

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

Mrs T Hughes Town Clerk/RFO

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Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held remotely at 1.00pm on Tuesday 22nd February 2022.

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

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

In attendance: Mrs T Hughes, Town Clerk / RFO

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

Declaration of Interest

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

1. Apologies:

Members were invited to consider the apologies for absence received and to formally resolve to accept. **Resolved** to note that apologies were received from Mrs N Horner, Assistant Officer.
Resolved to accept the apology received.

2. Town Mayor's Communications:

The Town Mayor's communications for February 2022.

The Town Mayor informed that there had not been any events etc during February 2022.

In respect of the Town Mayor's Appeal it was agreed to contact the local primary schools within Nantyglo and Blaina to enquire if any fund raising such as a mufti-day could take place.

Resolved to contact the four local primary schools to enquire about fundraising for the Mayoral Appeal.

3. Minutes of the Task & Finish Group (Attendance Allowance) Meeting held 24th January 2022 (pages 128 – 130)

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.

4. **Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held 25th January 2022 (pages 131 – 136)**
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.

5. **Minutes of the Events Committee Meeting held 25th January 2022 (pages 137 - 140)**
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 Planning & Highways Committee Meeting held 8th February 2022 (pages 141 – 145)**

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 143 – should read ‘did **not** want to duplicate events’.

Resolved that the minutes be approved.

7. **Minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee Meeting held 8th February 2022 (pages 146 – 151)**

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 148 – Gwent Public service Board – Members were informed that the 4 electric vehicle charging points were located in Blaina Car Park. It was commented that this information should have been included within the document.

Page 150 (b) – include ‘speaking on behalf of joint local councils’. Councillor K Jones JP commented that the Town Mayor’s responses at the Liaison Meeting may have been a factor in Blaenau Gwent CBC deciding not to increase the council tax for 2022/23.

Page 150 (2.22) – should read ‘this helped with the provision of the grant’ rather than free school meals.

In response to a query, the Town Clerk informed that Blaenau Gwent CBC had confirmed that Wayne Evans was still in post as the manager of Blaenau Gwent Foodbank but that contact had not been made to date.

Resolved that the minutes be approved.

8. 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) One Voice Wales – (for information):

I Survey results re: Multi Location Meetings:

members considered the survey results and the following comments were made:

- Page 3 – It was queried what 'meeting by other means' entailed?
- Page 3 and 4 – It was commented re: mandatory mask wearing – meetings in person had not been lawful for a considerable period of time until quite recently and if a Council could hold hybrid meetings. Internal/External Auditors should note if a Council had held unlawful meetings.
- Page 7 and 8 – Both positives and negatives were noted.
- Page 11 – Commented on non-compliance with the current legislation regarding holding meetings.

Members also commented that many of the points detailed in the survey were stated by the Town Council when completing the survey

Resolved to note the information received.

li Remote training sessions January – March).

Any Member wishing to attend any of the training modules to contact the Town Clerk.

Resolved to note the information received.

lii E-mail and guidance re: Councils and Councillors during the Pre-Election period.

The restrictions in place during the pre-election period were emphasised and although it was noted that there were some exceptions, it was recommended that care was needed to avoid contravening the restrictions.

Resolved to note the information received.

b) Gwent Police – (for information):

Ward updates.

Members agreed that dates of future police surgeries were required so that Members could attend if necessary.

Councillor Morvan offered to provide an update at a later date.

Resolved to note the information received and **Further Resolved** that the Town Clerk contact the Community Support Officer to request details of future police surgeries.

9. Review of Policies 2022/23:

Members were invited to review and if appropriate resolve the policies listed below for 2022/23:

10) Standing Orders 2022/23:

The Town Clerk informed that all proposed changes for consideration were highlighted. Members considered the proposed changes and the following points were made:

Page 3 – remote meetings. It was emphasised that changes in the legislation meant that all Councils had to hold remote meetings in addition to meetings in person. The Town Clerk informed that wi-fi had now been installed in the Council Chamber and that the remote meeting system (OWL) had been ordered to enable hybrid meetings to take place.

Page 8 (point o) – emphasised.

Page 21 (4.6) – a Member supported this inclusion due to possible conflicts of interest and that it would be sensible to adopt. Members agreed to adopt this inclusion.

Members thanked the Town Clerk for her work on this and the following (Risk Assessment) document.

Resolved to adopt the Standing Orders for 2022/23 with the agreed changes.

10) Risk Management Policy 2022/23:

The Town Clerk informed that proposed changes for consideration were highlighted.

Members considered the proposed changes and the following points were made:

Page 4 – Covid 19. It was accepted that this could change at any time.

Page 6 – Customer/citizen Risk. The importance of this was emphasised.

Page 9 – Security. This was for information only.

Page 11 – Political Risks (forthcoming election). This was for information only.

Page 12 – Social Media. This linked to Customer/Citizen risk (above).

Page 12 – technological Risk. This risk had been reduced due to the Council's new IT equipment, system and security.

Page 13 – Environmental Risk. Members agreed with this point.

Page 13 – Customer/Citizen Risk. This was highlighted.

Page 16 – Reputation. It was emphasised that both wards required equal resources as far as practicable.

Page 18 – Technological Risk. This was for information only.

Page 18 – Covid 19. This was for information only.

Resolved to adopt the Risk Management Policy for 2022/23 with the agreed changes.

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.

None received to date.

Resolved accordingly.

11. Members Updates:

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

There were no updates provided.

Resolved accordingly.

Meeting declared closed at 1.50pm