

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 22nd July 2025** 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 22nd July 2025 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 July 2025.

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 24th June 2025 (pages 14 – 19)

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 24th June 2025 (pages 20 - 25)

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. 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 to date.

7. Annual Report:

Members are invited to consider the Annual report of the Council for 2024/25, and to approve if appropriate (*copy attached*).

8. 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.

9. Members Updates:

Members are invited to provide any relevant updates and / or information:

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Tel: 01495 292817 e-mail: clerk@nantygloandblainatc.co.uk

Minutes of the hybrid meeting of the Town Council held at 5:30pm on Tuesday 24th June 2025 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 JP, Deputy Town Mayor, presiding
Councillors M Williams, D Hillman, C Hillman, L Harris,
L Higgins, L Emanuel & D Wright

In attendance: Mrs T Hughes, Town Clerk / RFO
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: PC G Davies– Brynmawr Neighbourhood Policing Team.

To provide a local update.

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

1. Members to receive the presentation.
2. Questions were invited at the end of the presentation.
3. Members were requested to ask only one question each – if time allowed AND with permission of the Chair, a second question might 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 and welcomed PC Gavin Davies and PCSO Jo Robins to the meeting.

PC Davies informed that there was still much work taking place in relation to offroad vehicles within the area and that the Community Action Team (CAT), which were based in Tredegar, had seized many vehicles in the Blaenau Gwent area.

PC Davies mentioned that an upcoming Traveller funeral was taking place on 27th June and some areas of Nantyglo would be affected. No road closures were planned but more officers were made available in case closures to roads were needed to accommodate the funeral. Blaina Police Station is not closed permanently however it is unknown when it will be opened once again as it

had been deemed 'unsafe' due to an officer being alone when approached by a male with a knife. There were reports of slingshots being used to kill small animal in the area but there had been some identifications, and the Police were hoping to gather more evidence and were using the local schools and youth services to try and dissuade youths from using slingshots for such activities. Councillors. Two local men had also been reported going into local churches disrupting services held there and Police are currently gathering evidence. Police surgeries in Blaina Library had been held on a regular basis (Town Mayor Cllr Glyn Morvan had been in attendance) and were to continue, and it was hoped more people would be able to attend.

Questions were invited at this juncture:

- Q) Would there be any disruption to another funeral happening in Brynmawr on the same day?
A) It was hoped that there would not be any disruption or interference but numbers regarding the Travellers funeral were unknown and thus there could be potential for some disruption, particularly on the roads around Nantyglo & Brynmawr.
- Q) Member noted that residents felt safer knowing that there was a police station in Blaina.
Q) There was an arson attack recently occurred in Alexander Street, Blaina.
A) Currently being investigated however no information could be given at this time.
- Q) There was a similar event on High Street, were the incidents connected?
A) It was a separate incident.
- Q) Would there be any interruptions to Hywel Axford's funeral in Brynmawr on the same day as the Travellers funeral?
A) It was hoped there would not be but due to not knowing the numbers of attendees for the Travellers funeral there could be.
- Q) In what areas were the slingshots being used illegally?
A) Brynmawr, Nantyglo and around the Cwmcelyn Pond area in Blaina. There seemed to be two separate groups using the slingshots in this way.
- Q) Were slingshots illegal?
A) Slingshots were not illegal, however if being used to cause harm or vandalism they would be confiscated and so it depended on the intention of the slingshot. A no nonsense approach was being taken.

PC G Davies and PCSO J Robins were thanked for attending the meeting and providing the update and left the meeting at this juncture.

Prior to the start of the meeting, the Town Clerk 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. 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 Cllr G Morvan, Cllr L Harris and Cllr L King. **Further Resolved** that the apologies be accepted.

2. Town Mayor's Communications:

The Town Mayor's communications for April 2025

Nantyglo and Blaina Town Mayor Cllr G Morvan was not in attendance and therefore not able to give communications.

Resolved accordingly.

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 29th April 2025 (pages 164 - 170):

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:

i) page 166 Item 8 a) should read 'Cllr Ken Jones JP'

ii) page 16 Item 13 v) RFO clarified statement in response to Members' query.

