

# 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 Finance & General Purposes Committee held 6.55pm  
Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> September 2024 at the Council Chamber, Blaina Institute, High Street, Blaina.**

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

Present: Councillor D Hillman, Chair of Finance & General Purposes Committee, presiding  
Councillors G Morvan (remote), K Jones JP, C Hillman, M Williams, L Harris, L King,  
L Emanuel & L Higgins.

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

Prior to the start of the meeting, the Chair informed of the procedures to be followed in the event of an emergency. **Resolved** to note the information received.

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. Members were reminded that all declarations must be recorded in the book provided. **Resolved** to note that no such declarations were received.

### **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 Cllr J Bond & Cllr L Emanuel informed that she had to leave the meeting at 7pm.

**Further Resolved** to accept the apologies received.

### **2. Questions from the Public:**

To receive any questions from the public regarding matters itemised on the agenda (limited to 10 minutes total).

**Resolved** to note that no questions were received from the public.

### **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.

a) Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council – (for consideration & information)

- i Email requested access to all areas of the Town Council Offices (and all areas of the Institute) to ensure statutory testing can be carried out. Additionally, BCIL had also requested that a key and the door codes be provided in case of an emergency within the building and to ensure that the offices can be regularly cleaned as per the existing lease agreement. Members were advised that the Town Council's insurers had confirmed that the Town Council's insurance policy allows for this.

In response to a query, the Town Clerk informed that in practice such a survey would only take place when the office was open to ensure that the appropriate access could be provided. Access to lockable cupboards and filing cabinets would not be provided to BCIL due to the General Data Protection Regulations

**Resolved** to note the information received and **Further Resolved** access be given to BCIL to all three rooms occupied by the Town Council.

- ii Email and information re: Community Energy Opportunity.

**Resolved** to note the information received.

b) One Voice Wales – (for information & consideration):

- i Innovative Practice Conference Report for 2024.

Members considered the report to contain useful information and Cllr Morvan (representative to OVW Larger Councils Committee) informed that the event had received very good feedback.

**Resolved** to note the information received

- ii OVW National Conference – 16<sup>th</sup> October 2024.

Cllr Morvan (representative to OVW Larger Councils Committee) informed that he was unavailable to attend the conference.

**Resolved** to note the information received.

*Cllr L Emanuel left the meeting at this juncture.*

c) Blaenau Gwent Foodbank – (for information):

E-mail thanking the Town Council for the donation made in June 2024 and also information in respect of the number of people etc, helped within Nantyglo & Blaina. A phone conversation with Wayne Evans (BG Foodbank) further informed that the figures provided meant that each person assisted received 3 meals per day at a cost of £1.50 per meal.

Wayne Evans also informed that BG Foodbank was receiving fewer donations as a result of the ongoing cost of living crisis and so the donation was still very much appreciated.

In response to a query, the Town Clerk informed that the information would be included on the Town Council website and that the foodbank could only be accessed via referrals made a number of agencies.

**Resolved** to note the information received.

d) Audit Wales (for information):

Report re: Community & Town Council Audits 2022/23 – key themes & lessons learned.

The Town Clerk / RFO informed that the audit opinion from Audit Wales in respect of the Town Council's full audit had recently been received and would be for discussion at the Full Council meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> September 2024.

Members considered the report and noted that 66% of Town/Community Councils had their annual returns qualified together with the explanation of the Audit Opinion, which Members & Officers considered to be confusing and negatively worded.

**Resolved** to note the information received

e) Wales Air Ambulance Charity (for information):

Thank you letter & confirmation of receipt of amount raised by the Mayoral Appeal of the late Town Mayor, Councillor Keith Jenkins.

**Resolved** to note the information received.

4. **S.137 donations (Local Government Act 1972 & Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015:**

As previously resolved, Members were invited to consider making further financial donations to Blaenau Gwent Foodbank to assist residents of Nantyglo and Blaina for the month of September 2024.

**Resolved** that a financial donation of £200.00 be made to Blaenau Gwent Foodbank for September 2024 to assist residents of Nantyglo & Blaina.

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

Members were invited to consider the listed application(s), plus with the Chairman's permission any additional applications that might be received prior to the date of the meeting. Members were also reminded that applications would need to be considered in conjunction with the current policy.

a) *None received to date*

**Resolved** accordingly.

## 6. Salem Chapel:

Members were invited to consider the attached inspection report:

- July 2024 – queries and comments were invited:  
In response to a query, the Town Clerk informed that, to her untrained eye, the building had continued to deteriorate but that no additional issues had been identified.

**Resolved** that the report be approved.

- August 2024 - queries and comments were invited:  
In response to a query, the Town Clerk informed that, to her untrained eye, the building had continued to deteriorate but that no additional issues had been identified.  
Cllr Williams informed that the exhibition items were now displayed in an excellent location in Newport and that a March had been planned to take place in Newport to commemorate the 185<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the original Chartist March on Newport.

**Resolved** that the report be approved and **Further Resolved** to note the information received.

## 7. 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.

Meeting declared closed at 7.25pm