

# 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](mailto:clerk@nantygloandblainatc.co.uk)

Dear Member,

You are summoned to attend a hybrid meeting of the Town Council to be held at **5:30pm on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2026** at the Council Chamber, Blaina Institute, High Street, Blaina.

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

**Please note change of time.**

Yours sincerely,



Town Clerk

## AGENDA

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

**To receive: David Leech, Deputy Chief Executive, Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council with a presentation on The Deal.**

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

### 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 December 2025 and January 2026.

**3. Questions from the Public:**

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

**4. Minutes of the Meeting of the Full Council held 25<sup>th</sup> November 2025 (pages 92 - 97):**

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

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

**5. Minutes of the Events Committee held 25<sup>th</sup> November 2025 (pages 98 - 99):**

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 and Highways Committee 9<sup>th</sup> December 2025 (pages 100 – 103):**

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 and General Purposes Committee held 9<sup>th</sup> December 2025 (pages 104 – 106):**

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 Meeting of the Planning and Highways Committee held 13<sup>th</sup> January 2026 (pages 107 - 110):**

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 Finance and General Purposes Committee held 13<sup>th</sup> January 2026 (pages 111 - 117):**

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. 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.

- a) Response from One Voice Wales and Planning Aid Wales re: Training (for information – copy attached)

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

- b) Edwina Dixon (for information – copy attached):

Email regarding over 60's Pilates and dance class.

## 11. 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.*

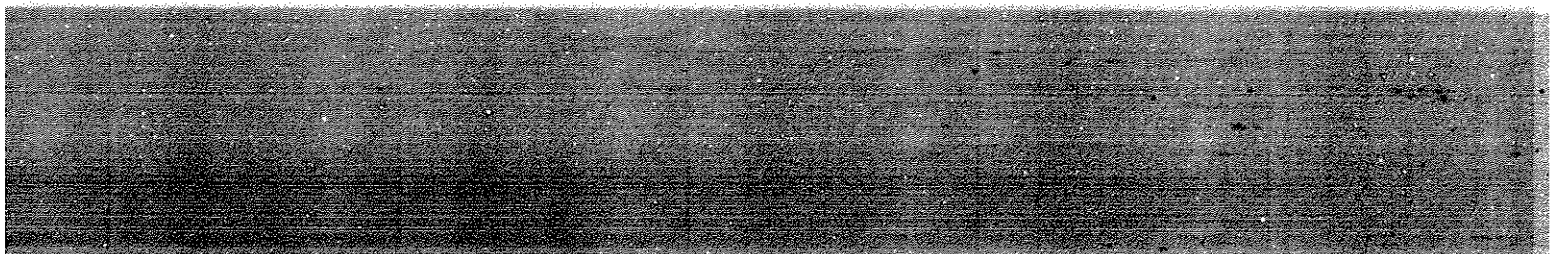
## 12. Members Updates:

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

## 13. 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.

AGENDA ITEM 14 - COUNCIL MEMBERS' REPORTS



Stakeholder Briefing  
September 2025



# The Deal

Building a Fairer Future Together

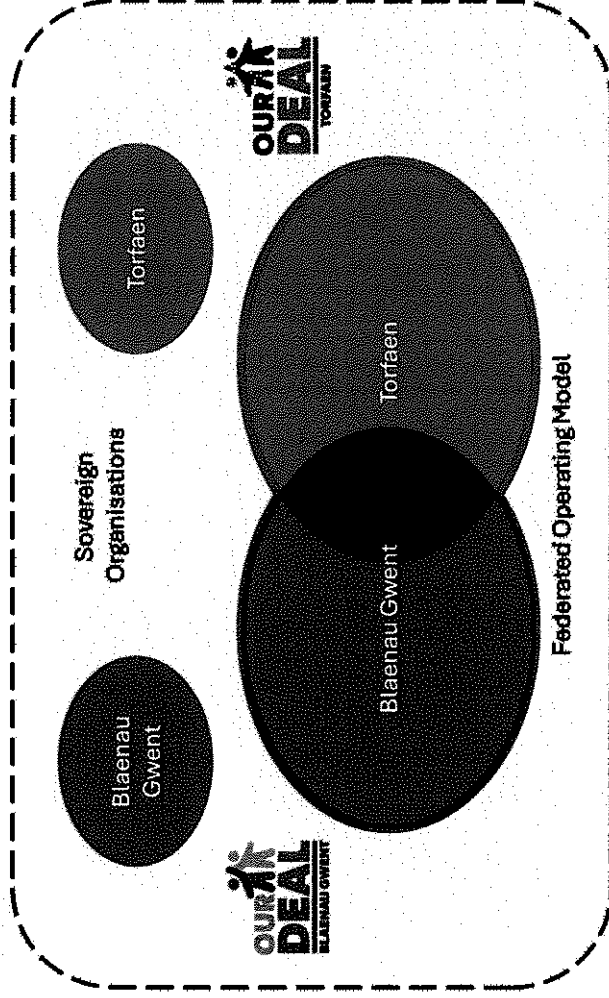


Presentation Items



## Realising the benefits of the Federation

- Better Staff Development and Career Pathways
- Improved Service Delivery Across Councils
- Increased Scale
- Enhanced Innovation and Knowledge Sharing
- Stronger Strategic Planning
- Increased Resilience and Flexibility
- Public Perception and Trust
- Cost Efficiency
- More Opportunity and Influence Regionally and Nationally



**Building a fairer  
Blaenau Gwent  
and Torfaen**



# Why We Need to Change

Doing a lot more with a lot less

**Building a fairer  
Blaenau Gwent  
and Torfaen**



# Public Services in Crisis

- Public services in the UK are in a crisis of rising demand and growing public dissatisfaction
- Current approaches are not fit for purpose
- Fail to address rising demand
- Will not be able to reform top-down

## IMPACT: Communities

Communities face rising inequality, reduced resilience, and a lack of influence over services.

Traditional models have not built enough trust, empowerment, local capacity or resilience

## IMPACT: Economy

Economic stagnation, underinvestment, and disconnected local economies have limited business growth and opportunity.

Bureaucracy and lack of engagement have made it harder for businesses to thrive.

# Building a fairer Blaenau Gwent and Torfaen



# Public Services in Crisis

- Public services in the UK are in a crisis of rising demand and growing public dissatisfaction
- Current approaches are not fit for purpose
- Fail to address rising demand
- Will not be able to reform top-down

## IMPACT: Partnerships

Fragmented systems, siloed working, and lack of shared purpose have limited the impact of public sector and voluntary partners.

There has been insufficient alignment with national ambitions and a lack of system-wide prevention

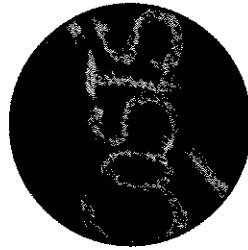
## IMPACT: Cross-Cutting

Shrinking budgets, escalating demand, and a crisis management culture have led to service reductions, staff burnout, and worsening outcomes.