Resolved that the minutes be approved

5. Minutes of the Events Committee Meeting held 29th April 2025 (pages 171 - 172)

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:

i) Page 172 Item 5) the Town Clerk /RFO gave update in terms of planters later in the Agenda.

Resolved that the minutes be approved.

6. Minutes of the Planning & Highways Committee Meeting held 13th May 2025 (pages 173 - 175)

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:

Cllr K Jones JP thanked Cllr G Morvan for chairing the meeting in his absence.

Resolved that the minutes be approved.

7. Minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee Meeting held 13th May 2025 (pages 176 - 179)

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 178 (item 5) In response to a query, Town Clerk / RFO informed that Mr R Dunham (contractor) was liaising with Mr L Moore and would provide the necessary information as soon as possible.

Resolved that the minutes be approved.

8. Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Council held 27th May 2025 (pages 1 - 5)

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 4 (item 10) – include Cllr D Hillman gave a vote of thanks to the outgoing Town Mayor.

Resolved that the minutes be approved

9. Minutes of the Planning and Highways Committee Meeting held 10th June 2025 (pages 6 - 8):

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:

It was confirmed that the funerals of Shirley Ford would take place on July 4th 2025 and Hywel (not Howard) Axford would take place on 27th July 2025.

Resolved that the minutes be approved.

10. Minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee Meeting held June 10th 2025 (pages 9 – 13):

13 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 13, Item 10) should read 'family room of cancer ward'.

Resolved that the minutes be approved.

11. 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/consideration):

Remote training dates available between June – September 2025.

Councillor L Higgins requested to take attend the training course module 9 'Code of Conduct'.

Resolved to note the information received and **Further Resolved** to book the module 9 Code of Conduct training for Councillor Higgins.

b) Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council – (for information and consideration):

- i. Lack of a cash point in Blaina due to Co-op closing for 5-6 weeks and Post Office closing for a short time and the subsequent response from Blaenau Gwent Councillor Lisa Winnett.

Councillor noted a cash point was located in the Premier shop, but it did charge per use. Also noted that the Co-op will have its cash point located in store when it reopens.

Resolved to note the information received

c) Cllr L Winnett – (for information/consideration):

Email querying rumour regarding the 'knocking down' of Salem Chapel and the Town Clerk's response on behalf of the Town Council.

Resolved to note the information received.

Additional correspondence received with permission of the Chair:

d) Blaina Community Institute Ltd (for information & consideration):

Letter requesting that the Town Council sign erected by Mr R Dunham on the south side of the Institute be removed and re-sited to the front of the building, to the right hand side of the front door.

Members considered the information and Town Clerk had updated that permission had been given by Blaina Institute prior, however contractor R Dunham was unable to place the sign near to the entrance due to the sign's size, thus it was placed on the side of the building instead.

Resolved to note the information received and **Further Resolved** to discuss this further with Blaina Community Institute Limited and Mr R Dunham (contractor) and re-site the sign as appropriate.

12. Town Councils Liaison Meeting with Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council:

Members were informed that the forthcoming Liaison Meeting with Blaenau Gwent CBC will take place on Tuesday 15th July 2025, 2.00pm to 3.30pm. A pre-meeting had been arranged for 1.30pm to 2pm just prior to the Liaison Meeting. The meeting would take place via MS Teams (agenda to follow).

It was noted that members could attend the meeting at the Council Chambers as it was to be attended via Microsoft Teams. The Town Clerk informed that no agenda had yet been received.

Resolved to note the information received.

13. Councillor Photos:

Members were invited to consider photographs of the councillors being uploaded to the website in line with many other Town Council websites. A brief discussion ensued and it was accepted that some Members did not wish to be photographed would , other Members were happy to have photos uploaded to the website.

Members also considered a group photograph be taken for posterity as a number of previous Town Councils had done.

Resolved to note information considered and **Further Resolved** that members who were to have photographs taken and uploaded to website to contact RFO to arrange.

14. 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.

