

# NANTYGLO & BLAINA TOWN COUNCIL CYNGOR TREF NANT-Y-GLO A BLAENAU

Mrs T Hughes - Town Clerk/RFO

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## Minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> July via a remote meeting.

Members of the Council and Public had been provided with instructions on how to join the meeting

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

Present: Councillor G Morvan, Chair of the Finance & General Purposes Committee  
Councillors, Hillman, Abbas, Jones, Padget, Harris, Jenkins, Hillman,

In attendance: Mrs T Hughes, Town Clerk / RFO  
Mrs N Horner, 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 must be recorded in the book provided. **Resolved** to note that

Ken Item 4 – A declaration of interest with regards to Community Grant Fund

Confirmation was also received from Cllr James in respect of declaration of interest with Community Grant Fund

### 1. Apologies for absence:

Members were invited to consider the apologies for absence and to formally resolve to accept.

**Resolved** to note that apologies were received from Councillors

**Further Resolved** to accept the apologies received.

### 2. 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) Welsh Government – (for information):

##### i E-mail letter inviting views on a post Covid 19 recovery in Wales.

Any views were to be sent via email by end of July – Cllr Abbas, as part of South East Wales, We have a tremendous amount of challenges that is required to help and support the young people of our area, and as a Town Councillor he would like to know what was the

priority? Would it be to consult on planning, or was the priority be to help support the young people with suicide attempts, self-harming etc. Leader appreciated Cllr Abbas concerns and thoughts at these unprecedented times.

A lengthy discussion ensued and Members agreed these were valid points, however, planning meetings was a statutory duty of all Town / Community Councils and was the reason for the meeting but it was suggested that Cllr Abbas' details his concerns in an email to Council for further consideration. Members additionally agreed that as a small organisation with limited resources such issues can be outside of the Council's remit.

A lengthy discussion ensued whereby it was agreed that the Town Clerk would respond to the e-mail providing the views of the Council. It was also suggested that the letter be displayed on the Town Council's website in order for the public to respond directly with their views.

Cllr Abbas – As individuals we cannot solve problems, but we can work with likeminded people, he attended a meeting and it was discussed with BGCBC and Police that we can work as a unity and achieve some wonderful results. We can work from the mapping exercise to work with those organisations and work together and try to put an end to all the self-harming of young girls, suicide attempts by young 16-year boys and racism. Chair thanked Cllr Abbas and once restrictions were lifted this could be something that Town Council could look into.

**Resolved** that the Town Clerk responds to the e-mail on behalf of the Town Council. **Further Resolved** that Councillor Abbas provides details of his proposals/concerns via an e-mail. **Additionally Resolved** that the letter be displayed on the Town Council's website so that the public were able to respond.

### **3. Decisions taken under delegated powers during March, April, May and June 2020:**

#### a) Monthly Salem Chapel Inspection Reports:

i March 2020:

**Resolved** that the report be approved.

ii April 2020:

**Resolved** that the report be approved.

iii May 2020:

**Resolved** that the decisions taken under delegated powers be supported and ratified.

#### b) Monthly Precept & Expenditure Report:

i March 2020:

**Resolved** that the report be approved.

ii April 2020:

**Resolved** that the report be approved.

iii May 2020:

**Resolved** that the report be approved.

**Resolved** that the decisions taken under delegated powers be supported and ratified.

- c) Payments made to Blaenau Gwent Foodbank in respect of Nantyglo & Blaina Residents:  
Members were informed that the following payments were made via the Local Government Act 2000 ss. 1-5 (Power of Well-being Act) and Local Government Act 1972 s.137.
- i April 2020:  
**Resolved** that appropriate food costing £237.15 were purchased and donated to Blaenau
- ii May 2020:  
**Resolved** that a cheque donation of £162.85 was made to Blaenau Gwent Foodbank.
- iii June 2020:  
**Resolved** that a cheque donation of £200 was made to Blaenau Gwent Foodbank.
- iv July and August 2020:  
**Resolved** that a cheque donation of £200 was to be made to Blaenau Gwent Foodbank be made in both July and August 2020 (£400 total).  
It was clarified that this donation was made under the remit of the "Power of the Wellbeing Act 2020" and that the Town Council had taken positive action for Nantyglo and Blaina in respect of the ongoing Covid 19 situation.  
**Resolved** that the decisions taken under delegated powers be supported and ratified.
- d) Asset Register 2019/20:  
**Resolved** that the report in respect of the Asset Register for 2019/20 be approved.
- e) Town Council Insurance:  
**Resolved** that the Town Council Insurance be renewed on a three-year agreement commencing 1<sup>st</sup> June 2020 with WPS Hallam Council Guard (Sun Alliance).
- f) Online Banking:  
Correspondence was received from Torfaen County Borough Council (Local Government Pension Scheme) informing that payments could only be made online banking and that cheque payments are no longer accepted. Online banking be set up with the Town Council's current bank (Lloyds Bank).  
Chair confirmed that there were some teething issues in respect of signatory access with the account but it was anticipated that this would be resolved.  
It was queried if this would the issues cause any debts? The Town Clerk confirmed that online payments were being made to one recipient and they had been informed of the issues.  
Cllr Jones queried if the issue is with pensions or with all banking. Chair confirmed that there are no other issues and as no effects with paying invoice as this can be done with cheque payments.  
**Resolved** that online banking be set up with the Town Council's current bank (Lloyds Bank).

Cllr Abbas gave his apologies as he needs to leave meeting and asked if he could share the details of the Town Council's mapping exercise at his next meeting.

**Resolved** to support Councillor Abbas' request.

*Cllr Abbas left the meeting at this juncture.*

g) Annual Meeting of the Council:

Following advice and guidance received from One Voice Wales and Society of Local Council Clerks, it was **Resolved** that the Annual Meeting of the Council did not take place in May 2020 and **Further Resolved** that all Council Member positions and committees remain unchanged.

Members were additionally informed that an Annual Meeting of the Council can be held at any appropriate date and time during the current civic year.

**Additionally Resolved** that the Annual Meeting be agended for review later in the year.

**Resolved** that the decisions (items 3d-3g above) taken under delegated powers be supported and ratified.

4. **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 are also reminded of that applications will need to be considered in conjunction with the current policy.

a) Welsh Air Ambulance Charitable Trust.

In response to a query, the Clerk confirmed that a grant was made in February 2019 for the sum of £100.00

**Resolved** that a donation of £100 be made.

*Cllr Jones left at this juncture as he had declared an interest.*

b) Friends of Cwrt Mytton Residential Home, Abertillery.

Members considered that application but concluded that parts of the application was written and worded in such a way that it did not satisfy the Council's own policy in respect of payment for wages. It was suggested that the applicant be advised to submit another application in order to comply with the Council's current Grants Policy.

Clerk confirmed that the care home holds 34 residents and 9 of them are from Nantyglo & Blaina.

*Cllr Jones re-joined meeting at this juncture.*

**Resolved** that another application be submitted.

**5. Salem Chapel:**

Members were invited to consider the attached inspection report:

- June 2020.

In response to a query, the Clerk confirmed that the condition of the building will only get deteriorate within time.

**Resolved** that the report be accepted.

**6. Confidential Information:**

The following item(s) might contain information that is 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** to support the exclusion.