

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

Dear Member,

You are summoned to attend a hybrid meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee at the Council Chamber, Blaina Institute, High Street, Blaina to commence following the Planning & Highways Committee meeting **on Tuesday 9th January 2024**.

If any member of the public wishes to attend the meeting remotely, please contact the Town Clerk at the above e-mail or phone by 3pm on 9th January 2024 for details of how to access the meeting.

Yours sincerely



Town Clerk

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

AGENDA

Declaration of Interest

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

1. Apologies for absence:

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

2. Questions from the Public:

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

3. Correspondence:

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

- a) Society of Local Council Clerks – (for consideration - copy attached)
Renewal of subscription for 2024 membership.
- b) One Voice Wales (for information - copies attached):
 - i. Training Modules & Dates January – March 2024.
 - ii. Cost of Living – Community & Town Council Activity in Wales.
 - iii. Free Online Training Courses re: Digital Health of Community & Town Councils.

4. Draft Annual Report 2022/23:

Members are invited to consider the attached report, and if appropriate, to resolve for publication (*copy attached*).

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

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

6. Application to the Community Grant Fund:

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

None received to date.

7. Salem Chapel:

Members are invited to consider the attached inspection report:

- December 2024 (*copy attached*).

8. Members Updates:

Members are invited to provide any updates or information:

- a) Councillor G Morvan:

9. 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).

Hem no 3a

£288 pa.

Mrs Tracy Hughes
Nantyglo & Blaina Town Council
Council Offices, Blaina Institute
High Street
Blaina
Gwent
NP13 3BN

NANTYGLO & BLAINA
TOWN COUNCIL

December 2023

Dear Tracy,

Renew your SLCC membership online TODAY!

Firstly, we would like to thank you for your valued support and commitment over the past year. We hope that your membership has provided you with training, guidance, advice, and support so that you can develop the professional skills, knowledge, and experience necessary to best serve your council(s) and community.

Your membership has enabled us to accomplish so much in 2023, some of the highlights include:

- Providing you with access to specialist VAT, Stamp Duty Land Tax and Land Transaction Tax (LTT) advice through our partnership with national tax consultants, PSTAX. This advice can be accessed through the SLCC advisory service.
- Continuously updating and increasing our range of advice notes, guidance notes and model documents available in the online advice library.
- Six editions of The Clerk magazine – now available to read in The Clerk magazine app on app store or Google play store.
- A host of conferences, courses and themed summits held throughout the year on a variety of topics such as Finance, Planning, HR etc. As well as topical, informative webinars on applying for the Community Ownership Fund, civility and respect and local council elections etc.
- SLCC Podcasts – giving you the chance to listen to stories and relevant insights from sector experts, fellow clerks and other inspiring guests at your convenience.
- Access to SLCC Rewards providing money saving rewards for you and your council.

According to our records your annual membership is due for renewal on the 1st February 2024.

To renew your membership please visit www.slcc.co.uk and follow the steps below:

1. Login using your existing SLCC login details – your username is HugheT272 and password is Reset By User
2. Once on your 'My Account' page, within the menu box to the right click on 'Membership'.
3. Click on the button 'Click here to renew'.
4. This will show the membership that is due for renewal. Click the button 'Click here to renew'.
5. This will take you to the form that needs to be completed. You can select to pay via cheque, bank transfer or credit or debit card. Once the form has been submitted you will receive an email with your invoice attached.
6. When making payment please ensure that you include the invoice number so your payment can be assigned correctly.

****Please ensure the online renewal form is completed before sending payment****

For help with completing your membership renewal please email membership@slcc.co.uk

We hope that you continue to find your membership beneficial to your role and look forward to hearing from you soon. If you are no longer working for the council, please let us know so we can update our records.

Your Sincerely,

Roxanne Langdon - SLCC Membership Officer

Tracy

From: Wendi Patience <wpatience@onevoicewales.wales>
Sent: 15 December 2023 10:37
To: Wendi Patience
Cc: Wendi Patience
Subject: 2024 - TRAINING DATES BY MODULE - JANUARY, FEBRUARY & MARCH
Attachments: Overview Modules Jan 2018 ENG.pdf; Bursary letter up to Feb 2023-24.docx; Free Places Form 2023-2024.docx

Dear Colleagues,

Please find below details of Remote training sessions that are taking place in January, February & March 2023 please bring this to the attention of your council.

The cost of the training is £38 for members or £60 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.

