

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 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 Town Council to be held at **6:00pm on Tuesday 24th February 2026** at the Council Chamber, Blaina Institute, High Street, Blaina.

If any member of the public wishes to attend the meeting, please contact the Town Clerk at the above e-mail by 3pm on 27th January 2026 for details of how to access the meeting.

Please note change of time.

Yours sincerely,



Town Clerk

AGENDA

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

Declaration of Interest

Members are 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.

1. Apologies:

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

2. Town Mayor's Communications:

The Town Mayor's communications for February 2026.

3. Questions from the Public:

To receive any questions from the public regarding matters on the agenda (please note this is limited to 10 minutes).

4. Minutes of the Meeting of the Full Council held 27th January 2026 (pages 118 - 124):

Members are 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:

5. Minutes of the Events Committee held 27th January 2026 (pages 125 - 126):

Members are 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:

6. Minutes of the Personnel Committee held 28th January (page 127):

Members are 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:

7. Minutes of the Planning and Highways Committee 10th February 2026 (pages 128 – 131):

Members are 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:

8. Minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held 10th February 2026 (pages 132 – 133):

Members are 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:

9. Correspondence

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

None received prior to the date of the meeting.

10. Application to the Community Grant Fund:

Members are invited to consider the listed application(s). Members are also reminded that applications will need to be considered in conjunction with the current policy.

None received to date.

11. Review of Community Boundaries and Electoral Arrangements (for information/consideration – copy attached and link provided)

<https://www.blaenau-gwent.gov.uk/en/resident/voting-elections/review-of-community-areas-and-electoral-arrangements/>

Update regarding the meeting held with Blaenau Gwent Councillor Tommy Smith and Audra

Williams regarding an upcoming review of Community Boundaries and Electoral Arrangements that may impact Nantyglo and Blaina Town Council.

12. Town Council Vacancy:

Members are invited to consider the attached application received in respect of an advertised vacancy in the Blaina Ward for co-option to the Town Council.

Members are reminded of the Council's standing orders in respect of co-option.

Wendy HOWLS.

13. Members Updates:

Members are invited to inform and provide updates in respect of any recent activities and/or concerns.

14. 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). **Resolved** that the motion be supported.

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Minutes of the hybrid Meeting of the Town Council held at 5.30pm Tuesday 27th January 2026 at the Council Chamber, Blaina Institute, High Street, Blaina.

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

Present: Councillor G Morvan Jones, Town Mayor, presiding
Councillors L Higgins; D Hillman; C Hillman; D Wright; A Fryer; W Lewis (remote);
D Finch; M Williams (remote); K Jones JP & S Howlett (remote)

In attendance: Mr K Rowland, Assistant Officer

Prior to the start of the meeting, the Chair informed of the procedures to be taken in the event of an emergency. **Resolved** to note the information received.

To receive: David Leech Torfaen County Borough Council (Strategic Director of Adults & Communities) with a presentation on The Deal.

Members were reminded to note the Standing Orders relating to guest speakers:

1. Members received the presentation.
2. Questions were invited at the end of the presentation.
3. Members were requested to ask only one question each – if time allows AND with permission of the Chair, a second question may be asked.
4. Members were reminded that there was to be no discussion or exchange of points of view between Members and that all dialogue was to be directed through the Chair.

The Chair introduced David Leech of Torfaen County Borough Council and welcomed him to the meeting.

Mr Leech gave his presentation and talked about the different slides members were presented with prior to the meeting.

Questions were invited at this juncture:

Q. A member asked If Mr Leech could explain the Marmot Principle to newer members.

A. Mr Leech described how the study by Professor Sir Michael Marmot and how health and health inequalities are shaped by the social determinants of health.

Q. Regarding Town and Community Councils being mentioned in The Deal, how were we not included at an earlier stage?

A. The earliest meeting was with Abertillery and Llanhilleth in November, and with the Deal not

being finalised plans are now taking foot by opening up communication and to ask Town and Community Councils to be more involved.

Q. Member was worried that many services would be fulfilled by volunteers and how effective this may be in terms of quality.

A. Mr Leech informed members that many community groups were involved in services already and also count 'small deeds' volunteers like those who just help or spend time with a vulnerable neighbour. GAVO was also mentioned and the quality they help bring to services that rely on volunteers.

