

Item 4a

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

Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on Tuesday 22nd September 2020 via a remote meeting.

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

Present: Councillor K Jones JP, Town Mayor, presiding
Councillors G Morvan; R Pagett; D Hillman; C Hillman and K Jenkins

In attendance: Mrs T Hughes, Town Clerk / RFO

Declaration of Interest

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

1. Apologies:

Members were invited to consider the apologies for absence received and to formally resolve to accept. **Resolved** to note that apologies were received from Councillors G Watkins, T James, C Bridgeman and Mrs N Horner. **Further Resolved** to accept the apologies received.

2. Town Mayor's Communications:

The Town Mayor informed of his activities during August and September 2020. The Town informed that due to the ongoing Covid 19 situation, there were no activities to report.

Resolved to note the information received.

Due to a problem with either the telephone line and / or a telephone handset, there was constant noise interference which prevented Members from being heard clearly.

Resolved that due to this interference and noise, the Meeting of the Town Council be adjourned. **Further Resolved** that this Meeting of the Town Council be re-convened at 1pm on Tuesday 29th September 2020 via a remote meeting.

Item 5.

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

Minutes of the Town Council Meeting Reconvened on Tuesday 29th September 2020 via a remote meeting.

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

Present: Councillor K Jones JP, Town Mayor, presiding
Councillors R Abbas; K Jenkins; C Hillman; L Harris; G Morvan & D Hillman

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

Declaration of Interest

Members were invited to declare matters of interest either at the beginning or at any time during the proceedings. Please note that all declarations of interest must be recorded in the book provided. **Resolved** to note that Councillors D Hillman and C Hillman declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 7a.

1. Apologies:

Members were invited to consider the apologies for absence received and to formally resolve to accept. **Resolved** to note that apologies were received from Councillor C Bridgeman. **Further Resolved** to accept the apologies received.

2. Town Mayor's Communications:

The Town Mayor informed of his activities during August and September 2020.
The Town informed that due to the ongoing Covid 19 situation, there were no activities to report.

Resolved to note the information received.

3. Minutes of the Events Committee Meeting held 28th July 2020 (pages 14 - 18)

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:

p.15 – s/b 'regarding'.

p.15 – clarified that the planter was to be placed on the triangle of ground near to the garage.

p.15 – requested that Blaenau Gwent CBC be contacted to provide substantial stone planters for Nantyglo and Blaina.

p.15 – s/b 'commends' & 'suggestion'.

p.16 – planter requested for Cwmcelyn.

p.16 – reported that sign on planter near to Coed y Garn Primary School was loose.

p.16 – s/b 'a banner'.

Resolved that the minutes be approved.

4. Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held 28th July 2020 (pages 19 - 24)

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:

p.19 – another contractor to be contacted for opinion and reported back to Council.

p.20 – Online banking issue now rectified and compensation of £500 had been received from Lloyds Bank.

p.24 – It was **Resolved** that Committee and Council Meetings held remotely commence at 1pm.

p.24 – Councillors D Hillman and T James were working on the Town Council's Vision and Action Plan.

Resolved that the minutes be approved.

5. Minutes of the Planning & Highways Committee Meeting held 8th September 2020 (pages 25 - 27)

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:

p.26 - should read 'his'.

p.26 - should read 'dealt with under delegated powers'.

p.26 - add 'after full explanation and response from the Planning Officer'.

Resolved that the minutes be approved.

6. Minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee Meeting held 8th September 2020 (pages 28 - 32)

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:

p.29 – report deemed not open to public at the moment but there were no negatives in respect of Nantyglo and Blaina.

p.31 – Welsh Government was holding some meetings in person and OWW had issued information in respect of Local Council meetings although their advice was that Councils should continue to hold meetings by remote methods. **Resolved** that this item be included as an agenda item.

Resolved that the minutes be approved.

7. **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.

Councillors D Hillman and C Hillman declared a non-pecuniary interest. **Resolved** to remain in the meeting as item was for information only.

a) Aneurin Bevan Community Health Council – (For Information):

E-mail informing of link to access the Community Health Annual Report.

The Town Clerk informed that a hard copy of the report was available to the Town Council office.

Resolved to note the information received.

b) One Voice Wales / Dyfed Powys Police – (For Information):

E-mail warning of Parking Scam e-mail.

The Town Clerk informed that this information was listed on the Town Council's website.

Resolved to note the information received.

8. **Annual Meeting of the Council:**

Members were informed that the Annual Meeting of the Council must be held during 2020. A copy of the Welsh Statutory Instruments – The Local Authorities (Coronavirus) (Meetings) (Wales) Regulations 2020 was attached for information and clarification.

The Town Clerk informed that during the latter part of March 2020 and April 2020 there was a lot of frequently changing advice & information circulated in respect of Town & Community Councils, particularly in respect of meetings. Legislation had clarified that Town & Community Council must hold an annual meeting at a date in 2020.

