

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

Mrs T Hughes Town Clerk/RFO

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Minutes of the hybrid Meeting of the Town Council held at 2.00pm Tuesday 28th November 2023 at Council Chamber, Blaina Institute, High Street, Blaina.

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

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

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

Prior to the start 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 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 L King & J Bond. **Further Resolved** to accept the apologies received.

2. Town Mayor's Communications:

The Town Mayor's communications for November 2023.

The Town Mayor informed that he was honoured to have taken part in the Remembrance Sunday service.

Resolved to note the information received.

3. Questions from the Public:

To receive any questions from the public regarding matters on the agenda (please note this was limited to 10 minutes).

Resolved to note that no questions were received.

4. Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held 24th October 2023 (pages 64 – 67)

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 65 (item 4a) in response to a query, the Town Clerk informed that she had discussed this with G Collier (Nantyglo & Blaina Charter Group) and that he had tried and failed to contact the organisation in question. Cllr M Williams also informed that had had been unable to contact the organisation.

Page 66 (Item 8b) in response to a query, the Town Clerk informed that the requested information had been sent to members via e-mail.

Resolved that the minutes be approved.

5. Minutes of the Events Committee Meeting held 24th October 2023 (pages 68 - 70)

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 69 (item 4) in response to a query, the Town Clerk informed that Chapels and Churches would be included in the report.

Page 69/70 (item 6) in response to a query, the Town Clerk informed that all Christmas Lights were now erected and that there were some gaps in the lighting due to the costs of complying with the requirements of Blaenau Gwent CBC in respect of lamp posts. If lights were to have been erected on lamp posts, a considerable inspection fee per post would be payable and the large increase in contractor's public liability insurance premium (as required by BGCBC) would have meant the current contractor could not have erected the lights. The Town Clerk informed that this was the case for any council/group/organisation looking to attach Christmas lights to lamp posts anywhere in Blaenau Gwent.

Members discussed the information and stated that Christmas Lights were a large part of community and local council life. A suggestion was made to write to local residents to request if Christmas lights could be attached from individual properties – it was commented that this suggestion would incur probable liability issues for the Town Council.

Resolved that the minutes be approved.

6. Minutes of the Planning & Highways Committee Meeting held 14th November 2023 (pages 71 - 73)

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.

7. Minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee Meeting held 14th November 2023 (pages 74 - 78)

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 75 (item 3ai) in response to a query, the Town Clerk informed that, currently not all Town/Community Councils had responded to the request for a pre-meeting. Cllr D Hillman informed that he would query the issue of Christmas Lights at the meeting.

Page 75 (item 5) in a response to a query, the Town Clerk informed that the replacement ARC Awards had not yet been received.

Page 77 (item 9a) – in response to a query, the Town Clerk informed that some of the recently purchased Christmas lights were replacements.

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 might be received prior to the date of the meeting.

a) South East Wales Regional Ophthalmology – (for information):

Briefing Document – Planning Future Cataracts Services in South West Wales.

Resolved to note the information received.

b) Planning Department, Blaenau Gwent CBC – (For information/consideration):

Email response to planning application query (Ystruth School).

Members considered the response, and the following comments were made:

- There had been considerable public opinion as to the proposed width of the footpath and the possibility of it being used by unlawfully by certain vehicles.
- The response by the Planning Department had looked at the concerns raised and detailed the method to prevent that possibility from happening.

Resolved to note the information received.

c) One Voice Wales – (For Information / consideration):

- i. Welsh Government Consultation – Road Safety (paper copies were made available at the meeting).

Resolved to note the information received.

- ii. Information re: One Voice Wales Cost of Living Team.

Resolved to note the information received.

- iii. Letter informing of recycling requirements for businesses.

Resolved to note the information received.

- iv. Written Statement & Summary of Responses to the consultation on recommendations of the Independent Review of the Ethical Standards Framework (Richard Penn report).

Resolved to note the information received.

- d) Gwent Archives – (for information):

Email informing of free event at Gwent Archives.

Resolved to note the information received.

Additional correspondence received with permission of the Chair:

- e) Brynmawr Rotary (Michelle Hurter) – (for consideration):

Members were invited to consider the e-mail response received in respect to a query regarding anticipated numbers of Nantyglo & Blaina residents assisted by the project.

The Town Clerk informed that even based on 15 families from Nantyglo & Blaina already stated, a £100 donation made would be equivalent to £6.66 per family, although there were likely to be additional people and families when all referrals were made.

Members agreed that the information satisfied all the conditions.

Resolved that a financial donation of £100 be made.

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

Members were invited to consider the listed application(s). Members were also reminded that applications will 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 D Hillman:

Cllr D Hillman informed that he, Cllr C Hillman and Cllr L Harris attended the Christmas Extravaganza at Central Park on Saturday 25th November 2023.

Councillor G Morvan:

Cllr G Morvan informed that he assisted Santa from 9am until 3pm at the Christmas Extravaganza at Central Park on Saturday 25th November 2023.

Councillor M Williams:

Cllr M Williams informed that he assisted at the Christmas Extravaganza at Central Park on Saturday 25th November 2023.

Councillor L Harris:

Cllr L Harris informed that she attended the Christmas Fete at Cwmcelyn House held recently. Cllr Harris informed that it was a lovely day and very nice to meet the residents and staff again.

Resolved to note the information received.

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.

a)

Meeting declared closed at 2.40pm