Q. Member asked if services will slip through use of volunteers.

A. Mr Leech explained when people buy into services, they are delivered better.

Q. Member made a statement about how they had been invited to a meeting regarding the Deal in Llanhilleth earlier that morning. They also mentioned how the Deal is not yet made and in motion, the process will evolve as more people get involved and Nantyglo and Blaina Town Council should get involved.

Q. Member asked how to get involved and how it would affect different areas.

A. Mr Leech wanted to make sure the people felt heard and that this isn't just 'another project'.

The Chair thanked David Leech for attending the meeting and providing his presentation.

David Leech left the meeting at this juncture.

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 that 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 apologies accepted from Councillors L Harris, M Evans and Town Clerk/RFO T Hughes.

2. Town Mayor's Communications:

The Town Mayor's communications for December 2025 and January 2026.

The Town Mayor Councillor Glyn Morvan mentioned that December was a busy Xmas period. The Schools Joint Christ Carol on the 2nd was successful and first rate, mentioning that there is so much talent in the pupils of all schools that attended. On the 4th they attended Alzheimer's/Dementia support group Xmas party where members from Coed Y Garn sung carols and interacted with the people was really heart-warming. They also took part in the Santa Run and while a few areas were quiet other places had a lot of people excited to see the run. On the 17th they attended an event with Men's Den Blaenau Gwent having been invited by fellow N&BTC David Finch. It was well attended and fantastic to see

they had been awarded the Men's Shed of the year award for 2025. They also mentioned that the Men's Shed plans for Brynmawr were exciting and was looking forward to seeing what they do.

Resolved to note the information received.

3. Questions from the Public:

To receive any questions from the public regarding matters on the agenda (please note this was limited to 10 minutes). **Resolved** to note that no such questions were received and **Further Resolved** to note that no members of the public or press were present.

4. Minutes of the Meeting of the Full Council held 25th November 2025 (pages 92 - 97)

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:

Pg 93, Item 4a (pg. 74, item 8a) The acting Chair for the meeting challenged the accuracy of the minutes and gave an account to which he felt was accurate. It was mentioned that he had wanted to move the meeting forward and resolve the issue, but his words to members were 'what is your pleasure?'

Pg 94 Item 6a (pg 82 item 4) Was not an appraisal but concerns to stress and workload.

Pg 95 Item 9a, to add that a brass sign was also discussed.

Pg 96 Item 9d, enquiring if there had been interest regarding to the Notice of Vacancy from the people who had enquired. There had been none since.

Resolved that the minutes be approved and **Further Resolved** to amend the minutes as stated by the acting Chair.

5. Minutes of the Events Committee held 25th November 2025 (pages 98 - 99)

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 approved.

6. Minutes of the Planning and Highways Committee 9th December 2025 (pages 100 – 103)

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:

**7. Minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held 9th December 2025
(pages 104 – 106)**

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 approved.

8. Minutes of the Meeting of the Planning and Highways Committee held 13th January 2026 (pages 107 - 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:

Pg 109 Item 5a, In regards to change of use was there a policy in place that this should not be done as it was once in place.

Resolved that the minutes be approved and **Further Resolved** to investigate whether a policy was in place regarding change of use from shop to dwelling.

**9. Minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held 13th January 2026
(pages 107 - 117)**

Members were invited to consider the above minutes and if appropriate to approve them as an accurate record of proceedings.

Page 112 Item 3d – Town Council Leader gave an update that they had been contacted by Unison and had been asked to attend a meeting. They had contacted One Voice Wales and advised to make sure it was a ‘fact finding meeting; and that no decisions were to be made at this meeting of what was required from Nantyglo and Blaina Town Council. They asked for another member to attend the meeting, one asked if it was appropriate for them to go but it was said it would not be, so another member agreed to attend.

Resolved that the minutes be approved and **Further Resolved** that Town Council Leader G Morvan and Councillor A Fryer attend a meeting with Unison.

10. Correspondence

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

a) Response from One Voice Wales and Planning Aid Wales re: Training

Email from Tracy Gilmartin at One Voice Wales regarding members enquiring about other methods of training being presented at a lower cost.

Members were disappointed at the response as the costs could be expensive. Member to enquire more about the issue at a One Voice Wales meeting after it was mentioned members from Town Council's in Powys had theirs delivered from recorded training due to the region and range of travel.

