

NANTYGLO & BLAINA TOWN COUNCIL

CYNGOR TREF NANT-Y-GLO A BLAENAU

Mrs T Hughes Town Clerk/RFO

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Minutes of the Meeting of the Full Council held remotely at 1pm on Tuesday 22nd March 2022.

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

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

In attendance: Mrs T Hughes, Town Clerk / RFO

Prior to the commencement of the meeting the Town Clerk informed that no members of the press or public 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 apologies were received from Mrs N Horner, Assistant Officer.

Further Resolved to accept the apologies 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. **Further Resolved** to accept the apologies received.

2. Town Mayor's Communications:

The Town Mayor's communications for March 2022.

The Town Mayor informed that the awards presentation events for Nantyglo and Blaina In Bloom and the ARC Awards had successfully taken place in the Council Chamber. The Town Mayor thanked Councillor M Williams for taking the photos of the In Bloom presentation and to ex-Councillor Rafi Abbas for taking the photos of the ARC Awards presentation. The Town Mayor also thanked the Town Clerk for organising both presentation events.

The Town Mayor informed that he and the Mayoress would have attended the event at Cwmcelyn House, Blaina if the invitation had been received from Cwmcelyn House earlier. Councillor K Jenkins informed that he had attended on behalf of the Town Council and that the event was very successful.

In response to a query, the Town Clerk informed that two of the four local primary schools had responded positively to a request to hold fundraising events in support of the Mayoral Appeal.

Resolved to note the information received.

3. Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held 22nd February 2022 (pages 152 – 156)

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.155 – Risk Management Policy (pages 6 & 13) Customer/citizen risk. The importance of this was highlighted due to a current online campaign to dissolve Abertillery & Llanhilleth Community Council following their decision to increase their precept for 2022/23 by over 50%. The Leader of Blaenau Gwent CBC had thanked Nantyglo & Blaina Town Council (along with Brynmawr and Tredegar Town Councils) for setting a standstill precept during the challenging economic climate.

Resolved that the minutes be approved.

4. Minutes of the Events Committee Meeting held 22nd February 2022 (pages 157 – 160)

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.158 – In response to an offer of assistance regarding forthcoming events, the Town Clerk informed that she would contact all members if this was required.

P.159 – In response to a query the Town Clerk informed that she had contacted Mr R Dunham who confirmed that he would help erect bunting for the Platinum Jubilee.

Resolved that the minutes be approved.

5. Minutes of the Planning & Highways Committee Meeting held 8th March 2022 (pages 161 – 162)

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 March 2022 (pages 163 – 168)

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.164 – Facebook training – in response to a query it was confirmed that the Town Clerk and Councillor M Williams would liaise and arrange this.

P.165 – Energy Costs – it was clarified that assistance would only be available to household with properties valued in the A-D council tax brackets and this assistance might need to be claimed rather than be automatically awarded. It was stated that the Welsh Government loan was mandatory.

Resolved that the minutes be approved.

Councillor C Hillman joined the meeting at this juncture.

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.

a) One Voice Wales – (for information):

i E-mail informing of Bank Phishing Scam.

Resolved to note the information received.

ii Remote training sessions January – March).

Members to inform the Town Clerk if they wanted to attend any training.

Resolved to note the information received.

iii E-mail re: emergency accommodation – Ukraine conflict.

Resolved to note the information received.

iv E-mail informing of invite to focus group re: Co-ordinating volunteers to respond to emergency situations in Wales.

Councillor K Jenkins informed that he would look into this invitation to determine if it was of interest.

Resolved to note the information received.

b) Blaenau Gwent Foodbank – (for information):

E-mail confirming receipt of donations and of numbers of people helped within Nantyglo & Blaina.

The Town Clerk informed that some details of payments were omitted from the e-mail and that the Foodbank Manager had been contacted and sent details of all payments/goods sent by the Town Council to cross reference with their own records.

In response to a query, the Town Clerk informed that she couldn't provide the exact difference in the figures at that moment but was confident that the Town Councils figures were correct as they had been audited.

