July 2020. Both conferences were to take place at the Royal Welsh Showground near Builth Wells.

Resolved to note the information received.

- Training for Members:
Councillor D Hillman informed Members that a training package had been devised and would take place when convenient training dates could be identified. It was requested that all Members attend the training.
Resolved to note the information received.
- Presentation offered – Experiences of a Refugee:
Councillor R Abbas had offered to provide a 20 minute presentation to the Town Council informing of the life experiences of a refugee.
Resolved that the Town Council receive this presentation from Councillor Abbas.

16. 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).