

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 26th November 2024** at the Council Chamber, Blaina Institute, High Street, Blaina.

If any member of the public wishes to attend the meeting, please contact the Town Clerk at the above e-mail by 3pm on 26th November 2024 for details of how to access the meeting.

Yours sincerely,



Town Clerk

AGENDA

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

Declaration of Interest

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

1. Apologies:

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

2. Town Mayor's Communications:

The Town Mayor's communications for November 2024.

3. Questions from the Public:

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

4. Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held 22nd October 2024 (pages 71 – 76)

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 22nd October 2024 (pages 77 -78)

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

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

6. Minutes of the Planning & Highways Committee Meeting held 12th November 2024 (pages 79 – 80)

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

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

7. Minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee Meeting held 12th November 2024 (pages 81 - 85)

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. Correspondence:

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

- a) One Voice Wales – (for information - copies attached):
- i. National Conference 2024 Report (please note that the advertisements have not been included).
 - ii. Training Dates
- b) Blaina Community Institute Ltd (for information – copy attached):
- Letter re: Fire drills.

9. Digihub Wales – Photocopier Lease:

Members are informed that further to the invoice for a documentation fee of £168 received, Digihub Wales have offered to provide the Town Council with 40,000 black and white photocopies free of charge as a goodwill gesture. Members are invited to consider this offer.

10. Selection Packs:

Members are informed that following resolution of 1200 selection packs to distribute to local schools and at the joint schools Carol Concert, a total of 1250 selection packs were supplied and paid for in error (due to more selection packs being in each box than in previous years). Members are requested to consider to resolve if the additional 50 selection packs be returned in the hope of a refund or resolve the purchase of the additional 50 packs. Members are additionally informed that in previous years, additional selection packs were purchased to ensure enough were available.

11. Application to the Community Grant Fund:

- a) *None received to date.*

12. Members Updates:

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

13. Confidential Information:

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

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

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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 22nd October 2024 at the Council Chamber, Blaina Institute, High Street, Blaina.

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

Present: Councillor M Williams, Town Mayor, presiding.
Councillors G Morvan, D Hillman, C Hillman, L Harris, K Jones JP, L Higgins, & L Emanuel.

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

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

To receive: Mr Steve Edwards – Community Clerk for Abertillery & Llanhilleth Community Council.

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

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

The Town Mayor introduced Mr Steve Edwards, Clerk to Abertillery & Llanhilleth Community Council (ALCC) and welcomed him to the meeting.

Steve Edwards explained that the 'Party in the Park' was a party held in Abertillery Park and was free for people to attend. The party had taken place each year on the second Saturday in June since 2018 (except for 2020) and included bands, crafts and food stalls etc. The party was funded by Abertillery & Llanhilleth Community Council and the Leisure Committee had asked that he speak to Nantyglo & Blaina Town Council with an invitation to join in with the Party in the Park (PIP) by way of making a financial grant of £1,000. This grant would then entitle NBTC to a seat on the management committee for PIP which would provide a direct say in the organisation of the event.

Steve Edwards informed that the PIP usually comprised of the following, the Rugby Club bar was opened, inflatables, Viking re-enactment, stalls, bands and other performances. No fairground

rides were included to avoid the event being dominated by teenagers. The event was primarily aimed at young families following investigations that revealed young families benefitted most from such a free entry event (although the event was open to all).

Questions were invited:

- Q: Were stallholders charged to participate in the event?
- A: £5 per stall was charged to avoid no-shows on the day. Approximately 25 stalls were at PIP and all were sited under a marquee. The committee try to avoid 'duplicate' stalls offering similar goods.
- Q: Where did the profit (from the event) go towards?
- A: The profit goes to the Chair's (of Abertillery & Llanhilleth CC) chosen charity, which for 2024/25 was the toilets in St Michael's Church but the charity could be negotiated each year. The food stalls in attendance at the event also give a donation.
- Q: Are the stalls at PIP local?
- A: Local stalls have priority.
- Q: What was the total cost of putting the event on?
- A: £15,000 in total and if NBTC wanted to join the event, a grant/donation of £1,000 would be required.
- Q: How many residents from Nantyglo & Blaina attend the event?
- A: It's unknown how many people from Nantyglo & Blaina attend but attendees were from many different areas.
- Q: NBTC would have an issue in justifying spending such an amount of money in a different town.
- A: The Leisure Committee would ensure that the event is well advertised within Nantyglo & Blaina and could look into the possibility of providing a bus to the event.
- Q: Could the possible donation/grant from NBTC event go towards something specific?
- A: That would need to be discussed, and the Leisure Committee would welcome ideas from NBTC, but the only limit was that no motorised displays were to be included due to insurance purposes.
- Q: Why were donations made to St Michael's Church?
- A: St Michael's Church was the Chair's chosen charity for 2024/25, but this would change next year. ALCC support St Michael's Church as many events took place there. The cost of maintaining the toilets was £20,000 per year and some grants were received from the solar farm for this too.
- Q: What food trucks were at the event?
- A: The Leisure Committee try to ensure there were no duplications and that a variety of food was available, but no burger type food trucks as burgers were provided by the Rugby Club at the event.
- Q: How was the event advertised?
- A: Via the ALCC website, social media and word of mouth.
- Q: Could some of the profits go towards a Nantyglo & Blaina charity? This could be an incentive for NBTC to consider joining the event.

A: Yes, there would be a pro-rata split depending upon the contribution provided. ALCC could give the £15,000 amount that it costs to put the event on, to charity but the purpose was to help local families have a cheap day out.

Q: Were photos of previous PIPs available?

A: Yes and will email to the Clerk together with the previous Clerk's report on the event.

The Chair and Members thanked Steve Edwards for attending the meeting and providing comprehensive information about the Party in the Park.

Mr Steve Edwards left the meeting at this juncture.

Resolved to note the information received and **Further Resolved** to re-agenda the item, together with the report and photos for a future meeting of the Events Committee.