24/01/2024	Wednesday	New Councillor Induction	6.30-8.00pm
20/02/2024	Tuesday	New Councillor Induction	6.30-8.00pm
14/03/2024	Thursday	New Councillor Induction	2.00-3.30pm

25/01/2024	Thursday	The Council - Module 1	6.30-8.00pm
07/02/2024	Wednesday	The Council - Module 1	6.30-8.00pm
13/03/2024	Wednesday	The Council - Module 1	6.30-8.00pm

23/01/2024	Tuesday	The Councillor - Module 2 - yn Gymraeg	2.00-3.30pm
07/02/2024	Wednesday	The Councillor - Module 2	6.30-8.00pm
12/02/2024	Tuesday	The Councillor - Module 2	6.30-8.00pm
20/03/2024	Wednesday	The Councillor - Module 2	6.30-8.00pm
27/03/2024	Wednesday	The Councillor - Module 2	6.30-8.00pm

15/01/2024	Monday	The Council as an Employer - Module 3	6.30-8.00pm
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23/01/2024	Tuesday	The Council as an Employer - Module 3	6.30-8.00pm
31/01/2024	Wednesday	The Council as an Employer - Module 3	6.30-8.00pm
08/02/2024	Thursday	The Council as an Employer - Module 3	2.00-3.30pm
13/02/2024	Tuesday	The Council as an Employer - Module 3	6.30-8.00pm
14/02/2024	Wednesday	The Council as an Employer - Module 3 - in Welsh	2.00-3.30pm
19/02/2024	Monday	The Council as an Employer - Module 3	6.30-8.00pm
28/02/2024	Wednesday	The Council as an Employer - Module 3	6.30-8.00pm
07/03/2024	Thursday	The Council as an Employer - Module 3	6.30-8.00pm
20/03/2024	Wednesday	The Council as an Employer - Module 3	6.30-8.00pm

18/01/2024	Thursday	Understanding the Law - Module 4	6.30-8.00pm
22/01/2024	Monday	Understanding the Law - Module 4	6.30-8.00pm
31/01/2024	Wednesday	Understanding the Law - Module 4	6.30-8.00pm
08/02/2024	Thursday	Understanding the Law - Module 4	6.30-8.00pm
13/02/2024	Tuesday	Understanding the Law - Module 4	6.30-8.00pm
20/02/2024	Tuesday	Understanding the Law - Module 4	6.30-8.00pm
29/02/2024	Thursday	Understanding the Law - Module 4	6.30-8.00pm
04/03/2024	Monday	Understanding the Law - Module 4	6.30-8.00pm
21/03/2024	Thursday	Understanding the Law - Module 4	6.30-8.00pm

18/01/2024	Thursday	The Council Meeting - Module 5 - in Welsh	6.30-8.00pm
31/01/2024	Wednesday	The Council Meeting - Module 5	6.30-8.00pm
06/02/2024	Tuesday	The Council Meeting - Module 5	6.30-8.00pm
15/02/2024	Thursday	The Council Meeting - Module 5	2.00-3.30pm
06/03/2024	Wednesday	The Council Meeting - Module 5	6.30-8.00pm
12/03/2024	Tuesday	The Council Meeting - Module 5	6.30-8.00pm
21/03/2024	Thursday	The Council Meeting - Module 5	6.30-8.00pm

17/01/2024	Wednesday	Local Government Finance - Module 6	6.30-8.00pm
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25/01/2024	Thursday	Local Government Finance - Module 6	6.30-8.00pm
05/02/2024	Monday	Local Government Finance - Module 6	6.30-8.00pm
06/02/2024	Tuesday	Local Government Finance - Module 6 - in Welsh	6.30-8.00pm
21/02/2024	Wednesday	Local Government Finance - Module 6	6.30-8.00pm
06/03/2024	Wednesday	Local Government Finance - Module 6	6.30-8.00pm
28/02/2024	Thursday	Local Government Finance - Module 6	6.30-8.00pm

30/01/2024	Tuesday	Health & Safety - Module 7	6.30-8.00pm
28/02/2024	Wednesday	Health & Safety - Module 7	6.30-8.00pm
18/03/2024	Monday	Health & Safety - Module 7	6.30-8.00pm

25/01/2024	Thursday	Introduction to Community Engagement - Module 8	2.00-3.30pm
05/02/2024	Monday	Introduction to Community Engagement - Module 8	6.30-8.00pm
13/02/2024	Tuesday	Introduction to Community Engagement - Module 8	6.30-8.00pm
21/02/2024	Wednesday	Introduction to Community Engagement - Module 8	6.30-8.00pm
26/02/2024	Monday	Introduction to community Engagement - Module 8	6.30-8.00pm
07/03/2024	Thursday	Introduction to Community Engagement - Module 8	2.00-3.30pm
13/03/2024	Wednesday	Introduction to community Engagement - Module 8 - in Welsh	6.30-8.00pm

18/01/2024	Thursday	Code of Conduct - Module 9	6.30-8.00pm
24/01/2024	Wednesday	Code of Conduct - Module 9	6.30-8.00pm
30/01/2024	Tuesday	Code of Conduct - Module 9	2.00-3.30pm
08/02/2024	Thursday	Code of Conduct - Module 9	6.30-8.00pm
14/02/2024	Wednesday	Code of Conduct - Module 9	6.30-8.00pm
22/02/2024	Thursday	Code of Conduct - Module 9	6.30-8.00pm
27/02/2024	Tuesday	Code of Conduct - Module 9	6.30-8.00pm
29/02/2024	Thursday	Code of Conduct - Module 9 - in Welsh	2.00-3.30pm
04/03/2024	Monday	Code of Conduct - Module 9	6.30-8.00pm
06/03/2024	Wednesday	Code of Conduct - Module 9	6.30-8.00pm

