

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 Planning & Highways Committee held at 5.35pm
Tuesday 13th February 2024 at Council Chamber, Blaina Institute, High Street, Blaina**

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

Present: Councillor D Hillman, presiding, Acting Chair, Planning & Highways Committee
Councillors G Morvan (remote), C Hillman, M Williams (remote), L Harris,
K Jenkins, and L King.

In attendance: Mrs T Hughes, Town Clerk / RFO
Ms E Goode. Cost of Living Team - One Voice Wales (remote)

Due to the absence of the Chair, it was **Proposed, Seconded & Resolved** that Cllr D Hillman act as Chair.

Prior to the start of the meeting, the Town Clerk informed that no members of the public or press were present. **Resolved** to note the information received.

The Chair informed of the fire procedures to be taken in the event of an emergency. **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. Members were reminded that all declarations of interest must be recorded in the book provided. **Resolved** to note that no such declarations were received.

To receive: Ms Emma Goode – Cost of Living Team, One Voice Wales

Members were reminded to note the Standing Orders relating to guest speakers:

1. Members to receive the presentation.
2. Questions to be invited at the end of the presentation.
3. Members were requested to ask only one question each – if time allowed AND with permission of the Chair, a second question might be asked.
4. Members were reminded that there was to be no discussion or exchange of points of view between Members and that all dialogue was to be directed through the Chair.

The Acting Chair introduced and welcomed Ms Emma Goode, from the Cost of Living Team at One Voice Wales to the meeting.

Emma Goode provided an overview of the work undertaken by the Cost of Living Team (CoLT):

The Cost of Living project (CoLP) was a new project funded by the Welsh Government (WG) to help understand the challenges faced by communities and to work Town & Community Councils to help provide advice etc. The CoLP had been funded by WG until 2026.

Emma provided advice and information by way of slides which informed that the Cost of Living Crisis (CoLC) was more severe and prolonged than first thought (University of Bangor & Citizens advice Bureau).

The effects of the CoLC on communities included increased stress, anxiety, adverse effects on physical & mental health and communities and individuals facing very difficult decisions.

What could be done to help with the CoLC?

Emma informed that community support to help with the CoLC could be provided in a number of ways such as foodbanks, warm spaces, lunch clubs, hobby groups, coffee mornings & a variety of well-being activities. Work by Town & Community Councils, especially financial support was ongoing.

Councillor G Morvan joined the meeting at this juncture:

CoLP aimed to work with Town & Community Councils in the following ways:

- To help understand the challenges faced by communities
- What is happening within communities
- What is working in response to the CoLC and where
- Low cost help that has big impact
- What can be replicated by sharing information and providing guidance & resources

The CoLP would be collating case studies and sharing best practice with networks across Wales.

The Acting Chair thanked Emma for her presentation and invited questions & comments in line with the Council's standing orders:

Question & Answers:

Q: What help do you think communities need from Town & Community Councils?

A: Regarding the following issues of well-being, food poverty, transport etc, Town & Community Councils can help to provide relevant information that could be shared with local communities. Other resources were available with regards to social isolation & adults with additional learning needs.

Q: What stage and activity were the CoLP currently at?

A: The CoLP was established in November 2023 and was still gathering relevant information from Town & Community Councils at the moment.

Q: (For information) The Town Council had been supporting the local community in numerous ways such as providing ongoing monthly financial donations to the local foodbank, helping to provide well-being activities at Easter, Christmas, Halloween, school concerts, open spaces with flower planters, community grants, supporting community groups & helping to provide street activities with BGCBC.

A: The CoLP were pleased to hear of the positive help & support provided by Town & Community Councils and realise that many Town & Community Councils across Wales were providing practical help to their communities.

Councillor L King joined the meeting at this juncture:

Q: If there were any other ways in which the Town Council could provide help to the local community, could suggestions be sent to the Town Clerk?

A: Yes, and a copy of the presentation would also be e-mailed.

The Acting Chair thanked Emma Goode for attending the meeting and providing the presentation.

Emma Goode left the meeting at this juncture.

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, J Bond & Mrs N Horner, Assistant Officer. **Further Resolved** to accept the apologies received.

2. Questions from the public:

To receive any questions from the public regarding matters on the agenda. There was a 10-minute allocation time for any questions from the public.

Resolved to note that no such questions were received.

3. 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.

3.1 [Email from Sabrina.Cresswell@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk:](mailto:Sabrina.Cresswell@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk)

Rights of Way Improvement Plan and includes Access Strategy

Members considered the Plan and queried if the Town Council could be a relevant party and receive the notice of completion.

Resolved that note information received & **Further Resolved** to query with BGCBC if the Town Council could be considered as a relevant party.

3.2 Email from tgilmartin@onevoice.wales:

Joint event One Voice Wales and planning aid Wales

Resolved to note the information received.

3.3 Older People's Commissioner:

Please note that this item was not listed on the agenda although the information was contained in the supplementary documents.

'Access Denied' Older people's experiences of digital exclusion in Wales – social media pack.

Resolved to note the information received.

4. **Planning Applications:**

Members were invited to consider the applications listed below and, with the permission of the Chair, any further applications that might be received prior to the date of the meeting:

- a) Planning Application No. C/2024/0018– Mr & Mrs Price, 36 Glanstruth, Blaina, Abertillery, Blaenau Gwent, NP13 3NE

Proposed rear single extension to North elevation.

Resolved that no objections or representations be made.

Additional application received with permission of the Chair:

- b) Email from michelle.christopher@sinclairdalby.co.uk Cornerstone
Proposed Telecommunications Upgrade at Nantyglo, West Monmouth Golf Club, Brynmawr, Gwent, NP23 4QT (NGR: 318241, 210524).

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

- It was unknown if any objections been made by local residents.
- The upgrade would be beneficial for the local area and residents.

Resolved that no objections or representations be made.

5. **Licence Applications:**

Members were invited to note the application(s) **for information only:**

None received to date.

Resolved accordingly.

Meeting declared closed at 6.05pm