Resolved to note the information received and Further Resolved for a One Voice Wales representative from N&BTC to bring up this issue.

b) Edwina Dixon:

Email regarding over 60's Pilates and dance class.

Members stated that there may be a health provision and that the organiser of the class should apply using the Nantyglo and Blaina Town Council Community Grant form.

Resolved to note the information received.

11. Application to the Community Grant Fund:

Members were invited to consider the listed application(s). Members were also reminded that applications would need to be considered in conjunction with the current policy.

None received to date.

Resolved accordingly.

12. 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). **Resolved** that the motion be supported.

a) Howells Solicitors - Salem Chapel:

Draft cash statement for completion

Members noted that the price and money received from the sale were both higher than expected and that the cost of the sale was very beneficial to Nantyglo and Blaina Town Council. Members also agreed that it was a relief to have the issues with Salem Chapel over.

Resolved to note the information received.

Investment/Financial Risk Assessment Report 2026/27:

Members are invited to consider and ratify the Investment / Financial Risk Assessment report following consideration of at Finance & General Purposes Committee Meeting held 13th January 2026.

Resolved to note the information received and **Further Resolved** that the recommendations be **Ratified**.

b) Budget & Precept 2026/27:

Members were invited to consider:

- the precept & budget figures together with the budget & precept report for 2026/27 and to formally resolve.

Item 3 b) – Task and Finish Group to be set up to discuss reserve amount in regard to Salem Chapel.

Item 3 c) – Good feedback about the lights, spaces needed to be sought in Nantyglo. In regard to R Dunham, speak with about a 3 year contract and whether it is suitable.

Item 3 d) – Need to get more feedback from residents, be present at events and look at presenting a survey.

Item 3 h) – to investigate the recording of meetings.

Item 8 – Members discussed the sale of Salem Chapel and how best to use the proceeds to give something to residents.

Item 11 i) – **Resolved to Ratify** the recommendations.

Resolved that an increased precept of £115,000 for the financial year 2026/27 and **Further Resolved** that the recommendations and considerations contained within the report and amendments as stated be approved.

Meeting declared closed at 19:20pm

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Minutes of the hybrid Meeting of the Events Committee held at 19:21pm Tuesday 27th January 2026 at the Council Chamber, Blaina Institute, High Street, Blaina.

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

Present: Councillor L Higgins, presiding
Councillors G Morvan; D Hillman; C Hillman; D Wright; A Fryer;
W Lewis (remote); D Finch; M Williams (remote); K Jones JP &
S Howlett (remote)

In attendance: Mr K Rowland, Assistant Officer

Prior to the start of the meeting, the Chair informed of the procedures to be taken in the event of an emergency. **Resolved** to note the information received.

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.

1. Apologies:

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

Resolved to accept apologies for absence from Councillors L Harris, M Evans and Town Clerk/RFO T Hughes.

2. Questions from the public:

To receive any questions from the public regarding matters on the agenda. Please note that this is limited to 10 minutes. **Resolved** to note that no such questions were received and **Further Resolved** to note that no members of the public or press were present.

3. Correspondence:

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

None received to date.

4. **Blaenau Gwent Youth Services local planting:**

A verbal update regarding a recent meeting with Nicole Osbourne of Blaenau Gwent Youth Services regarding talks about involving the Youth Services and planters throughout Nantyglo and Blaina was provided.

The Assistant Officer stated that BGYS would bring 4-6 people aged 16-24 to a location supervised by their team. Aims are to get them integrated and socialising with different people and groups so that they continue these activities after they turn 25 years old. Funding for plants could be obtained, BGYS can also help these individuals gain Duke of Edinburgh awards through these activities and suggested she meet with Councillors most interested in collaborating with BGYS.

Several members expressed an interest with the collaboration and that arranging a meeting between themselves and Nicole Osbourne to be the next step.

Resolved to note the information received and **Further Resolved** that a meeting to be arranged with Nicole Osbourne of Blaenau Gwent Youth Services and members that want to be involved.

5. **Easter Eggs 2026**

Members were invited to consider the purchase of Easter Eggs for pupils of all four local schools throughout Nantyglo and Blaina.

Reminder that the Christmas selection pack numbers were approximately 1050.