Members considered that in line with guidance previously issued, all positions and Town Council representation for the civic year 2020/21 had been resolved.

Resolved that the Annual Meeting of the Council for the civic year 2020/21 be held following the conclusion of the Town Council's Committee Meetings on Tuesday 8th December 2020. **Further Resolved** that the Town Council's positions and representations previously resolved be ratified at the Annual Meeting of the Town Council.

9. **Donations to Blaenau Gwent Foodbank:**

Members were informed of the thanks and information provided by Blaenau Gwent Foodbanks in respect of the Town Council's most recent financial donation. As resolved at the Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting which took place on 8th September 2020, Members were requested to consider providing further financial donations to Blaenau Gwent Foodbank in light of the continuing Covid 19 situation.

Members considered the request in light of the continuing serious Covid 19 situation within Blaenau Gwent and agreed to provide additional financial support to Blaenau Gwent Foodbank.

Resolved that a donation of £200 be made to Blaenau Gwent Food bank each calendar month in respect of Nantyglo & Blaina residents commencing in September 2020 until (and including) December 2020.

10. Application to the Community Grant Fund:

Members were invited to consider the listed application(s). Members were also reminded that applications would need to be considered in conjunction with the current policy.

- a) *None received to date*

Resolved accordingly.

11. Planning Applications:

Members were invited to consider the listed application(s).

- a) *None received to date.*

Resolved accordingly.

12. Licensing Applications:

Members were invited to consider the listed application(s), plus with the Chairman's permission, any additional applications that may be received prior to the date of the meeting.

Additional licensing application received:

- a) Applicant: Mr S Sivajaran – 53 Cwmcelyn Road, Blaina

Details: Application to transfer a premises licence (Licensing Act 2003)

Premise: Cwmcelyn Food Store, 53, Cwmcelyn Road, Blaina

The possible issue of the underage drinkers purchasing alcohol from the premises in the past was discussed and it was agreed to query with Blaenau Gwent CBC if any comments regarding this had been raised by or commented on by Gwent Police.

Resolved that the Licensing Team at Blaenau Gwent CBC be contacted to determine if local Police had submitted any representations or objections.

13. Members' Updates:

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

- a) Councillor R Abbas:

- i & ii Withdrawal of proposal, Post Covid realities and Flexibility and Imagination / concerns:

Councillor Abbas informed that some Town/Community Councils had proved very active in response to the challenges posed by Covid 19 and in supporting local residents together with engaging with other local organisations.

Members agreed with the statements made and informed that within Blaenau Gwent there had been local groups of volunteers set up on a local ward basis. Blaenau Gwent CBC Councillors J Morgan and L Winnett could be contacted in respect of the Blaina Ward. It was further agreed that legal restrictions and personal circumstances meant that it had been difficult for many people to meet up although the use of technology was increasing to enable this. It was re-iterated that the Town Council had continued to be active within the community throughout the Covid 19 circumstances e.g. the production of planters throughout the area and financial assistance to Blaenau Gwent Foodbank to aid people from Nantyglo and Blaina.

Councillor Abbas also informed that he was liaising with local schools and young people in providing information as to the different experiences of refugees within the local area.

Resolved to note the information received. **Further Resolved** that the Council policies in respect of equality were reviewed annually.

b) Councillor D Hillman:

Councillor Hillman informed that himself and Councillors C Hillman, G Morvan and K Jenkins would be attending an online training session provided by Planning Aid Wales 'Responding to Planning Applications' which was to take place on 30th September 2020.

Resolved to note the information received.

Councillor C Hillman left the meeting at this juncture.

c) Councillor K Jenkins:

Councillor Jenkins thanked Members for their kind comments in respect of the planters.

Councillor Jenkins informed that some plants and conifers had been stolen from some of the planters while some flowers had been 'cut' from the planter placed near to Coed y Garn Primary school. Councillor Jenkins asked if this could be posted on social media to hopefully reduce such future occurrences? Members advised caution in respect of posting such information on social media due to the possibility of inviting further damage etc. Councillor Abbas informed that his wife had replanted some of the plants that had been pulled out by others from the planters sited closed to Coed y Garn Primary school.

Councillor Abbas informed that an e-mail had been received from Brynmawr Rotary Club in respect of planting purple crocus within the area. In response to a query it was confirmed that the planting of the crocus would be carried out by voluntary and other groups.

Councillor D Hillman offered his assistance to the Chair of the Events Committee to help plant bulbs near the stone place signs within the area. It was requested that any Members interested in helping to plant the purple crocus contact Councillor Abbas in the first instance.

Councillor Jenkins (Chair of Events Committee) requested permission to purchase a long handled bulb planter, at an approximate cost of £20) to assist with this.

Resolved that Councillor Jenkins purchase a bulb planter as above on behalf of the Town Council (for re-imbusement).