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

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 J Bond.

Further Resolved that the apologies be accepted.

Cllr L Emanuel gave apologies for her absence at the Meetings of the Planning & Highways and Finance & General Purposes Committees held on 8th October 2024 due to illness.

Resolved to note the information received.

2. Town Mayor's Communications:

The Town Mayor's communications for September & October 2024.

The Town Mayor informed that he had been invited to open (& help out) at the opening of a new branch of a Martial Arts group in Abergavenny. The Town Mayor informed that he had tried unsuccessfully to contact Abergavenny Town Council to obtain their consent.

The Town Mayor also informed that his Martial Arts Group had set up a fundraiser in respect of the young girl from Nantyglo who had recently been badly injured in a dog attack. A GoFundMe page had already raised over £500, and an event was due to take place at Halloween. The Martial Arts Group were hoping to raise enough money to send the family on a short break and were working with Edwards Coaches to do so. Members congratulated the Town Mayor.

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 is limited to 10 minutes).

Resolved to note that no questions were received.

5. Notes of the Meeting of the Town Council held 24th September 2024 (pages 55 – 59)

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

a) Matters arising, for information & clarification only:

The Town Clerk informed that as the meeting wasn't quorate, these should be considered as notes rather than minutes of the meeting.

Page 57(8b) The Town Clerk informed that the query in respect of the Rights of Way had been put to Blaenau Gwent CBC, although a response had not yet been received.

Page 59(14) The issue of the Town Council signage was raised by Cllr D Hillman and supported by Cllr L Emanuel. The Town Clerk informed that ID and business cards were being produced.

It was **Proposed** and **Resolved** that all the recommendations contained within be **Ratified**.
Resolved that the notes be approved.

5. Notes of the Events Committee Meeting held 24th September 2024 (pages 60 -63)

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

a) Matters arising, for information & clarification only:

It was **Proposed** and **Resolved** that all the recommendations

Page 61 (3) – the Town Clerk informed that it had been ascertained as far as possible that David Watkins was born in Blaina and that the memorial brick had been ordered.

Page 63 (9) – should read 'Miners' Memorial'. The Town Clerk informed that the memorial was erected by Blaina Heritage and supported by Nantyglo Comprehensive school and was not the Town Council. **Resolved** to re-agenda item to consider ongoing maintenance.

Resolved that the notes be approved.

6. Minutes of the Planning & Highways Committee Meeting held 8th October 2024 (pages 64 – 66)

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

a) Matters arising, for information & clarification only:

Resolved that the minutes be approved.

6. Minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee Meeting held 8th October 2024 (pages 67 – 70)

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 69 (8) – the Town Clerk informed that the Christmas Lights had been ordered. In response to a query, the Town Clerk informed that no information had been received in respect of the quotation to be received from Russell Dunham (Christmas Lights contractor) for brackets to help site Christmas Lights across the High Street but that this would be queried.

Resolved that the minutes be approved and **Further Resolved** that the quotation in respect of brackets for the Christmas Lights be queried with the Christmas Lights contractor.

8. 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):

E-mail re: Application for Free Webinar Training Places.

The Chair/Town Mayor informed that he would be interested in attending the courses.

Resolved to note the information received and **Further Resolved** to arrange for the Town Mayor to attend the courses.

b) Welsh Government – Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales (for information & consideration):

Consultation re: IRPW draft Annual Report for 2025/26 (please note only the information in respect of Community / Town Councils is attached.

The Town Clerk informed that the draft report did not contain any changes relating to the Town Council and that the Town Council complied with all aspects of the report.

Members were informed that any comments in respect of the consultation could be sent directly to IRPW.

Resolved to note the information received.

*Councillors M Williams and K Jones JP declared a personal interest in the next item. **Resolved** that both remain in the meeting but not take part in any discussion or vote. **Proposed** and **Resolved** that Cllr G Morvan chair item 9.*

9. Application to the Community Grant Fund:

a) Hospice of the Valleys:

Resolved that a financial grant of £100.00 be made to the Hospice of the Valleys.

10. Audit Wales:

Members were informed that the External Auditor's report and certificate in respect of the Annual Return for the year ending 31st March 2024 had been received. 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 2024 did not require updating.

Members thanked the Officers for their work in respect of the audit.

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

11. Members Updates:

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

Cllr D Hillman:

Cllr D Hillman enquired as to the Mayoral photographs which were to be located in the Council Chamber.

The Town Clerk informed that they were currently awaiting printing, and the Town Mayor informed that the photos should be received in approximately one week.

Resolved to note the information received.

12. Confidential Information:

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

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

Minutes of the hybrid Meeting of the Events Committee held at the Council Chamber, Blaina Institute, High Street, Blaina at 18:20pm On Tuesday 22nd October 2024.

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

Present: Councillor L Harris, presiding
Presiding: Councillors G Morvan, D Hillman, K Jones JP, L Emanuel,
C Hillman, M Williams & L Higgins

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

Due to the absence of the Chair of the Events Committee it was **Resolved** that Deputy of Events chair the meeting.

Prior to the commencement 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 declarations were received from Assistant Officer, N Horner, point 4 Town Clerk advised that as non-pecuniary and not likely to affect any resolution made, Mrs N Horner remain in the meeting for item 4 but not take part in any discussion or vote.

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 Apologies received from Cllr J Bond
Further Resolved to accept the apologies received.
2. **Questions from the public:** To receive any questions from the public on matters on the agenda.

Resolved to note that there was no public or press in attendance and no questions from the public were received.

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) Email from karen.william@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk:

Email Christmas Event 30th Nov at Central Park, Blaina asking for a donation of support and informing that a market trader application form will be online for traders to attend.

Members are also invited to consider information, and a request verbally received from the Town Centre Manager, if bags of reindeer food be provided as in previous years. Additionally, the Town Centre Manager informed/ requested that an additional donation of £250 would fund a children's entertainer at the event and a further £250 would fund a number of children's mascots at the event.