Members debated about the feasibility after the issues with selection packs but wanted to make sure each child in Nantyglo and Blaina received something from Town Council. Members were asked to investigate prices and availability and that the Assistant Officer would contact Blaen Y Cwm Primary, Coed Y Garn Primary, Ysgol Bro Helyg and Ystruth Primary Schools to gain feedback as to what might be most suitable for their pupils.

Resolved to note that prices and availability of Easter Eggs was needed and **Further Resolved** for the AO to get feedback from the 4 local schools on what they think may be the best option.

Meeting declared closed at 19:31pm

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Minutes of the hybrid meeting of the Personnel Committee held at 11.00am on Wednesday 28th January at the Council Chamber, Blaina Institute, High Street, Blaina.

A meeting to which members of the public were NOT entitled to attend
(Public Bodies Admission to Meetings Act 1960)

Present: Councillor G Morvan, Leader, Chair of the Personnel Committee, presiding.
Councillors K Jones JP and D Hillman.

In attendance: K Rowland, 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 of interest must be recorded in the book provided. **Resolved** to note that no declarations of interest were made.

1. Apologies for absence:

Members were invited to consider the apologies for absence received and to formally resolve to accept. **Resolved** to note that no apologies were received.

2. Post of Town Clerk/RFO:

Members were invited to consider the Job Description & Person Specification in respect of the post of Town Clerk/RFO.

Members considered the job description and person specification.

If they were not already qualified, they would be put forward for training.
It would be difficult to find someone who ticks all the boxes.

Members agreed that advice from a local Town Clerk to be sought to update the Job Description and Person Specification.

It was **Proposed** and **Resolved** that the post of Town Clerk/RFO be advertised as soon as possible and **Further Resolved** to seek the advice from a local Town Clerk to ensure the Job Description and Person Specification are suitable to be advertised.

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

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Minutes of the hybrid meeting of the Planning and Highways Committee held at 6:00pm on Tuesday 10th February 2026 the Council Chamber, Blaina Institute, High Street, Blaina.

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

Present: Cllr G Morvan, Acting Chair of Planning & Highways Committee, presiding
Councillors L Harris, C Hillman, M Williams, L Higgins (remote), M Evans, D Hillman, S Howlett, E Singleton, L Emanuel and D Finch.

In attendance: Mr K Rowland, Assistant Officer

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

To receive: Chris Ashman, Place Planning Consultant, to provide a presentation on developing a blueprint for Blaenau Gwent and Torfaen Future Growth.

1. Members were to receive the presentation.
2. Questions were to be invited at the end of the presentation.
3. Members were requested to ask only one question each – if time allows AND with permission of the Chair, a second question may be asked.
4. Members were reminded that there was to be no discussion or exchange of points of view between Members and that all dialogue was to be directed through the Chair.

The Chair introduced Chris Ashman the Place Planning Consultant for the Blueprint and welcomed him to the meeting.

Mr Ashman used a slide presentation digitally to speak about the Blueprint after which questions were welcomed.

Q. This felt like a different to our last guest regarding The Deal, interesting to see a different perspective. It feels as though these are a funding wish list, where might the funding come from?

A. Wish they could answer. In the past it has been the National Government and Welsh Government, however funding has been hurt since the UK left Europe so the more sustainable and productive a project will look, the more chance funding may be given. Metro system and road infrastructure can be important so more likely seeing projects succeed around the A465 after the heavy investment there.

Q. Does this continue if we have a new Government later in the year?

A. The Blueprint acts like a script, because of the input from the people it involves it should not change regardless of Governmental changes.

Q. With the mention of housing being developed and lots of people moving to the area, what plans are in place to support larger numbers of residents in terms of leisure and activities?

We need more facilities locally and not see money being spent in Merthyr Tydfil or Cwmbran and are there enough jobs because most people seem to work elsewhere?

A. Current state of health shows a lot of people are using online facilities instead of physical shops. Even trade in larger towns have fallen because of this. Question of what shops and what leisure do people want? 46 5 has brought more employment to Ebbw Vale, but further facilities are needed. Demand must be shown for leisure and trade so that funding will be given because success for those is much more likely with such demand so that they will pay their way.