15. Members Updates:

Members were invited to provide any relevant updates and / or information:

Cllr D Hillman:

Cllr D Hillman informed of an email received from Nevill Hall Hospital regarding a survey and its future use by residents, citing its importance to residents of Nantyglo and Blaina. The Town Clerk informed that the email had been sent on to Members.

Resolved to note the information received.

Auction regarding surplus items from Salem Chapel had progressed well, with over £1200 raised from items sold.

Resolved to note the information received.

Nativity set to be donated to St Peters was being arranged by R Dunham who would ensure that it would be thoroughly cleaned.

Resolved to note all information received.

Meeting declared closed at 18:29pm

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**Minutes of the hybrid meeting of the Events Committee held at 18:30pm on Tuesday
24th June 2025 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, Chair of the Events Committee, presiding
Councillors M Williams, D Hillman, C Hillman, K Jones JP, L Emanuel
& D Wright.

In attendance: Mrs T Hughes, Town Clerk / RFO
Mr 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. 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 Councillor G Morvan, Councillor L Harris and Councillor L King.

2. Questions from the public:

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

Resolved to note that no such questions were received nor were any members of the public or press in attendance.

3. 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) Councillor David Wright (for information/consideration):

Proposal for ideas regarding events in Nantyglo and Blaina:

- Fun day in Blaina Town Centre
- Partner with Community Sports Club for the annual Party in the Park
- Outdoor Cinema Night in conjunction with Nantyglo Rugby Club

Councillor D Wright gave an outline of his ideas.

Members noted that the ideas were very positive and that the Town Council were trying to provide more events or help to fund/organise ongoing events (collaboration) within the Nantyglo & Blaina area such as the Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council's Fun Days within Blaina Town Centre.

The Town Clerk / RFO informed that the budget was discussed and resolved in January of each year for the forthcoming financial year and that the budget for all events was agreed at this time.

Councillors stated that providing such events were difficult due to factors such as health & safety legislation and that collaborating with other organisations to provide such events ensured that all resources available could be shared.

Resolved to note the information received and **Further Resolved** that a Task and Finish group meeting be arranged to discuss this matter in more detail.

b) Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council - events at Tredegar (for information & consideration):

- i) Armed Forces Day – to be held on Sunday 29th June 2025
- ii) Aneurin Bevan Day – to be held on Sunday 6th July 2025

A number of Members (including the Town Mayor) informed of their intention to attend the events.

The Town Clerk informed members that all were welcome to attend the events.

Resolved to note the information received.

c) Blaina Community Sports Club – (for information):

Photo showing the memorial brick purchased by the Town Council in honour of David Watkins MBE which was now displayed in Blaina Community Sports Club

Members discussed that the family of David Watkins, Town Mayor and Members of the Council should have been invited for a photo opportunity and to all see firsthand how the brick looked. One Member confirmed they had seen the brick and informed that it was a fitting memorial to David Watkins.

Resolved to note the information received and **Further Resolved** to contact Blaina Community Sports Club to enquire if there was a possibility of an 'unveiling' event.

Additional correspondence with permission of the Chair:

d) GE Views (for information & consideration):

The Town Clerk informed that the cost of delivery of the 3 new planters delivery was £50 per location, meaning the cost of each planter to be delivered to each of their locations throughout Nantyglo and Blaina would cost £150 in total

Members discussed the price for delivery appeared excessive and to contact contractor, Mr R Dunham to enquire if he would be available to help with this issue.

Members also considered the requirement of gravel and compost that would be needed for each of the three new planters and agreed this would need to be purchased.

Resolved to note that information received and **Further Resolved** to contact R Dunham to relocate planters and **Further Resolved** to purchase appropriate amounts of gravel and compost for the three planters.

4. VJ Day – 15th August 2025:

Members were invited to consider collaborating with the Royal British Legion and other possibly organisations to hold an event to celebrate VJ Day (similar to the recent VE Day event) and also to consider purchasing a total of 6 specific VJ Day commemorative flags.