11/03/2024	Monday	Code of Conduct - Module 9	6.30-8.00pm
12/03/2024	Tuesday	Code of Conduct - Module 9	6.30-8.00pm
20/03/2024	Wednesday	Code of Conduct - Module 9	6.30-8.00pm

16/01/2024	Tuesday	Chairing Skills - Module 10	2.00-3.30pm
01/02/2024	Thursday	Chairing Skills - Module 10	6.30-8.00pm
14/02/2024	Wednesday	Chairing Skills - Module 10	6.30-8.00pm
29/02/2024	Thursday	Chairing Skills - Module 10	6.30-8.00pm
05/03/2024	Tuesday	Chairing Skills - Module 10 - in Welsh	6.30-8.00pm
13/03/2024	Wednesday	Chairing Skills - Module 10	6.30-8.00pm
19/03/2024	Tuesday	Chairing Skills - Module 10	6.30-8.00pm

16/01/2024	Tuesday	Creating a Community Place Plan - Module 12	6.30-8.00pm
01/02/2024	Thursday	Creating a Community Place Plan - Module 12	6.30-8.00pm
07/02/2024	Wednesday	Creating a Community Place Plan - Module 12	6.30-8.00pm
05/03/2024	Tuesday	Creating a Community Place Plan - Module 12	6.30-8.00pm
06/03/2024	Wednesday	Creating a Community Place Plan - Module 12 - in Welsh	2.00-3.30pm
12/03/2024	Tuesday	Creating a Community Place Plan - Module 12	2.00-3.30pm
27/03/2024	Wednesday	Creating a Community Place Plan - Module 12	6.30-8.00pm

06/02/2024	Tuesday	Community Engagement Part II - Tools and Techniques - Module 13	6.30-8.00pm
12/02/2024	Monday	Community Engagement Part II - Tools and Techniques - Module 13	6.30-8.00pm
20/02/2024	Tuesday	Community Engagement Part II - Tools and Techniques - Module 13 - Yn Gymraeg	2.00-3.30pm
21/02/2024	Wednesday	Community Engagement Part II - Tools and Techniques - Module 13	6.30-8.00pm
05/03/2024	Tuesday	Community Engagement Part II - Tools and Techniques - Module 13	6.30-8.00pm
20/03/2024	Wednesday	Community Engagement Part II - Tools and Techniques - Module 13	6.30-8.00pm

16/01/2024	Tuesday	Equality & Diversity - Module 14	6.30-8.00pm
28/02/2024	Wednesday	Equality & Diversity - Module 14	6.30-8.00pm

21/03/2024	Thursday	Equality & Diversity - Module 14	6.30-8.00pm
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31/01/2024	Wednesday	Information Management - Module 15	6.30-8.00pm
20/02/2024	Tuesday	Information Management - Module 15	6.30-8.00pm
06/03/2024	Wednesday	Information Management - Module 15	6.30-8.00pm
14/03/2024	Thursday	Information Management - Module 15	6.30-8.00pm

17/01/2024	Wednesday	Use of IT, Websites and Social Media - Module 16	6.30-8.00pm
22/02/2024	Thursday	Use of IT, Websites and Social Media - Module 16	6.30-8.00pm
19/03/2024	Tuesday	Use of IT, Websites and Social Media - Module 16	6.30-8.00pm

17/01/2024	Wednesday	Making Effective Grant Applications - Module 17	6.30-8.00pm
22/02/2024	Thursday	Making Effective Grant Applications - Module 17	2.00-3.30pm
26/03/2024	Tuesday	Making Effective Grant Applications - Module 17	6.30-8.00pm

30/01/2024	Tuesday	Effective Staff Management - Module 18	6.30-8.00pm
27/02/2024	Tuesday	Effective Staff Management - Module 18	2.00-3.30pm
28/03/2024	Thursday	Effective Staff Management - Module 18	6.30-8.00pm

25/01/2024	Thursday	Devolution of Services/CAT - Module 19	6.30-8.00pm
26/02/2024	Monday	Devolution of Services/CAT - Module 19	6.30-8.00pm
27/03/2024	Wednesday	Devolution of Services/CAT - Module 19	6.30-8.00pm

22/01/2024	Monday	Well-being of Future Generations/Sustainability - Module 20	6.30-8.00pm
28/02/2024	Wednesday	Well-being of Future Generations/Sustainability - Module 20	6.30-8.00pm
14/03/2024	Thursday	Well-being of Future Generations/Sustainability - Module 20	6.30-8.00pm

15/01/2024	Monday	Advanced Local Government Finance - Module 21	6.30-8.00pm
14/02/2024	Wednesday	Advanced Local Government Finance - Module 21	6.30-8.00pm

07/03/2024	Thursday	Advanced Local Government Finance - Module 21	6.30-8.00pm
13/03/2024	Wednesday	Advanced Local Government Finance - Module 21	6.30-8.00pm

17/01/2024	Wednesday	Community Asset Transfer - Module 23	6.30-8.00pm
21/02/2024	Wednesday	Community Asset Transfer - Module 23	6.30-8.00pm

23/01/2024	Tuesday	Finance and Governance Toolkit - Module 24	6.30-8.00pm
27/02/2024	Tuesday	Finance and Governance Toolkit - Module 24	6.30-8.00pm
25/03/2024	Monday	Finance and Governance Toolkit - Module 24	6.30-8.00pm

Please contact me via email to place a booking.

