

ANNUAL REPORT

2024/25



**NANTYGLO & BLAINA
TOWN COUNCIL**

Town Clerk: Tracy Hughes

NANTYGLO & BLAINA TOWN COUNCIL

CYNGOR TREF NANT-Y-GLO A BLAENAU

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Town Mayor's Report:

- May - Attended Rev. Roy Waston's British Empire Medal ceremony.
- June - Celebrated the 50th anniversary of Riverside Flats with its residents - took photos and made a huge print.
- July - Helped to raise £1,164 for Hospice of the Valleys during the Welsh Three Peaks Challenge - Dedicated to Peter Morris.
- August - Took part in BGCBC Superhero Event - dressing up for Nantyglo and Blaina, and Brynmawr Fun Days.
- August - Gave out tickets to families for N&BTC four Summer Movie Events at The Market Hall.
- October - Helped to raise £1,250 for Ayva Batkin along with Heads of the Valley's Tang Soo Do, who was viciously attacked by a XL Bully Dog.
- November - Representing the Town Council at Remembrance Day Service.
- December - Took part in the Santa Sleigh Run of Nantyglo & Blaina dressed as a Ghostbuster.
- December - Attending the joint Christmas carol service of the 4 local primary schools and hosted a joint raffle to raise funds for Hospice of the Valleys and Ystruth's PTA.
- December - Helped to deliver Selection Boxes from the town council to each of the four schools.
- December - Sponsored a Christmas activity day with Santa for Hospice of The Valleys - £200.
- January - Invited the 1st year anniversary celebration of Men's Den to witness firsthand the great work that they do and their achievements over the past year.
- March - 90th anniversary of the Blaina Riots - Poetry Competition with Coed-Y-Garn school and memorial plaque placed within the school's lobby (once stationed on the external wall of the Blaina Inn)
- May - Hoping to Scale the stadium for Hospice of the Valleys - again to raise funds for my chosen charity.



Cllr Williams also represented the Town Council as a School Governor for Ystruth Primary.



Leader's Report: Cllr Glyn Morvan

In 2024/25 we continued to work within our community of Nantyglo and Blaina with our partner agencies. During Easter we donated Easter Eggs to children of all 4 schools in the local area. We celebrated local gardeners with the

In Bloom competition, and in the summer ran events for families such as cinema screenings at Market Hall cinema in Brynmawr as well as working with Blaenau Gwent CBC running playschemes at Blaina Integrated Children's Centre.

The council was proud to sponsor a 'Brick' in honour of David Watkins MBE, who was born in Blaina and represented Wales professionally in Rugby during the 1970's.

At the start of December, Town Council helped facilitate a joint Christ Carol service involving all four schools and supplied all children with selection boxes. The council also contributed to a Christmas event running at Central Park, Blaina, even providing food bags for reindeers.

We celebrated the 80th anniversary of VE Day, holding a service at Central Park, Blaina at the War Memorial with representatives from the Royal British Legion, Gwent Police, all four local schools and members of the public.

Throughout the year we continued our support of Blaenau Gwent Food Bank, contributing £200 each month to help families throughout Nantyglo and Blaina.

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About Council:

Nestling in the upper reaches of the Ebbw Fach Valley lies the communities 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 became a town council.

Council membership is of 16 unpaid, elected members, 8 for Nantyglo and 8 for Blaina. The council currently has 2 vacancies in the Blaina Ward and 4 vacancies in the Nantyglo Ward.