There is a vicious cycle of unmet needs, strategic paralysis, and loss of public trust

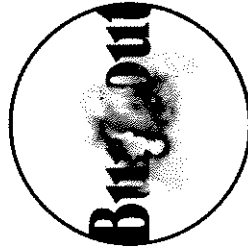
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# Impact



## Escalating Costs

- Reactive spending becomes the norm - councils spend more on crisis interventions rather than cost effective, preventative services.
- This leads to budgetary pressure and unsustainable financial models.



## Service Overload

- Services become overwhelmed by demand.
- Staff burnout and high turnover increase, reducing service quality and continuity.



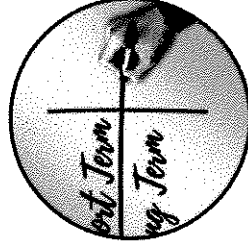
## Worsening Outcomes

- Residents and families experience more severe problems (e.g. homelessness, chronic illness, family breakdown) because early help was unavailable.
- This deepens social inequality and entrenches disadvantage.



## Vicious Cycle of Demand

- Unmet needs today become more complex needs tomorrow
- Councils are trapped in a loop of firefighting, unable to invest in long-term solutions.



## Strategic Paralysis

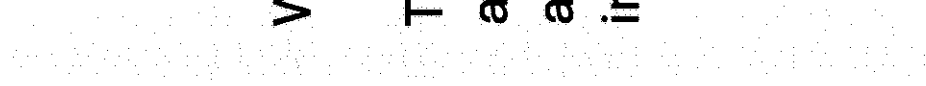
- Long-term planning and innovation are sidelined.
- Loss of capacity to transform services or invest in prevention, reinforcing short-termism.

# Why MARMOT

**Committing to long-term, equitable, and sustainable change that improves lives at a population level**



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and Torfaen**



## Why MARMOT:

The conditions in which people are born, grow, live, work, and age are the root causes of inequality and poor wellbeing

Proportionate Universalism.  
Meaning that **everyone gets support**—that's the universal part. But **those who need more help, get more help**—that's the proportionate part.

Evidence-based: Backed by decades of research showing that health outcomes are shaped more by social and economic factors than by healthcare alone

Delivered effectively, it can turn national strategy into local reality

System-wide: Provides a common framework for aligned and joined-up working

Locally adaptable: Must be embedded into local policy, service delivery, and at place partnerships

Focused on prevention: Shifts the emphasis from crisis response to early help and resilience



**Blaenau Gwent**  
Ynys Eiddwr  
County Borough Council



# Building a fairer Blaenau Gwent and Torfaen

Health and wellbeing outcomes are shaped more by social, economic, and environmental factors than by biological or healthcare factors.

Social, economic, and environmental determinants (the “wider determinants”) → around 40–50% of health outcomes.

Health behaviours (diet, exercise, smoking, alcohol, etc.) → around 30–40%.

Healthcare services → only about 10–20%.

Biological factors (genetics, age, sex) → roughly 10–15%.

- These include income, education, housing, work, social connections, transport, and neighbourhood environments.

- Behaviours are themselves strongly influenced by those wider social determinants.

- Access to, and quality of, medical treatment plays a role, but is far smaller than the upstream social drivers.

- Important, but not the dominant driver when compared to the socioeconomic context people live in.

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# THE DEAL

A new social contract between the council and its  
communities, **built on trust, shared  
responsibility, and collective action**

**Building a fairer  
Blaenau Gwent  
and Torfaen**





## Our Vision

*"A future without inequality, where everyone thrives in a fair, inclusive, and resilient community"*



## Our Aim

*"To create lasting change by building trust, fostering shared responsibility, and driving innovation through strong collaboration between the council, residents, and partners."*

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and Torfaen**





# THE DEAL

Building a Fairer Future Together



The glue that binds a whole system –  
**IMPORTANTLY: across people and place**

**It's co-produced:**  
Services are designed and delivered with residents, not just for them

**It's preventative:** Every service area is expected to reduce future demand by investing in community strengths and early support

**It's empowering:**  
Communities are given real influence through devolved budgets, local governance, and shared decision-making

**It's measurable:** A shared performance framework aligned to Marmot outcomes tracks progress and impact

**It's resilient:** It builds community capacity to withstand crises and reduces reliance on statutory services



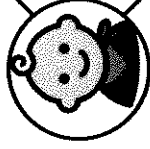
## Building a fairer Blaenau Gwent and Torfaen





## Delivering

# THE DEAL



**Mission One: Early Years - Building Bright Futures** - Support every child to thrive by building strong foundations for lifelong learning and development - focusing on cognitive, emotional, social, and physical wellbeing..



**Mission Two: Inspiring Lifelong Learning, Ambition and Resilience** - Inspire ambition and resilience by empowering people of all ages to lead informed, independent, and healthy lives.



**Mission Three: Wellbeing Through Community Leadership** - Partner with communities to harness local strengths and improve wellbeing, reducing the need for early access to statutory services



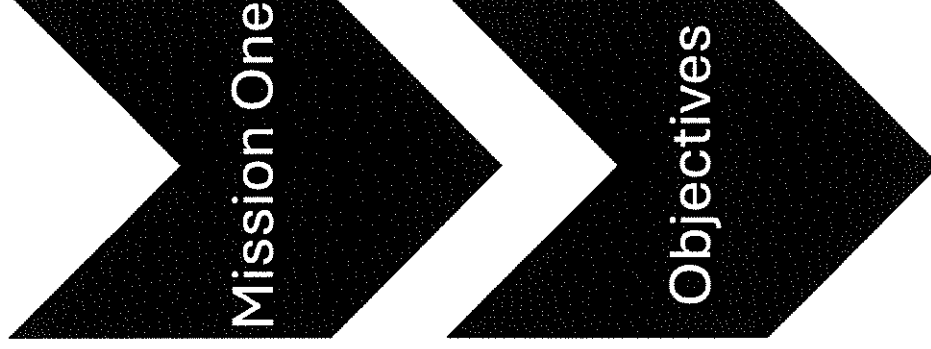
**Mission Four: Thriving Economy, Vibrant Places** - Drive sustainable economic growth and create vibrant, well-connected communities where people and businesses can thrive



**Mission Five: Empowered Communities, Shared Power and Success** - Work alongside communities to capture their ambition and energy as we plan and deliver our services, creating the conditions for community resilience, self-reliance, and shared success.

## Building a fairer Blaenau Gwent and Torfaen

# THE DEAL



- **Early Years - Building Bright Futures** - Support every child to thrive by building strong foundations for lifelong learning and development - focusing on cognitive, emotional, social, and physical wellbeing..