Members agreed to donate £500 towards the activities and to provide reindeer food bags to the value of £100.

Resolved to note information received and **Further Resolved** to support the event by giving a £500 donation to TCM to put towards the activities and to provide TCM with the reindeer bags of food.

b) **Venue Hire to hold an information day Item re-agenda from previous meeting:**

Members to discuss and consider venue hire, costs, and hours.

AO declared a non-pecuniary interest.

Members would like to receive quotes for room hire from Winchestown Senior Citizen Hall and Nantyglo Rugby Club.

Resolved to note information received and **further resolved** to get quotes from Winchestown Senior Citizen Hall and Nantyglo Rugby Club.

c) **Christmas Selection Packs: Item re-agenda from previous meeting.**

Members to discuss the purchase of selection packs, for distribution at the joint Christmas Carol Concert as in previous years.

Resolved that members agreed to purchase Christmas selection packs for all four local schools and **Further Resolved** to purchase selection packs to distribute to children who participate in the Christmas Carol Concert.

Meeting declared closed at 7 pm

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

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Tel: 01495 292817 E-mail: clerk@nantygloandblainate.co.uk

**Minutes of the hybrid Meeting of the Planning & Highways Committee held on
Tuesday 12th November 2024 at 6.00pm.**

at Council Chamber, Blaina Institute, High Street, Blaina

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

Present: Councillor K Jones JP, presiding,
Councillors G Morvan, D Hillman, M. Williams, L Harris, L Higgins & C Hillman
(Remotely).

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

Council stood in one minute silence in remembrance of the recent death of Mr J Phippin, past Town Councillor & Town Mayor.

Prior to 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. Members were reminded that all declarations of interest must be recorded in the book provided.

Resolved to note that no such declarations were received.

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

Resolved to note that no apologies were received.

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 public present and questions were received.

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) Sheryl.Edwards@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk *For information*

Free fungi workshops at Tai Calon, Friday 15th November 9:30 – 15:00.

Resolved to note information received

b) deb@planningaidwales.org.uk *For information*

Draft /Southeast Wales Strategic Development Plan - Draft Delivery Agreement.

Resolved to note information received.

Additional Correspondence Received

Louise.horner@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk *For information.*

In relation to planning application form P/2024/0223 reports that a Public Right Of Way at the rear of the existing site has partly been fenced off and is unable to use. Correspondence received states from BGCBC that on checking their maps they don't believe it refers to a PROW. The Ebbw Fach Trail (green) isn't too far away though also not a PROW and assume it just runs over council owned land.

Resolved to note information received.

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: No planning applications received to date.

Resolved

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

Resolved

6. Any Other Business:

Chair informed council that there is a workshop being held at Tabor Centre, Brynmawr for Wales Active Travel looking at the cycle plans for 2026.

Meeting declared closed at 18:13 pm

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

**Minutes of the hybrid Finance & General Purposes Committee held at 6.15pm on Tuesday
12th November 2024 at the Council Chamber, Blaina Institute, High Street, Blaina.**

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

Present: Councillor D Hillman, presiding, Chair- Finance & General Purposes Committee
Councillors G Morvan, M Williams, K Jones JP, C Hillman (remote), L Harris &
L Higgins

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

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

Declaration of Interest

Members were invited to declare matters of interest either at the beginning or at any time during the proceedings. Members were reminded that all declarations must be recorded in the book provided. **Resolved** to note that the Town Clerk/RFO & Assistant Officer declared a personal interest in item 8a.

1. Apologies for absence:

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

2. Questions from the Public:

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

Resolved to note that no questions were received.

3. Correspondence:

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

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

Statutory review of polling districts and polling places within Blaenau Gwent.

The use of primary schools as polling stations was queried due to the pupils missing a day's schooling but it was stated that in the case of Coed y Garn Primary, only one classroom was used as a polling station and those pupils were then accommodated with other classes for that day.

Resolved to note the information received.

b) Rotary, Brynmawr– (for information & consideration)

Letter requesting funding & volunteers for the Christmas Hampers 2024. Members might wish to consider any possible donation to be made via s.137 of the Local Government act 1972 & Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.

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

- The Town Council made a financial donation to the project last year (2023) but this was not acknowledged in this letter.
- Many families from Nantyglo & Blaina had benefitted from the project in 2023 and the cost of this would have far exceeded the contribution made by the Town Council last year.
- The provision of a foodbank organised by Brynmawr Rotary and its remit was discussed.
- The option of inviting Ms Michelle Hurter to a future meeting of the Town Council as a guest speaker to further inform about the project was considered.
- Members considered two donation amounts.

Resolved that a donation of £500 be made to the project in respect of Christmas Hampers for Nantyglo & Blaina residents and **Further Resolved** that Ms Michelle Hurter (Brynmawr Rotary) be invited as a guest speaker, to a future meeting of the Town Council to provide further details of the project.

c) Welsh Government – (for information):

Letter informing of the appropriate sum under section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972 – expenditure limit for 2025/26.

In response to a query, the Town Clerk provided a basic explanation of the General Power of Competence and of the s.137.

Resolved to note the information received.

Additional correspondence received with permission of the Chair:

d) Digihub Wales – (for information):

The Town Clerk/RFO informed that two invoices had been received from Digihub Wales in respect of the 'new' lease taken out in respect of the photocopier. One invoice was for

insurance of the photocopier although the Town Clerk / RFO informed that the Town Council's insurance had provided written confirmation that the existing insurance cover provided adequate cover for this. The second invoice was for a 'documentation fee' of which there was no mention of when the quotation was provided. This cost had been queried and Digihub informed that the charge was levied by the lease company. Advice had been sought from One Voice Wales who were currently obtaining legal advice from their solicitors regarding the charge.

Resolved to note the information received.

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

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

Resolved that a donation of £200 be made to Blaenau Gwent Foodbank in respect of Nantyglo & Blaina residents.