Q. Regarding the Blueprint how do we get to agree the budget? The roads struggle now with increased housing, would this result in dual lane road from Abertillery to Blaina? There was a leisure centre in Nantyglo on the old school site, if that's to become housing the roads in that area will struggle.

A. Road issues are not below remit, road issues must be looked at regarding planning for those areas.

Q. The Marmot Principle is about giving the best start in life, how does the Blueprint work in regards to that in our area? Nantyglo has been deprived yet Tredegar obtained £20m, Nantyglo got nothing and the Welsh Government made that choice.

A. Marmot addresses issues around health and wellbeing, the Blueprint won't work in those areas. We work with various local partners to use important data, to make sure areas benefit from similar ideas that have been successful elsewhere. If an idea is good in one area, it could well work in another.

Q. Will this plan be in if we have a new Welsh Government?

A. No impact on who the Government will be, if the local response is strong any Government will support this.

Q. Regarding Marmot, children in the area are leaving school if disengaged or disruptive to a specialist unit, with Marmot we seem to be failing them if they're not getting the best start in life. Many of these kids struggle with basic maths and they're not being engaged, how to teach then? Perhaps there's no answer to that.

A. A phrase comes to mind, 'it takes a village to raise a child'. How do they fit into communities, what is their future and how do they integrate into that society? In Blueprint terms this means Pathway. People can change career plans we have to help and enable all sorts of people to engage with professionals to fill that gap, community communication is key.

The Chair thank Chris Ashman for attending the meeting and providing his presentation.

Chris Ashman left the meeting at this juncture.

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 of interest must be recorded in the book provided.

1. Apologies for absence:

Members were invited to consider the apologies for absence and to formally resolve to accept. **Resolved** to note apologies were received from Councillor's K Jones JP, W Lewis, A Fryer and from Town Clerk/RFO Tracy Hughes. It was noted by the acting Chair Cllr G Morvan that the sick note provided by Mrs T Hughes is for 2 months from 2nd February. **Further Resolved** to accept those apologies and **Further Resolved** to send a get well soon card to Town Clerk/RFO Mrs T Hughes.

2. Questions from the public:

To receive any questions from the public regarding matters on the agenda. There is a 10-minute allocation time for any questions from the public.

Resolved to note that no questions were received and **Further Resolved** that no members of the public or press were present at the meeting.

3. Correspondence:

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

a) Review of Community Areas and Electoral Arrangements – Blaenau Gwent (for information/consideration – copy attached)

Review of Community Boundaries and Review of Electoral Arrangements by Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council with potential changes to be implemented for the 2027 elections. A meeting with Town Clerks and Town/Community Council Leaders to be arranged soon.

Members agreed that until the meeting has been held to discuss it at a future meeting.

Resolved to note the information received and **Further Resolved** to re-agenda the item after the meeting has been held.

b) Response to Member's enquiry regarding policy on change of use from a premises to dwelling from Thomas Engel.

'In regard to your query, there is a policy in place to prevent the change to

residential however as part of the application if they can prove that the existing use is not viable then the proposal can proceed.'

Resolved to note the information received.

Alysha Cacara re: Good Shepard Animal Sanctuary

Correspondence concerning early stages project to open a faith based animal sanctuary. The person asked to build relationships with local councillors and for any advice or knowledge of land in the local community that could be used as an animal sanctuary and to provide involvement with young adults.

Members were interested in the idea but were unsure on land that could be used. One member has a contact within the Common's Association that may be able to provide a lot of advice and will get those details to send over.

Resolved to note information received and **Further Resolved** to respond to the email with contact details for the Common's Association.

4. Planning Applications:

Members were invited to consider the applications listed below and, with the permission of the Chair, any further applications that may be received prior to the date of the meeting:

a) Plan Application No. P/2026/0015 Mountain View, Highfield, Blaina, NP13 3AP

Change of use from a dwelling house (Class C3) to residential care home (Class C2) for up to 4 children.

Resolved that no objections or representations be made.

Plan Application No. P/2026/0020 5 Oak Road, Tanglewood, Blaina NP13 3JX

Loft conversion with rear flat-roof dormer.

Resolved that no objections or representations be made.

5. Licence Applications:

Members were invited to note the application(s) **for information only:**

None received to date

Resolved accordingly.

Meeting declared closed at 18:43pm

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Minutes of the hybrid meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held at 18:43pm on Tuesday 10th February 2026 the Council Chamber, Blaina Institute, High Street, Blaina.