The Town Clerk informed that VJ Day memorial flags were at a cost of approximately £7 per flag, and 6 were needed for an appropriate display. Members queried as to what would the Royal British Legion (Blaina Branch) fund regarding the event and to enquire with them how Nantyglo and Blaina Town Council could assist.

Resolved to purchase 6 VJ Day Memorial flags as detailed and **Further Resolved** to make further enquiries with Royal British Legion (Blaina Branch) as to the format and costs etc of the event.

5. Summer Play Scheme sessions in Nantyglo & Blaina 2025:

Members were invited to consider the purchase of summer play scheme sessions in Nantyglo & Blaina as purchased and provided in 2024. The attached email and information from Sharon Cargill (Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council) contained the relevant information and stated the cost of the sessions as £500 (same as 2024), plus offers an extra session for free - 5 sessions for the price of 4.

Members discussed the information provided and agreed that the play sessions were excellent for the children of the area and how they had been grant funded in 2024. The Town Clerk / RFO clarified that the summer play schemes had been purchased by Nantyglo and Blaina Town Council in 2024 and not grant funded.

Resolved to note the information received and **Further Resolved** to purchase the Summer Play Sessions as detailed.

6. Cinema Showings 2025:

Members were invited to consider the provision of cinema showings for local children throughout the school summer holidays (as in 2024).

Market Hall Cinema, Brynmawr confirmed that whilst the price of a child's ticket has increased from £3.50 to £4, they would keep the cost to the Town Council at £3.50 per child and the total invoice, the same cost as in 2024 (based on 150 tickets per showing for four showings - £2,100 total cost).

This cost was based on the purchase of 150 tickets per showing and four showings (1 showing per week) throughout the school summer holidays, with the Town Council printing and distributing the tickets as last year.

Market Hall Cinema would screen a suitable film for children/all ages although the titles of these would be confirmed at a later date.

Market Hall Cinema had also confirmed that people who could not use their tickets on the specified date of the showings would be able to use them at another screening during the school summer holidays, providing they showed their ticket.

Members thought it was again an excellent idea to bring to residents and asked to see if there was any grant funding available to assist. RFO advised that £2800 had been secured for summer events to take place throughout the school summer holidays in Nantyglo and Blaina.

Resolved to note the information received and **Further Resolved** to purchase cinema tickets as detailed for 2025.

7. Nantyglo & Blaina In Bloom 2025 – Update:

A verbal update in respect of Nantyglo & Blaina In Bloom 2025 was provided.

The Town Clerk informed that to date, only two applications had been received despite the competition having been advertised on Facebook, applications sent to previous applicants and posters put up through the town.

Members were disappointed that only 2 entries had been received so far but one member may have 3 additional applications but had been unable to attend the meeting.

Members discussed delaying the closing date to allow for more entries or to send commendations (either as plaques or certificates) to the two or more entries that had been received but no prize be given.

Resolved to note the information received and **Further Resolved** to purchase 2 to 5 awards as stated above if only a small number of applications were received and to suspend the competition (and prize).

8. Joint Primary Schools Christmas Carol Concert:

Members were invited to consider organising a Joint Primary Schools Christmas Carol Concert as in previous years. Early resolution of this would ensure that the local primary schools have adequate notice to agree and arrange a suitable date for the concert.

If resolved, Members were invited to consider that the format be as in previous years i.e.:

- One school to offer to hold the concert
- The four schools to agree a mutually convenient date and time

- The Town Council to produce and provide the programmes
- Santa to be in attendance
- Selection packs to be provided to all children present
- A joint raffle to be held in aid of the Town Mayor's appeal and the hosting school's PTA

Resolved that the joint Primary Schools Christmas Carol concert be arranged as in previous years (as detailed above) and **Further Resolved** that selection packs be purchased for children present at the concert.

9. Selection Packs to Local Primary Schools:

Members were invited to consider the purchase and provision of selection packs to each primary school pupil within Nantyglo & Blaina who attend Blaen y Cwm Primary, Coed y Garn Primary, Ysgol Bro Helyg & Ystruth Primary.