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 might be received prior to the date of the meeting. Members were also reminded that applications would need to be considered in conjunction with the current policy.

a) *None received to date*

Resolved accordingly.

6. Salem Chapel:

Members were invited to consider the attached inspection report:

- **October 2024:**

In response to a query, the Town Clerk informed that to her untrained eye, the physical condition of the chapel continued to deteriorate, particularly the interior although there did not appear to be any additional issues.

Resolved that the report be approved.

7. Miners' Memorial, Off High Street, Blaina:

Members were invited to consider the maintenance of the Miners' Memorial which is located off High Street, Blaina. Members were informed that the memorial was not erected or paid for by the Town Council.

The Town Clerk and Assistant Officer informed that the memorial was clean, tidy and accessible to the public. The memorial was erected by Blaina Heritage Group and supported by Nantyglo Comprehensive school.

It was requested that this item to be referred to the Events Committee for further discussion.

Resolved to note the information received and **Further Resolved** that the item be referred to the Events Committee for further discussion.

8. Confidential Information:

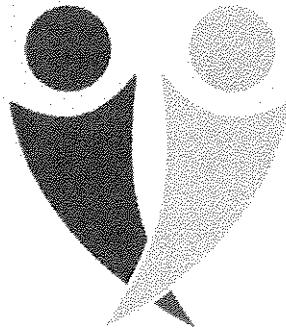
The following item(s) might contain information that was of a confidential or personal nature and was therefore exclusive to Members of the Town Council only. (Public Bodies Admission to Meetings Act 1960). **Resolved** that the motion be supported.

*The Town Clerk and Assistant officer declared a personal interest in item 8a. **Resolved** that both the Town Clerk/RFO and Assistant Officer leave the Chamber for this item.*

The Town Clerk/RFO and Assistant Officer left the meeting at this juncture.

Un Llais Cymru

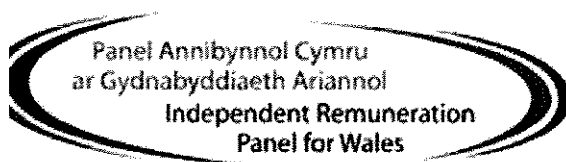
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One Voice Wales

National Conference 2024 Report

Official Conference Sponsors:



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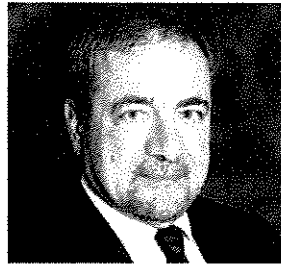
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The Chair's Welcome

Cllr. Mike Theodoulou



Cllr. Mike Theodoulou, Chair of One Voice Wales, officially opened this year's National Conference by giving a warm welcome to the delegates and guests, thanking them for their time and presence at this important annual event. He commented that yet again there were a number of new faces amongst the audience, some councils being represented for the first time whilst others sending different representatives to a One Voice Wales event, which should be encouraged. He looked forward to engaging with as many councillors, clerks and staff of councils during the day.

He congratulated the One Voice Wales staff for preparing such an interesting and engaging agenda, which included a list of quality presenters and speakers on a variety of important themes and topics concerning councils. He urged delegates and guests to participate in all activities throughout the day, and to listen and learn as much as possible, before returning to their respective and neighbouring councils and sharing those experiences.

This year's national conference was a double celebration which was made clear in the communications leading up to the event, with it being 50 years since the formation of community and town councils in Wales (1974) and the 20th anniversary of the establishment of One Voice Wales as a new membership organisation (2004). A refreshed One Voice Wales logo was being launched today, very visible on the new corporate marketing material surrounding the arena and exhibition hall.

A group of councils from across Wales were on display in the conference arena which were case studies and exemplar projects of best practice within their own rights, and delegates were encouraged to ask questions and learn as much about how other councils have achieved great successes with community projects. One Voice Wales' Projects were also on display and teams of officers present to engage as much as possible with delegates - the whole team had been invited to attend and join in the celebration, an opportunity for networking and putting faces to names.

The exhibition hall was packed with excited exhibitors, keen to promote and sell their services and products to councils. Without further hesitation, he introduced the first speaker of the day, Jane Bryant MS and Cabinet Secretary for Housing and Local Government.

National Conference 2024 - Agenda

One Voice Wales National Conference
Wednesday 16 October 2024

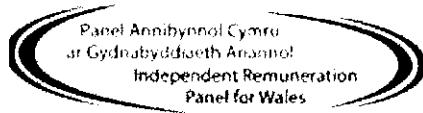
The Montgomery Pavilion, Royal Welsh Showground, Llanelli, Carmarthenshire, SA11 3SS



AGENDA

- 1 09:00 - 10:15am Registration, Tea / Coffee and Exhibition Time
- 2 10:15 - 10:30am Chairs Welcome / Housekeeping: Cllr Mike Theodoulou
- 3 10:30 - 11:00am Jayne Bryant MS, Cabinet Secretary for Housing and Local Government
- 4 11:00 - 11:05am Adrian Crompton, Auditor General for Wales
- 5 11:30 - 12:00pm **Tea / Coffee Break and Councils Case Study time**
- 6 12:00 - 12:05pm Helen Nelson, Office of the Future Generations Commissioner for Wales
- 7 12:05 - 1:00pm Lyn Cadwallader, Chief Executive One Voice Wales
- 8 01:00 - 2:16pm **Lunch / Exhibition Time**
- 9 02:15 - 2:45pm Michelle Morris, Public Services Ombudsman for Wales
- 10 02:45 - 03:00pm Cllr Lis Burnett Presiding Member, WLGA and Cllr Mike Theodoulou Chair One Voice Wales
- 11 03:15 - 03:20pm Signing of Memorandum of Understanding OVW and WLGA
- 12 03:20 - 03:30pm One Voice Wales Chair's closing remarks

SPONSORED BY



Happy Birthday One Voice Wales!

