

NANTYGLO & BLAINA TOWN COUNCIL



Contents

| | |
|---|--------------|
| Mayor's Report: | Page 1 |
| Leader's Report: | Page 1 |
| About Council: | Page 2 |
| Membership of Council: | Page 3 |
| Committee Membership: | Page 3 - 4 |
| Staff: | Page 4 |
| Meetings: | Page 4 |
| Training Plan: | Page 5 - 7 |
| Finance & Expenditure: | Page 7 - 8 |
| Assets and Services: | Page 9 |
| Activities: | Page 10 - 11 |
| Wellbeing: | Page 11 |
| Environment: | Page 11 - 12 |

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

Mayor's Report: Cllr Des Hillman

It was a fantastic honour to be elected by my colleagues to be the mayor for 2021-2022 unfortunately because of the covid lockdown it was very difficult to arrange fund raising events from my mayoral charities, which was Downes Syndrome and Breast Cancer Now. My wife and I set up a stall on the local square for several weeks, selling things that we put together from our home and sheds, we met some lovely people who not only purchased items but donated as well, we raised over £1,000.00 for the charities they will receive £500.00 each.

During my term we had to use hybrid meetings which was difficult at times, but we endured. My wife as consort and I attended a couple of small school events delivering gifts to the children. Also, during my term, we gave the residents the best possible local duty and resolved many issues to make things better for the area. This was realised by the hard work of our staff and was confirmed by the national audit office whereby there was no recommendations in their report on our council, which was very pleasing for all concerned.

God save the King.

Regards Cllr Des Hillman



Leader's Report: Cllr Glyn Morvan

The period of 2021-2022 was extremely difficult for everyone as Covid still had its unwelcome grip on us and life was a long way from being normal. During this time, we as a Council did our very best to help and support the people of Nantyglo and Blaina in these difficult circumstances.

Our main objective was to help those most in need. It was impossible to arrange any in person activities as restrictions did not allow us to do so. However, we focused our time and resources in supporting the Local Food Bank. Financial donations were made to this organisation monthly which enabled local people to have access to much needed provisions on a regular basis. Other matters that arose during this time were dealt with appropriately and in line with the legislation we had to work with, to ensure the safety and welfare of all our residents.

We as a Council have also moved on and the hope is that the next period of this administration will allow us to do more of what we, and you want and that is to get involved with the communities of Nantyglo and Blaina in as many ways as possible.

I will look forward to these endeavours with enthusiasm and to meeting with as many of you as possible on the way.





ABOUT COUNCIL

Nestling in the upper reaches of the Ebbw Fach Valley lies the town of Nantyglo and Blaina.

The Local Government Act 1972, brought about a nationwide reorganisation of local government. The implementation of the Act during 1974, brought the five former Urban District Councils of Abertillery; Brynmawr; Ebbw Vale; Nantyglo & Blaina and Tredegar together to create Blaenau Gwent Borough Council.

Nantyglo and Blaina Community Council was established to continue some of the functions of the previous UDC and to provide local representation on various statutory and voluntary organisations. The first meeting of the community council, which was held on the 27th of February 1974, resolved to adopt town status for Nantyglo and Blaina and thus the community council became a town council.

Council membership is of 16 unpaid, elected members, 8 for Nantyglo and 8 for Blaina. The Council currently has 4 vacancy available at Nantyglo ward and 4 at Blaina ward.

NANTYGLO & BLAINA TOWN COUNCIL

CYNGOR TREF NANT-Y-GLO A BLAENAU

Nantyglo & Blaina Town Council Membership:

| Name | Party | Ward |
|--|----------------------|----------|
| Cllr Des Hillman: Town Mayor, Chair of Finance & General-Purpose Committee | Independent: Elected | Blaina |
| Cllr Glyn Morvan: Leader of Council, | Independent: Elected | Nantyglo |
| Cllr Ken Jones: Chair of Planning & Highways Committee | Independent: Elected | Nantyglo |
| Cllr Keith Jenkins: Chair of Events Committee | Independent: Elected | Nantyglo |
| Cllr Michael Williams: Vice Chair of Events Committee | Independent: Elected | Blaina |
| Cllr Lillian Harris | Independent: Elected | Blaina |
| Cllr Carole Hillman | Independent: Elected | Nantyglo |
| Cllr Lydia King | Independent: elected | Blaina |

