

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 25th June 2024** 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 25th June 2024 for details of how to access the meeting.

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 June 2024.

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 Town Council held 23rd April 2024 (pages 152 – 156)

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 Meeting held 23rd April 2024 (pages 157 - 162)

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 Planning & Highways Committee Meeting held 14th May 2024 (pages 163 - 165)

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 Finance & General Purposes Committee Meeting held 14th May 2024 (pages 166 -170)

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 Annual Meeting of the Council held 21st May 2024 (pages 1 -5)

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. Minutes of the Planning & Highways Committee Meeting held 11th June 2024 (pages 6 - 8)

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:

10. Minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee Meeting held 11th June 2024 (pages 9 -12)

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

- b) Matters arising, for information & clarification only:

11. 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) Aneurin Bevan University Health Board (for information – copy attached):

'A conversation for a healthy future – The Next ten Years'.

12. Application to the Community Grant Fund:

None received to date.

13. Appointment of School Governor to Coed y Garn primary:

Following the recent death of Councillor Keith Jenkins, Members are invited to consider the appointment of a School Governor to Coed y Garn primary.

14. Confidential Information:

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Minutes of the hybrid Meeting of the Full Council held at 6pm on Tuesday 23rd April 2024 at the Council Chamber, Blaina Institute, High Street, Blaina.

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

Present: Councillor K Jenkins, Town Mayor, presiding
Councillors D Hillman, C Hillman, K Jones JP, L Harris, J Bond & M Williams (remote).

In attendance: Mrs T Hughes, Town Clerk / RFO
Mrs N Horner, Assistant Officer
Mr M Brooks, member of public

Prior to the start of the meeting the Chair informed of the fire procedure. **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. **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 that apologies were received from Councillors G Morvan. **Further Resolved** that the apologies be accepted.

2. Town Mayor's Communications:

The Town Mayor's communications for April 2024.

The Town Mayor informed that he had been ill for the last few weeks but was now improving. He and his Consort would be in attendance at the event to mark Llys y Capel's 35th anniversary on 29th April 2024. The Town Clerk reminded that all Members were invited to the event.

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

- 4. Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held 26th March 2024 (pages 134 – 138)**
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:
Page 136 (8a) – in response to a query, the Town Clerk informed that a reply had been sent to Mrs Gunter and a further response had been received.
Page 138 (12a) – in response to a query, the Town Clerk informed that an update would be provided at the end of the meeting as per the agenda item.
Resolved that the minutes be approved.
- 5. Minutes of the Events Committee Meeting held 26th March 2024 (pages 139 - 141)**
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:
Page 140 (4) – should be 'David'.
Resolved that the minutes be approved.
- 6. Minutes of the Task & Finish Group Meeting held 27th March 2024 (pages 142 - 144)**
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:
Page 142 (3) – in response to a query, it was clarified that the recommended venue for the provision of a cinema showing was Brynmawr Cinema.
Page 144 (6) – in response to a query, it was confirmed that no response had been received and that this would be queried.
Page 144 (7) – should be 'David'.
Resolved that the actions agreed be ratified.
- 7. Minutes of the Planning & Highways Committee Meeting held 9th April 2024 (pages 145 - 147)**
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:
Page 146 (3b) – in response to a query, the Town Clerk informed that whilst Blaenau Gwent CBC (Highways dept) had been contacted, they were unable to take any monitoring action due to a lack of funds. The Go Safe team (Gwent Police) had been informed & they had responded that their records did not show and collisions on the road in question, but that they would contact Mr Mullen to discuss and consider possible appropriate action.
Resolved that the minutes be approved.

8. **Minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee Meeting held 9th April 2024 (pages 148 -151)**

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:

Page 149 (4) – the Chair of the JCLC informed that an excellent meeting took place and was attended by representatives of all four Town & Community Councils.

Page 150 (8) – Members commented that the planters throughout Nantyglo & Blaina had bloomed well and had greatly enhanced the local area. The Town Mayor congratulated Members on a very good job.

Resolved that the minutes be approved.

9. **Correspondence:**

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

a) Blaenau Gwent & Torfaen Local Nature Partnership (for information):

Agenda of meeting and information of other events taking place.

Resolved to note the information received.

Additional correspondence received with permission of the Chair:

b) Aneurin Leisure (for information):

Aneurin Leisure website had stated that 'Blaina Library (based in Blaina Institute) would be reopening on Monday 22nd April 2024 following extensive maintenance work to address health & safety issues with a deep clean planned for next week'. The library would be open on Mondays, Thursdays & Fridays from 9.30am until 1pm & then from 2pm until 4pm. Members were also informed that Blaina ICC informed that the Blaenau Gwent Hub was currently operating from Blaina ICC on Mondays from 9am until 5pm and Citizens Advice Bureau was operating from Blaina ICC on Thursday mornings.

The Town Clerk informed that the information provided had very recently changed again and that the Blaenau Gwent Hub was now situated in Blaina Library, although it was unclear if Citizens Advice was.

Resolved to note the information received.

c) Blaina Community Institute Ltd:

A letter regarding fire safety responsibilities had been received requesting that the Town Council designate a Fire Marshall & Deputy Fire Marshall, who would be responsible for checking the Town Council Offices, Chamber (& upstairs toilets) to ensure that everyone has vacated the building by the designated fire exit.

In response to a query, both the Town Clerk and the Assistant Officer informed that they were happy to be the designated Fire Marshal & Deputy Fire Marshall for the Town Council Offices within Blaina Institute.

Resolved that the Town Clerk & Assistant Officer be the designated Fire Marshall & Deputy Fire Marshall for the Town Council Offices within Blaina Institute.

d) Reverend Roy Watson – British Empire Medal Award Ceremony (for information):

Members were informed that Reverend Roy Watson had invited all Members of the Council to an event where he would be awarded the British Empire Medal by the Lord Lieutenant of Gwent, Brigadier Robert Aitkin CBE. The event was to take place at 2.15pm on Friday 24th May 2024 at Coed y Garn Primary School, Parrot Row, Blaina.

Reverend Roy Watson thanked Members of the Town Council for the nomination which resulted in him being awarded the British Empire Medal, especially Councillor G Morvan who spent many hours compiling the relevant & information.

Resolved to note the information received.

10. Blaina Library:

Members were invited to consider the information received from Blaina Community Institute Ltd in respect of the future of Blaina Library.

Members considered the information, and the following comments were made:

- Blaina Library was a key facility for the residents of both Nantyglo & Blaina and it was vital for it to remain open.
- A public petition had already been set up in support of the library to remain open and could be accessed (in person) at the charity shop, High Street, Blaina amongst other places.
- The library also offered other necessary services to residents of both Nantyglo & Blains such as photocopying, Blaenau Gwent advice hub as there were no longer any Blaenau Gwent Council offices open for such a service, Citizen Advice, local groups and warm spaces etc.
- The issue stated by Aneurin Leisure was that users of the library could not access the toilet at the Institute for health & safety reasons via the corridor due to the café and the location of the kitchen, although the toilets were easily accessible to users of the library via the main entrances of the building.
- It appeared that Aneurin Leisure Trust seemed to use the issue of access to toilets as a diversery tactic to justify the reason for its closure.
- It had been stated that very low numbers of users of the library had been given as a reason for closure.