One Voice Wales, the representative body for Community and Town Councils in Wales, held a sparkling event at the Royal Welsh Showground in Builth Wells recently to celebrate 20 years since the organisation was formed.

The National Conference of One Voice Wales was attended by Community and Town Councils from across Wales to look back on the last 20 years and look ahead to what the future holds for the grassroots local government in Wales. There was even a birthday cake!

The event was a double celebration, as Councils themselves came into being in 1974, marking 50 years of providing services, representing communities and supporting local people.

Despite the party atmosphere though, there were still important matters to discuss. Community and Town Councils face a period of change and uncertainty. Delegates heard from a range of decision-makers and opinion-formers about what could lie ahead.

The keynote address was delivered by Jayne Bryant, the Cabinet Secretary with responsibility for local councils at Welsh Government. She emphasised how Community and Town Councils were the closest form of government to the people and outlined her vision for a thriving and dynamic Community and Town Council sector. New powers and tools were available to help Councils meet this challenge. Collaboration with partners would be critical, we heard.

The Cabinet Secretary encouraged Councils to engage with the current Senedd Inquiry into the role, governance and accountability of the Community and Town Council sector.

The Cabinet Secretary faced questions from the floor about working in partnership, the need to create more Community and Town Councils across Wales, training, housing and the need to develop communities which supported people with disabilities.

Next up was Adrian Crompton, Auditor General for Wales. He audits the accounts of Community Councils and plays a key role in checking on their governance and financial arrangements. He described the work he undertook and some of the current challenge. Delegates asked him about fraud, climate issues, research and the reasons why some audits led to Qualified Opinions. It was important that all statutory procedures were followed, Adrian advised.

Others to address an enthusiastic audience included Helen Nelson, from the office of the Future Generations Commissioner for Wales and Michelle Morris, Public Services Ombudsman for Wales. Question from the floor covered areas such as affordable housing, an inclusive “green agenda,” flooding, and the processes for investigating complaints that Councillors had breached the Code of Conduct. Some delegates were worried about bullying within Councils.

Delegates had chance to visit a range of stalls and displays from other Councils and exhibitions about the work of One Voice Wales itself. There was much excited chatter across the magnificent venue of the Montgomery Pavilion. A new logo for One Voice Wales was met with great interest from the many council representatives present.

The Chief Executive of One Voice Wales delivered a passionate address about the achievements of One Voice Wales – record numbers of Councils in membership, a first-class training and consultancy offer and exciting recent developments to tackle the Cost-of-Living crisis, the challenges of digital communications and providing local places for nature. He explained how policy advice and guidance was delivered by One Voice Wales to help Councils manage an ever-evolving landscape. He also cited examples of many Councils who had taken important steps to deliver innovative solutions to local problems.

But these were challenging times for local councils, we heard. Funding and financial constraints, supporting an ageing population, responding to technological advancements, supporting environmental sustainability and delivering community engagement were issues which faced all Councils.

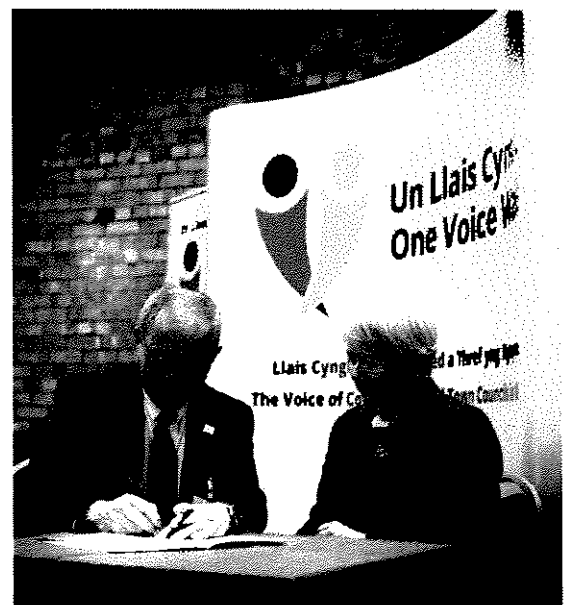
Further to these challenges, the Covid-19 pandemic and subsequent Cost of Living Crisis had exposed and accelerated problems that had long been embedded in our communities; in places where people lived and worked. Lyn set out a vision to enable communities to understand and serve their areas and described how places should be designed to bring people together.

Lyn brought also delegates right up to date on current issues, quoting the current Local Government and Housing Committee inquiry into role, governance and accountability of the Community and Town Council sector. This was a golden opportunity to rethink the place of Community and Town Councils he said, He emphasised the importance of Councils to communities and community identity. Questions picked up on the need to support disabled people and encourage diversity within Councils.

The highlight of the day was the announcement of an exciting new partnership between Community and Town Councils and their "big brothers," the larger Councils which represent areas such as Cardiff, Powys and Wrexham. 22 in all. The partnership was sealed by the ceremonial signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between One Voice Wales and the Welsh Local Government Association. The formal agreement represented a new partnership between key providers of local services across the whole of Wales.

The Chair of One Voice Wales, Councillor Mike Theodoulou, drew an informative and challenging day to a close. He echoed the need for collaboration between Councils and the third sector. Community and Town Councils could deliver place-based services which were closest to communities. There were challenges but also opportunities. There was work to be done!

Exciting times ahead then, as One Voice Wales plans the next 20 years. 2044? Save the Date!



Council bodies seal new partnership

The bodies which represent local authorities across Wales came together at a historic meeting at the Royal Welsh Showground in Builth Wells recently.

One Voice Wales represents the majority of Community and Town Councils in Wales. The Welsh Local Government Association represents Unitary Authorities such as Powys County Council. The two membership bodies used the One Voice Wales National Conference to seal an agreement which provides an important framework for their partnership.

2024 marks the 20th anniversary of One Voice Wales and delegates heard from a host of informed speakers about the achievements of Community and Town Councils and their importance to local communities.

