

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

Dear Member,

You are summoned to attend a hybrid meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee at the Council Chamber, Blaina Institute, High Street, Blaina to commence following the Planning and Highways Committee meeting on **Tuesday 13th January 2026**.

If any member of the public wishes to attend the meeting remotely, please contact the Town Clerk at the above email or phone by 3pm on 13th January 2026 for details of how to access the meeting.

Yours Sincerely



Town Clerk

A meeting to which members of the public are entitled to attend.

AGENDA

Declaration of Interest

Members are invited to declare matters of interest either at the beginning or at any time during the proceedings. Members are reminded that all declarations must be recorded in the book provided.

1. Apologies for absence:

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

2. Questions from the Public:

To receive any questions from the public regarding matters itemised on the agenda (limited to 10 minutes total).

3. Correspondence:

Members are invited to consider the listed correspondence, plus with the Chairman's permission, any urgent information that may be received prior to the date of the meeting.

a) Community Gentle Exercise Sessions (for information/consideration – copy attached):

Email from Rachael Pugh BSc offering details of a scheme to help with the fitness of people aged 60+ and with various health requirements. Scheme would approximately cost £500 for the ten-week program with numbers depending on venue size.

- b) Appropriate Sum under Section 137(4)(a) of the Local Government Act 1972 – Section 137 Expenditure Limit for 2026-2027 (for information – copy attached):

Email from Martin Bull of the Local Government Finance Policy & Sustainability Division outlining the changes to the Section 137(4)(a) for 2026-2027.

- c) One Voice Wales (for information & consideration – copy attached):

Email informing of a joint training event with Planning Aid Wales re: 'Improving our local places – Welsh case studies and planning updates'.

4. S.137 donations (Local Government Act 1972 & Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015:

As previously resolved, Members are invited to consider making further financial donations to Blaenau Gwent Foodbank to assist residents of Nantyglo and Blaina for the month of January 2026.

5. Application to the Community Grant Fund:

Members are invited to consider the listed application(s), plus with the Chairman's permission any additional applications that may be received prior to the date of the meeting. Members are also reminded that applications will need to be considered in conjunction with the current policy.

- a) *None received to date.*

6. Salem Chapel:

Members are invited to consider the attached inspection reports:

- December 2025 (copy attached)

7. Confidential Information:

The following item(s) may contain information that is of a confidential or personal nature and is therefore exclusive to Members of the Town Council only. (Public Bodies Admission to Meetings Act 1960).



Community Gentle Exercise Sessions

From Shelite Fitness <shelitefitness@live.co.uk>

Date Wed 17-Dec-25 10:11 PM

To Clerk <clerk@nantygloandblainatc.co.uk>

[You don't often get email from shelitefitness@live.co.uk. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

Hello,

I run community fitness classes for local town councils in the Torfaen area targeting the over 60s or those who need a gentler exercise session. These are funded sessions. Recently, many residents of Blaenau Gwent have begun attending and have expressed a desire to have these funded sessions available in Brynmawr or Blaina. The benefits are huge including social, emotional, defeating loneliness, falls prevention (evidence based!), support for those living with Parkinsons, dementia, ms, preventing health problems and the prevention of deterioration as we age. I have been successfully running these sessions in Torfaen for over three years and can provide much evidence from health practitioners who have attended to see for themselves how this helps reduce the NHS ques and prevents falls. I wondered if your community council might be interested in funding a 10 week course to ascertain the benefits for local residents?

If you feel this may be of interest, I welcome any questions you may have.

Kind regards,

Rachael Pugh BSc
Personal Trainer

Re: Community Gentle Exercise Sessions

From Shelite Fitness <shelitefitness@live.co.uk>

Date Thu 18-Dec-25 9:27 AM

To Clerk <clerk@nantygloandblainatc.co.uk>

You don't often get email from shelitefitness@live.co.uk. [Learn why this is important](#)

Good Morning Tracy,

Essentially I can accommodate as many as the chosen facility permits - the cost would be £25 per session plus hall fees (they are usually around the £12 mark). In Torfaen, there is no upper limit if attendees as long as the numbers are permitted by the facility, for example in my Blaenavon session, we get on average around 40 people coming (some of which come from Brynmawr and Blaina).

My number is 07484 737410 if you would like to discuss.

I am a qualified level 5 PT with exercise referral and specialism is Diabetes & Obesity, exercise rehabilitation, back care, cancer rehabilitation through exercise. Have a much experience in working with Parkinson's patients, dementia, Alzheimer's, autism, MS to name but a few.

Rachael

Personal Trainer

On 18 Dec 2025, at 09:07, Clerk <clerk@nantygloandblainatc.co.uk> wrote:

Good morning Rachel,

Many thanks for your email.

Could you let me know how much would the cost be for such a course and how many people would this facilitate?

Many thanks and kind regards

Tracy

Town Clerk: Mrs Tracy Hughes

Nantyglo and Blaina Town Council
Town Council Offices
Blaina Community Institute
High Street
Blaina
NP13 3BN



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Clerks of Community and Town Councils

NANTYGLO : BLAINA

17 December 2025

OWN COUNCIL

Dear Clerk,

**Appropriate Sum under Section 137(4)(a) of the Local Government Act 1972 -
Section 137 Expenditure Limit for 2026-27**

This is to notify you that the appropriate sum for the purposes of section 137(4)(a) of the Local Government Act 1972 (the 1972 Act) for Community and Town Councils in Wales for the financial year 2026-27 is £11.60.