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

Present: Cllr D Hillman, Chair of Finance & General Purposes Committee, presiding
Councillors L Harris, C Hillman, M Williams, L Higgins (remote), M Evans, G Morvan, S Howlett, E Singleton, L Emanuel and D Finch.

In attendance: Mr K Rowland, Assistant Officer

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

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. **Resolved** to note apologies were received from Councillor's K Jones JP, W Lewis, A Fryer and from Town Clerk/RFO Tracy Hughes. It was noted by the acting Chair Cllr G Morvan that the sick note provided by Mrs T Hughes is for 2 months from 2nd February. **Further Resolved** to accept those apologies.

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) Celebrating the Bahá'í New Year – Rafi Abbas (for information/consideration - copy attached)

Invitation to Town Mayor Glyn Morvan and one other Town Council member (and partner) to a celebration event in The Cwtch, Blaina Community Centre on March 21st.

- b) Budget Consultation 2026/27 – David Arnold (for information – copy attached)

Slides from meeting held 27th January regarding the Budget for 2026/27

Member for Nantyglo and Blaina Town Council lamented they were unable to attend meeting due to accessing the Teams Call.

Resolved to note the information received.

- c) Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum (for information – additional correspondence)

Email offering information regarding the Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum meetings inviting Nantyglo and Blaina Town Council members to attend their committee meetings and talks to foster a stronger relationship.

Resolved to note the information received.

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 February 2026.

Resolved that a financial donation of £200.00 be made to Blaenau Gwent Foodbank to assist Nantyglo & Blaina residents for the month of February 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*



REVIEW OF COMMUNITY BOUNDARIES AND ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS

BLAENAU GWENT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Introduction

Why are we undertaking this review ?

What is the aim of the review ?

What will be considered under this review ?

Who will undertake the review ?

The review process

Participating in the review

Council Size Policy

Community and Community Ward names

Timetable for review

Supporting information

If the Council recommends community boundary changes at the conclusion of a community boundaries review, it also has power to recommend certain kinds of further change where the further changes are a *consequence* of the boundary changes. The permitted further changes are:

- "*community council changes*", meaning the dissolution of an existing community council, the establishment of a new community council, or the addition of communities to (or subtraction of communities from) a common community council; and

- "*associated changes to the electoral arrangements*" of one or more of the communities under review or of the principal area. In this context, the "electoral arrangements of a community" refers to the number of members of the community council and any arrangements for the division of the community into wards for the purposes of elections to the community council, while the "electoral arrangements of the principal area" has a corresponding meaning at the level of the principal council

The Council aims to ensure that community boundaries reflect the identities and interests of the communities across the Council's area and, most importantly, that the boundaries are as conducive as possible to effective and convenient local government.

As a general matter, community boundary changes will often result in changes to the populations of affected communities. For example, if an area is incorporated into a new community due to the position or road connections of a new housing development, that same area will necessarily be taken out of the community of which it previously formed part. As a result, both the enlarged community and the reduced community may benefit from consequential changes to their community council and/or electoral arrangements, particularly if there is a change in the number of local government electors in both communities that will be brought about by the boundary change.

As part of the review, the Council will also have regard to:

- the name of the community and, where warded, the name of community wards
- the wards that are contested and uncontested in recent community council elections

What will be considered under this review ?

The Council will consider whether to recommend community boundary changes and other consequential changes, as described above.

The principle underpinning the Council's review is its general duty to "*seek to ensure effective and convenient local government*".

The Council considers that *effective and convenient local government* is served by community arrangements which are internally coherent, in the sense that communities have reasonable internal road links and mirror patterns of settlement and ease of communications. This is intended to ensure that all electors in the community can engage in the affairs and activities of all parts of it without having to travel through an adjoining community, for example.

Recommendations which will be published and submitted to the Democracy and Boundary Commission. The Commission will then if it thinks fit, give effect to these recommendations either as submitted, or with modifications.

Participating in the review

When undertaking the review, the Council is required to take action to:

- inform persons who may be interested in the review (stakeholders) about the process,
- share any draft proposals or recommendations, and;
- seek the views of the public and other stakeholders on any draft proposals and recommendations.