Jayne Bryant, the Cabinet Secretary with responsibility for local councils at Welsh Government, emphasised how Community and Town Councils were the closest form of government to the people and outlined her vision for a thriving and dynamic Community and Town Council sector. New powers and tools were available to help Councils meet this challenge. Collaboration with partners would be critical.

The signing of the historic agreement was therefore well timed.



Photo: Cllr. Mike Theodoulou (Chair, One Voice Wales) and Cllr. Lis Burnett (Presiding Member, Welsh Local Government Association).

Photo: Steel Wall Photography

Testimonials

"One Voice Wales....thank you for a great
and informative day.
most useful on many levels"

Cllr. Paul Fletcher.
Abergele Town Council

*"Very well done to One Voice Wales for organising such a
great national conference again this year. It really was
engaging on so many levels and our community council will
take so much information back to our small rural community.
We will spread the word to our neighbouring councils".*

"Hi Tracy. I'm keen to record in writing what
I said to you after lunch at Builth today.
I really enjoyed the OVW Conference and
thought it was a very professionally
organised event and well worth attending.
I learned a lot! Thanks again."

Cllr. Steve Shepstone.
Felinfach Community Council

*Diolch yn fawr. Thank you for a truly engaging and well
organised national event and happy Birthday One Voice Wales!
Clerk of Community Council*



Un Llais Cymru



One Voice Wales

Llais Cymharus Cymuned a Thref yng Nghymru
The Voice of Community and Town Councils in Wales

34c Stryd y Cefg
Rhydaman
2c Gaeirddin
SA18 2AP

34c College Street
Ammanford
Carmarthenshire
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onevoicewales.org.uk

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gweinydd@unllaicymru.cymru
admin@onevoicewales.wales

Cost-of-Living Crisis Project

Community & Warm Spaces
Health & Well-being
Clothing & Repurposing
Food

Benefits, Budgeting & Debt Management
Community Transport
Age-friendly Communities

Un Llais Cymru

One Voice Wales

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One Voice Wales

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One Voice Wales

COST-OF-LIVING CRISIS TEAM

Helping Councils Support Their Communities Through the Cost-of-Living Crisis


KEY AREAS OF SUPPORT

- Community & Warm Spaces**
 - Warm Hubs
 - Local Groups
 - Activities for Older People
 - Wilder Groups
- Food**
 - Food Banks
 - Community Fridges
 - Local Cops
- Health & Wellbeing**
 - General Practice
 - Healthcare Referrals
 - Welfare Monthly Support
 - Charitable Support
- Clothing & Repurposing**
 - Clothing Banks
 - Wardrobe Swap
 - Garment Repurposing
- Benefits, Budgeting & Debt Management**
 - Benefits Advice
 - Budgeting Support
 - Local Assistance Programme
 - Debt Counselling
 - Charitable Support
 - Local Loans
 - Welfare Support
 - Waste Support
- Transport**
 - Community Transport
 - Local Assistance Programme

HOW CAN ONE VOICE WALES HELP?

- Advocacy, Advice & Support
- Local Assistance Programme
- Community Transport
- Local Loans
- Welfare Support
- Waste Support

FIND OUT MORE



COST OF LIVING CRISIS
Find out more about the support available

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One Voice Wales

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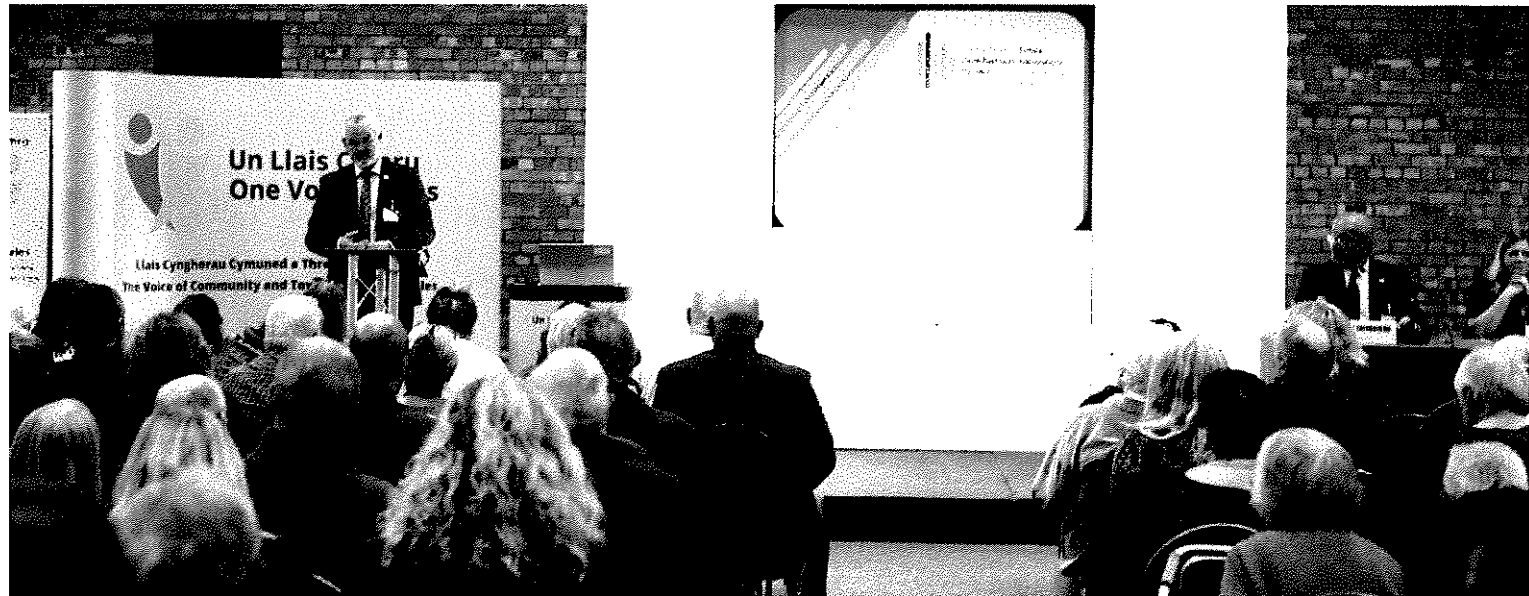
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Thank you!