Committee Membership:

| Name | Position | Committee |
|---|---|--------------------------------------|
| Cllr Des Hillman | All Members of Council Chair | Full Council |
| Cllr Ken Jones Cllr Carol Hillman | All Members of Council Chair Observers | Planning & Highways Committee |
| Cllr Keith Jenkins Cllr Michael Williams | All Members of Council Chair Vice Chair | Events Committee |
| Cllr Des Hillman | All Members of Council Chair | Finance & General Purposes Committee |
| Cllr Des Hillman Cllr Glyn Morvan Cllr Lillian Harris | Town Mayor Leader of Council Deputy Mayor | Personnel Committee |
| Town Mayor Deputy Mayor Cllr Carol Hillman Cllr Michael Williams | Cllr Des Hillman Cllr Lillian Harris Cllr Des Hillman Cllr Carol Hillman | Joint Committee of Local Councils |

NANTYGLO & BLAINA TOWN COUNCIL

CYNGOR TREF NANT-Y-GLO A BLAENAU

| | | |
|---|--|---|
| Cllr Ken Jones | Substitute | |
| Town Mayor Cllr Des Hillman Cllr Carol Hillman Cllr Michael Williams Cllr Ken Jones | Town Mayor Representative Representative Representative Substitute | Blaenau Gwent CBC Liaison Meeting with Town Councils |
| Cllr Ken Jones | Representative | Blaenau Gwent CAB |
| Cllr Michael Williams | Representative | Blaina Ward Action Group |
| Cllr Lillian Harris | Representative | Blaina Gwent Heritage Forum |
| Cllr Des Hillman | Representative | Blaenau Institute Trust Fund |
| Cllr Michael Williams | Representative | School Governors – Ystruth Primary |
| Cllr Keith Jenkins | Representative | School Governors – Coed Y Garn Primary |
| Cllr Carol Hillman | Representative | School Governors – Blaen y Cwm Primary |
| Cllr Glyn Morvan | Representative | Blaenau Gwent Armed Forces: Covent Steering Group |

Staff

| Position | Name |
|-------------------|----------------------|
| Town Clerk | Mrs Tracy Hughes RFO |
| Assistant Officer | Mrs Nicola Horner |

Meetings

Nantyglo & Blaina Town Council meets on the second Tuesday of each month for Planning & Highways and Finance and General, typically at 6pm. They also, meet every 4th Tuesday of the month for Full Council and Events. Task and finish group and Personnel meetings are held as and when required. Annual Meeting usually take place in May of every year.

During much of last year meetings were held predominantly online, in line with pandemic regulations, Towards the end of 2022, meetings began to be held in hybrid format – i.e., with some members attending in person, and others by remote attendance. One of the legacies of the past two years, which has been enshrined in the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act of 2021 is that the Council will now continue to meet in the future with this hybrid facility available. This means that Councillors and members of the public may attend our meetings in person or online, entirely at their own discretion, and we have facilities in the chamber now to enable this.

Training Plan:

Introduction:

The Local Government & Elections (Wales) Act 2021 places a duty on Town & Community Councils in Wales to set out a training plan for both councillors and staff to enable them to undertake their respective roles for the betterment of not only the Council and the Community it serves, but also the councillors' personal development.

Training:

Training is defined as *'a planned process to develop the abilities of the individual and to satisfy the current and future needs of the organisation'*.

Learning can be categorised into the following:

- Intuitive – learning by what happens by chance and we may not be conscious of it.
- Incidental – learning by reflection on particular events or activities.
- Retrospective – a system approach to reflecting on activities and identifying what we learned from them.
- Proactive – planning to learn from an activity, reflecting on it and planning to use what has been learned.

It is anticipated that councillor / staff learning will reflect many of the above.

Training Aims:

The Council's training aims are the following:

1. To improve the understanding of its councillors, of their role as a local Councillor, the powers available to the Council and how best to utilise the resources available to the Council for the betterment of the residents it serves.
2. To provide the necessary training to its staff to ensure that they can undertake their respective roles.
3. To ensure an acceptable level of succession planning to:
 - a) Ensure the Council can operate effectively following local elections and potential changes to the Council membership.
 - b) Ensure the Council can continue to operate during times where staff may be unavailable (e.g., holidays, sickness, staff turnover etc.)