Many thanks.
Wendi

Mobile – 07929 715990

Wendi Patience
Administration Officer / Swyddog Gweinyddol
One Voice Wales / Un Llais Cymru
24c College Street / 24c Stryd y Coleg
Ammanford / Rhydaman
Carmarthenshire / Sir Caerfyrddin
SA18 3AF

Email: wpatience@onevoicewales.wales
Epost: wpatience@unllaiscymru.cymru

Tel/Ffon: **07929 715990**



The principal representative body for Community and Town Councils in Wales/
Y prif gorff cynrychioli ar gyfer Cyngorau Cymuned a Thref yng Nghymru

Tracy

From: Tracy Gilmartin <tgilmartin@onevoicewales.wales>
Sent: 14 December 2023 15:30
To: Tracy Gilmartin
Subject: Cost-of-Living – Community and Town Council activity in Wales
Attachments: CoLC Flyer English.pdf

Dear Community and Town Council colleagues

Cost-of-Living – Community and Town Council activity in Wales

As you may already be aware, a new team has been established by One Voice Wales to consider the Wales wide community response to the cost-of-living challenges being experienced by our people across the spectrum. The Cost-of-Living Crisis Team are really looking forward to engaging with you all online, in person and at specific events to explore the activities and events your council are currently involved with and talk more about any ideas and plans you may have for future events and initiatives.

We would like to showcase, celebrate, and communicate to the local council sector the Community and Town Councils who are making a significant contribution for the benefit of communities during these challenging times. We would like to take forwards examples of best practice to your neighbouring councils and those throughout Wales to share the experiences skills and learning you have all adopted so far in promoting resilience within our communities. We plan to do this in several ways via in person, online, workshops, webinars, activity days and via Social Media promotion of all your best work on favoured platforms.

With all that in mind, and as Council's are setting or have set their precepts for the next financial year, we would be very interested to know if your council has set aside funding for such projects or if you have considered doing so as a means of offering your services some continuity for the next year and beyond? If not, please take this as a friendly prompt that this may need to be something to consider- if you have chance - as you finalise your precept. Likewise, if your Council is considering doing something but feels it needs help and support, we want to hear from you so that we can record the difference having a support team makes over the cost-of-living crisis programme period.

Over the course of the next two and a half years, we will be aiming to capture as much evidence on the activity and spend on the cost-of-living crisis by community and town councils and will be reporting our findings to Welsh Government as well as key partner organisations such as Unitary Authorities and the Third Sector. One of the aims will be to encourage greater collaborative working with community and town councils.

We look forward to hearing from you. Please email the Cost-of-Living Crisis Team at One Voice Wales on CoLC@onevoicewales.wales

Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



Mr Lyn Cadwallader
Chief Executive, One Voice Wales

One Voice Wales / Un Llais Cymru



One Voice Wales Cost of Living Crisis Project

One Voice Wales, the Voice for Community and Local councils in Wales, has secured funding via Welsh Government until March 2026, to look at the challenges being posed to Welsh communities in light of the cost-of-living crisis.

The One Voice Wales Cost-of-Living Team will be learning about all the positive community initiatives and current activities being led by our community and town councils.

We will be sharing examples of the best practices throughout Wales, and we want to enable community and town councils to complement and enhance the current cost of living support initiatives in their communities.



Phone: 01269 595400

Email: CoLC@onevoicewales.wales
www.onevoicewales.org.uk



The Team

Julie Jones: Project Manager

A qualified social worker, Julie has been working in the family business whilst also being involved in numerous community initiatives. Julie serves as a community councillor for her local Ward.



Emma Goode: Project Officer

She has a background in project management and ran her own retail business, whilst working with the town council and other groups to deliver business, community, and charitable initiatives.



Angela Oakes: Project Officer

She has a background in project management and ran her own retail business, whilst working with the town council and other groups to deliver business, community, and charitable initiatives.



Tracy

From: Tracy Gilmartin <tgilmartin@onevoicewales.wales>
Sent: 02 January 2024 16:26
To: Tracy Gilmartin
Subject: Communication about digital training for distribution

Dear Colleagues,

Please find below details of training sessions covering digital skills that are taking place in January, February & March 2024. These training sessions are being provided by **Digital Communities Wales** as part of the **Digital Health of Community and Town Councils** programme. Please bring this to the attention of your council.

There is no charge for Councillors to attend these training sessions.

To register for the training please follow the following quick steps to be sent a ticket.

- Visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/cc/one-voice-wales-digital-training-2918959> to review session times and descriptions.
- When you have found a session which you would like to attend then click to "reserve a spot".
- Complete the form to register. Please use the name of your council for your organisation or department where required.

Please specify during the registration for the training session if you would like to participate in Welsh.

Repeat the process for any additional course you would like to attend.

If you have any queries please let me know.

Many thanks,

Justin Horrell
Digital Project Manager
One Voice Wales
jhorrell@onevoicewales.wales

- Tuesday 23rd Jan 2pm - How digital tools can help with Cost of Living
- Wednesday 31st Jan - 2pm - Digital Champions
- Wednesday 14th February - 10am - Introduction to Online Safety
- Tuesday 20th February - 2pm - Social Media Safety & Understanding boundaries
- Thursday 29th February - 9-30am - E-mail Safety, Scams + Safe Information
- Tuesday 12th March - 10am - Social Media & Community Engagement
- Wednesday 27th March - 2-3pm - Digital Accessibility

Item no. 4

ANNUAL REPORT

2022/23



**NANTYGLO & BLAINA
TOWN COUNCIL**

Town Clerk: Tracy Hughes

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

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NANTYGLO & BLAINA TOWN COUNCIL

CYNGOR TREF NANT-Y-GLO A BLAENAU

Mayor's Report:

Cllr Lillian Harris: It was a wonderful honour to be elected by my fellow Councillors to be the mayor for 2022-2023 and what a year it has been. I feel very privileged to have seen the Queen Elizabeth's Platinum Jubilee and King Charles Coronation. Mayor attended the 4 local schools with commemorative gifts for every pupil for the Platinum Jubilee and for the King's Coronation. I also attended the 3 local sheltered accommodations in the area to donate money towards an afternoon tea for the residents. Amongst those 2 very special events I have also attended Armed Forces Day at Bedwellty House. Civic Sunday was held at Cwmcelyn Chapel. Remembrance Sunday at Central Park, Blaina. Town Council held two Christmas Carol concerts, 1 at St Peter's Church, Blaina and the 2nd was at Nantyglo Rugby Club. At both events a Christmas Fair was held with a Santa's grotto, where children received a gift from Santa.

The year has been a pleasure to be the Town Mayor of Nantyglo & Blaina Town working for the people of Nantyglo & Blaina. Also, during my term, we gave the residents the best possible local duty and resolved many issues to make things better for the area. This was realised by the hard work of our staff and was confirmed by the national audit office whereby there were no recommendations in their report on our council, which was very pleasing for all concerned.



Leader's Report: Cllr Glyn Morvan:

As a council we will continue to work for and with you during the coming months and increase our involvement with the communities of Nantyglo & Blaina in as many ways as possible, and in doing so, meeting with as many

COVID imposed upon us. Covid has not completely gone away but we now seem to have found a way to live with it as we do with many other infections.

We have now moved into a period of extreme financial difficulties which has left many of us struggling to make ends meet.

We as a Council recognise these difficulties and do what we can within our limitations, to try and assist the residents of Nantyglo and Blaina during this difficult time.

We continue to support the local Food Bank by making a financial donation each month to assist them in providing the fantastic work they do within our communities on a regular basis.

This year we reintroduced some of the activities that were curtailed during the pandemic period. We have recently held the Nantyglo & Blaina in bloom competition which was well supported by residents & organisations ready to show their gardening skills. Also, nominations have been submitted for the ARC awards which annually acknowledge the outstanding contributions made by residents who have gone the extra mile to work with, and in, our communities to make a difference to those who live here without seeking reward or recognition.

We have also increased the number of planters throughout Nantyglo & Blaina this year all filled with an array of plants and colours which hopefully make people feel just a little bit better about themselves and their towns.

NANTYGLO & BLAINA TOWN COUNCIL

CYNGOR TREF NANT-Y-GLO A BLAENAU

of you as we can on the way.

We have finally moved away from the constraints that



ABOUT COUNCIL:

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

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

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

Council membership is of 16 unpaid, elected members, 8 for Nantyglo and 8 for Blaina. The Council currently has 8 vacancy available at Nantyglo ward and 8 at

NANTYGLO & BLAINA TOWN COUNCIL

CYNGOR TREF NANT-Y-GLO A BLAENAU

Nantyglo & Blaina Town Council Membership:

Name	Party	Ward
Cllr Lillian Harris: Town Mayor, Chair of Full Council Committee	Independent: Elected	Blaina
Cllr Glyn Morvan: Leader of Council,	Independent: Elected	Nantyglo
Cllr Ken Jones: Chair of Planning & Highways Committee	Independent: Elected	Nantyglo
Cllr Keith Jenkins: Chair of Events Committee	Independent: Elected	Nantyglo
Cllr Michael Williams: Vice Chair of Events Committee	Independent: Elected	Blaina
Cllr Des Hillman: Chair of Finance & General Purposes Committee	Independent: Elected	Blaina
Cllr Carole Hillman	Independent: Elected	Nantyglo
Cllr Lydia King	Independent: elected	Blaina