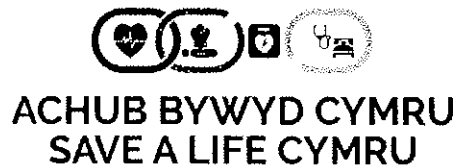
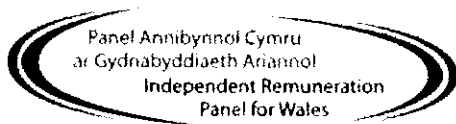
One Voice Wales would like to express its appreciation to everyone who contributed to the very successful National Conference 2024.

Thank you to Tony and his team at the Royal Welsh Show Society for their continued co-operation in organising the venue in readiness for the event.

Thank you to Shirley and her team at 'Fingers & Forks' for the catering, to 'Technegol Ltd' for the sound and video services, and to 'Trywydd' for the translation services during the event. Thank you to Garry from Steel Wall Photography for his photography and videography work.

A huge thank you to all our Guest Speakers and Presenters, and to the Independent Remunerational Panel for Wales and Save a Life Cymru our official Joint National Conference Sponsors.

Thank you to all our Suppliers and Exhibitors for supporting us again this year, we look forward to seeing you again at our next large public event.



Our '**National Awards Conference**' will be held on
Wednesday **23rd April 2025**.....



look out for the Nomination Forms to enter your community or town council for a community award!

Also, our annual **Innovative Practice Conference** will be held on
Wednesday 2nd July 2025 - mark it in your diaries now!

We are always looking to improve our event management and will consider any feedback as we plan future events.

One Voice Wales
24c College Street
AMMANFORD
SA18 3AF

01269 595400
07917 846510

www.onevoicewales.org.uk

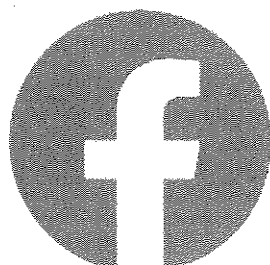
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One Voice Wales

admin@onevoicewales.wales

Find us on social media:



Clerk

From: Wendi Patience <wpatience@onevoicewales.wales>
Sent: 08 November 2024 08:36
To: Wendi Patience
Cc: Wendi Patience
Subject: TRAINING DATES - NOVEMBER -DECEMBER 2024 - DYDDIADUA HYFFORDDIANT - TACHWEDD - RHAGFYR 2024
Attachments: Bursary letter up to Feb 2024-25 £100.docx; Free Places Form 2024-2025.docx; Overview Modules 2024.pdf; Bursary letter up to Feb 2024-25 £100 Cym.docx; Free Places Form 2024-2025 Cym.docx; Overview Modules 2024 CYM.pdf

Dear Colleagues,

Please find below details of Remote training sessions that are taking place in November - December 2024 please bring this to the attention of your council.

The cost of the training is £40 for members or £63 per person for non-members. You will be invoiced after the training has taken place.

There is a bursary available to eligible councils.

Session times are listed against the module date – Please note all training sessions are in English unless otherwise stated.

Date	Day	Module	Time
06/11/2024	Wednesday	New Councillor Induction	6.30-8.00pm
05/12/2024	Thursday	New Councillor Induction	6.30-8.00pm

26/11/2024	Tuesday	The Council - Module 1	6.30-8.00pm
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13/11/2024	Wednesday	The Councillor - Module 2	6.30-8.00pm
09/12/2024	Monday	The Councillor - Module 2	6.30-8.00pm

20/11/2024	Wednesday	The Council as an Employer - Module 3	6.30-8.00pm
26/11/2024	Tuesday	The Council as an Employer - Module 3	6.30-8.00pm
11/12/2024	Wednesday	The Council as an Employer - Module 3	6.30-8.00pm

14/11/2024	Thursday	Understanding the Law - Module 4	6.30-8.00pm
27/11/2024	Wednesday	Understanding the Law - Module 4	6.30-8.00pm

11/12/2024	Wednesday	Understanding the Law - Module 4	6.30-8.00pm
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28/11/2024	Thursday	The Council Meeting - Module 5	6.30-8.00pm
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21/11/2024	Thursday	Local Government Finance - Module 6	6.30-8.00pm
04/12/2024	Wednesday	Local Government Finance - Module 6	6.30-8.00pm

12/11/2024	Tuesday	Health & Safety - Module 7	6.30-8.00pm
18/11/2024	Monday	Health & Safety - Module 7	6.30-8.00pm

27/11/2024	Wednesday	Introduction to Community Engagement - Module 8	6.30-8.00pm
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13/11/2024	Wednesday	Code of Conduct - Module 9	6.30-8.00pm
28/11/2024	Thursday	Code of Conduct - Module 9	6.30-8.00pm
12/12/2024	Thursday	Code of Conduct - Module 9	6.30-8.00pm

12/11/2024	Tuesday	Chairing Skills - Module 10	6.30-8.00pm
05/12/2024	Thursday	Chairing Skills - Module 10	6.30-8.00pm

13/11/2024	Wednesday	Creating a Community Place Plan - Module 12	6.30-8.00pm
02/12/2024	Monday	Creating a Community Place Plan - Module 12	6.30-8.00pm

20/11/2024	Wednesday	Community Engagement Part 2 - Module 13	6.30-8.00pm
10/12/2024	Tuesday	Community Engagement Part 2 - Module 13	6.30-8.00pm

11/11/2024	Monday	Equality & Diversity - Module 14	6.30-8.00pm
04/12/2024	Wednesday	Equality & Diversity - Module 14	6.30-8.00pm