- Cross-council delivery model for early years support (antenatal to age 5), based on universal, targeted and specialist provision
- Data driven practices which identify at place strengths and challenges to drive service design and delivery
- Strong partnerships with the community with clear ask and offer for early years
- Key roles of Elected Members established
- Effective delivery through and with our partners
- Whole system performance framework developed
- Etc

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# Building a fairer Blaenau Gwent and Torfaen



# THE DEAL



So, what's

# THE DEAL

The Deal is our new  
relationship between  
the council, our  
communities and our  
partners

It's a social contract  
built on trust, shared  
responsibility, and  
collective action

It's a commitment to  
doing things  
differently, by working  
together to deliver our  
missions

It's not a project  
It's a movement  
It's a mindset



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**So, what's**

# THE DEAL



At its heart, The Deal is about sharing power - through devolved budgets, local decision-making, and a belief that communities know best what works for them.

It's about working in partnership to reduce health inequalities, improve wellbeing, and build resilient, empowered, strong communities that take pride in their places.

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# THE DEAL

## Benefits for our Communities



**Improved Services and Trust:**  
Services will be co-designed with residents, leading to better alignment with community needs and increased public satisfaction

**Protecting the Services Communities Value:** Lower demand on emergency support helps safeguard the services everyone uses and appreciates

**Empowerment and Participation:** Residents are invited to shape their communities through forums, surveys, and direct engagement, fostering pride and ownership

**Transparency and Accountability:** Residents will see how their input shapes decisions via feedback loops like “You Said, We Did” and performance reporting



# THE DEAL

## Benefits for our Communities



**Sustainability and Resilience:**  
Investment in community strengths and preventative services will build long-term resilience and reduce reliance on crisis interventions

**Better Outcomes, Fairer Chances:** Communities shape services that work for the - leading to healthier, more resilient lives

**Smarter Spending, Stronger Communities:** Savings from prevention are reinvested locally, making services more sustainable.

**Trust, Pride, and Participation:** Communities are listened to, involved, and empowered to make change happen



## Building a fairer Blaenau Gwent and Torfaen

# THE DEAL

## Benefits for our Businesses

**Stronger Local Economy:**  
Drives sustainable growth and creates vibrant, well-connected communities where businesses can thrive

**Influence Local Priorities:**  
Businesses are invited to shape services and strategies through forums, networks, and co-design opportunities

**Boosted Visibility and Trust:**  
Active participation in can build public trust and strengthens business reputation as a community-focused business

**Reduced Bureaucracy:**  
Streamlined engagement and shared governance make it easier for businesses to work with the council



## Benefits for our Businesses

## Ben

**Resilient Operating Environment:** Prevention-first strategies reduce crisis demand, protecting infrastructure and services that support commerce

## Delivering National Ambitions

**Locally:** By aligning with Marmot principles and Welsh Government goals, businesses help deliver inclusive growth and equity at place level

# Building a fairer Blaenau Gwent and Torfaen



# THE DEAL

## Benefits for our Partners

**Deliver National & Regional Strategy Locally:** Translate system wider ambitions into real-world action - through co-designed services and measurable outcomes

**Access to Community Insight and Innovation:** Deep engagement with residents unlocks lived experience, enabling smarter, more targeted interventions

**Shape System-Wide Change:** Enables partners to lead beyond their organisations - driving prevention, equity, and resilience across the whole wellbeing system

**Performance and Risk Alignment:** Partners benefit from integrated performance frameworks and shared data to monitor impact and adapt strategies

# THE DEAL

## Benefits for our Partners

**Strengthen Local Delivery and Impact:** Closer working and collaboration with partners to co-deliver services through the five missions

**Build Trust and Visibility:** Working together visibly with communities and councils enhances public trust and partner reputation

**Reduce Demand and Improve Outcomes:** A targeted prevention-first model reduces pressure on all statutory services, improving outcomes and freeing up resources

**Influence National Policy and Funding:** Partners contribute to learning loops and performance frameworks that shape national direction and unlock future investment

# THE DEAL

## Cross Cutting Benefits

**Cultural Transformation:** A shift from transactional to relational working will improve trust, satisfaction, and efficiency across all stakeholder groups

**Digital and Data-Driven Innovation:** Enhanced use of technology and insights will support smarter decision-making and service delivery

**Community-Led Solutions:**  
By recognising and investing in community strengths, the Deal fosters self-reliance and reduces demand on statutory services

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Blaenau Gwent  
and Torfaen**

# **THE DEAL Call to action...**



Let's build something better together.



Let's love our borough.



Let's build greater pride in our communities.



Let's unlock the potential that already exists in every street, every neighbourhood, every person.



**Blaenau Gwent**  
Fynghaf Bwrdeistref Sirol

Cwmwl y Bwrdeistref

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Blaenau Gwent  
and Torfaen**

# THE DEAL

- 1 A Strong narrative.** A simple concept that everyone can understand, but is profound in its implications
- 2. This is a movement, not a project.** Rooted in public service. "It's why I work for the council."
- 3. Leadership at every level.** Commitment and senior sponsorship.



## Learning from Wigan to test our readiness – 10 essential components

- 4. Workforce culture change.** Training and core behaviours that define how we work, whatever the role.
- 5. A different relationship with residents and communities.** Building self-reliance and independence
- 6. Permission to work differently.** Leadership backing - "we will support you".
- 7. Redesigning the system.** Testing our systems, processes, ways or working against our principles. Do they make the culture and workplace more or less likely to happen?
- 8. Enable staff with the right tools and knowledge.** Using tech to support new ways of working and new roles.
- 9. A new model of commissioning and community investment.** Market development and new ways of commissioning.
- 10. Supportive, enabling functions.** Breaking down barriers to progress and facilitating change.

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and Torfaen**

## PHASE 1

### SO WHAT'S THE DEAL?

IN-DEPTH ENGAGEMENT  
WITH STAKEHOLDER (STAFF,  
MEMBERS, TOWN & COMMUNITY  
COUNCILS, OTHER PARTNER  
ORGS) WORKSHOPS  
SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER

## PHASE 2

### LET'S TALK ABOUT A TORFAEN BLAENAU GWENT DEAL

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT  
OCTOBER & NOVEMBER

## PHASE 3

### LET'S AGREE THE DEAL

YOU SAID... THIS IS  
WHAT THE DEAL LOOKS  
LIKE - ENGAGEMENT  
DECEMBER & JANUARY

## PHASE 4

### LET'S GET READY FOR THE DEAL

TRAINING FOR THE DEAL  
ACROSS TCBC, BG  
AND PARTNERS  
FEBRUARY 2026

## PHASE 5

### LET'S LAUNCH THE DEAL

COMMS & ENGAGEMENT TO  
SHARE THE DEAL ACROSS  
BOROUGH, HOW TO DO A  
DEAL FOR YOUR  
COMMUNITY  
MARCH 2026

## PHASE 6

### LET'S LOOK AT HOW THE DEAL'S WORKING

CASE STUDIES USED TO  
PUBLICISE DEALS AND  
USED FOR INTERNAL  
TRAINING WORKSHOPS  
ONGOING

# **THE DEAL Start deep listening**

- **Get Involved:** Torfaen – The Deal Engagement  
Blaenau Gwent – The Deal Engagement
- *Describe what's good about where you live and your local community?*
- *What would you improve or change if you could?*
- *What would you be prepared to do to help make it better?*
- *What would you like to improve in your community?*
- *What could you do to improve your community?*
- *How do you live your life, what facilities do you use, what services do you use, what local groups are you involved in or support?*
- *What could the council or other partners working in your community do better?*