Members were informed that (subject to confirmation), there were approximately 1150 pupils and the cost of each selection pack in 2024 was £1.19.

Members considered the information and noted that the cost of selection packs was likely to have increased for Christmas 2025 but also considered that the Town Council had purchased selection packs for each primary school pupil since 2020.

Resolved to note the information received and **Further Resolved** to purchase the selection packs for all primary school pupils within Nantyglo and Blaina as in previous years.

10. Christmas Lights 2025:

Members were invited to consider the purchase of additional Christmas Lights & transformers to replace the lights currently erected at Blaina Institute and to also erect in the five trees opposite Blaina Institute and square to achieve an even more effective display for the forthcoming Christmas period. Mr R Dunham (Christmas Lights contractor) had estimated that the amount of additional lights required for this would be the same as purchased in 2024 i.e.

- 111 x 10 metre lengths of LED lights (£3,106.15 inc. Vat in 2024)
- 12 transformers (£125.90 inc. VAT in 2024)

If agreed to purchase, Members were invited to consider the colour of lights purchased for display in the trees i.e. red, white and blue or multi-coloured (the lights for replacement on Blaina Institute would be white).

Members were also reminded that it could sometimes be cheaper to purchase Christmas Lights in the summer rather than the autumn.

Members stated that additional sites need to be located in Nantyglo in regard to placing lights, also that one tree that had been used for lights needed to be trimmed. Members also thought white lights for Blaina Institute and multi coloured lights for the trees would be appropriate.

Resolved to note the information received and **Further Resolved** to identify additional areas to place lights in Nantyglo. **Further Resolved** to purchase white lights for Blaina Institute and multi coloured lights for trees and transformers as detailed above.

11) Any Other Business:

Update regarding the planters:

Cllr D Hillman informed that all planters had been attended to in the area except for the Co-op where building work was being ongoing and that all the planters looked fantastic. Members all agreed that the planters looked wonderful and thanked those Members who had helped to plant and tend to them. The Town Clerk reminded that all members were members of the Events Committee and were welcome to help.

Resolved to note information received.

Meeting declared closed at 19:24pm.

ANNUAL REPORT

2024/25



**NANTYGLO & BLAINA
TOWN COUNCIL**

Town Clerk: Tracy Hughes

NANTYGLO & BLAINA TOWN COUNCIL

CYNGOR TREF NANT-Y-GLO A BLAENAU

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NANTYGLO & BLAINA TOWN COUNCIL

CYNGOR TREF NANT-Y-GLO A BLAENAU

Town Mayor's Report:

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



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



Leader's Report: Cllr Glyn Morvan

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

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

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

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

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

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

NANTYGLO & BLAINA TOWN COUNCIL

CYNGOR TREF NANT-Y-GLO A BLAENAU



About Council:

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

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

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

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

NANTYGLO & BLAINA TOWN COUNCIL

CYNGOR TREF NANT-Y-GLO A BLAENAU

Nantyglo & Blaina Town Council Membership:

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

Committee Membership:

Name	Position	Committee
Cllr Michael Williams	All Members of Council Chair	Full Council
Cllr Ken Jones Cllr Carole Hillman	All Members of Council Chair Observers	Planning & Highways Committee
Cllr John Bond (17 th December 2025) Cllr Lillian Harris	All Members of Council Chair Vice Chair	Events Committee
Cllr Des Hillman	All Members of Council Chair	Finance & General Purposes Committee
Cllr Des Hillman		Personnel Committee