Members agreed that it was necessary to oppose the closure of the library and support Blaina Community Institute Ltd in keeping Blaina Library open. Members also agreed to contact the Scrutiny Committee at Blaenau Gwent CBC and demand that Blaenau Gwent CBC support keeping Blaina Library open. Members also agreed that Aneurin Leisure Trust be contacted to request the reasons why they had proposed to close Blaina Library.

Resolved to note the information received. **Additionally Resolved** that the actions detailed above be undertaken and **Further Resolved** to support Blaina Community Institute Ltd in keeping Blaina Library open.

11. Application to the Community Grant Fund:

None received to date.

Resolved accordingly.

Mr M Brooks, member of the public left the meeting at this juncture.

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) Salem Chapel – Update:

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Minutes of the hybrid Meeting of the Events Committee held at the Council Chamber, Blaina Institute, High Street, Blaina at 6.55pm on Tuesday 23rd April 2024.

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

Present: Councillor L Harris, Chair of the Events Committee,
Presiding: Councillors D Hillman; K Jenkins, C Hillman, K Jones JP,
M Williams (remote) & J Bond

In attendance: Mrs Tracy Hughes, Town Clerk
Mrs N Horner, Assistant Officer
Mr M Brooks, Member of the public

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 declarations were received.

1. **Apologies:** Members were invited to consider the apologies for absence received and to formally resolve to accept.

Resolved to note that apologies were received from Cllr G Morvan and **Further Resolved** to accept the apologies received.

2. **Questions from the public:** To receive any questions from the public on matters on the agenda.

Resolved to note that Mr M Brooks was in attendance and no questions from public were received.

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) Email from Karen.williams@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk (for consideration):
E-mail request from the Town Centre Manager (Blaenau Gwent CBC) for support in respect of a Superhero event held on Tuesday 28th May at St Peters grounds, Blaina.

Members agreed to a £100 donation to support the superhero event in Blaina.

It was suggested to ask the Town Centre Manager what help is required from Town Council members on the day of event.

Resolved that a financial donation via s.137 of £100 be made and **Further Resolved** to ascertain what help is required from Town Council Members for the Superhero Day in Blaina.

- b) Newton Flags - Certificate of Grateful Recognition 6th June 2024:

Certificate from Newtown Newton Flags for supporting D-Day 80 years anniversary.

Certificate is displayed on noticeboard.

Resolved to note information received.

- c) Email from Sabrina.Cresswell@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk Access Strategy & Rights of Way Improvement Plan (ROWIP) workshops:

Workshops held in person or online via Teams.

A discussion ensued regarding how informative the Rights of Way Improvement Plan workshops are.

Resolved to note information received

Additional correspondence received – with permission of the Chair:

Email from Daniel.Wheelock@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk ARMED FORCES DAY - Sunday, 30 June 2024 – read out as below:

Armed Forces Day event to be held on Sunday, 30 June 2024. Each year, Tredegar Town Council hosts this event here in Bedwellty Park to celebrate the Armed Forces, using the day to raise funds for various associated armed forces charities and appeals (the charity/appeal recipient for the proceeds raised at the event has yet to be agreed by Council). The event would commence at 12.00 noon, with a range of activities within Bedwellty Park and varied entertainment throughout the day, including a performance by the Royal Welsh Regimental Band, and concluding at approximately 5.00 p.m.

I would be most grateful, therefore, if you could note this event in your diary accordingly. If your organisation wishes to support this event - either by making a donation or displaying a stall at the event **(a small charge of £5.00**

is levied per 'pitch' in support of the appeal) - please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Members suggested that the event could be attended by the Town Mayor as his first event and by Councillor Morvan, as the Town Council's Armed Forces representative

AO explained the event is open for members to attend.

Resolved to note information.

4. Members to Resolve the following items that was suggested at the Task and Finish group 27th March 2024 for appropriate and achievable events for up to 2025.

a) Cinema Showings:

Members were invited to consider the options from quotes received for indoor and outdoor cinema projects and through much discussion it was suggested that Brynmawr cinema provided the best value for money & would also be 'weatherproof' in the event of inclement weather. It was clarified that the showing would take place at Brynmawr Cinema and that the quotation received was based on £3.50 per ticket and that a minimum of 40 seats could be booked at the cinema up to a maximum of 192 seats.

Members considered that tickets for 1 adult 2 children (3 tickets per family residing in Nantyglo and Blaina) to be given on first served basis and that the event be advertised on the Town Council's website & Facebook page.

Members considered the recommendations made by Task and Finish group on 27th March 2024 and **Resolved** the following:

- Town Council **Resolved** to fund one weekly cinema showing for 4 weeks during the main school summer holidays.
- **Resolved** that Cinema showings to take place at and be provided by Market Hall Cinema, Brynmawr.
- **Resolved** that the Town Council to purchase and make available 150 tickets for each showing at a cost of £3.50 ticket.
- **Resolved** that maximum of 3 tickets (free of charge) to be made available per household in Nantyglo & Blaina.
- **Resolved** that tickets to be supplied on a first come first served basis.
- **Resolved** to advertise the cinema showings on website and Facebook.
- **Resolved** that Cllr Williams design the artwork for posters and tickets.

- **Resolved** that Parents/carers to be responsible for children at all times, and that the Town Council and Market Hall Cinema would not assume any responsibility.

Resolved as detailed above.

b) Play Sessions provided by BGCBC The early years team, Childcare & Play Team for activities for ages between 4 – 14 years:

Members considered the information and recommendations from the Task & Finish Group in respect of the information regarding the delivery of play sessions within Nantyglo & Blaina provided by Blaenau Gwent CBC.

- **Option 1:** A 2hr session delivered in local community (Venue to be agreed)
Cost £150.00
- **Option 2:** This is our multi-pack of open access play sessions option 1 x 4 (delivered as you chose). Cost £500.00 (*saving £100 from option 1*).
- **Option 3:** This is our 'Mini Play Den' option incorporating a 4 hour open access family / play day (Venue to be agreed). Cost £600.00

Members agreed that option 2 was the better value for the children of Nantyglo and Blaina and that it was requested that BGCBC be contacted to enquire if 2 play sessions could be held in Nantyglo and 2 in Blaina (from the option 2).

Members considered the recommendations made by Task and Finish group on 27th March 2024 and **Resolved** the following:

To purchase Option 2 as detailed above of a multi-pack of open access play sessions at the cost of £500 and **Further Resolved** to query if the sessions could be divided into 2 halves for 2 sessions to be held at Nantyglo and 2 at Blaina, during the main summer school holidays.