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

Staff Training:

| | |
|--|--------------------|
| All new staff to take Induction Training | As & when required |
| All staff to undertake staff appraisals to develop their training needs | Annually |
| All office-based staff encouraged to undertake the following, for which the Council will provide financial support: 1. ILCA – Introduction to Local Council Administration 2. FILCA – Financial Introduction to Local Council Administration 3. CILCA – Certificate in Local Council Administration | On-going |
| All staff encouraged to read regular publications and updates from internet websites: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• SLCC• The Clerk• One Voice Wales | Monthly |
| All staff encouraged to attend training relevant to the position. | On-going |

Council:

| | |
|--|----------|
| Council to allocate a training budget to cover provision of training activities, attendance at conferences and training publications for councillors and staff | Annually |
|--|----------|

Councillors Training:

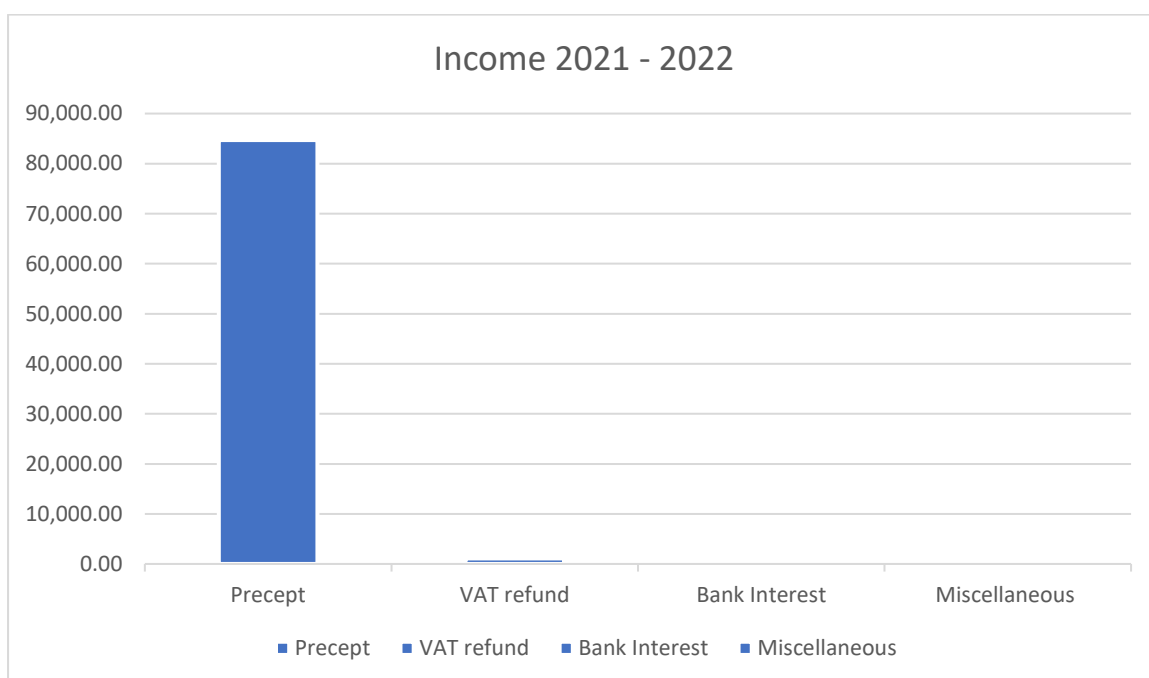
| | |
|--|--|
| All councillors are provided with New Members Induction Pack following Local Council Elections as soon as practicable after the local elections. | Every 4 years (or following local elections) |
| All councillors are encouraged to complete a skills audit to identify training needs. | Annually |
| All councillors shall undertake training in the Code of Conduct within 6 months of acceptance of office. | On Election to Office |

NANTYGLO & BLAINA TOWN COUNCIL

CYNGOR TREF NANT-Y-GLO A BLAENAU

| | |
|--|-----------------------|
| All councillors are encouraged to attend conferences and training events as appropriate to councillors and Council's needs and responsibilities. | Annually |
| All councillors are encouraged to read the following publications: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Good Councillors Guide • Governance & Accountability – A Practitioners Guide | On Election to Office |