Resolved to note the information received.

c) Audit Wales – (for information):

Letter inviting views to inform the Auditor General's future audit work programme for 2022/23 and beyond.

Full details of this was available on the internet.

Resolved to note the information received.

d) Welsh Government – (for information):

Information regarding the new rules for Wales for Alert Level 0 (Covid 19).

It was noted that this information could change at the end of March 2022.

Resolved to note the information received.

e) Citizens Advice Caerphilly Blaenau Gwent (for information):

Newsletter – March 2022.

The Town Mayor congratulated Cllr Ken Jones on his successful Mayoral Appeal and commented that the newsletter was interesting and informative.

Cllr Ken Jones thanked all Members for assisting with his Mayoral Appeal, especially the Town Clerk and Assistant Officer.

Resolved to note the information received.

f) Parc Nant y Waun – (for information):

E-mail informing of opportunity to help plant trees at Parc Nant y Waun LNR on 20th March.

Resolved to note the information received.

g) Men's Den (for information):

E-mail informing of the re-start of Men's Den.

The Town mayor congratulated Rafi Abbas on his hard work in making Men's Den a success.

Resolved to note the information received.

Additional correspondence received with permission of the Chair:

h) Citizens Advice – Caerphilly Blaenau Gwent (for information):

Letter thanking Councillor Ken Jones JP for the proceeds of his Mayoral Appeal (2019 – 21) to Citizens Advice Caerphilly Blaenau Gwent.

Resolved to note the information received.

*Councillors D Hillman and C Hillman declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 7j. **Resolved** to remain in the meeting as item was for information only.*

j) Aneurin Bevan Community Health Council (for information):

Notice of meeting of the Aneurin Bevan Community Health Council to take place remotely at 10.30am on 31st March 2022.

Resolved to note the information received.

8. **Review of Policies 2022/23:**

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

a) Financial Regulations 2022/23:

The Town Clerk informed that all amendments for consideration were highlighted.

In response to a query, the Town Clerk informed that the only amendments to the regulations were the sections highlighted on pages 10 & 11. The Town Clerk also explained that the amendments were made following appropriate advice from the Internal Auditor.

Members went through the regulations page by page and the following comments were made:

- page 9 (5.10) to include 'when able'.
- In response to a query regarding safeguards relating to online banking the Town Clerk informed that one person cannot authorise any payments. One person can process payments but another person (nominated counter signatory) then needs to authorise the payment separately. Each authorised counter-signatory had been allocated their own card, card reader and PIN number to do this. In practice, the Town Clerk processes the payments, then e-mails all details of these payments to one of the nominated counter-signatories who then checks the details with those online and authorises the payments. The Chair of Finance informed that the Lloyds Bank's online screen also records details of who has 'logged on and off' from the system.
- page 10 (6.10) – **Resolved** to include the amendment as shown.
- page 11 (6.14) – **Resolved** to include the amendment as shown.
- page 11 (6.17) - in response to a query, the Town Clerk informed that the limit of £250,000 related to the maximum amount permissible by Lloyds Bank via their online banking system.

Unanimously Resolved that the Financial Regulations for 2022/23 be approved with the amendments as highlighted.

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

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

None received to date

Resolved accordingly.

10. **Members Updates:**

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

Councillor L Harris:

Councillor Harris informed that some years ago, Allen Harris had written a book of poems and together with poems about the Steelworks in Ebbw Vale. This was to help raise funds

for the Archives at the General Offices. Councillor Harris queried if it would be possible to set up a similar project in respect of Nantyglo & Blaina which would also help publicise the area and increase tourism etc?

The Town Mayor congratulated Allen Harris on his excellent work and informed that Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council produce an annual visitor book and that it might be possible to link up with the Tourism Officer at Blaenau Gwent CBC to inform of all events and other relevant information.

Resolved to note the information received.

The Town Clerk declared a personal interest in item 11a and offered to leave the meeting.

Resolved that the Town Clerk remain in the meeting but not take part in any discussions relating to this item.

11. 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.

Meeting declared closed at 1.55pm

Cllr M Williams gave his apologies for the Events Committee Meeting and left the meeting.