Resolved as detailed above.

c) David Watkins Blue Plaque:

Members considered the suggestion to recognise the accomplishments of David Watkins, a celebrated Welsh Rugby Player who was born in Blaina. It was suggested to find out where David Watkins had lived and ask for permission to have plaque placed on the property. AO explained that Colin Wall (local resident) might have this information as she was sure that he was looking into having a memorial statue for the square in Blaina. AO to speak with Colin Wall regarding his ideas and to liaise with Blaina Rugby club to see if a brick could be purchased for David Watkins.

Resolved that the recommendations to be ratified.

A Members informed that he had spoken to a relative of David Watkins who confirmed that David's house had been knocked down.

Town Clerk confirmed that she had spoken with Colin Wall today (23rd April 2024) and explained that he had been unwell and there were no updates

as yet but would be in touch soon as he received any information from Salford Rugby League (whom David Watkins played rugby for).

Members considered the recommendations made by Task and Finish group on 27th March 2024 and **Resolved** the following:

- AO to liaise with Blaina Rugby Club to ascertain the cost of a memorial brick for David Watkins.
- To continue to investigate an appropriate manner in which to commemorate the achievements of David Watkins.

d) Nantyglo & Blaina In Bloom:

Members considered the recommendations made by the Task & Finish Group meeting held on 27th March 2024 and it was **Resolved** that the event to continue and **Further Resolved** to advertise the competition in May for judging to take place towards the end of July 2024.

Members **Resolved** to use the same poster and form as last years, with amendments to dates and times.

e) ARC Awards:

Members considered the recommendation made by the Task & Finish Group and agreed that, unfortunately at the present time the ARC Awards was no longer suited for its purpose and therefore, members agreed to recognise individuals as and when appropriate.

Resolved that the Recommendations to be ratified i.e. that the ARC Awards do not take place and that the Town Council recognises and celebrates the achievements of individuals as appropriate.

5. Planters:

Members to consider the purchase of summer plants for planters around Nantyglo and Blaina.

Members agreed that all planters throughout Nantyglo & Blaina but particularly the larger planters were in bloom and looked wonderful

Resolved that appropriate plants were to be purchased in respect of the planters owned by the Town Council throughout Nantyglo & Blaina and **Further Resolved** that prices for such plants be submitted to the next meeting of the Events Committee.

6. Events Planner:

Members to consider the suggested forth coming events.

Resolved to note information received and further **Resolved** that the Events Planner be updated with the Events resolved at this meeting when the appropriate information had been received.

7. Facebook:

Members to consider if they would like Town Council agendas displayed on Facebook, in the hope to encourage members to join meetings. Members considered this and agreed that the listed agenda for meetings (not supporting documentation) should be displayed on the Town Council's website page for both residents' information and in the hope of encouraging new members to the Town Council.

Resolved that the listed agendas of Town Council meeting (not supporting documentation) be displayed on the Town Council Facebook page.

Meeting declared closed at 7.40pm

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**Minutes of the hybrid Meeting of the Planning & Highways Committee held at 6.00pm
on Tuesday 14th May 2024 at 6pm.**

at the Council Chamber, Blaina Institute, High Street, Blaina

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

Present: Councillor K Jones, presiding, Chair, Planning & Highways Committee
Councillors D Hillman, L Harris, J Bond, L King and remotely - C Hillman.

In attendance: Mrs T Hughes, Town Clerk / RFO
Mrs N Horner, Assistant Officer

Prior to the start of the meeting, the Town Clerk informed that no members of the public or press were present. **Resolved** to note the information received.

The Chair informed of the fire 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. Members were reminded that all declarations of interest must be recorded in the book provided. **Resolved** to note that no such declarations were received.

1. Apologies for absence:

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

Apologies received from Cllr Keith Jenkins and Cllr G Morvan.

Council asked if get well wishes to be sent to Cllr Jenkins.

Resolved to apologies accepted.

2. Questions from the public:

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

Resolved to note that there was no public attendance and no questions from public received.

3. Correspondence:

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

a) Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council (for consideration & information):

E-mail and information in respect of Application to install Season Decorations & other adornments over the Highway – Under section 178 of the Highways Act.

Members considered the email and information received and the following comments were made:

- Precept had been risen to factor in the additional costs that has been made a legislation required by Welsh government.
- Agreed that an informal discussion with Russel Dunham (current Christmas Light Contractor) to take place regarding the way forward in respect Christmas lights and current legislative requirements.
- Legislative requirements are required to all community/town and all public groups that display Christmas lights on lampposts.

Resolved to note information received and further **resolved** that an informal discussion with Russell Dunhan to take place.

An additional application received with permission of the Chair:

Planning Application:

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

a) Plan Application No. P/2024/0086 – Development Site 13 – 17 Beech Tree Crescent, Tanglewood, Blaina:

Application for Variation of Condition 13 (to extend life of permission) of planning permission C/2019/0003 (erection of 7 residential dwelling (C3) with associated infrastructure.

Resolved that no objections or representations be made.

a) Plan Application No. P/2024/0082 – Plot 10 Beech Tree Crescent, Tanglewood, Blaina:

Application for Variation of Condition 11 (to extend life of permission) of planning permission C/2018/0357 (erection of single house dwelling and associated infrastructure.

Resolved that no objections or representations be made.

Additional application:

Planning Application No P/2024/0103 - Cwm Farm off Oak Road, Tanglewood, Blaina, Abertillery, Blaenau Gwent, NP13 3JX

Temporary permission to locate a mobile caravan on farm site, to be used in connection with brining the farm back into use.

Members discussed that the public and appropriate nearby resident and neighbours could be consulted prior to any works commencing.

Resolved not to make any objections in respect of the above application but to make the following representation: Residents could be consulted prior to any works commencing.

5. Licence Applications:

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

Name & Address Of Applicant	Details of Application	Premises Name & Address
• Matthew James Wooles 28 Queen Street, Nantyglo	Application for a personal licence (Licensing Act 2003)	N/A
• Terry Alan Robson 57 Waun Ebbw Road Nantyglo	Application to transfer the premises licence (Licensing Act 2003)	The Gwesty Clarence Street Brynmawr
• Terry Alan Robson 57 Waun Ebbw Road Nantyglo	Application to vary the DPS to Terry Alan Robson (Licensing Act 2003)	The Gwesty Clarence Street Brynmawr
• Chris Adams Blaina Community Sports Club, Central Park, Blaina	One day temporary Street Trading Consent for food vendors/stall holders for a fun day 26/05/2024	Blaina Community Sports Club, Central Park, Blaina

Resolved accordingly.