In addition to consulting with the wider public, the Council undertakes to meet these duties by writing to:

- The Democracy and Boundary Commission for Cymru;
- The Community Councils across the principal council area;
- The Senedd Members representing the area;
- The Regional Senedd Members for the area;
- The Members of UK Parliament representing the area;
- Elected Members;
- The Police and Crime Commissioner;
- South Wales Fire & Rescue Authority;
- The Welsh Language Commissioner;
- The Welsh Government;
- Trade Unions; and
- Ordnance Survey

The Council will also give official notice at different stages of the review, deposit copies of reports and documents at the Council's Electoral Services Offices and on the Council's website.

Comments and submissions may be made at two stages of the review, the initial investigations and draft proposals consultation periods.

All comments and submissions will be given due consideration in the review if the following criteria are met: -

- Comments are received by 11.59pm of the timetabled deadline.
- All comments are received with a name and address identifying the sender. Anonymous submissions will not be accepted, though personal details of members of the public will not be made public. Submissions from representative bodies and persons such as Councillors and Members of the Senedd etc will be named within the report.
- Where an organisation or an individual is making submissions concerning the review, they shall show how either maintaining the status-quo or making changes are desirable in the interests of effective and convenient local government.

The Council encourages community councils, elected representatives, interested parties and the general public to make representations and suggestions as part of the

as a result of the review process would then come into effect for the next Local Government Elections in 2027.

Action	Period	Date
Start of Review and initial publicity		January 2026
Initial Publicity and feedback captured	6 weeks	January to February 2026
Draft Proposals Publication		April 2026
Consultation on Draft Proposals	6 weeks	April to May 2026
Final Recommendations Submission		July 2026

Supporting Information

Further information relating to the review, including electorate figures, a map of the existing community boundaries and guidance, are available on the Councils' website.

TABLE OF CURRENT ARRANGEMENTS AND PROPOSALS

TOWN/COMMUNITY COUNCIL	COMMUNITY	COMMUNITY WARD	COUNTY BOROUGH WARD	No. OF COMMUNITY COUNCILLORS	ELECTORATE 2026	TOTAL No. OF COMMUNITY COUNCILLORS	RATIO 1:650	PROPOSED No. OF COMMUNITY COUNCILLORS
ABERTILLERY & LLANHILLETH	ABERTILLERY	ABERBEEG	LLANHILLETH	3	1720	Electorate - 11,336 (15-18)	2.6	3
		ABERTILLERY	ABERTILLERY & SIX BELLS	5	3010		4.6	5
		SIX BELLS	ABERTILLERY & SIX BELLS	3	1698		2.6	3
		CWMTILLERY	CWMTILLERY	5	3347		5.1	5
TOTAL		LLANHILLETH		3	1561		2.4	2
TOTAL				19	11336			18
BRYNMAWR	BRYNMAWR	BRYNMAWR NORTH	BRYNMAWR	8	1870	Electorate - 3,956 (7)	2.8	3
		BRYNMAWR SOUTH	BRYNMAWR	8	2086		3.2	4
TOTAL				16	3956			7
NANTYGLO & BLAINA	NANTYGLO	NANTYGLO	NANTYGLO	8	3247	Electorate - 6,638 (9-12)	4.9	5
		BLAINA	BLAINA	8	3391		5.2	5
TOTAL				16	6638			10
TREDEGAR	TREDEGAR	CENTRAL & WEST	TREDEGAR	8	3993	Electorate - 11,163 (15-18)	6.1	6
		GEORGETOWN	GEORGETOWN	4	3072		4.7	5
		SIRHOWY	SIRHOWY	6	4098		6.3	6
TOTAL				18	11163			17
NO COMMUNITY COUNCIL	EBBW VALE	BADMINTON	BEAUFORT	0	2641			
		BEAUFORT	BEAUFORT	0	2074			
		CWM	CWM	0	3166			
		EBBW VALE NORTH	EBBW VALE NORTH	0	3403			
		EBBW VALE SOUTH	EBBW VALE SOUTH	0	3021			
		GARNLYDAN	RASSAU & GARNLYDAN	0	534			
		RASSAU	RASSAU & GARNLYDAN	0	2453			