# **THE DEAL**      Next steps...

- Agree engagement timetable
- Phase 1 – Let's talk to key stakeholders (Sept/Oct)
- Phase 2 - Let's talk to residents / communities (Oct/Nov)
- Phase 3 – Let's agree The Deal – feedback on what we've been told (Dec/Jan)
- Phase 4 – Let's get ready – train staff and partners (Jan/Feb)
- Phase 5 – Let's launch (March )
- Phase 6 – Let's look at what's working and share what's working ( Apr – onwards)

# **THE DEAL**

## Feedback & Questions

*For more information on the Localism Bill, please visit  
[www.localism.gov.uk](http://www.localism.gov.uk)*

# 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

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Tel: 01495 292817 e-mail: [clerk@nantygloandblainatc.co.uk](mailto:clerk@nantygloandblainatc.co.uk)

**Minutes of the hybrid Meeting of the Town Council held at 6.00pm Tuesday 25th November 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 L Higgins; D Hillman; C Hillman (remotely); L Harris; D Wright; M Evans;  
W Lewis; M Williams (remotely); L Emanuel; E Singleton; D Finch & S Howlett

**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.

## **Declaration of Interest**

Members were invited to declare matters of interest either at the beginning or at any time during the proceedings. Please note that all declarations of interest must be recorded in the book provided. **Resolved** to note that no such declarations were received.

### **1. Apologies:**

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

**Resolved** to note apologies were received from Councillors G Morvan, E Singleton and A Fryer. **Further Resolved** that the apologies be accepted.

### **2. Town Mayor's Communications:**

The Town Mayor's communications for November 2025.

In the absence of the Town Mayor, the Town Clerk informed that the Town Mayor had attended the Remembrance Day Parade and Service at the War Memorial, Central Park, Blaina on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> November 2025, whereby a wreath was laid as a mark of respect by the Town Council. Deputy Lord Lieutenant Mrs Susan Gwyer-Roberts and the High Sheriff of Gwent, Lieutenant Colonel Ralph Griffin were also in attendance.

It was commented that despite the inclement weather the attendance was excellent and that pupils from the local primary schools provided excellent readings at the service.

**Resolved** to note the information received.

### 3. Questions from the Public:

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

### 4. Minutes of the Full Council 28<sup>th</sup> October 2025 (pages 72 – 76)

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 73 Item 4a) In response to a query, the Town Clerk informed that there had not been any further update received.

Page 74 Item 8a – A Member challenged that the abstained vote be struck from the minutes regarding Members Allowances (meeting held on 14/10/2025) claiming it was inaccurate. During the discussion, the Member in question stated she was unsure if she had voted or not during that meeting stating she did not remember. The Town Clerk and Assistant Officer both informed that the vote, by way of a show of hands was taken twice for accuracy and that the Member in question did not vote either yes or no in respect of the Member Allowances. Despite the previous minutes (for this meeting held on 14/10/2025) having been approved and resolved as accurate, it was asked that the abstained vote be struck from the minutes as it was inaccurate. The Acting Chair sought views of Members in attendance as to this request and it was noted that another Member was unsure if a comment he had made caused the confusion. The Town Clerk informed that his comment did not form part of the issue or confusion. The Acting Chair then requested that Members vote whether or not to change the previously recorded and agreed minutes as inaccurate i.e. that the Member in question did not abstain but voted in favour of the Council resolving that Attendance Allowance for Members be paid by the Town Council.

**Unanimously Resolved** that the previously recorded, agreed and resolved minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> October 2025 (Page 70, item 6) be 'struck as inaccurate' and that the Member in question did not abstain but voted in favour of the Council resolving that Attendance Allowance be paid by the Town Council.

Page 75 Item 9b) In response to a query, the Town Clerk informed that no further updates had been received.

**Resolved** that the minutes be approved and **Further Resolved** that the Abstained Vote be struck from the minutes of Pg 70, Item 6 of the Finance and General Purposes meeting 14<sup>th</sup> October 2025.

### 5. Minutes of the Events Committee held 28<sup>th</sup> October 2025 (pages 77 – 80)

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 79 Item 3d) It was confirmed that a 50% discount had been given by Blaina Community Sports Club for the hiring of the venue for the David Watkins MBE Brick Memorial unveiling event.

**Resolved** that the minutes be approved.

**6. Minutes of the Personnel Committee Meeting held 10<sup>th</sup> November 2025 (pages 81-83)**

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

a) Matters arising, for information & clarification only:

Pg 81 Item 2) Members congratulated the Assistant Officer on the 6-month probation period, the AO thanked members and the Town Clerk in return. It was agreed that the AO be made permanent and that they learn how to process payments in case of emergency.

Pg 82 Item 3) Potential Code of Conduct Issues/Members Acting as Representatives of Nantyglo and Blaina Town Council.

Pg 82 & 83 Item 4) Officer Working Practices and Health and Safety Issues:

- Working from Home
- Lone Working
- Health and Safety Issues
- Other Item – Town Clerk Appraisal

**Resolved** that the minutes be approved and **Further Resolved** that the recommendations be **Ratified**.

**7. Minutes of the Meeting of the Planning and Highways Committee held 11<sup>th</sup> November 2025 (pages 84 -87 )**

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 87 Item 6 – In response to a query, the Town Clerk informed that an update would be given at a future meeting when it had been received.

**Resolved** that the minutes be approved.

**8. Minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held 11<sup>th</sup> November 2025 (pages 88 -91)**

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

a) Matters arising, for information & clarification only:

**Resolved** that the minutes be approved.

## 9. Correspondence

Members were 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.

### a) Blaina Community Institute LTD – (for information/consideration):

Letter requesting an update in relation to the Nantyglo and Blaina Town Council sign being relocated from the south wall of the building.

Tow Clerk informed that R Dunham, Nantyglo and Blaina Town Council contractor had stated that the sign was too large to be mounted on the front of the building, and that the only other place would be on the north facing side of the building. R Dunham also stated that the Blaina Institute building was to be rendered in the near future which might cause a delay. Members debated whether a new sign would be required to sit on the front of the building. It was queried if the Town Mayor/Leader of the Town Council, Councillor G Morvan could meet with the committee of Blaina Institute LTD to discuss matters and costings for a new sign.