Meeting declared closed at 18:23pm

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**Minutes of the hybrid Finance & General Purposes Committee Meeting held at 6.25pm on
Tuesday 14th May 2024 at the Council Chamber, Blaina Institute, High Street, Blaina**

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

Present : Cllr D Hillman, presiding, Chair of Finance & General Purposes Committee
Councillors K Jones JP, C Hillman (remote), L Harris, J Bond, L King &
M Williams (remote)

In attendance: Mrs T Hughes, Town Clerk / RFO
Mrs N Horner, Assistant Officer

Prior to the start of the meeting, the Town Clerk informed that no members of the press or public were in attendance. **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. Members were reminded that all declarations must be recorded in the book provided. **Resolved** to note that Cllr D Hillman declared a personal interest in item 3b.

1. Apologies for absence:

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

Resolved to note that apologies were received from Councillors G Morvan & K Jenkins.
Resolved that the apologies be accepted.

2. Questions from the Public:

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

Resolved to note that no such questions were received.

3. Correspondence:

Members were 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) One Voice Wales – (for information)

National Awards Conference 2024 report.

Members offered congratulations to Blaenavon Town Council and other local Councils.

Resolved to note the information received.

*Cllr D Hillman declared a personal interest in item 3b and **Resolved** that he remain in the meeting but not take part in the discussion or voting.*

b) Mr Richard Hancocks, The Royal British Legion (Blaina Branch) – (for consideration & information):

Members were invited to consider the request from Richard Hancocks of the Blaina Branch of the Royal British Legion in respect of an event to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the D Day Landings in Normandy.

Members were also informed that an invitation from Mr Richard Hancocks on behalf of the Royal British Legion had been extended to Lord Lieutenant and High sheriff Gwent and to all Members of the Town Council.

Members considered the request and the Town Clerk informed that a contribution towards the refreshments could be made under s.137 of the Local Government Act 1972 which would also be applicable as the Royal British Legion (Blaina Branch) had requested that the Town Council co-hosted the event.

Members agreed that as co-hosts of the event, it would be reasonable to make a donation to fund 50% of the cost of the buffet as stated i.e. a donation of £240.00.

Members also noted the invitation received from the Royal British Legion (Blaina Branch) in respect of the event.

Resolved that a donation of £240.00 be made to the Royal British Legion (Blaina Branch) and **Further Resolved** to note the information received.

Additional correspondence received with permission of the Chair:

c) Abertillery & Llanhilleth Community Council & Blaenau Gwent Headteachers (for consideration):

E-mail request from Abertillery & Llanhilleth Community Council to consider supporting Blaenau Gwent Headteachers in respect of the impact on schools due to reduced budgets.

Councillor M Williams joined the meeting at this juncture.

Members considered the e-mail and letter, and the following points were made:

- This issue was now a national issue.
- The provision of education for school children was a basic and mandatory service provision by principal councils.
- All schools appeared to be facing dire financial difficulties.
- At a meeting at Coed y Garn Primary, Alun Davies (MS) 'skirted' the issue of finance for schools.

- If the Senedd were able to finance extending the Senedd building and additional members of the Senedd then surely adequate finance should be made available for schools.

Resolved to note the information received and **Further Resolved** to support the issue stated via a letter of support.

4. **Town Council Insurance:**

Members were invited to consider the quotations received in respect of the Town Council insurance which requires renewal on 1st June 2024:

- Aviva via broker James Hallam Ltd (current provider & broker) - £5,258.54
- Zurich – unable to provide quotation
- Ansvar – no quotation provided

Members were additionally informed that many insurance companies would not provide insurance or a quotation in respect of an unoccupied listed building, hence it was much more efficient to obtain a quotation and correct level of cover via a broker who could contact a number of specialist insurance companies for a quotation.

Members discussed the information and there were a number of queries in respect of the wording in the renewal standard information submitted by Aviva.

The Town Clerk / RFO informed that dealing with a broker who was qualified to advise on such a specialised and complex area and who undertook an extensive tendering exercise on behalf of the Town Council meant that the Council could be confident that the correct level of cover etc was sought for the Council's individual requirements and in line with audit requirements. Trying to obtain a quotation via an internet search engine was impossible due to factors such as Salem Chapel.

Resolved that the Town Council insurance for 2024/25 be renewed with Avia via James Hallam Ltd as specified in the policy.

5. **Liaison Meeting with Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council:**

Members were informed that a Liaison Meeting with Blaenau Gwent CBC was to take place at **10.00am on Wednesday 29th May 2024 via MS Teams**. No agenda or other information had been received to date. Members were informed that the Council Chamber would NOT be available that day due to the Town Clerk being on annual leave and it being a non-working day for the Assistant Officer.

Members considered the information and requested that a pre-meeting be arranged together with contacting other Town/Community Councils to enquire if they were able to host those members who preferred to attend the pre-meeting and Liaison meeting in person. Members also agreed that the issue of Christmas Lights (inspection of lampposts) and the issue of schools funding (see item 3c) be submitted as agenda items for consideration at the Liaison meeting.

Resolved to note the information received and **Further Resolved** to submit the issues of Christmas Lights (inspections of lampposts) & funding for schools as agenda items. **Also Resolved** to enquire if any of the 3 other Town/Community Councils were able to host members who preferred to attend the Liaison meeting in person.

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

As previously resolved, Members were invited to consider making further financial donations to Blaenau Gwent Foodbank to assist residents of Nantyglo and Blaina for the month of May 2024.

Resolved that a donation of £200.00 be made to Blaenau Gwent Foodbank for May 2024 in respect of Nantyglo & Blaina residents.

7. Application to the Community Grant Fund:

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

a) Llys y Capel Social Club:

In respect of a query, the Town Clerk / RFO informed that Llys y Capel had not received such a financial donation within the last 12 months.

Members considered the application and stated that it complied with the Council's financial grant policy.

Resolved that a financial donation of £100.00 be made to Llys y Capel Social Club.

8. Salem Chapel:

Members were invited to consider the attached inspection report:

- **April 2024:**

Questions & queries were invited.

In response to a query, the Town Clerk informed that whilst the physical condition of the Chapel continued to deteriorate but, without any specialist knowledge, there did not appear to be any obvious additional issues.

Resolved that the report be approved.

9. Members Updates:

Members were invited to provide any updates or information.

- **Internal Audit – Town Clerk / RFO:**

The Town Clerk informed that the report from the Internal Auditor had very recently been received and that it provided the Town Council with a clean bill of financial and governance health, containing only one small recommendation. The report would be included on the agenda at the next appropriate meeting.

Resolved to note the information received.

- 35th Anniversary event at Llys Y Capel, Blaina – Cllr C Hillman:

Cllr C Hillman informed that Councillor K Jenkins, Town Mayor, his Consort, Mrs Lynne Higgins, Councillors C & D Hillman and Councillor L Harris attended the 35th anniversary event at Llys y Capel as invited and informed that it was a very enjoyable event and the perfect event to celebrate Llys y Capel's 35th anniversary.

Resolved to note the information received and **Further Resolved** that a letter from the Town Mayor and Members of the Council be sent to Llys y Capel.