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Cllr Glyn Morvan Cllr Keith Jenkins	Leader of Council	
Cllr Michael Williams Cllr	Town Mayor Deputy Mayor	Joint Committee of Local Councils
Cllr Carole Hillman Cllr Des Hillman Cllr Ken Jones	Substitute	
Cllr Michael Williams Cllr Des Hillman Cllr Carole Hillman Cllr Michael Williams Cllr Ken Jones	Town Mayor Representative Representative Representative Substitute	Blaenau Gwent CBC Liaison Meeting with Town Councils
Cllr Ken Jones	Representative	Blaenau Gwent CAB
Cllr Michael Williams	Representative	Blaina Ward Action Group
Cllr Michael Williams	Town Mayor	Blaina Gwent Heritage Forum
Cllr Des Hillman	Representative	Blaenau Institute Trust Fund
Cllr Michael Williams	Representative	School Governors – Ystruth Primary
Cllr John Bond (17 th December 2025)	Representative	School Governors – Coed Y Garn Primary
Cllr Glyn Morvan	Representative	Blaenau Gwent Armed Forces: Covent Steering Group
Cllr Glyn Morvan Cllr Michael Williams	Leader of Council Town Mayor	One Voice Wales
Cllr Glyn Morvan	Leader of Council	One Voice Wales Larger Councils Representative
Cllr Des Hillman Cllr Carole Hillman	Representative Representative	Planning Application Observer

Staff

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

Meetings

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

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Training Plan 2024/25:

Introduction:

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

Training:

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

Learning can be categorised into the following:

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

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

Training Aims:

The Council's training aims are the following:

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

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Staff Training:

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

Council:

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

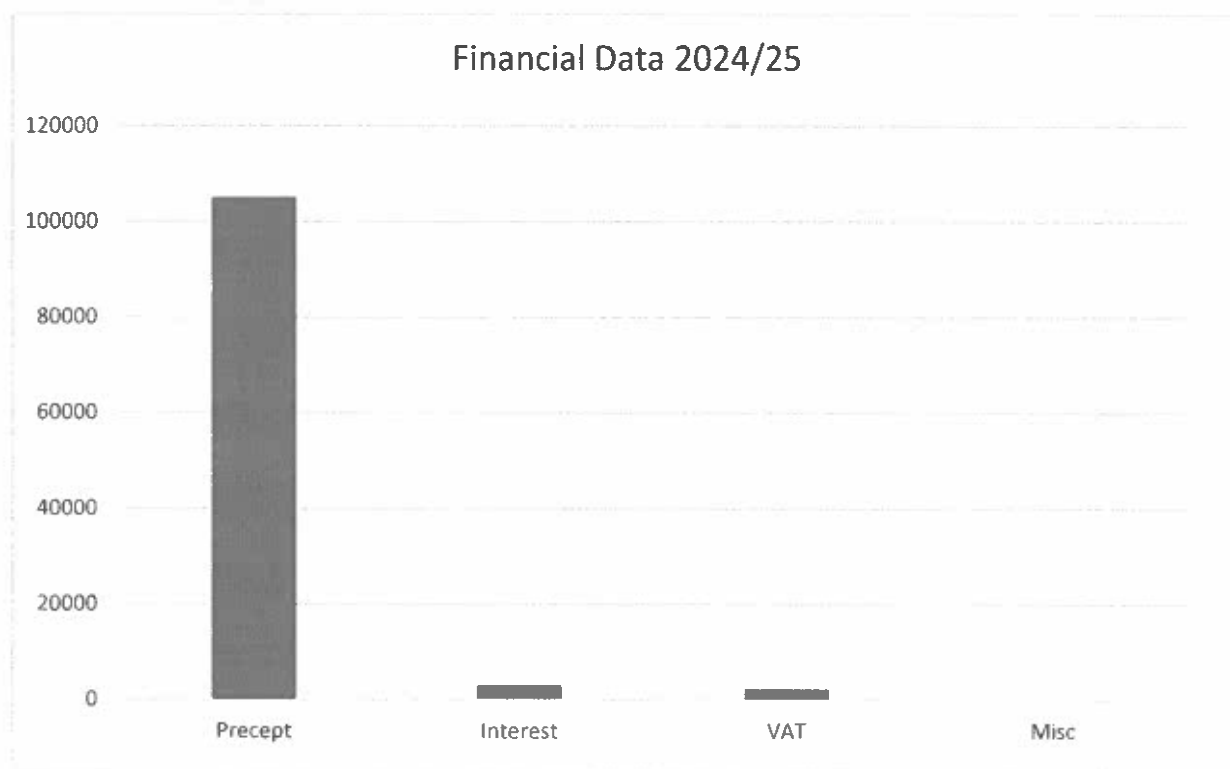
All councillors are provided with New Members Induction Pack following Local Council Elections as soon as practicable after the local elections.	Every 4 years (or following local elections)
All councillors are encouraged to complete a skills audit to identify training needs.	Annually
All councillors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