Committee Membership:

Name	Position	Committee
Cllr Lillian Harris	All Members of Council Chair	Full Council
Cllr Ken Jones Cllr Carol Hillman	All Members of Council Chair Observers	Planning & Highways Committee
Cllr Keith Jenkins Cllr Michael Williams	All Members of Council Chair Vice Chair	Events Committee
Cllr Des Hillman	All Members of Council Chair	Finance & General Purposes Committee
Cllr Des Hillman Cllr Glyn Morvan Cllr Keith Jenkins	Leader of Council	Personnel Committee
Cllr Keith Jenkins Cllr Michael Williams Cllr Carol Hillman Cllr Des Hillman	Town Mayor Deputy Mayor	Joint Committee of Local Councils

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Cllr Ken Jones	Substitute	
Cllr Lillian Harris	Town Mayor	Blaenau Gwent CBC Liaison Meeting with Town Councils
Cllr Des Hillman	Representative	
Cllr Carol Hillman	Representative	
Cllr Michael Williams	Representative	
Cllr Ken Jones	Substitute	
Cllr Ken Jones	Representative	Blaenau Gwent CAB
Cllr Michael Williams	Representative	Blaina Ward Action Group
Cllr Lillian Harris	Town Mayor	Blaina Gwent Heritage Forum
Cllr Des Hillman	Representative	Blaenau Institute Trust Fund
Cllr Michael Williams	Representative	School Governors – Ystruth Primary
Cllr Keith Jenkins	Representative	School Governors – Coed Y Garn Primary
Cllr Glyn Morvan	Representative	Blaenau Gwent Armed Forces: Covent Steering Group
Cllr Glyn Morvan	Leader of Council	One Voice Wales
Cllr Keith Jenkins	Town Mayor	
Cllr Glyn Morvan	Leader of Council	One Voice Wales Larger Councils Representative
Cllr Des Hillman	Representative	Planning Application Observer
Cllr Carol Hillman	Representative	

Staff

Name	Position
Mrs Tracy Hughes RFO	Town Clerk
Mrs Nicola Horner	Assistant Officer

Meetings

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

Training Plan 2022/23:

Introduction:

The Local Government & Elections (Wales) Act 2021 places a duty on Town & Community Councils in Wales to set out a training plan for both councillors and staff to enable them to

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undertake their respective roles for the betterment of not only the Council and the Community it serves, but also the councillors' personal development.

Training:

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

Learning can be categorised into the following:

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

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

Training Aims:

The Council's training aims are the following:

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

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Staff Training:

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

Council:

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

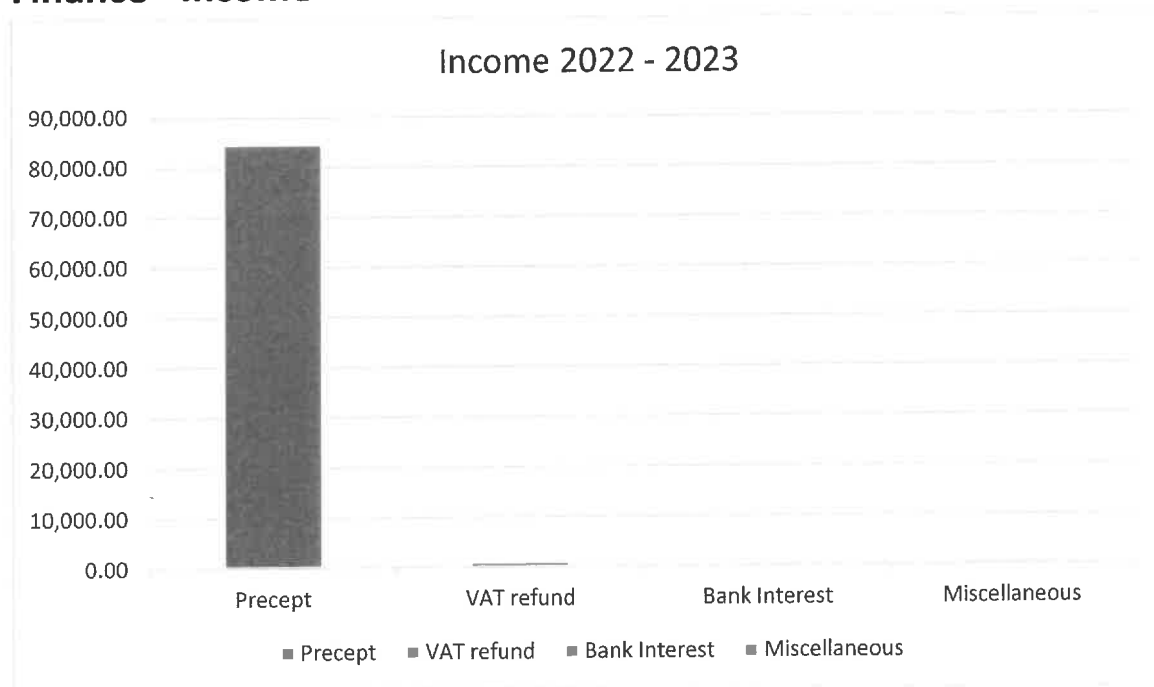
All councillors are provided with New Members Induction Pack following Local Council Elections as soon as practicable after the local elections.	Every 4 years (or following local elections)
All councillors are encouraged to complete a skills audit to identify training needs.	Annually
All councillors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