12/11/2024	Tuesday	Information Management - Module 15	6.30-8.00pm
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14/11/2024	Thursday	Information Management - Module 15 - in Welsh	6.30-8.00pm
03/12/2024	Tuesday	Information management - Module 15	6.30-8.00pm

14/11/2024	Thursday	Use of IT, Websites and Social Media - Module 16	6.30-8.00pm
04/12/2024	Wednesday	Use of IT, Websites and Social Media - Module 16	6.30-8.00pm

19/11/2024	Tuesday	Making Effective Grant Applications - Module 17	6.30-8.00pm
28/11/2024	Thursday	Making Effective Grant Applications - Module 17	6.30-8.00pm

11/11/2024	Monday	Effective Staff Management - Module 18	6.30-8.00pm
03/12/2024	Tuesday	Effective Staff Management - Module 18	6.30-8.00pm

04/12/2024	Wednesday	Devolution of Services / Community Asset Transfer - Module 19	6.30-8.00pm
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19/11/2024	Tuesday	Wellbeing of Future Generations Act 2015 / Sustainability - Module 20	6.30-8.00pm
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21/11/2024	Thursday	Advanced Understanding Local Government Finance - Module 21	6.30-8.00pm
27/11/2024	Wednesday	Advanced Understanding Local Government Finance - Module 21	6.30-8.00pm

13/11/2024	Wednesday	Community Asset Transfer - Module 23	6.30-8.00pm
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25/11/2024	Monday	Finance & Governance Toolkit - Module 24	6.30-8.00pm
10/12/2024	Tuesday	Finance & Governance Toolkit - Module 24	6.30-8.00pm

12/11/2024	Tuesday	Biodiversity Part 1 - Module 25	6.30-8.00pm
09/12/2024	Monday	Biodiversity Part 1 - Module 25	6.30-8.00pm

11/12/2024	Wednesday	Biodiversity Part 2 - Module 26	6.30-8.00pm
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20/11/2024	Wednesday	Nature Project Management - Module 27	6.30-8.00pm
12/12/2024	Thursday	Nature Project Management - Module 27	6.30-8.00pm

Please don't hesitate to contact me via email to make a booking.

Kind regards,
Wendi

Annwyl Gyfaill,

Wele isod fanylion sesiynau hyfforddiant o bell a gynhelir yn Tachwedd - Rhagfyr 2024.

Cost yr hyfforddiant yw £40 i aelodau neu £63 y person i unrhyw un arall. Danfonir anfoneb atoch ar ôl i'r hyfforddiant ddigwydd.

Mae bwrsari ar gael i gynghorau cymwys – gofynnwch am fanylion.

Rhestrir amserau sesiynau ar gyfer dyddiadau'r modylau..

Dyddiad	Dydd	Modiwl	Amser
05/12/2024	Dydd Iau	Gynefino i Gynghorwyr Newydd	6.30-8.00yh

26/11/2024	Dydd Mawrth	Y Cyngor - Modiwl 1	6.30-8.00yh
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13/11/2024	Dydd Mercher	Y Cynghorydd - Modiwl 2	6.30-8.00yh
09/12/2024	Dydd Llun	Y Cynghorydd - Modiwl 2	6.30-8.00yh

20/11/2024	Dydd Mercher	Y Cyngor Fel Cyflogydd - Modiwl 3	6.30-8.00yh
26/11/2024	Dydd Mawrth	Y Cyngor Fel Cyflogydd - Modiwl 3	6.30-8.00yh
11/12/2024	Dydd Mercher	Y Cyngor Fel Cyflogydd - Modiwl 3	6.30-8.00yh

14/11/2024	Dydd Iau	Dealltwriaeth o'r Gyfraith - Modiwl 4	6.30-8.00yh
27/11/2024	Dydd Mercher	Dealltwriaeth o'r Gyfraith - Modiwl 4	6.30-8.00yh
11/12/2024	Dydd Mercher	Dealltwriaeth o'r Gyfraith - Modiwl 4	6.30-8.00yh

28/11/2024	Dydd Iau	Cyfarfod Y Cyngor - Modiwl 5	6.30-8.00yh
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BLAINA COMMUNITY INSTITUTE LTD

High Street, Blaina NP13 3BN

Tel. No. 07494733523

Email: blainacommunity@outlook.com

2024

Dear All

FIRE DRILLS

As part of our Health and Safety responsibilities, we are required to carry out fire drills.

Arrangements will be made for these to be undertaken on a regular basis over a period of a few days in order to cover all groups/tenants, which unfortunately will mean that some individuals/groups/tenants may have to leave the building on several occasions, for which I apologise. However, you will appreciate the importance of this being done.

May I remind everyone that you are responsible for ensuring that everyone in your office/ room/group has left the building and is assembled at the meeting point.

For your information I have attached a reminder of 'What To Do In The Event Of A Fire'

Thanking you for your assistance in this matter.

Yours sincerely



Julie Jefferies (Admin)

On behalf of Blaina Community Institute Ltd.

NANTYGLO & BLAINA

TOWN COUNCIL

To: Clerk, Nantyglo and Blaina Town Council ✓

Heritage Museum

'Stute Café

All Groups

Blaina Library

WHAT TO DO IN CASE OF FIRE

1. On discovering fire, sound the alarm: or on hearing the fire-bell. STOP whatever you are doing.
2. Stop your class/meeting from whatever they are doing.
3. Proceed in an orderly manner to the nearest FIRE EXIT with your class/staff members.
4. Close All doors when our class/staff/customers have passed through them.
5. Assemble with your class/staff/customers at the nearest MEETING POINT of the building, move away from the building ensuring that you do not block the entrance.
6. Take your register/signing in book with you to the assembly point and check that all your staff/class members who were present are preset at the assembly point.
7. DO NOT re-enter the building, for any reason, until you are told it is safe to do so.
8. DO NOT stop for any personal possessions or for any other reason.
9. DO NOT run.
10. DO NOT panic.

NANTYGLO & BLAINA

TOWN COUNCIL