

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 at 6pm Tuesday 23rd January 2024 at the Council Chamber, Blaina Institute, High Street, Blaina.

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

Present: Councillor K Jenkins, Town Mayor, presiding
Councillors D Hillman, C Hillman (remote), L Harris, K Jones JP, M Williams & J Bond (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 public or press 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 that the apology be accepted.

2. Town Mayor's Communications:

The Town Mayor's communications for December 2023 and January 2024.

The Town Mayor informed that he had issued an invitation to the residential & nursing homes in Nantyglo & Blaina to offer to visit on Christmas Day but the offer was not taken up by any of the homes.

The Town Mayor also informed that both he and his consort would be attending the forthcoming Holocaust Memorial Day at Tredegar Town Council on 27th January 2024.

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 such questions were received.

4. Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held 28th November 2023 (pages 79 – 83)

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 80 (5a) A Member expressed that the Town Council should write to individual householders in certain areas requesting that Christmas Lights owned by the Town Council be attached to residential houses for the Christmas period. It was explained that Council had previously been considered this and resolved not to do so due to probable liability issues.

Page 83 (11a) In response to a query, the Town Clerk informed that a letter and copy of the formal Deed of surrender had been sent to the remaining three members of the Charter Group by recorded delivery.

Resolved that the minutes be approved.

5. Minutes of the Events Committee Meeting held 28th November 2023 (pages 84 - 86)

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 86 (6) Councillor D Hillman to provide an update at the Events Meeting (23/01/2024).

Resolved that the minutes be approved.

6. Minutes of the Planning & Highways Committee Meeting held 12th December 2023 (pages 87 - 88)

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 12th December 2023 (pages 89 - 92)

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 90/91 (3e) In response to a query, the Town Clerk informed that she would query if the Christmas lights loaned to Cwmcelyn Tenants & Residents had been returned.

Resolved that the minutes be approved.

8. Minutes of the Planning & Highways Committee Meeting held 9th January 2024 (pages 93 - 95)

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 94 (5) In response to a query, the Town Clerk informed that a response had been received from the Planning Officer and would be provided during the meeting.

Resolved that the minutes be approved.

9. Minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee Meeting held 9th January 2024 (pages 96 - 102)

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 99 (8a) The Town Clerk informed that Reverend Roy Watson had called to the office and thanked the Town Council for their kind letter of congratulations and, that the offer of holding the award ceremony had been made. Reverend Watson had thanked the Town Council for their kind offer but informed that the award ceremony was likely to take place at Coed y Garn Primary School (where Reverend Watson had been Chair of Governors for over 30 years) due to its larger size and to include the pupils of the school to be present.

Page 101 should read Member and that the phrase '**proposed that the precept be increased to £105,000**' be highlighted.

Page 101 (final bullet point) should be '**seconded the proposal to set an increased precept of £105,000 and use of earmarked reserves for 2024/25**'.

Resolved that the minutes be approved.

10. 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 i) Blaenau Gwent CBC – (For information/consideration):

Letter informing of Blaenau Gwent's forthcoming Revenue Budget Consultation with Town & Community Councils for 2024/25 to take place at 10.30am on Friday 16th February 2024 via MS Teams.

Page 105 (2023/24)

Additionally, an e-mail has also been received informing of a meeting to have pre-discussions which would take place at 2pm on Monday 5th February 2024 via MS Teams. Members queried if the meeting was a pre-meeting for Town/Community Council members only or if the meeting included members of Blaenau Gwent CBC?

Resolved to note the information received and **Further Resolved** that the Town Clerk query the above and inform Members.

Additional correspondence received with permission of the Chair:

- ii) E-mail response from Jo White (BGCBC Planning Department) re: queries in respect of planning application for ICC, High Street, Blaina:

The Town Clerk informed Members of the responses received from the Planning Officer in respect of the representations made.

Members commented that some of the concerns, particularly in respect of road safety when cars entered and exited from the car park was not answered fully.

Resolved to note the information received.

11. **Councillor Sonia Behr – Former Scouts Hall, Attlee Road, Nantyglo:**

Members were invited to consider and discuss a proposal & business plan in relation to the former Scouts Hall (formerly Coed Cae Community Centre) at the end of Attlee Road, Nantyglo.

Members considered the information and received and the following comments were made:

- The basic idea for the building appeared beneficial for the community.
- There could be inconsistencies with the stated ownership of the building.
- How would the legal structure and governance of the proposal operate?
- In response to a query, the Town Clerk / RFO informed that under the Town Council's grant policy, the maximum amount the Town Council could award was £100, although this could be increased via a s.137 donation, although careful consideration of any such proposal would be required.
- Much more detailed information, especially facts would be required.

Resolved to note the information received and **Further Resolved** to await further information.

12. **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.

13. 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.

106 (2023/24)

a)

Meeting declared closed at 6.45pm

Councillor K Jones JP left the meeting at this juncture.

107 (2023/24)

DRAFT