

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

Mrs T Hughes - Town Clerk/RFO

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Minutes of the Working Group Meeting (Christmas Events) held via a hybrid meeting at the Council Chamber, High Street, Blaina at 11.00am on Tuesday 16th August 2022.

Present: Councillor K Jenkins, Chair of Events, presiding
Councillors L King; L Harris; M Williams; C Hillman, D Hillman & G Morvan

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. Members were reminded that all declarations 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 apologies were received from Councillors K Jones JP, G Morvan, B Lucas & Mrs N Horner, Assistant Officer. **Further Resolved** to accept the apologies received.

2. Christmas Events:

Members were invited to discuss and consider the following:

- a) The e-mail invitation received from BGCBC Blaina Ward Councillor L Winnett.

A lengthy discussion ensued which was summarised as:

- Members agreed that it was necessary to accept the invitation from Councillor Winnett & meet with the four Blaenau Gwent Ward Members.
- Members also stated that it was vital to hold and be part of a Christmas event that was enjoyable for the whole community.
- The event had previously been organised by the Town Council not Blaenau Gwent CBC and that it should remain as this with the Blaenau Gwent Ward Members for Nantyglo & Blaina being invited to take part (as was the case in previous years).
- It would be a good idea to expand on this event if possible.
- It was re-iterated that the event was a Town Council event not a Blaenau Gwent event.

- Councillor K Jenkins stated that he would offer his services as Santa as he was unable to walk with the sleigh.
- There appeared to be miscommunication with the local Police as to the availability of an escort for the sleigh in 2021.
- The Town Clerk informed that the outgoing PC (who retired in November 2021) had informed that Gwent Police would not officially offer to escort the sleigh and that this had been done in previous years as a goodwill gesture. At that time, it was not known who the replacement PC would be.
- There was a need to have a meeting with the local Police in the near future regarding a possible escort for the sleigh.

Resolved that the Town Clerk contact the local Police regarding the provision and availability of an escort for the sleigh for 2022 and **Further Resolved** to accept Councillor Winnett's invitation to a meeting to discuss the event.

b) Christmas Events to be held by the Town Council.

For information, the following events have been held in previous years:

- Carol concerts with each primary school – 2 at Wesley Church, Nantyglo and 2 at Gladstone Street Chapel, Blaina (4 concerts in total). Santa had also been provided by the Town Council at each concert and distributed selection packs to the pupils present.
- Christmas evenings in both Nantyglo & Blaina – consisting of Santa's Grotto, Blaina Band, Katy Treharne, stalls & refreshments. These have taken place on different evenings in venues such as Nantyglo RFC; Blaina Community Centre & St Peter's Church, Blaina.
- Santa's Sleigh throughout Nantyglo & Blaina – usually taking place on different evenings for Nantyglo and Blaina with the sleigh then arriving at the Christmas evening (as above).
- Distribution of selection boxes – these have been provided to all primary school pupils within the area during 2020 & 2021 due to events not taking place due to Covid. Prior to Covid, this was not undertaken.

Members were also informed of the suggestion submitted by Councillor B Lucas as to contacting Pen y Cwm School for names of pupils from the Nantyglo & Blaina area.

A discussion ensued which was summarised as:

- The Town Clerk informed Members that pre-Covid, selection boxes were only distributed to the pupils (and those children in the audience) who participated in the Carol Concerts held with the four primary schools. As these concerts did not take place in 2020 & 2021, the Council then agreed to purchase a selection box for each child in the four local primary schools.
- A Member stated that it could be difficult to distribute selection boxes to pupils at Blaen y Cwm School from Nantyglo & Blaina.
- Another Member stated a preference to return to organising Carol Concerts and distributing the selection packs as prior to 2020.
- Another Member stated that it might cause problems if selection packs were not distributed to all pupils at the four primary schools as the last two years had set a precedence. It was also noted that not all pupils are chosen to attend the Carol Concerts.
- It was noted that if selection boxes were distributed at schools, a representative from the Town Council would need to be in attendance and that more publicity regarding this would be required.

- It was suggested that (with each schools' permission) that a Carol Concert could take place at each school and selection boxes then be distributed at the event for all pupils.
- There was also the need to consider any possible last-minute restrictions due to Covid as in previous years.
- If Carol Concerts were held at local churches (as before), selection boxes could be given to those children in attendance and the remainder distributed to the schools.
- It was noted that there was a possibility of some children have more than one selection box.
- Selection boxes could be distributed to all pupils at the four primary schools and children participating at the Carol Concerts could be given a small gift.

Councillor G Morvan joined the meeting at this juncture.

Resolved that the Town Clerk contact the four primary schools in the first instance to ascertain opinions on holding Carol Concerts in December. **Further Resolved** to re-agenda this item.

- It was commented that it would be a good idea for the Christmas Fun Nights to take place once more with Santa's Grotto and various stalls, so that children could visit Santa for a low cost, if suitable venues were available.
- It was agreed that selection boxes could be provided as the presents at Santa's Grotto.

Resolved that two Christmas 'fun nights' take place at St Peter's Church or Blaina Community Centre and at Nantyglo RFC. **Further Resolved** that the Town Clerk contact the venues to enquire about availability and charges etc.

Meeting declared closed at 12noon.