- Rights of Way Meeting – Cllr L Harris:

Cllr Harris informed that following the Rights of Way meeting held by Blaenau Gwent CBC she intended to highlight issues that had arisen with the bridge at Cwmcelyn due to it being on a public right of way, and hopefully to investigate the possibility of funding in order to maintain the bridge.

Resolved to note the information received.

10. **Confidential Information:**

The following item(s) may contain information that is of a confidential or personal nature

NANTYGLO & BLAINA TOWN COUNCIL

CYNGOR TREF NANT-Y-GLO A BLAENAU

Mrs T Hughes - Town Clerk/RFO Mrs N Horner – Assistant Officer
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

Minutes of the hybrid Annual Meeting of the Town Council held at 6.00pm on Tuesday 21st May 2024 at the Council Chamber, Blaina Institute, High Street, Blaina.

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

Present: Councillor M Williams, presiding, Town Mayor
Councillors G Morvan, K Jones JP, D Hillman, C Hillman, L Harris, L King & J Bond

In attendance: Mrs T Hughes, Town Clerk / RFO
Mrs N Horner, Assistant Officer
Mrs S Gwyer-Roberts, Deputy Lieutenant of Gwent
Mrs L Higgins, Mayoral Consort 2023/24, representing the late Cllr K Jenkins
Invited guests

Prior to the start of the meeting, a minute silence was held in respect of the Town Mayor, Councillor Keith Jenkins, who passed away on Thursday 16th May 2024. **Resolved** to note the information received.

The Deputy Town Mayor informed all present of the procedures to be taken in event of the emergency. **Resolved** to note the information received.

1. **Declarations of Interest:**

Members were reminded that all Declarations of Interest must be recorded in the book provided for this purpose. **Resolved** to note that no such declarations were received.

2. **Apologies for absence:**

Members were invited to consider the apologies for absence received and to formally resolve to accept. **Resolved** to note apologies received from Cllr Lydia King.

3. **Councillor M Williams:**

To offer a Civic Welcome.

Due to the sudden death of the Town Mayor, Councillor Keith Jenkins, the Deputy Town Mayor, Councillor Michael Williams offered a greeting and civic welcome to all present.

Deputy Town Mayor, Councillor Michael Williams presented Mayoral Consort. Mrs Lynne Higgins with a bouquet of flowers of thanks for her role as consort 2023/24 and offered his sincere condolences of the passing of the late Town Mayor, Cllr Keith Jenkins.

With the permission of Town Mayor, Cllr D Hillman welcomed Tredegar's Town Mayor and Blaenau Gwent Ward Councillors, P Baldwin, S Behr and W Hodgins to the meeting.

Resolved accordingly.

4. Councillor K Jenkins:

To review his Term of Office as Chairman of the Council.

Due to the sudden passing of Town Mayor, Cllr Keith Jenkins 2023/24, Leader of Town Council, Cllr Glyn Morvan reviewed Town Mayors term of office for the civic year.

Cllr Jenkins' chosen charity was Wales Air Ambulance, and we would all agree that he supported a very worthy cause.

Cllr Jenkins considered it a privilege and an honour to have been the Town Mayor for Nantyglo and Blaina and proudly carried out the role to the very end, aided and assisted by his consort Mrs Lynne Higgins.

Some of his many visits and activities during his Mayoral Year included:

- Visiting the newly revamped studios of BGfM.
- Attended the opening of 'Stute café in Blaina Institute.
- Representing the Town Council at Remembrance Day Service.
- Attending the joint Christmas carol service of the 4 local primary schools.
- Attending the Holocaust Memorial Day at Bedwellty House which was hosted by Tredegar Town Council.
- Attending the celebrations of the 35th Anniversary of Llys y Capel.

Cllr Jenkins also represented the Town Council as a School Governor also as an area representative of One Voice Wales.

Resolved to note the information received.

5. Councillor M Williams:

The Deputy Town Mayor Invited nominations for the Office of Town Mayor 2024/25.

Resolved that Councillor Michael Williams be appointed as Town Mayor for 2024/25.

6. Councillor K Jenkins:

Mrs Lynne Higgins, Mayoral Consort of the late Town Mayor, Councillor Keith Jenkins placed the Official Chain of Office around the shoulders of the Town Mayor for 2024/25.

Resolved to note the information received.

7. Declaration of Acceptance of Office:

The Town Mayor, Councillor M Williams signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office of Town Mayor which was witnessed by the Proper Officer of the Town Council and was thereupon appointed as the Town Mayor of Nantyglo & Blaina for the year 2024/25.

Resolved to note the signing of the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

8. To receive the Mayor's Consort:

The Town Mayor introduced his Consort, Mrs Victoria Williams and thanked her for agreeing to be his Consort for the coming year. Mrs Lynne Higgins, Consort of the late Town Mayor, Councillor Keith Jenkins, placed the Consort's Chain around the Consort's shoulders.

Resolved accordingly.

Mrs Lynne Higgins took her seat with the invited guests.

At this juncture proceedings paused for photographs to be taken.

9. The Town Mayor:

The Town Mayor addressed the Council.

Councillor M Williams thanked his fellow councillors for the nomination as Town Mayor and stated that he intended to 'do the Town Council proud during his term of office'. This was a bittersweet occasion due to the very sad passing of the (previous) Town Mayor Councillor Keith Jenkins on Thursday.

Councillor Williams informed that he joined the Town Council during the height of the Covid restrictions and since that time he had have received wonderful guidance from all members and especially from the two incredible clerks, Tracy & Nicola. Councillor Williams concluded that he was looking forward to his Mayoral year and all the new experiences and many learning curves that it was expected to bring.

Resolved to note the information received.

10. The Town Mayor:

To invite the Mayor's Chaplain, Reverend Roy Watson to lead Council in Prayer.

Reverend Watson led the Council in Prayer and also remembered the former Town Mayor & Councillor Keith Jenkins. Reverend Watson congratulated the Town Mayor on his appointment.

Resolved to note the information received.

11. Vote of Thanks to Councillor K Jenkins:

Town Mayor invited a vote of thanks to Councillor Keith Jenkins.

Councillor Keith Jenkins was a dedicated man who served his community to the very end, and it was sad that he wasn't here today to receive the thanks he deserved for his amazing work that he did over the years – especially looking after the many planters that were placed around Nantyglo & Blaina. Councillor Keith Jenkins was also passionate about the yearly Nantyglo & Blaina In Bloom competition that we hold.

Resolved to note the information received.

12. Deputy Town Mayor:

The Town Mayor to invite nominations for the Office of Deputy Town Mayor for 2024-2025.

Resolved that councillor Glyn Morvan be appointed to the Office of Deputy Mayor for the 2024/25.

13. Leader of the Council:

The Town Mayor to invite nominations for the position of Leader of the Council 2024-2025.