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

Finance - Income

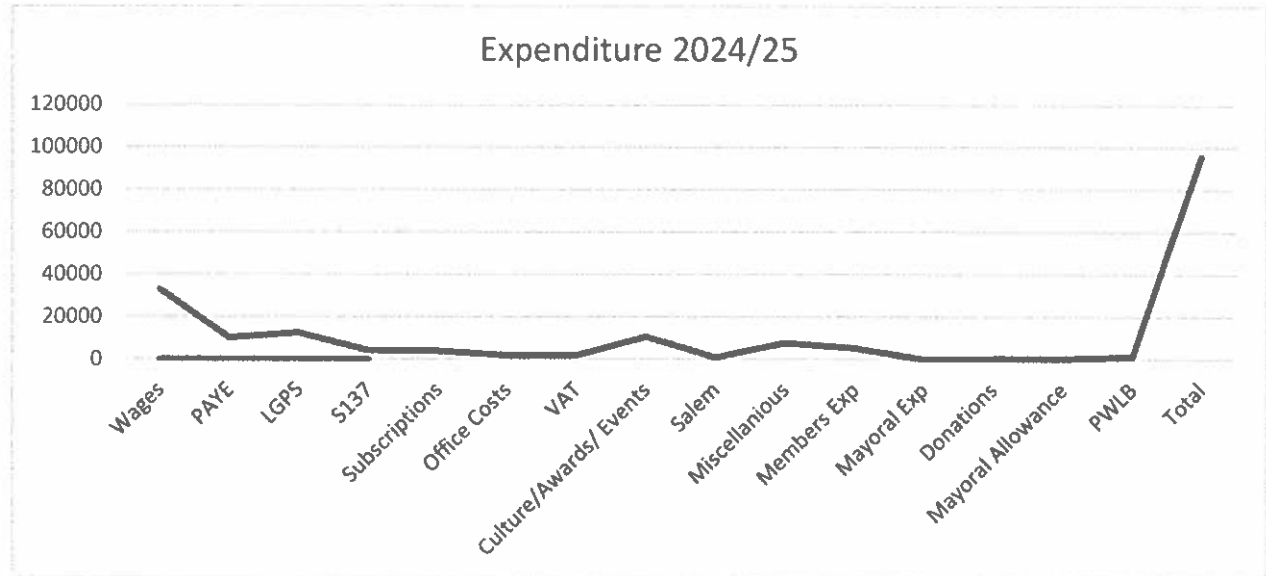


The main source of funding for Town councils is the funds raised through what is referred to as a precept (a charge) to council tax under section 41 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992. Nantyglo & Blaina Town Council calculates its budget requirement for a financial year in accordance with section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

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Expenditure



Financial Donations made via S137 2024/25

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

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

Assets:

Description:

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

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Educational Films (Scotch Cattle) & wall mounted TV and control box
Educational Films (Blaina Riots) & wall mounted TV and control box
Corner Suite
Christmas Train Set
Wall map Nantyglo
Memorial to CSM J.H. Williams VC
WW1 & WW11 – Pen & Ink drawings
2 x business laptops
Salem Chapel – decrease in valuation
Salem Chapel – Amended Valuation
2 x oil radiators
2 x Memorial Benches
Paper Shredder
2 x Laptops, 2 x monitors, 2 x docking stations, 2 x mouse & 2 x keyboards
Owl Pro Meeting System

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Activities

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

- Open Spaces:
- Individual Houses:
- Individual Allotments:
- Community Group:
- Schools:
- Places of Worship

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

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

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

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

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

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

Environment:

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

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

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

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

Playscheme: Town Council helped fund in conjunction with County Borough Council playschemes for children of Nantyglo and Blaina.

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