**Resolved** to note the information received and **Further Resolved** that the Town Council Leader/Town Mayor, Cllr G Morvan meet with the committee of Blaina Institute LTD to discuss the issue and **Further Resolved** that costings for a smaller sign to be located on the front of the building be investigated.

### b) Free Councillor Training – (for information & consideration):

Members were invited to consider free training courses funded by the Welsh Government.

A Member stated their interest in attending the Finance and Governance Toolkit training Webinar.

**Resolved** to note the information received.

### c) One Voice Wales Annual General Meeting 21/01/2026 (for information & consideration):

Members were invited to consider the following email from One Voice Wales and the Annual General Meeting to be held remotely on January 21<sup>st</sup> 2026.

It was agreed that Town Council leader G Morvan should represent Nantyglo and Blaina Town Council at the One Voice Wales Annual General Meeting and Councillor L Higgins be his substitute. A Member informed that they did not agree with the proposed 4% increase in the cost of membership to One Voice Wales.

**Resolved** to note the information received and **Further Resolved** that Cllr G Morvan attend the Annual general Meeting on behalf of Nantyglo & Blaina Town Council.

d) Notice of Vacancy update from A. Williams BGCBC (for information & consideration)

Email concerning an update on the Notice of Vacancy in the Blaina Ward of Nantyglo & Blaina Town Council from Audra Williams, Blaenau Gwent CBC.

**Resolved** to note the information received.

e) High Sheriff of Gwent (for information):

Letter of thanks in respect of the recent Remembrance Day Parade.

Members requested that the letter of thanks from the High Sheriff to the participating schools in addition to thanking each school for attending and giving readings in difficult weather conditions.

**Resolved** to note the information received and **Further Resolved** to forward the High Sheriffs letter of thanks and thank each school for their attending and performing at the Remembrance Sunday Service.

**10. Application to the Community Grant Fund:**

Members were 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.*

**Resolved** accordingly.

**11. Members Updates:**

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

Councillor D Hillman:

The Nantyglo and Blaina Town Council planters were now looking worse for wear during the winter months, and some assistance would be appreciated in preparing them for Spring.

Councillor D Finch:

Cllr Finch informed that International Men's Day event was held the 19<sup>th</sup> November and was a very good experience with great choir and fantastic speakers participating. The event had some incredibly positive vibes.

Cllr Finch also informed that the Men's Shed they help operate had been nominated for Shed of the Year along with two others in the UK. Over 1000 Men's Sheds operate in the UK and they were to discover the results in Westminster later that week and Cllr Finch would provide an update at a future meeting.

Councillor K Jones JP:

Cllr Jones informed the newer members that the only meetings in December would be the Planning and Highways and Finance and General Purposes meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> December 2025. Meetings would continue as usual on the second and fourth Tuesday of the month from January onwards.

**Resolved** to note the information received.

Meeting declared closed at 6:35 pm



# 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](mailto:clerk@nantygloandblainatc.co.uk)

**Minutes of the hybrid meeting of the Events Committee held at 6.35pm on Tuesday  
25<sup>th</sup> November 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 Events Committee, presiding  
Councillors K Jones JP; D Hillman; C Hillman (remotely); L Harris; D Wright;  
M Evans; W Lewis; M Williams (remotely); L Emanuel; D Finch & S Howlett

**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 Cllr L Higgins declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 3a.

## **1. Apologies:**

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

**Resolved** that apologies were received from Councillors G Morvan, E Singleton and A Fryer. **Further Resolved** that the apologies be accepted.

## **2. Questions from the public:**

To receive any questions from the public regarding matters on the agenda. Please note that this was limited to 10 minutes.

**Resolved** to note that no such questions were received and **Further Resolved** that no members of the public or press were in attendance.

## **3. Correspondence:**

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

**Resolved** to note that a declaration of non-pecuniary interest received from Councillor L Higgins for item 3.a).

a) Santa's Grotto at St Peters Church, Blaina (for information):

Information received from Town Centre Manager Karen Williams regarding a Santa's Grotto event to be held at St Peters Church in Blaina.

All members were welcome to attend the free event.

**Resolved** to note the information received.

b) Mural Update from TCM Karen Williams (for information and consideration)

The Town Clerk provided a verbal update in respect of information received from Karen Williams, Town Centre Manager at Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council.

During latest conversations with Town Centre Manager Karen Williams, the Town Clerk updated members that at this time, the project was facing a delay due to the business owner moving after the Christmas period. Communication was being sought with the premises owner to further progress on the mural project.

**Resolved** to note the information received.

4. **Xmas Schools Concert Update (for information)**

The Primary Schools Joint Christmas Carol Concert would take place on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2025 at 4.30pm (doors opened at 4pm) at Ystruth Primary School.

Coed Y Garn Primary School and Blaen y Cwm Primary Schools would also be taking part although Ysgol Bro Helyg would not be participating this year and gave their apologies but hope to take part in the future with events involving the schools. Small selection packs have been purchased and will be given out by Santa to all children who attend (as resolved at a previous meeting) at the end of the concert. All Members of Nantyglo and Blaina Town Council were welcome to attend the event. Members were also informed that Mrs Susan Gwyer-Roberts, Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Gwent would also be in attendance.

Member enquired as to whether too many selection packs had been purchased as Ysgol Bro Helyg were not attending this year. The Town Clerk informed members that attendance numbers had been taken for school pupils who would be at the concert and an appropriate number of selection packs had been purchased

**Resolved** to note the information received

Meeting declared closed at 6:45 pm

# 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

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Tel: 01495 292817 E-mail: [clerk@nantygloandblainatc.co.uk](mailto:clerk@nantygloandblainatc.co.uk)

**Minutes of the hybrid meeting of the Planning and Highways Committee held at 6:00pm on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2025 the Council Chamber, Blaina Institute, High Street, Blaina.**

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

**Present:** Cllr K Jones JP, Chair of Planning & Highways Committee, presiding  
Councillors C Hillman (remote), L Harris, D Hillman(remote),  
D Finch, L Emanuel & M Williams (remote).

**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.

## **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 Cllr K Jones JP declared a person interest in item 4b.

### **1. Apologies for absence:**

Members were invited to consider the apologies for absence and to formally resolve to accept. **Resolved** to note apologies were received from Councillors G Morvan, D Wright, A Fryer, W Lewis, E Singleton, M Evans, L Higgins & S Howlett. **Further resolved** that the apologies be 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 no questions were received and **Further Resolved** to note that no members of the public or press were in attendance.

### **3. Correspondence:**

Members were 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.

*Additional correspondence received with permission from the Chair:*

#### Sale of Salem Chapel:

The Town Clerk informed that she had been made aware of emails received on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> December 2025 regarding the proposed sale of Salem Chapel.

An email had been received from Blaenau Gwent CBC Ward Councillors Lisa Winnett (Blaina) which detailed the complaint and an email response from Councillor Sonia Behr (Nantyglo).

