

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 Full Council held Tuesday 24th October 2023 at 6pm at the Council Chamber, Blaina Institute, High Street, Blaina.

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

Present: Councillor K Jenkins, Town Mayor, presiding
Councillors L Harris: C Hillman; D Hillman; K Jones JP; L King; 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 Councillor G Morvan. **Further Resolved** to accept the apology received.

2. Town Mayor's Communications:

The Town Mayor's communications for October 2023.

The Town Mayor informed that both he and his Consort had visited BGfM studios at the opening of the newly revamped accommodation and recording studio. MS Alun Davies was also in attendance. On 23rd October 2023 the Town Mayor informed that he attended the official opening of the Stute Café based in Blaina Institute. This event was very well attended by other organisations and Blaenau Gwent CBC.

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 is limited to 10 minutes).

Resolved to note that no questions were received.

4. Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held 26th September 2023 (pages 48 – 52)

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 52 (item 12) – Councillor M Williams informed that the Community group Newport Rising based in the Westgate Hotel in Newport had been evicted from the Westgate Hotel without any notice. Items belonging to the Nantyglo & Blaina Charter Group had been housed and displayed here since earlier in 2023.

Resolved that the minutes be approved, **Further Resolved** to note the information received and **Additionally Resolved** that the Town Clerk investigate the situation relating to the items.

5. Minutes of the Events Committee Meeting held 26th September 2023 (pages 53 - 57)

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 56 (item 8) – Councillor D Hillman informed that the signs had not yet been fitted to the planters due to poor weather conditions.

Resolved that the minutes be approved.

6. Minutes of the Planning & Highways Committee Meeting held 10th October 2023 (pages 58 - 59)

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 10th October 2023 (pages 60 - 63)

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 61 (item 2C) – Councillor D Hillman informed that he was unable to log in to the OWL system. Councillor K Jones JP informed that he had successfully logged in to the system and that the only local neighbourhood scheme was based in Nantyglo.

Page 62 (item 4) – it was clarified that the donation and cost of reindeer food was made via s.137 of the Local Government Act 1972. It was clarified that the Christmas Lights would be switched on at this event.

Page 63 (item 8bii) – The Town Clerk / RFO informed that the unpresented cheques related to cheques issued at the end of the month.

Page 63 – The Town Mayor informed that Revered R Watson was still ill and therefore unable to take the Remembrance Sunday Service. The Town Mayor additionally informed that had offered to stand in for Revered Watson at the Remembrance Sunday service.

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) Aneurin Bevan University Health Board – (for information):

Have your say on the provision of Minor Injury Services.

Councillor D Hillman stated that the proposal to reduce the overnight minor injuries provision at both Nevill Hall & Ystrad Fawr hospitals due to lack of use was currently a big issue throughout the greater Gwent area. Councillor D Hillman added that an open meeting scheduled to take place in Brynmawr in November which he would be attending and encouraged all others to attend. Councillor K Jones JP informed that an online petition was also operating.

Resolved to note the information received.

b) IRPMMailbox@gov.uk – (For information):

The independent Remuneration Panel Report February 2024 and Draft Annual Report – Consultation.

Members were informed that all current determinations had been resolved and implemented by the Town Council as required. Councillor D Hillman drew Members attention to the information contained within the summary of determinations for Principal Councils and stated that many of those councillors only attend the minimum number of meetings as specified by legislation.

Resolved to note the information received and **Further Resolved** that the Town Clerk / RFO e-mail the information relating to table 1 (Principal Authorities) to Members.

c) One Voice Wales – (For Information):

i Remote training sessions that are taking place in October, November & December.

Resolved that any member wanting to attend any training modules to contact the Town Clerk.

li Review of Democratic Health in the Community & Town Council Sector (paper questionnaires were made available at the meeting).

The Town Clerk informed that paper copies of the survey was available for Members

to complete individually and that a link so that they survey could be completed online would also be sent.

Resolved to note the information received.

- d) The Salvation Army – (for information):
Letter of thanks to the Town Mayor for 2022/23, Cllr Lilian Harris in respect of her Mayoral Appeal.
Councillor Harris informed that she would have liked to have raised a larger amount for the Salvation Army and appreciated the letter of thanks. Councillor Harris additionally informed that she would continue to support the charity as she has in the past.

Resolved to note the information received and **Further Resolved** that a copy of the letter be sent to Councillor Harris.

- e) Blaina Community Institute Ltd – (for information):
Letter invitation to the official opening of the 'Stute Café' which is to take place at 2pm on Monday 23rd October 2023.
The event was attended by both the Town Mayor and Town Clerk.

Resolved to note the information received.

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

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

No updates received as all information was received within the agenda items.

Resolved to note the information received.

Meeting declared closed at 6.30pm.