

# 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 on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2024 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 G Morvan, K Jones JP, D Hillman, C Hillman, L Harris, L King,  
M Williams (remote) & J Bond.

In attendance: Mrs T Hughes, Town Clerk / RFO  
Mrs N Horner, Assistant Officer  
Mr M Brooks, member of public

Prior to the start of the meeting, the Town Clerk informed that one member of the public was present. **Resolved** to note the information received.

The Town Mayor informed that Mrs Valda Bridgeman, wife of ex Town Councillor and Town Mayor Mr Clive Bridgeman had recently passed away. All present stood and observed one minutes silence as a mark of respect. **Resolved** accordingly.

#### 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** that Councillors D Hillman and C Hillman declared a personal interest in item 8a. Due to the nature of the interest, it was **Resolved** that Councillors D Hillman and C Hillman remain in the chamber and participate in that item.

#### 1. Apologies:

Members were invited to consider the apologies for absence received and to formally resolve to accept. **Resolved** to note that no apologies were received.

#### 2. Town Mayor's Communications:

The Town Mayor's communications for March 2024.

The Town Mayor informed that there had not been any activities etc during March to date but that both he and his Consort were to visit Llys Y Capel Residential Home, Blaina at the end of April.

Cllr D Hillman informed that, as promised, he had donated £30 to the Town Mayor's Appeal. The Town Mayor expressed his thanks to Cllr D Hillman.

**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 27<sup>th</sup> February 2024 (pages 120 – 124)**

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.

**5. Minutes of the Events Committee Meeting held 27<sup>th</sup> February 2024 (pages 125 - 127)**

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 27 (item 4) – Cllrs D Hillman and C Hillman apologised for not being able to help with the delivery of Easter Eggs to primary schools due to an emergency medical appointment.

**Resolved** that the minutes be approved.

**6. Minutes of the Planning & Highways Committee Meeting held 12<sup>th</sup> March 2024 (pages 128 - 129)**

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 12<sup>th</sup> March 2024 (pages 130 -133)**

Members are 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 132 (item 8) – Cllr C Hillman informed that the date of the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary event at Llys y Capel was to take place on 29<sup>th</sup> April 2024 at 2.30pm.

**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) Mrs Christine Gunter (for information / consideration):

E-mail regarding the 'Run down town of Blaina'.

Members considered the e-mail, and the following comments were made:

- The e-mail appeared to be an attempt to cause trouble and bad feeling
- Was it appropriate for the Town Council to spend public finance on private businesses (shop fronts) when Blaenau Gwent CBC received the business rates? Would this be the remit of Blaenau Gwent CBC?
- In respect of contributions to events put on by Blaenau Gwent CBC, Blaenau Gwent CBC received grant funding to put on such events. The Town Clerk informed that Brynmawr Town Council did not make any financial donation to Blaenau Gwent CBC events, whilst Tredegar Town Council donated between £50 and £100 to such events (NBTC donated £100 in addition to providing 400 bags of reindeer food at the Christmas event).
- A Town Council must legally employ a Town Clerk / Responsible Finance Officer and other staff to ensure that the Town Council continued to operate legally in all areas in addition to arranging events and other all other functions. Abertillery & Llanhilleth Community Council received grant funding in order to fund the youth worker, which would have identified and target a particular need.
- Town & Community Councillors were entitled to claim allowances as set out by the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales (IRPW) and as resolved by Council. The Town Clerk / RFO informed that there was no information from IRPW in respect of claiming allowances and one internet connection being in a household. It was also emphasised that only 66% of Town Councillors at Nantyglo & Blaina Town Council claimed any allowances, compared to 100% of Ward Councillors for Nantyglo & Blaina at Blaenau Gwent CBC who claimed allowances – the basic amount being £17,600 per annum and in some instances some additional allowances and pension contributions.
- It was agreed that selection boxes at Christmas time, in addition to Easter Eggs at Easter time provided by the Town Council helped to ensure that all primary school aged children in the area received a seasonal gift, without being singled out as being 'in need or deprived'.
- At the Christmas event, Councillors D Hillman, C Hillman and L Harris attended the event to offer help and Town Councillors had made up the bags of reindeer food. All Members of the Town Council could attend events as members of the public and as volunteers. It was queried what did Mrs Christine Gunter do to improve Blaina and why not apply to join the Town Council in order to do so?
- It was recognised and reiterated that the Leader of the Town Council did an excellent job as Parade Major/Sergeant at Remembrance Sunday Parades.
- The Town Clerk informed that Brynmawr Town Council had previously funded one play session at a cost of £120.00 in 2022.
- It was agreed that the letter could have been more constructive, and that the response would need to answer each point raised and illustrate all that the Town Council does.
- The Town Clerk informed that the Town Council's Facebook Page was now 'live' and thanked Councillor M Williams for his help.

**Resolved** to note the information received and **Further Resolved** to answer the letter as agreed and include an application form for co-option to the Town Council.

*Additional correspondence with permission of the Chair:*

b) Brynmawr Town Council (for information / consideration):

E-mail received informing that Brynmawr Town Council had organised a meeting with Ms Nicola Prygodzicz, Chief Executive, Aneurin Bevan University Health Board at Brynmawr Town Council Chamber at 6.00pm on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> April 2024 in order to discuss the downgrading of services at Nevill Hall Hospital, Abergavenny.

The Town Council were invited to send two members to the meeting.

Members considered the e-mail and agreed that a meeting of the Joint Committee of Local Councils would be required (as requested in the e-mail) to discuss this item prior to the meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> April.

**Resolved** that a hybrid meeting of the Joint Committee of Local Councils be arranged for 10.30am on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> April 2024 at the Council Chamber, Blaina Institute.

9. **Armed Forces Covenant:**

Members were invited to consider adopting and signing of the Armed Forces Covenant.

The document template was attached for consideration together with the completed Covenant adopted by Blaenau Gwent County Borough as an example.

Cllr G Morvan (Town Council representative to Blaenau Gwent Armed Forces Covenant Steering Group) informed that all principal authorities throughout the UK had signed up to the covenant which was to assist individuals transition from armed forces life into civilian life.

**Resolved** that Nantyglo & Blaina Town Council adopt the Armed Forces Covenant.

10. **Annual Review of Policies of the Council 2024/25:**

Members were invited to consider, and if agree, to approve the updated policy for 2024/25:

a) Standing Orders 2024/25:

The Town Clerk informed that the updated Standing Orders contained relevant updates from One Voice Wales model Standing Orders.

The Town Clerk informed of the changes made to the Standing Orders which were contained in One Voice Wales Model Standing Orders.

**Resolved** that the Standing Orders for 2024/25 be approved.

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

*None received to date.*

**Resolved** accordingly.

12. **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.

*Mr M Brooks, member of the public left the meeting at this juncture.*

Meeting closed at 6.55pm

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