The Town Clerk informed that she had been made aware by the Town Mayor / Leader of the Council of the issue and that he had spoken to both Cllr Winnett and the complainant.

Members were asked for their response to the request contained in the email, i.e. that the sale of the Chapel be stopped and for the Town Council to consult with residents of Nantyglo & Blaina regarding the future of the Chapel.

The Town Clerk informed that a public consultation regarding Salem Chapel was conducted between March and May 2021 (started on 15/03/21 and ended 27/06/2021). The consultation form and an expression of interest form (in purchasing the chapel) were sent to Le Gros Solicitors and One Voice Wales for comments and legal advice. The consultation and expression of interest forms were advertised via the Town Council's website, Blaina and Nantyglo Post Offices, Town Council Offices, BGfM Radio, local shops and also emailed to appropriate stakeholders of the Town Council. On 27<sup>th</sup> April 2021, Council resolved to extend the consultation period by one month and that 9 completed consultation forms were received. The consultation forms were considered by a Task & Finish Group on 20/07/21. The majority stated that the Town Council should sell Salem Chapel.

Members stated that in a previous meeting the reason that no 'For Sale' board was added to the building was to help to avert any potential vandalism that had been experienced by other empty buildings elsewhere throughout Blaenau Gwent. This was resolved by majority vote in February 2025.

It was also stated that when it was decided to put Salem Chapel up for sale that the money raised would be to benefit the residents of Nantyglo and Blaina.

Members noted that all evidence in respect of public consultation in regard to Salem Chapel had been retained and comments by Sonia Behr was correct in that all procedures were carried out correctly.

Whilst Salem Chapel was purchased by Nantyglo and Blaina Town Council, Nantyglo & Blaina Chartist Group (to whom a peppercorn lease of the chapel had been granted) attained the finances with which to organise the renovation of the building. None of the current Town Council Members or Officers involved in this matter were involved with Nantyglo and Blaina Town Council during that time.

It was enquired as to would there be a benefit if the auction of Salem Chapel was postponed and a 'For Sale' sign erected for a short amount of time. The Town Clerk / RFO informed that this had been queried with the Auction company but had been informed that as bidding was live and the reserve had already been met before the meeting was held, it would not be possible to do so.

Alun Davies MS had previously been contacted in regard to enquiries regarding the ongoing issues with Salem Chapel.

Members praised the Town Clerk/RFO for her diligence in dealing with the many issues regarding the Chapel which included, but which were not limited to the sale procedurally and legally, its status as a listed building.

**Resolved** to note information received and **Further Resolved** that the Town Clerk to respond to the procedures of sale of Salem Chapel and no 'For Sale' sign being displayed.

#### 4. Planning Applications:

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

- a) Plan Application No. P/2025/0316 - Evie Engineering Site Services Ltd, Unit J Blaenant Industrial Estate, Main Spine Road, Brynmawr, Ebbw Vale, NP23 4AZ

Proposed new steel frame commercial building and associated work.

**Resolved** that no representations or objections be made.

*Cllr K Jones JP declared a personal interest in item 4b.* **Resolved** to note the interest and **Further Resolved** that Cllr K Jones JP remain in the meeting but not take part in any discussion or vote.

- b) Plan Application No. P/2025/3028 – The Magpies Gwaun Delyn Close, Blaina, Ebbw Vale, Blaenau Gwent, NP234NQ

Expansion to existing bungalow to create additional bedroom and ensuite bathroom facility. Relocation of front door to form required circulation space.

**Resolved** that no representations or objections be made.

**5. Licence Applications:**

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

*None received to date.*

**Resolved** accordingly.

Meeting declared closed at 18:25 pm

# 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  
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Tel: 01495 292817 e-mail: [clerk@nantygloandblainatc.co.uk](mailto:clerk@nantygloandblainatc.co.uk)

**Minutes of the hybrid meeting of the Finance & General Purposes Committee held at 6.26pm, Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2025, Council Chamber, Blaina Institute, High Street, Blaina**

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

**Present:** Cllr D Hillman (remote), Chair of Finance & General Purposes Committee, presiding  
Councillors C Hillman (remote), L Harris, K Jones JP,  
D Finch, L Emanuel & M Williams (remote).

**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.

## **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 apologies were received from Councillors G Morvan, D Wright, A Fryer, W Lewis, E Singleton, M Evans, L Higgins & S Howlett. **Further 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 questions were received and no members of the public or press were in attendance.

### **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) Lloyds Bank – Change to Community Account (for information):**

Notice from Lloyds Bank informing Nantyglo and Blaina Town Council That the bank account would change to a Community Account from January 2026.

The Town Clerk detailed the costs of the new account, and it should mean a saving for Nantyglo and Blaina Town Council on a monthly basis. Members agreed this was a positive move.

**Resolved** to note the information received and **Further Resolved** that Nantyglo and Blaina Town Council go forward with the new bank account changes with Lloyds.

**b) Auditor General's report and audit opinion (for information and consideration):**

Please find attached the Auditor General's report and audit opinion for 2024/25.

Members were invited to note and if agreed, to approve and accept the Annual Return and Audit Opinion.

Members were also informed that the Annual Return and Audit Opinion had been displayed on the Town Council's website and notice board as required by legislation.

The Town Clerk / RFO also informed that as the Audit Opinion did NOT contain any recommendations, the Audit Action Plan as agreed by Council at the Full Council meeting in September 2025, did not require updating.

Members thanked the Town Clerk/RFO for keeping Nantyglo and Blaina Town Council in good health with a very good Auditor General's report.

**Resolved** to note the information received and **Further Resolved** that the Audit Opinion be accepted.

**4. 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 December 2025.

**Resolved** that a financial donation of £200.00 be made to Blaenau Gwent Foodbank to assist Nantyglo & Blaina residents for the month of December 2025.

**5. 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 may be received prior to the date of the meeting. Members were also reminded that applications will need to be considered in conjunction with the current policy.

*Additional application received with permission of the Chair; members were previously emailed details of the application prior to the meeting and copies were provided at the meeting.*

- Tiny Sprouts Playgroup.

Members discussed the difficulty in determining an appropriate amount but concluded that the playgroup benefitted a number of local residents.

**Resolved** that a donation of £75.00 be granted to Tiny Sprouts Playgroup.



**6. Salem Chapel:**

Members were invited to consider the attached inspection reports:

- November 2025:

*Questions and comments were invited:*

In response to a query, the Town Clerk informed that, to her untrained eye, that whilst the physical condition of the chapel continued to deteriorate, there did not appear to be any additional issues to those already listed on the inspection report.

**Resolved** that the report be approved.

**7. Confidential Information:**

The following item(s) may contain information that is 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. Due to recommendations from the Auditor General since April confidential information has been displayed in the minutes to meetings since April 2025.

a) Precept, Income and Expenditure Report:

Due to the Town Clerk being ill, this was unavailable to be provided for the month of November 2025 and that the report would be provided at the Finance & General Purposes Committee Meeting in January 2026.