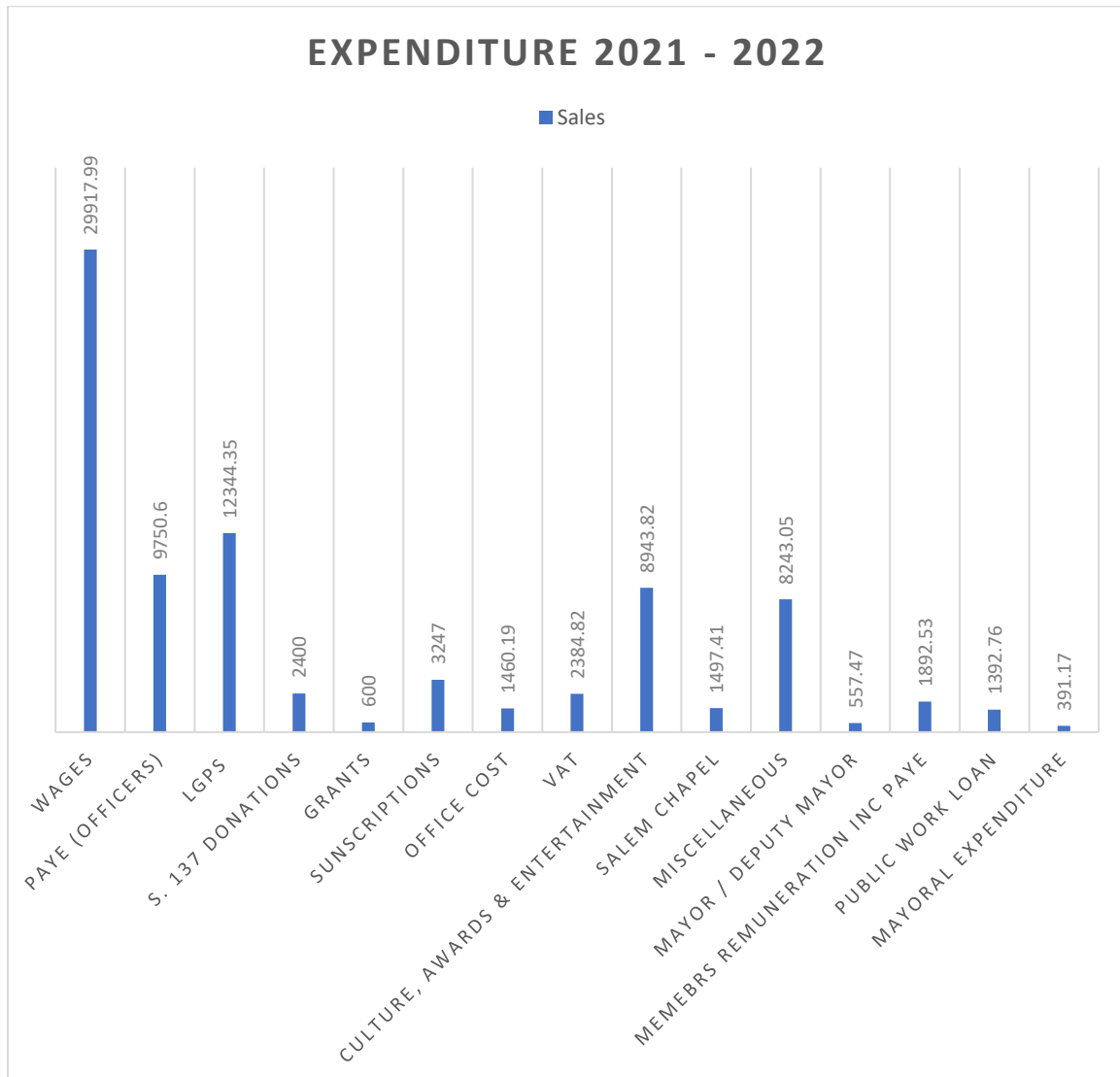
Finance - Income



The main source of funding for Town councils is the funds raised through what is referred to as a precept (a charge) to council tax under section 41 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992. Nantyglo & Blaina Town Council calculates its budget requirement for a financial year in accordance with section 50 of that Act and issue a precept to the billing authority. In 2021/22 the Nantyglo & Blaina Town Council precept was £128,000. A band D property for Council Tax paid £28 for the year towards the Town Council. This and interest is the only income to Nantyglo & Blaina Town Council.