Resolved that Councillor Glyn Morvan be appointed to the Office of Leader of the Town Council 2024/25.

Appointment of Town Council Committees and Delegates to Other Organisations:

14. To invite Members to consider the appointment of Chairman and Members of Committees and of Delegates to other Organisations:

The Leader of the Council suggested given the circumstances that the itemised list be approved with the exception of the post of School Governor to Coed y Garn Primary which was to be discussed at the next full council meeting.

Resolved to approve the previously distributed itemised list except for the post of School Governor to Coed y Garn Primary. **Further Resolved** that the post of School Governor to Coed y Garn Primary be considered as an agenda item at the next full council meeting.

15. Mayoral Appeal 2024/25:

The Town Mayor informed of the Mayoral Appeal for 2024/25

The chosen charity was Hospice of the Valleys, which was chosen for personal reasons. Julie Williams, Fundraising Manager at Hospice of the Valleys informed all present of the history of the charity and the incredible work of the Hospice and the services it provided within the Blaenau Gwent area and also about the up-and-coming events that people could take part in.

The Town mayor confirmed that he had signed up for the 3 peaks challenge which would take place in July and was hoping to obtain sponsorship from 3 local businesses, where he would fly a flag with their logo on at the top of each summit. The Little Dragon Pizza Van had already been reserved for the Pen -y -Fan mountain.

The Town mayor had also agreed to sponsor the Valleys Festive Workshop on Tuesday 10th December 2024 which would be a fun filled day of crafting activities for children with the chance to meet Santa.

The Town Mayor concluded that the Hospice of the valleys holds many events and that he was hoping to take part in as many as possible to help raise funds for the Hospice of the Valleys via my Just Giving page.

The Town Mayor also informed that a raffle would also be held in support of the Hospice of the Valleys this evening and there were some wonderful prizes to be won.

Resolved to note the information received.

16. Invitation for invited guests to join with the Town Mayor for refreshments.

The Town Mayor declared the business of the Council closed and thereupon invited all present to join him for a social evening with refreshments.

Resolved accordingly.

Meeting declared closed at 18:40

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

**Minutes of the hybrid Meeting of the Planning & Highways Committee held at
Tuesday 11th June 2024 at 6pm.**

at Council Chamber, Blaina Institute, High Street, Blaina

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

Present: Councillor K Jones, presiding, Chair, Planning & Highways Committee
Councillors D Hillman, L Harris, & Councillor M Williams (remotely)

In attendance: Mrs N Horner, Assistant Officer

Prior to the start of the meeting, the Town Clerk informed that no members of the public or press were present. **Resolved** to note the information received.

The Chair informed of the fire 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. Members were reminded that all declarations of interest must be recorded in the book provided. **Resolved** to note that no such declarations were received.

1. Apologies for absence: Members are invited to consider the apologies for absence and to formally resolve to accept. Apologies received from Town Clerk, T Hughes and Cllr J Bond.

Resolved to apologies accepted.

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 there was no public in attendance and no questions from public received.

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) E-mail from anna.s@20splenty.org (for information)

Thanks for 20: Update on Welsh speed limit review from 20's Plenty for your council (Copy attached)

Resolved to note information received.

Additional correspondence received with permission of the Chair

- b) Email from Kathryn.Cross@wales.nhs.uk (*for information*):

A conversation for a healthy future (Copy attached)

Discussion ensued regarding the life expectancy for women in Blaenau Gwent of 55 years and Monmouthshire is 69 years. Document was commented on how informative the document was.

Cllr D Hillman announced that he had not received the information. Assistant officer confirmed that information had been Emailed and posted out to all members.

Resolved to note information received.

- c) Email from Helen.Jones@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk (*Policy review*)

Consultation on the revision of statement of policy on the gambling Act 2005 (Copy attached)

Cllr D Hillman confirmed that he had not received either hard copy or Email.

Resolved to note information received.

- d) Email from PSCSNWT@gov.wales (*Feedback on 20mph in local authority roads*)
Listening Programme on 20mph (Copy attached)

Cllr D Hillman confirmed that Cllrs from ALCC had reached out to him regarding the item and it was felt that all 4 councils to respond in partnership. Members agreed to take time to digest the document and feedback on views for the next Planning & Highways Committee.

Resolved to note information received and further **Resolved** for item to be re agenda at the next Planning & Highways Committee.

Additional application received with permission of the Chair:

4. Planning Applications: Members are 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: No planning applications received to date.

Additional application received:

- a) Planning application P/2024/0135 – 45 Lakeside, Nantyglo, NP23 4EG
Canopy to front, conversion of garage to a living room, Juliette balcony at first floor and bi folding doors at the rear.

Resolved accordingly with no objections or representations made.

5. Licence Applications: Members are invited to note the application(s) for information only: No Licence applications received to date.

Resolved accordingly.

Meeting declared closed at 18:20pm

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

Minutes of the hybrid Meeting of the Finance & General Purposes Committee held at 6.20pm on Tuesday 11th June 2024 at the Council Chamber, Blaina Institute, High Street, Blaina.

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

Present: Councillor D Hillman, presiding, Chair of Finance & General Purposes Committee
Councillors G Morvan; K Jones JP; C Hillman; L Harris; M Williams & L King.

In attendance:

Mrs N Horner, Assistant Officer

Prior to the start of the meeting the Assistant Officer informed that no members of the public or press were in attendance. **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. Members were reminded that all declarations must be recorded in the book provided. **Resolved** to note that

1. Apologies for absence:

Members were invited to consider the apologies for absence and to formally resolve to accept. **Resolved** to note that apologies were received from Town Clerk, T Hughes and Councillor J Bond. **Further Resolved** that the apology be received.

2. Questions from the Public:

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

Resolved to note that no such questions were received.

3. Correspondence:

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

a) One Voice Wales – (for information)

- i. E-mail re: Innovative Practice Conference – 3rd July 2024.

Resolved to note the information received.

- ii. E-mail re: Training Courses and Free training places.

Resolved to note the information received.

- b) Mr Richard Hancock's, The Royal British Legion (Blaina Branch) – (for information):

Poster of the event to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the D Day Landings in Normandy.

Members confirmed that the event had a good turnout, weather was kind and sun shone through the service. Family was over the moon the memory of Haydn Brookes.

A vote of thanks given to Richard Hancock and thanks to Cllr M Williams for being the photographer for event. Cllr M Williams confirmed that it was lovey to photograph and video the cadets receive their awards.

Cllr C Hillman joined at this juncture.

Resolved to note the information received.

- c) Cllr John A Bond (for consideration):

Request for training. All present approved for the training.

Resolved and further **Resolved** for Cllr J Bond to receive the training.

- d) Aneurin Leisure (for consideration & information):

Response in relation to Blaina Library.

Members suggested that the residents of Nantyglo should also be included in the consultation.

Resolved and further **Resolved** for the request of Nantyglo residents be included in the consultation.