**Resolved** accordingly.

Meeting declared closed at 18:47 pm.

# 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  
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**Minutes of the hybrid meeting of the Planning and Highways Committee held at 6:00pm on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2026 the Council Chamber, Blaina Institute, High Street, Blaina.**

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

**Present:** Cllr K Jones JP, Chair of Planning & Highways Committee, presiding  
Councillors L Harris, C Hillman, M Williams, L Higgins, M Evans,  
A Fryer, D Hillman, S Howlett, E Singleton and D Finch.

**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.

### **Declaration of Interest**

Members were invited to declare matters of interest either at the beginning or at any time during the proceedings. Members were reminded that all declarations of interest must be recorded in the book provided. **Resolved** to note that no declarations were received.

### **1. Apologies for absence:**

Members were invited to consider the apologies for absence and to formally resolve to accept. **Resolved** to note apologies were received from Councillor G Morvan, W Lewis & D Wright. **Resolved** that the apologies be 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 no questions were received and **Further Resolved** that no members of the public or press were present at the meeting.

### **3. Correspondence:**

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

a) Climate Resilience Communities Workshop (for information/consideration):

Invitation for up to two elected representatives from Nantyglo and Blaina Town Council to attend a Climate Resilience Communities Workshop at Llanhilleth Miners Institute on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> January at 10am – 12:30pm.

**Resolved** to note the information received.

b) Resident concern re: Speeding Vehicles (for information/consideration)

Communication from a resident of Nantyglo with concerns of traffic noise and speeding vehicles through Queen Street.

Members agreed that there are issues on the road stated and others throughout the area and were made aware of a response from V Brewer Community Safety Officer at Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council.

**Resolved** to note the information received

*Additional correspondence received with permission of the Chair:*

c) Lakeside, Nantyglo Resident concerns over icy conditions (for information/consideration):

Resident concerns over safety and responsibility of Lakeside Homes in Nantyglo and response from Karen Robertson of Persimmon Homes.

Members discussed that the issue was not a Nantyglo and Blaina Town Council issue and that a response to be sent to inform this should enquired to the Highways Department at Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council.

**Resolved** to note the information received and **Further Resolved** to respond to the email.

d) Proposed One Planet Development house and business at Cwm Farm enquiry (for information/consideration)

Invitation/request for local Town Council members to meet with Mr Peter Ivanyi to talk and ask questions about the project and express any concerns before plans were submitted.

Members briefly considered the email and agreed that he would be welcome to attend a meeting, but it would not be until the meeting on the 24<sup>th</sup> February or to arrange another manner in which to talk about the project.

**Resolved** to note the information received and **Further Resolved** to contact Mr Ivanyi to arrange a meeting to discuss the project.

**4. Decisions taken under delegated powers during December 2025:**

Members were informed of the decisions taken under delegated powers during December 2025. Members were asked to consider supporting the delegated decisions if appropriate:

a) Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council – consultation:

Grant of a 35 year lease to Blaina Bowls Club:

**Resolved** that no objection or representation be made.

**Resolved** that the decision was supported.

5. **Planning Applications:**

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

a) Plan Application No. P/2025/0349 – 60 High Street, Blaina, Abertillery, Blaenau Gwent NP133AG

Change of use from takeaway to residential flat, ground floor area only and including refurbishment of existing elevations and ground floor layout.

**Resolved** that no representations or objections were made.

b) Plan Application No. P/2025/0350 – Land Opposite 29 Surgery Road, Blaina, Blaenau Gwent.

Proposed pair of semi-detached houses with associated works.

Members commented that some of the plan drawings were unclear and that enquiries were to be made to clarify the area.

**Resolved** that enquiries be made to clarify the location and re-agenda the item for further consideration.

*Additional planning applications with permission of the Chair – Members were provided with hard copies of all additional planning applications:*

c) Plan Application No. P/2026/0001 – 1 Clos Yr Ysbyty, Blaina, Abertillery, NP23 4NW:

Works to protected tree for safety and health of tree.

**Resolved** that no representations or objections were made.

d) Plan Application No. P/2025/0331 – 21 Tanglewood Drive, Tanglewood, Blaina, Blaenau Gwent, NP13 3JB

Retention of garage.

**Resolved** that no representations or objections be made.

- e) Plan Application No. P/2026/0004 – Sycamore Lodge, Beaumont Close, Nantyglo, Brynmawr, NP234QJ

Works to protected trees – Horse Chestnut.

**Resolved** that no representations or objections were made.

**6. Licence Applications:**

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

*None received to date*

**Resolved** accordingly.

Meeting declared closed at 18:42pm

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

Mrs T Hughes - Town Clerk/RFO

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Tel: 01495 292817 e-mail: [clerk@nantygloandblainatc.co.uk](mailto:clerk@nantygloandblainatc.co.uk)

**Minutes of the hybrid meeting of the Finance & General Purposes Committee held at  
18:43pm on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2026 the Council Chamber, Blaina Institute,  
High Street, Blaina.**

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

**Present:** Cllr D Hillman, Chair of Finance & General Purposes Committee, presiding  
Councillors L Harris, C Hillman, M Williams, L Higgins, M Evans, A Fryer, S Howlett,  
E Singleton and D Finch.

**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.

## **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 The Town Clerk declared a personal and professional interest in item 7d.

## **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 Councillor G Morvan, W Lewis and D Wright.

**Further 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).

## **3. Correspondence:**

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

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

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

Members discussed the scheme, its value and whether other organisations already provided a similar scheme in the area. It was stated that a lot of people could benefit from this scheme for the amount of money it would cost, although some Members thought the approximate costs of the sessions were confusing. Members considered that an application form in respect of a small financial donation would be more suitable.

**Resolved** to note the information received and **Further Resolved** that an application form be supplied in order to apply for a financial donation.

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

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

The Town Clerk / RFO explained how the limit/information would apply to the Town Council, i.e. the Town Council could legally spend an approximate maximum of £104,400 on expenditure incurred under s.137 for the financial year 2026/27 (approximate 9000 electors x £11.60). Members were reminded that any expenditure incurred via s.137 would need to be budgeted for and was not an additional amount available from the Welsh Government.

**Resolved** to note the information received.

c) One Voice Wales (For information & consideration):

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

Members were informed to contact the Town Clerk if they wished attend. It was also queried if there were other media through which the training could be delivered at a more affordable cost.

**Resolved** to note the information received and **Further Resolved** to enquire if other options of attaining the training through other media were available at a lower cost.

*Additional correspondence with permission of the Chair:*

*The Town Clerk / RFO declared a personal and professional interest in item 7d below. **Resolved** that the Town Clerk / RFO remain in the meeting as the item was for information only.*

d) Mrs T Hughes, Town Clerk / RFO (for information):

Letter of resignation from the post of Town Clerk / Responsible Finance Officer.