Section 137(1) of the 1972 Act permits each Community or Town Council to incur expenditure for purposes for which it has no other specific powers if the Council considers that the expenditure is in the interests of, and will bring direct benefit to, the area or any part of it, or all or some of its inhabitants, providing that the benefit is commensurate with the expenditure incurred. Community and Town Councils are also permitted under section 137(3) to incur expenditure for certain charitable and other purposes. The maximum expenditure that can be incurred under both section 137(1) and (3) for the financial year 2026-27 will be £11.60 per elector.

For the financial year 2026-27, the appropriate sum for the purposes of section 137(4)(a) is calculated by applying the formula set out in Schedule 12B to the 1972 Act. The Retail Prices Index increased by 4% between September 2024 and September 2025. This means that, by application of the formula, the appropriate sum for the financial year 2026-27 increases from £11.10 to £11.60 per elector.

For clarity, the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 includes provision which enables 'eligible community councils' to exercise the General Power of Competence. The power for Community and Town Councils to exercise the General Power of Competence came into force on 5 May 2022.



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

The relevant **statutory guidance for community and town councils** explains the interaction between the two powers (i.e. the general power of competence and the power under s.137 of the 1972 Act). Community and town councils exercising the General Power of Competence are not subject to an expenditure limit, but other conditions apply. For all other community and town councils, the limit set out in this letter will apply.

Yours sincerely

Martin Bull
Local Government Finance Policy & Sustainability Division

Joint event One Voice Wales and Planning Aid Wales

From Tracy Gilmartin <tgilmartin@onevoicewales.wales>

Date Thu 18-Dec-25 1:56 PM

To Tracy Gilmartin <tgilmartin@onevoicewales.wales>

To Clerk and Chairs of Community and Town Councils

“Improving our local places – Welsh case studies and planning updates”

Date March 19th 10:30 – 1:30pm £53 per person via Teams

We are delighted to announce that One Voice Wales and Planning Aid Wales have again teamed up to provide community and town councils with a joint event enabling councillors and Clerks to be at the forefront of current thinking in relation to the planning challenges and opportunities currently facing our communities and towns.

We are fortunate to welcome Penzance Town Council who will provide an insightful case study into their work on a Neighbourhood Plan for their community. We will also welcome Welsh case studies on their Place Planning approach. These case studies will improve your understanding of how the planning system can create long lasting and effective regeneration opportunities with community support.

We will also provide a range of useful planning updates including:

- Law updates (the forthcoming Planning (Wales) Bill and Infrastructure Wales Act 2024)
- Planning policy updates including advice on flooding and nutrient neutrality.
- Strategic planning updates – Strategic Development Plans in Wales and how they will impact your local area.
-

There will also be a session where we provide guidance to Community and Town councils when faced with a major planning application in your community and how best to respond. This will be a highly informative event for all with an interest in Planning, sustainability and addressing local issues. There will be an opportunity for open discussion between all delegates and speakers.

The link to book a place on the event is: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/improving-our-local-places-welsh-case-studies-planning-updates-registration-1976874749592?aff=oddtcreator>.

We really hope for a record level of attendance and we would both encourage you to take up at least one place on this remote event.

Yours faithfully, yn gywir

Lyn Cadwallader
Chief Executive
One Voice Wales

James Davies
Chief Executive
Planning Aid Wales

Un Llais Cymru / One Voice Wales
24c Stryd y Coleg / 24c College Street
Rhydaman / Ammanford

Safety Inspections – Salem Chapel

Inspection of Salem Chapel – December 2025:

MAIN CHAPEL / WEEK	8th	15th	20th by RD	29th by RD	Report of any defects And action taken
Main Hall of Chapel	/	/	/	/	Dry rot detected & floor part lifted. Investigations undertaken 31/8/16. Organ supports re-enforced Sept 2016.
Fire & Intruder Alarm	/	/	/	/	Inspected 30/04/2025 & 08/10/2025
Emergency Lighting	/	/	/	/	Inspected 30/04/2025
Stairways to Balcony	/	/	/	/	Stair lift not working, evidence of damp on walls. Plaster fallen from underneath of stairs due to damp.
Balcony	/	/	/	/	Damage to display possibly from insects/woodworm. Greater evidence of damp on walls.
Toilets	/	/	/	/	Removed due to dry rot
High Street Entrance	/	/	/	/	Black mould on walls & ceilings
Office	/	/	/	/	Broken window secured
General Condition	/	/	/	/	General deterioration evident
Fire Extinguishers	/	/	/	/	Inspected & replaced as necessary 06/12/22
Observations/ Other Comments	/	/	/	/	J Dyer opinion is fungal rot. Valuation survey carried out by J Dyer 3/11/21. Exhibition items delivered to Westgate Hotel, Newport & Blaen y Cwm Primary.
ANNEX BUILDING					
Ground Floor	/	/	/	/	Mould/rot on floor, appears very unsafe
Kitchen	/	/	/	/	Mould/rot on floor. Floor rotten through and unsafe. Kitchen units coming away from wall due to severe damp in floor of kitchen. R Dunham inspected.
First Aid Box	/	/	/	/	
Seating Area	/	/	/	/	Considerably amount of new damp on interior walls to left side of premises entering from the back entrance. Extensive rotting of wooden floor.
Stairway to upper room	/	/	/	/	
Upper Room	/	/	/	/	
Rear Entrance	/	/	/	/	Paint flaking off walls. Rot has now spread & considered unsafe to walk on.
Side Door	/	/	/	/	
Observations/ Other Comments					General deterioration evident. R Dunham also informed of floor deterioration
Statutory annual Inspections:					Churches Fire & Security Systems (fire extinguishers) 06/12/2022. Churches Fire & Security Systems (Intruder alarm 30/04/25 & fire alarms 29/04/2025.

Signed: *T Hughes*

Town Clerk Date: 13/01/26
Chairman of Finance & General Purposes Committee