4. **Town Council Vacancies:**

Members were invited to consider the attached application received in respect of a previously advertised vacancy in the Blaina ward for co-option to the Town Council.

Members were reminded of the Council's Standing Orders in respect of co-option.

- Lesley Emanuel.

Resolved that the Assistant Officer act as 'teller'.

Resolved unanimously that Lesley Emmanuel to be co-opted on to Town Council

5. **Liaison Meeting with Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council:**

Members were informed that a Liaison Meeting with Blaenau Gwent CBC will take place at **10.00am on Wednesday 29th May 2024 via MS Teams** and a pre-meeting has been arranged via MS Teams for 9.30am. Members were informed that the Council Chamber was NOT be available that day due to the Town Clerk being on annual leave and it being a non-working day for the Assistant Officer.

The item is believed to be put on in error from previous agenda.

However, it was suggested that item to agenda for the next full council meeting for an update. Minutes should be in receipt for the next full council meeting.

Resolved to note the information received and further **resolved** for item to be agenda on next full council meeting.

6. 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 June 2024.

All members agreed to continue with the £200 donation.

Resolved and further **resolved** to give £200 donation to Blaenau Gwent Foodbank.

7. Application to the Community Grant Fund:

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

a) Riverside Fund:

June 2024.

All members agreed to £100 donation.

Resolved and further **resolved** to give £100 donation.

8. Salem Chapel:

Members were invited to consider the attached inspection report:

- **May 2024:**

In response to a query, the Assistant Officer informed that, as far as she could ascertain, whilst the general condition of the building continued to decline, there did not appear to be any additional issues.

Member suggested for item to be agenda for the full council meeting to discuss in detail.

Resolved that the report be approved and further **resolved** for item to be agenda for the next full council meeting.

9. Members Updates:

Members were invited to provide any updates or information:

For those who were able to, attended the D-Day service. Apologies were received from Brigadier Robert Aitken CBE, HM Lord Lieutenant of Gwent and Mrs Susan Gwyer - Roberts (DL) Deputy Lieutenant.

Some members were also able to attend the BEM service of Reverend Roy Watson at Coed y Garn Primary School.

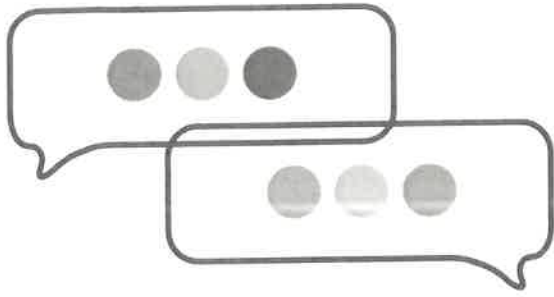
Superhero Day was well turned out and member thanked Cllr M Williams for his participation as a superhero in the event. Father Dominic was praised for his kind generosity of permitting the event to continue indoors during the down pour of rain.

It was suggested that a letter of thanks to be sent to Father Dominic for kind accommodation in the event.

The planters were discussed in regard to dead heading and for councillors to split the planters up into areas, so a councillor could manage the planters near their homes.

Item to be agenda for the next Events Committee.

Resolved to note the information received.



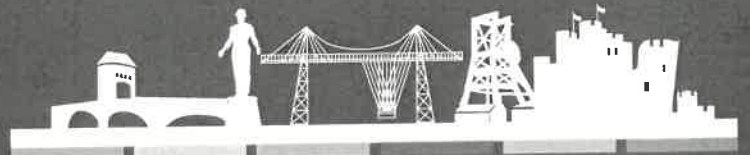
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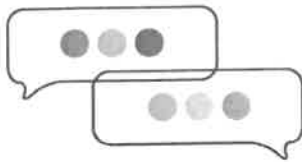
Item no. 11a
Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol
Aneurin Bevan
University Health Board

NANTYGLO & BLAINA

A conversation *for a* healthy future

THE NEXT 10 YEARS





sgwrs er mwyn
dyfodol iach

a **conversation** for a
healthy future



We are currently starting to develop a 10-year **plan** for healthcare in Gwent.

We recognise we don't have all the solutions to improve our healthcare system – and we need your help and input to understand what areas we need to focus on. As part of this conversation we would like to explore our values and behaviours as an essential part of how we provide services.

Please read the following information, which explains the challenges we are facing at the moment, the factors affecting people's health in Gwent, and how we hope to improve things for the future...

Our Population

The population across Gwent continues to change. We have seen a rapid aging of our population since 2011 and **there are now 20% more people over the age of 65.**



We want people to live as long as possible in good health, but sadly we know this isn't the reality across all of Gwent. For example, **the average healthy life expectancy of women living in Blaenau Gwent is just 55.3 years, whereas in Monmouthshire it is 69.3 years.** This is known as inequality, and the effects of the pandemic have made this worse for our population – but together we can change that.



We all need to take action now. If things don't change, the number of people needing the Health Board's services could completely overwhelm the resources we have to offer, which could bring the NHS to breaking point. But there is hope – a large number of conditions and diseases experienced by people across Gwent are actually preventable. Let's take a look at a few examples:



Cancer: 38% of all cancers are preventable – this number increases to 70% in cancers such as lung, skin and cervical cancer.

Liver Disease: Now the most common cause of death in the UK of people aged between 35-49 (deaths from liver disease have doubled in the past 20 years). Excessive alcohol drinking and obesity remain the common causes of liver disease.

Heart Disease: Currently impacts around 63,000 people in Gwent, with obesity being the key risk factor. Only 29.3% of working age adults in Gwent were reported as having a healthy weight in 2021/22.



So how do we prevent these things?

Small changes to the way we live our lives can help and supporting people to live well can make a huge difference in preventing ill health. We know that healthcare can only affect 20% of factors that contribute to people's health and therefore we need to change the focus to prevention and helping our communities to live well for as long as possible.

It's about more than healthcare – it's about employment, access to good food, green spaces like parks and playgrounds, affordable housing, and socialising with our friends and family. All these things contribute to our ability to live well and live long.



Our Workforce



As described overleaf, **there are now more people over the age of 65 living in Gwent than ever before** – and there are fewer young people too! This pattern is set to continue in the future, with the Office for National Statistics forecasting that **by 2035 there will be 18% less 18-year-olds entering the workforce.**



The majority of people who work for the Health Board also live in the Gwent area, so with less 18-year-olds starting work by 2035 there will be less younger people starting their career in healthcare.

At the moment, just 15% of our staff are aged between 21 and 30, while 36% are over the age of 50. The Health Board is already facing staffing challenges,

with job vacancies now common in the care sector.

In the future we will not have enough people to continue to deliver services in the way we currently do. Already 50% of medical graduates are from overseas and we need a more stable position for the future.



Working in care is also changing, with new technology, advances in medicine, and the way we work being different than it used to be. So as an employer, we need to ensure we change too.