Members were saddened by the news of Mrs T Hughes' resignation and that she would be a great loss to Nantyglo and Blaina Town Council. Due to the Town Council Leader/Chair of the Personnel Committee, Cllr G Morven not being present, that a Personnel Committee meeting be arranged to discuss the required actions.

**Resolved** to note the information received and **Further Resolved** that a Personnel Committee meeting be arranged to further discuss the required actions.

**4. 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 January 2026.

**Resolved** that a financial donation of £200.00 be made to Blaenau Gwent Foodbank to assist Nantyglo & Blaina residents for the month of January 2026.

**5. 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 were 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) *None received to date.*

**Resolved** accordingly.

**6. Salem Chapel:**

Members were invited to consider the attached inspection reports:

- December 2025:

In response to a query, the Town Clerk informed that whilst the condition of the Chapel continued to deteriorate, there did not appear to be any additional issues.

Members were updated that completion date for the sale of Salem Chapel was 21<sup>st</sup> January 2026. The reserve price was £27,000 and the Chapel sold £38,000 prior to any costs.

**Resolved** that the report be approved and **Further Resolved** to note the information received.

**7. Confidential Information:**

The following item(s) might contain information that is 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) Precept, Income and Expenditure Report:

Members were invited to consider, and if appropriate approve the Precept, Income and Expenditure Report for:

- November 2025:

Queries and comments were invited:

In response to a member querying the amount shown in July the Town Clerk/RFO informed that this amount was from the sale of some of the items from Salem Chapel and that all details of income and expenditure were retained.

**Resolved** that the report be approved and **Further Resolved** to note the information received.

- December 2025:

Comments and queries were invited:

It was commented that the expenditure forecast had lowered and was now in the recommended range.

**Resolved** that the report be approved.

b) Periodic Financial Reports:

Members were invited to consider, and if appropriate approve the following reports for October – December 2025:

- Budget & Monitoring Report – 1<sup>st</sup> April 2025 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2025:

Comments and queries were invited:

It was commented that the Salem Chapel budget would soon not be required.

**Resolved** that the report be approved.

- Bank Reconciliation – 1<sup>st</sup> October 2025 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2025:

Comments and queries were invited – none received.

**Resolved** that the report be approved.

- General & Earmarked Reserves – 1<sup>st</sup> August 2025 – 30<sup>th</sup> November 2025:

Comments and queries were invited:

The Town Clerk / RFO provided further information in respect of the general reserves and RFO Contingency Reserves.

In response to a query regarding the need to change the reserve accounts following the sale of Salem Chapel, the Town Clerk/RFO informed that this information was detailed in the draft budget and precept report 2026/27 (item 7e).

**Resolved** that the report be approved and **Further Resolved** to note the information received.

Item c) page 6 - Members considered the need for an appropriate power supply due to the sale of Salem Chapel, in respect of future Christmas Lights. The possibility of utilising St Peters Church had been considered. Members also considered displaying lengths of Christmas Lights around lampposts as seen in nearby towns, although the difficulties of putting any Christmas lights on lampposts were acknowledged. All considerations/recommendations (page 6 – I to vi) in regard to Christmas Lights are **Resolved** as stated. **Further Resolved** to query with Christmas Lights contractor, Mr R Dunham if lengths of Christmas lights could be displayed around lampposts (as seen in other towns).

Item d) page 6/7 – Members discussed and **Resolved** the occasional previous practice to hold occasional meetings at a venue in Nantyglo for accessibility. **Further Resolved** that all Members be provided with a copy of the Town Council's powers and duties. **Additionally Resolved** all recommendations regarding public consultations.

Item e) page 7) – Members stated that at a recent Personnel Committee meeting it had been discussed that a working from home policy was being considered.

Item f) page 7) – Annual pay award for 2026/27 was **Resolved** as stated.

Item h) page 8) – Member enquired about installing a speaker system or ear loops so that members sitting towards the rear of the chamber may hear discussions better. **Resolved** to investigate a suitable system.

Item i) page 8) - Recommendations regarding Devolved Services and other possible changes be supported and **Resolved** as stated.

#### Section 4 – Potential Changes to Local Government.

***Proposed and Resolved that Standing Orders be suspended due to the time being 8pm – meeting to continue meeting.***

Considerations (page 9) regarding boundary changes to local Government **Resolved** as stated.

#### Section 5 – Proposed Council Programme for the Financial year 2026/27

All Members were encouraged to attend as many events as possible.

Page 10) That all recommendations (I – iii) were **Resolved** as stated.

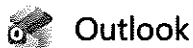
#### Section 11 – Recommendations.

It was proposed and seconded that the Precept should remain at £105,000 for 2026/27.

It was proposed and seconded that the Precept should increase by £10,000 to £115,000 for 2026/27. A Member responded that as it was a transitional year, there would be a need to show a plan for increased events and increased expenditure.

Voting was as follows: 5 in favour to keep the precept at a standstill

6 in favour to increase the precept by £10,000



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**RE: Joint event One Voice Wales and Planning Aid Wales**

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**From** Tracy Gilmartin <tgilmartin@onevoicewales.wales>

**Date** Thu 15-Jan-26 9:40 AM

**To** Clerk <clerk@nantygloandblainatc.co.uk>

Hi Tracy

I checked this with Paul and his reply was our policy is not to provide recorded versions of training plans

With best regards

Tracy

**From:** Clerk <clerk@nantygloandblainatc.co.uk>

**Sent:** 14 January 2026 12:51

**To:** Tracy Gilmartin <tgilmartin@onevoicewales.wales>

**Subject:** Re: Joint event One Voice Wales and Planning Aid Wales

Good afternoon Tracy,

Members of my Council have been provided with the information regarding the training event (as detailed below) and have been given the opportunity to attend.

Council has requested that I query with you if there would be a possibility of having the training session available as a recorded DVD (or something similar) that could be accessed at a lower cost?

Many thanks and kind regards

Tracy

Town Clerk: Mrs Tracy Hughes

Nantyglo and Blaina Town Council

Town Council Offices

Blaina Community Institute

High Street

Blaina

NP13 3BN

01495 292817

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## Classes in Blaenau Gwent

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**From** Edwina Dixon <dixonthevixen@gmail.com>

**Date** Mon 19-Jan-26 11:34 AM

**To** Clerk <clerk@nantygloandblainatc.co.uk>

[You don't often get email from dixonthevixen@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification> ]

Hi

I currently attend an over 60s Pilates and dance class run by Torfaen Council in Blaenavon . I find it to be very beneficial and think that a similar class could be run in Blaenau Gwent .

Rachael who runs the class has already approached yourselves I understand and I just want to reiterate how valuable these classes are if they could be started in our area ( I live in Blaina)

Thank you

Edwina Dixon

Sent from my iPhone