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

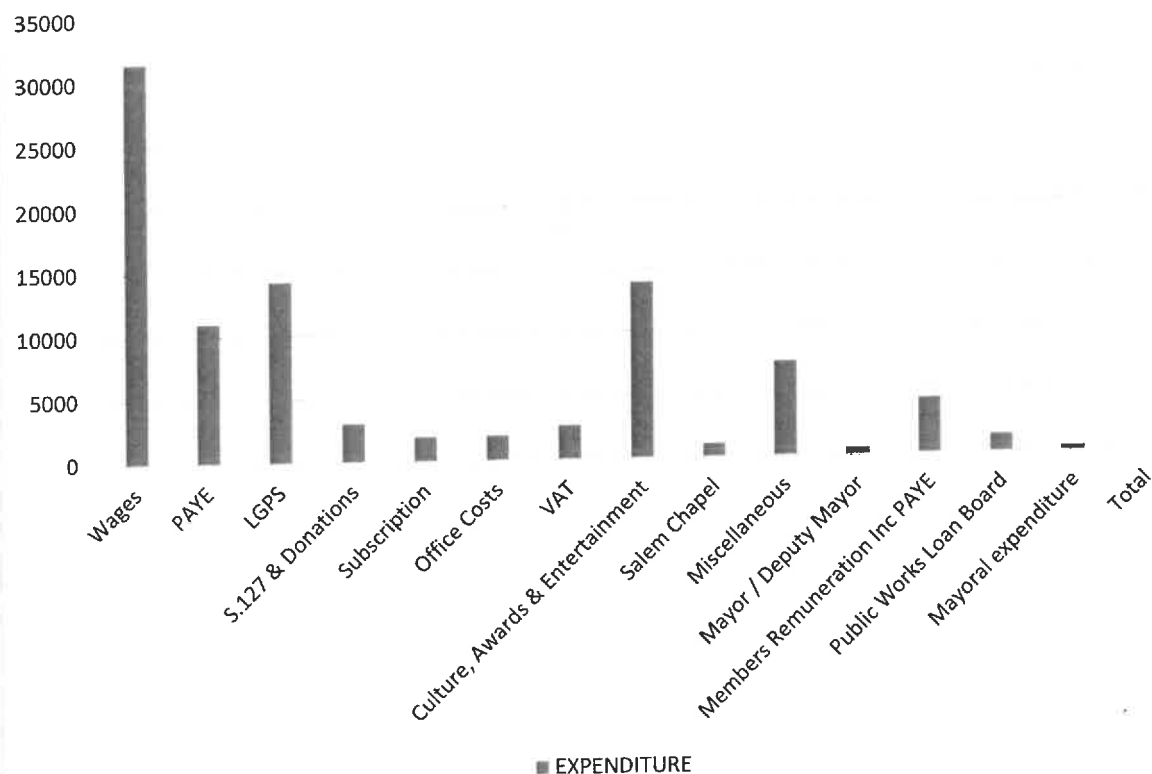
Finance - Income



The main source of funding for Town councils is the funds raised through what is referred to as a precept (a charge) to council tax under section 41 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992. Nantyglo & Blaina Town Council calculates its budget requirement for a financial year in accordance with section 50 of that Act and issue a precept to the billing authority. In 2022/23 the Nantyglo & Blaina Town Council precept was £128,000. A band D property for Council Tax paid £28 for the year towards the Town Council. This interest and a VAT refund is the only income to Nantyglo & Blaina Town Council.

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Expenditure



Financial Donations made through S137 2022/23

Financial donations given to organisations for grant funding from Nantyglo & Blaina Town Council 2022/23

(Funding provided to support organisations)

Date	Organisation	Amount
April '22	Llys Y Capel Social Fund	100.00
June '22	Kids Cancer Charity	100.00
July '22	Riverside Fund	100.00
October '22	Rafi Abbas	51.21
October '22	Cerebral Palsy Cymru	100.00
December '22	Brynmawr Rotary	100.00
December '22	Patchwork & Quilting	50.00
January '23	Urdd Gobaith Cymru	50.00
TOTAL		651.21

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Financial Donation given to Blaenau Gwent Food Bank:

Donation provided to Blaenau Gwent Foodbank 2022/23 from Nantyglo & Blaina Town Council

To support the residents of Nantyglo & Blaina who have been in need during the financial year.

Date	Amount
April	200.00
May & June	400.00
July & August	400.00
September & October	400.00
November & December	400.00
January	200.00
February & March	400.00
TOTAL	2400.00

Assets:

Description:

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

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

Activities

Achievement & Recognition in the Community (ARC): This event held annually which recognises people from the below categories. Town Council holds a ceremony to present winners with a trophy and certificates for their achievement.