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

Expenditure



Assets:

Description

Salem Chapel – Building & Annexe

Salem Chapel – Contents

Historic films (Chartist & Blaina WW11)

Furniture & equipment (Clerks Office)

Artefacts in Council Chamber

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

Public Seating

Millennium Wall

Christmas Lighting

Silverware

Festive Banners

Civic Chains (Mayor & Consort)

Educational Films (Scotch Cattle) & wall mounted TV and control box

Educational Films (Blaina Riots) & wall mounted TV and control box

Corner Suite

Christmas Train Set

Wall map Nantyglo

Memorial to CSM J.H. Williams VC

WW1 & WW11 – Pen & Ink drawings

2 x business laptops

Salem Chapel – decrease in valuation

Salem Chapel – Amended Valuation

2 x oil radiators

2 x Memorial Benches

Paper Shredder

2 x Laptops, 2 x monitors, 2 x docking stations, 2 x mouse & 2 x keyboards

Owl Pro Meeting System

Activities

Achievement & Recognition in the Community (ARC): This event is held annually which recognises people from the below categories. Town Councils holds a ceremony evening to present winners with a trophy and certificates for the achievement.

NANTYGLO & BLAINA TOWN COUNCIL

CYNGOR TREF NANT-Y-GLO A BLAENAU

Services to Youth: To be presented in recognition of service provision in the support of youth development i.e. running youth clubs, Air Training Corps, Scouts, Careers/employment advisor.

Music Award: To be presented to a person or persons for their outstanding achievement and talent in the musical arena.

Carers: To be presented to a person who by concern for the welfare of others provide care and assistance to those who by age, infirmity or disability are dependent upon the assistance of others.

Good Neighbour: To be presented to a person or persons, who by a continued expression of consideration of a neighbour's quality of life are felt to be worthy of recognition.

Sports: To be presented to a person or trainer who has shown outstanding commitment or achievement to local sport.

Community: In recognition of the tireless effort and dedication given to enhance and support the local community particularly when that person is a member of several local community groups or organisations.

Award in Recognition of Professional Services: To be presented in recognition of the excellent services provided to those in need of advice or assistance.

Lifetime Achievement Award: To be presented by the Town Mayor, in recognition of exceptional or outstanding service to the communities of Nantyglo & Blaina.

In Bloom: This event also held annually which recognises people from the below categories. Town Councils holds a ceremony to present winners with a trophy and certificates for the achievement.

Open Spaces:

Individual Houses:

Individual Allotments:

Community Group:

School:

Christmas Carol Concerts: Town Council invites our 4 local schools Coed y Garn Primary, Ystruth Primary, Ysgol Bro Helyg Primary and Blaen y Cwm Primary to a carol concert annually for the children to sing hymns and receive a gift off Santa, which is purchased by Town Council.

Christmas Fair: This is annual event whereby Town Council invites stall holders to come along and sell their Christmas products for our residents to come along. Again, Santa is available in his grotto for children to visit him and receive a gift, which is purchased by Town Council.

Christmas Lighting: Nantyglo & Blaina Town purchases new LED low wattage lights every year to update old inefficient lighting to light up the street with festive lighting around both towns.

NANTYGLO & BLAINA TOWN COUNCIL

CYNGOR TREF NANT-Y-GLO A BLAENAU

Easter Egg: Town Council holds this activity annually which provides every child within the local schools Coed y Garn Primary, Ystruth Primary, Ysgol Bro Helyg Primary and Blaen y Cwm Primary an Easter Egg.

Remembrance Sunday: Town Council supports the Role of the Royal British Legion in a parade through Nantyglo & Blaina and lay a poppy wreath.

Civic Sunday: As part of the Mayoral Year, the Town Mayor holds a Civic Sunday Service to which the whole community and other local dignitaries are invited.

Merchant Navy Day – Fly the Red Ensign: Commemorated the day by Town Council flew the Red Ensign flag to mark their condolences.

NHS Day: Commemorated the day by Town Council flew the flag for the first NHS, Social Care & Frontline Workers' Day for a celebration and recognition of the hard work carried out by essential workers during the pandemic, and to remember those who have lost their lives in the service of others.

Wellbeing: Town Council provided from the start of the pandemic and still provides to date £200.00 every month to Foodbank Blaenau Gwent to help support our residents in Nantyglo & Blaina who are in financial need.

Environment:

Planters: Town Council has purchased 11 large planters and replant all planters twice a year for Nantyglo and Blaina to have flowers all year round.

Sunflower Project: Town Council provided the 4 local schools with sunflower seeds, compost and seeding pots for a biodiversity project.