Item 12

NANTYGLO & BLAINA TOWN COUNCIL

CYNGOR TREF NANT-Y-GLO A BLAENAU

Council Offices, Blaina Institute, High Street, Blaina. NP13 3BN
TEL: 01495 292817 e-mail: clerk@nantygloandblainatc.co.uk

Mrs T Hughes – Town Clerk/RFO
Mr K Rowland – Assistant Officer

Co-option Form

This form must be completed in addition to a covering letter

Please check your eligibility to become a Town Councillor following this link:
<http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/i-am-a/candidate-or-agent/parish-and-community-council-elections-in-england-and-wales>

Name: **Wendy Howls.**

Please state any previous names by which you have been legally known by previously (i.e. maiden names, change of name by deed poll etc.) **Gilbert - maiden name.**

Current address:

Date of birth: **2nd April 1988.**

Employment Status (in education, fulltime, part time, retired, unemployed, carer etc.)
Employed Fulltime.

Address of employer / educational institute: **Employee - CCBC - Trinity Field's School & Resource Center, Ystrad Mynach, Caerphilly.**

Have you been employed or held a paid office at Nantyglo and Blaina Town Council with the last 12 months? (delete as applicable)

Yes: No:

Are you the subject of a bankruptcy restrictions order or interim order?) delete as applicable)

Yes: No:

Have you been sentenced to a term of imprisonment of three months or more (or a suspended sentence) without the option of a fine during the last 5 years? (delete as

applicable):

Yes: No:

Have you been disqualified under the Representation of the People Act 1983?
(delete as applicable):

Yes: No:

Have you been disqualified from standing for election to a Local Authority following a
decision of the First-tier Tribunal / Adjudication Panel for Wales?

Yes: No:

By signing below, I am declaring that the information included in this form is true and
accurate to the best of my knowledge:

Signed: ***W.Howls.***

Print Name: ***Mrs Wendy Penelope Howls.***

Date: ***12th February 2026.***

FAO Community Council Blaina

I am writing to express my interest in the position of Community Councillor for Blaina.

I currently live in Blaina, Gwent, and have a long-standing commitment to supporting local communities and helping residents have a strong, practical voice in local decision-making. I am keen to once again contribute my time, experience and enthusiasm to serving the area.

Previously, I served as a Community Councillor for the Maesycwmmmer Ward of Caerphilly for almost three years before relocating after purchasing my property in Waengron, Blaina. Alongside this, I was a primary school governor at Maesycwmmmer Primary School for ten years, where I supported school leadership, safeguarding and community engagement.

I also managed Maesycwmmmer Community Centre for twelve years, during which I organised and delivered a wide range of community-focused events including pantomimes, music events, Easter and Christmas floats, and local fundraising initiatives. These activities helped raise funds for community projects and requests such as benches, defibrillators and other improvements that benefited residents directly.

Professionally, I have worked as a Teaching Assistant for the past nine years at Trinity Fields SEN School in Caerphilly. This role has strengthened my communication, patience and problem-solving skills, as well as my ability to listen, advocate and work collaboratively with families, professionals and the wider community.

A key part of my approach has always been listening to residents and acting on their concerns by liaising with the relevant departments to resolve issues such as potholes, overgrown areas, dog fouling and rubbish. I believe strongly in being visible, approachable and responsive.

I would welcome the opportunity to support Blaina as a Community Councillor and help ensure residents feel informed, represented and proud of their area. I would be happy to provide any further information if required.

I have attached the required Co-option Form along with a character reference from Clark of Maesycwmmmer Community Council.

Thank you for considering my expression of interest, and look forward to hearing from you.

Many thanks
Wendy Howls

To whom it may concern,

I'm very happy to provide this character reference for Wendy, who served our community council in Maesycwmmmer as a Community Councillor with real care and dedication. Wendy has always been approachable and genuinely interested in what mattered to local people. Whether it was supporting local projects, helping residents with concerns, or simply being present at community events (often leading them!) Wendy showed a strong commitment to making our area a better place to live.

Wendy brings a kind, practical and down-to-earth approach to everything she does. She works well with others, has good common sense and isn't afraid to roll her sleeves up when something needs doing. She is well respected in our community for her honesty, reliability and willingness to help. I have no doubt she would be a real asset to any Community Council, and I would happily recommend her for this new role.

Best wishes,
Rebecca Hares

Clerk to Maesycwmmmer Community Council.