- **Services to Youth:** Presented in recognition of service provision in the support of youth development i.e., running youth clubs, Air Training Corps, Scouts, Careers/employment advisor.
- **Music Award:** Presented to a person or persons for their outstanding achievement and talent in the musical arena.

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- **Carers:** Presented to a person who by concern for the welfare of others provide care and assistance to those who by age, infirmity or disability are dependent upon the assistance of others.
- **Good Neighbour:** Presented to a person or persons, who by a continued expression of consideration of a neighbour's quality of life are felt to be worthy of recognition.
- **Sports:** Presented to a person or trainer who has shown outstanding commitment or achievement to local sport.
- **Community:** Presented in recognition of the tireless effort and dedication given to enhance and support the local community particularly when that person is a member of several local community groups or organisations.
- **Award in Recognition of Professional Services:** Presented in recognition of the excellent services provided to those in need of advice or assistance.
- **Lifetime Achievement Award:** Presented by the Town Mayor, in recognition of exceptional or outstanding service to the communities of Nantyglo & Blaina.

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

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

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

Christmas Fair: This is annual event whereby Town Council invites stall holders to come along and sell their Christmas products for our residents to come along. Again, Santa is available in his grotto for children to visit him and receive a gift, purchased by Town Council.

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

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

Queens Platinum Jubilee: Town Council provided every pupil in their 4 local primary schools with drinks bottle and pen & pencil set. Also, there were 2 commemorative trees planted to mark the celebration.

Death of Queen Elizabeth: A book of condolences purchased for residents to write their deepest sympathy wishes to the Royal Family and a service of Remembrance was held jointly organised with Blaina Branch of Royal British Legion.

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

Civic Sunday: As part of the Mayoral Year, the Town Mayor holds a Civic Sunday Service to which the whole community and other local dignitaries invited.

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

NHS Day: Commemorated the day by Town Council flew the flag for the first NHS, Social Care & Frontline Workers' Day for a celebration and recognition of the hard work carried out by essential workers during the pandemic, and to remember those who have lost their lives in the service of others.

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

Environment:

Planters: Town Council purchased 6 extra-large planters and replants all planters twice a year for Nantyglo and Blaina to have flowers all year round.

Collaborative Working: Town council worked collaboratively with Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council, Town Centre Manager, also alongside Local Authority Ward Councillors, Cllr Lisa Winnett, Cllr John Morgan, Cllr Peter Baldwin & Cllr Sonia Behr. Donations made to events of Halloween and Christmas funday. Town Councillors were also in attendance and assisted with Santa Sleigh through the streets of Nantyglo & Blaina.

Safety Inspections – Salem Chapel

Inspection of Salem Chapel – December 2023

MAIN CHAPEL / WEEK	5 th	12 th	19 th	N/A	Report of any defects And action taken
Main Hall of Chapel	/	/	/	/	Dry rot detected & floor part lifted. Investigations undertaken 31/8/16. Organ supports re-enforced Sept 2016.
Fire Alarm	/	/	/	/	Inspected 6/7/2023
Emergency Lighting	/	/	/	/	Inspected 19/01/2023
Stairways to Balcony	/	/	/	/	Stair lift not working, evidence of damp on walls. Plaster fallen from underneath of stairs due to damp.
Balcony	/	/	/	/	Damage to display possibly from insects/woodworm. Greater evidence of damp on walls.
Toilets	/	/	/	/	Removed due to dry rot
High Street Entrance	/	/	/	/	Black mould on walls & ceilings
Office	/	/	/	/	Broken window secured
General Condition	/	/	/	/	General deterioration evident
Fire Extinguishers	/	/	/	/	Inspected & replaced as necessary 06/12/22
Observations/ Other Comments	/	/	/	/	J Dyer opinion is fungal rot. Valuation survey carried out by J Dyer 3/11/21. Exhibition items delivered to Westgate Hotel, Newport & awaiting to go to Blaen y Cwm Primary.
ANNEX BUILDING					
Ground Floor	/	/	/	/	Mould/rot on floor, appears very unsafe
Kitchen	/	/	/	/	Mould/rot on floor. Floor rotten through and unsafe. Kitchen units coming away from wall due to severe damp in floor of kitchen. R Dunham inspected.
First Aid Box	/	/	/	/	
Seating Area	/	/	/	/	Considerably amount of new damp on interior walls to left side of premises entering from the back entrance. Extensive rotting of wooden floor.
Stairway to upper room	/	/	/	/	
Upper Room	/	/	/	/	
Rear Entrance	/	/	/	/	Paint flaking off walls
Side Door	/	/	/	/	
Observations/ Other Comments					General deterioration evident.
Statutory annual Inspections:					Dragon Fire & Security Systems (fire extinguishers) 06/12/2022. Dragon Fire & Security Systems (Intruder & fire alarms) 06/07/2023.

Signed: *T Hughes*

Town Clerk **Date:** 09/01/24
Chairman of Finance & General Purposes Committee