Our Performance



While we know that many of our patients receive brilliant care, we also know there is more work to do to improve our services. At the start of 2024, more than 35,000 people were waiting longer than 36 weeks for planned appointments and treatments.



Even though improvements have been made in our emergency care system, we know that waiting times for ambulances are too long and we are not meeting the target of emergency and urgent patients being seen, treated and discharged within 4 hours. In fact, we only meet this around 75% of the time.

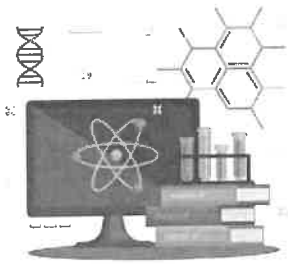
We also know that people are spending too long in our hospitals. We regularly have around 200 people who have received treatment and are ready to go home, but cannot do so because of support needed at home not being available. This means people can be in hospital for 3 weeks longer than they need to be, which is not good for their health and wellbeing. For example, for every 10 days of bed rest in hospital, a person over the age of 80 will experience 10 years of muscle aging.



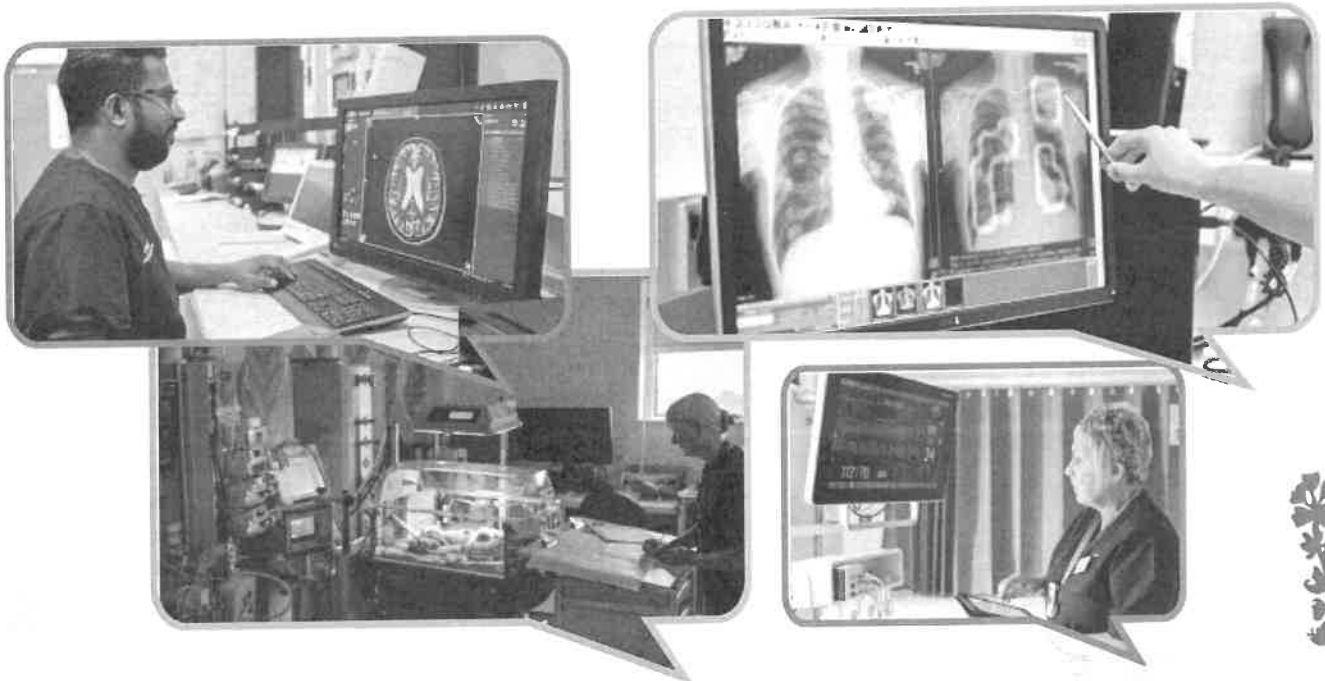
We frequently hear stories of the challenges people face getting GP appointments and support in the community, and whilst there is much being done to improve this situation, we know there is still much more to do.



Technology and Science



The way we live is changing because of new **technology**. Most people now own smart devices such as mobile phones and iPads and use them daily. Technologies like remote monitoring, assistive technology, and artificial intelligence (AI) were once seen as future ideas, but they are already part of our lives. AI reads x-rays, remote monitors offer peace of mind to caregivers, and pacemakers can be adjusted remotely. Advances in genetics make curing diseases possible, and new treatments like cell therapies tackle cancers that were once considered untreatable.



The climate is changing, and healthcare consumes a lot of gas and electricity while also generating significant waste. **Health services need to start using cleaner energy sources, produce less pollution, and find ways to reduce waste.**

Our Resources



The healthcare system is using a growing amount of our public money and workforce. Currently, the Health Board's budget is £1.7 billion, which makes up 7.5% of the total budget for the Welsh Government.

The changes in our population show that our current system won't be affordable unless we make changes. It's crucial for services to manage within their budgets and to spend money where it can help people the most. Right now, most of the healthcare money goes to hospitals and urgent care, but studies suggest it would be better to spend it on preventing illnesses and in Primary Care services such as GPs, Pharmacies, Dental and Opticians. We also know that by combining specialist services in one place, we can have more sustainable services, save money and have more staff working in the community.



We know that only 20% of what keeps us healthy is related to going to the GP or hospital. So, it's important to focus more on preventing health issues and helping communities live healthier lives. If we spend less money on healthcare and more on things like cleaning up the environment, improving education, and supporting communities, everyone can be healthier.



What are we already doing?

As a Health Board, we're not waiting for a new strategy to start making the improvements needed for better services.

We've already made a lot of progress through our previous plan – the Clinical Futures Strategy:

- **We opened the Grange University Hospital four months ahead of schedule and within budget.** This early opening helped us implement better infection prevention measures during the Covid-19 pandemic.
- **We have opened new community facilities in Tredegar and a new Breast Centre in Ystrad Mynach.**
- **We set up new urgent care services such as Same Day Emergency Care,** allowing patients to access urgent appointments more quickly.
- **We are working with local authorities to improve the connection between health and social care,** by creating joint services.
- **We quickly established mass vaccination, testing, and tracing services during the pandemic,** ensuring that everyone had access to these services.
- **We have a decarbonisation programme in place** to guide work to make our healthcare services more green, efficient, save resources, and to reduce waste.

Question:

We recognise we don't have all the solutions to improve our system. We need your help and input to understand what areas we need to focus on. We need to design the future together, so:



'What's important for you to feel healthy?'

This booklet was produced by Aneurin Bevan University Health Board.

Please contact us if you would like to access this information in a different format or language.

For more detailed information, please visit our website at <https://abuhb.nhs.wales/>