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Nantyglo & Blaina Town Council Membership:

Name	Party	Ward
Cllr Michael Williams: Town Mayor, Chair of Full Council Committee	Independent: Elected	Blaina
Cllr Glyn Morvan: Deputy Town Mayor & Leader of Council,	Independent: Elected	Nantyglo
Cllr Ken Jones: Chair of Planning & Highways Committee	Independent: Elected	Nantyglo
Cllr John Bond: Chair of Events Committee (chaired until December 17 th 2024)	Independent: Elected	Nantyglo
Cllr Lillian Harris: Vice Chair of Events Committee (Chaired from December 17 th 2024 – 27 th May 2025)	Independent: Elected	Blaina
Cllr Des Hillman: Chair of Finance & General Purposes Committee	Independent: Elected	Blaina
Cllr Carole Hillman	Independent: Elected	Nantyglo
Cllr Lydia King	Independent: elected	Blaina
Cllr David John Wright (April 2025)	Plaid Cymru: Co-opted	Nantyglo
Cllr Lynn Higgins (September 2024)	Independent: Co-opted	Blaina
Cllr Lesley Emanuel (June 2024)	Independent: Co-opted	Blaina

Committee Membership:

Name	Position	Committee
Cllr Michael Williams	All Members of Council Chair	Full Council
Cllr Ken Jones	All Members of Council Chair	Planning & Highways Committee
Cllr Carole Hillman	Observers	
Cllr John Bond (until 17 th December 2024) Cllr Lillian Harris (17/12/24 – 27/05/25)	All Members of Council Chair Vice Chair	Events Committee
Cllr Des Hillman	All Members of Council Chair	Finance & General Purposes Committee

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Cllr Michael Williams Cllr Glyn Morvan Cllr Des Hillman	Town Mayor Leader of Council & DM	Personnel Committee
Cllr Michael Williams Cllr Glyn Morvan Cllr Carole Hillman Cllr Des Hillman Cllr Ken Jones	Town Mayor Deputy Mayor Substitute	Joint Committee of Local Councils
Cllr Michael Williams Cllr Glyn Morvan Cllr Des Hillman Cllr Carole Hillman Cllr Ken Jones	Town Mayor Representative Representative Representative Substitute	Blaenau Gwent CBC Liaison Meeting with Town Councils – three of the five representatives, including the Town Mayor
Cllr Ken Jones	Representative	Blaenau Gwent CAB
Cllr Michael Williams	Representative	Blaina Ward Action Group
Cllr Lilian Harris	Town Mayor	Blaina Gwent Heritage Forum
Cllr Michael Williams	Representative	School Governors – Ystruth Primary
Cllr John Bond (17 th December 2024)	Representative	School Governors – Coed Y Garn Primary
Cllr Glyn Morvan	Representative	Blaenau Gwent Armed Forces: Covent Steering Group
Cllr Glyn Morvan Cllr John Bond (until 17/12/24)	Leader of Council	One Voice Wales
Cllr Glyn Morvan	Leader of Council	One Voice Wales Larger Councils Representative
Cllr Des Hillman Cllr Carole Hillman	Representative Representative	Planning Application Observer BGCBC

Staff

Name	Position
Mrs Tracy Hughes RFO	Town Clerk
Mrs Nicola Horner (until March 2025)	Assistant Officer

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.

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Training Plan 2024/25:

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.)

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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
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Councillors Training:

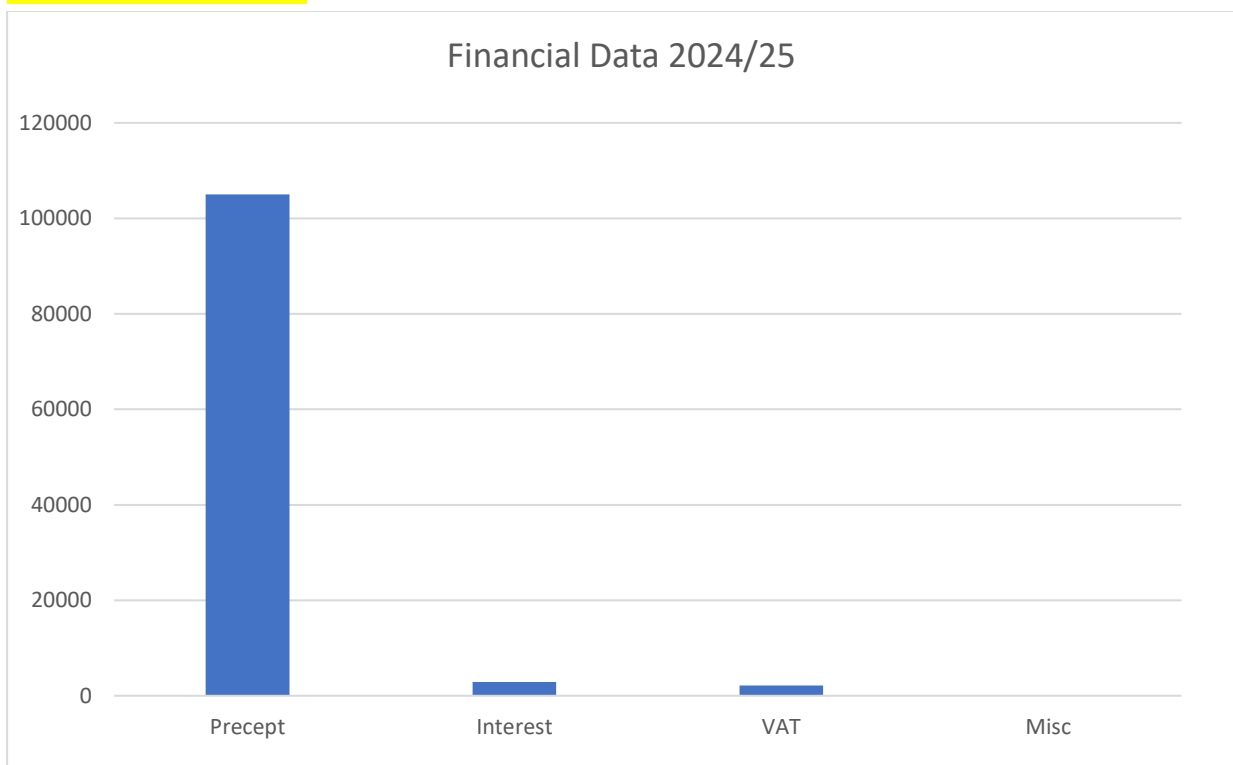
All councillors are provided with New Members Induction Pack following Local Council Elections as soon as practicable after the local elections.	Every 4 years (or following local elections)
All councillors are encouraged to complete a skills audit to identify training needs.	Annually
All councillors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

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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

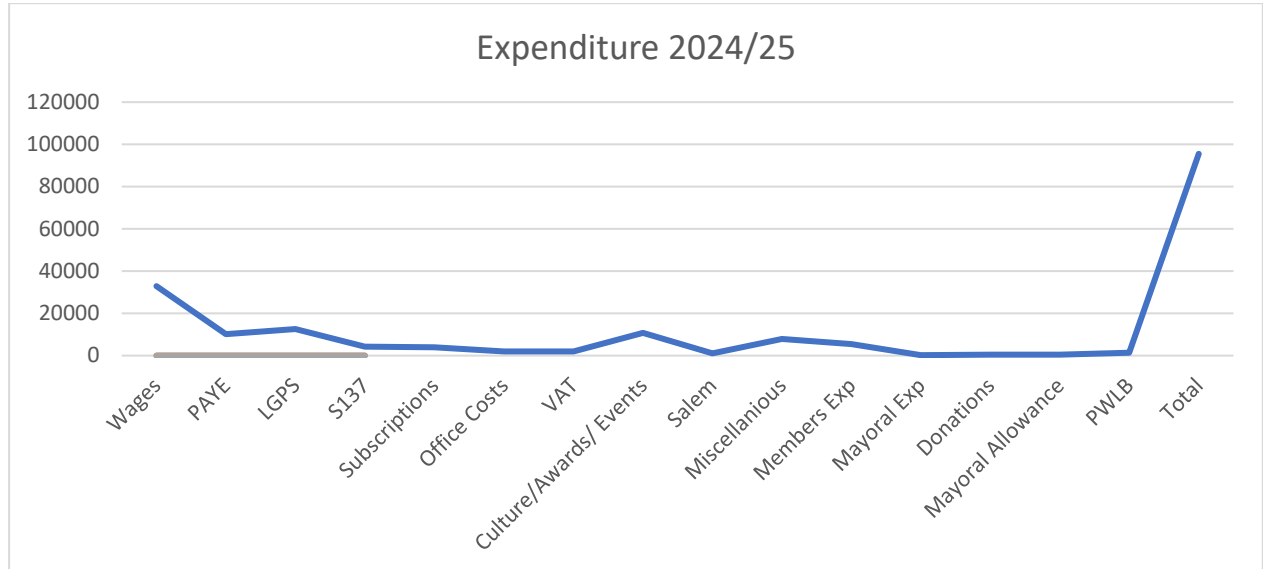


The main source of funding for Town councils is the funds raised through what is referred to as a precept (a charge) to council tax under section 41 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992. Nantyglo & Blaina Town Council calculates its budget requirement for a financial year in accordance with section 50 of that Act and issue a precept to the billing authority. In 2023/24 the Nantyglo & Blaina Town Council precept was £91,170.00 A band D property for Council Tax paid £28 for the year towards the Town Council. This interest and a VAT refund is the only income to Nantyglo & Blaina Town Council.

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Expenditure



Financial Donations made via S137 2024/25

April	Blaenau Gwent Foodbank	£200.00
May	Blaenau Gwent Foodbank Lys Y Capel	£200.00 £100.00
June	Blaenau Gwent Foodbank Riverside Fun	£200.00 £100.00
July	Blaenau Gwent Foodbank	£200.00
August	Blaenau Gwent Foodbank	£200.00
September	Blaenau Gwent Foodbank	£200.00
October	Blaenau Gwent Foodbank Hospice of the Valleys	£200.00 £100.00

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November	Blaenau Gwent Foodbank Brynmawr Rotary (Hampers) Tiny Sprouts Playgroup M Knapp	£200.00 £500.00 £50.00 £75.00
December	Blaenau Gwent Foodbank (also donated selection boxes)	£200.00
January	Blaenau Gwent Foodbank Patchwork & Quilting Group	£200.00 £100.00
February	Blaenau Gwent Foodbank	£200.00
March	Blaenau Gwent Foodbank	£200.00

Assets:

Description:

Salem Chapel – Building & Annexe
Salem Chapel – Contents
Historic films (Chartist & Blaina WW11)
Furniture & equipment (Clerks Office)
Artefacts in Council Chamber
Public Seating
Millennium Wall
Christmas Lighting
Silverware
Festive Banners
Civic Chains (Mayor & Consort)

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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

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Activities

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:
- Schools:
- Places of Worship

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 joint carol concert for the children to sing hymns and receive a gift from Santa, 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.

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.

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

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 continues to replant all planters twice a year for Nantyglo and Blaina to have flowers all year round.

Collaborative Working: Town council worked collaboratively with Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council, Town Centre Manager, also alongside Local Authority Ward Councillors, Cllr Lisa Winnett, Cllr John Morgan, Cllr Peter Baldwin & Cllr Sonia Behr. Donations made to events

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of Halloween, Christmas funday and Superhero Day. Town Councillors were also in attendance and assisted with Santa Sleigh through the streets of Nantyglo & Blaina.

Local Giving Grants S.137: To individuals or deserving groups in the area to apply up to £100 grant in 1 year.

Playscheme: Town Council funded four playschemes for children of Nantyglo and Blaina (during the school summer holidays), which were delivered by Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council.

Cinema Screenings: Town Council funded 150 tickets at four sperate showings for residents of Nantyglo and Blaina, but also supporting the Market Hall Cinema in nearby Brynmawr.