

# 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 Town Council held at 5.30pm on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2024 at the Council Chamber, Blaina Institute, High Street, Blaina.**

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

Present: Councillor M Williams, Town Mayor, presiding.  
Councillors G Morvan, D Hillman, C Hillman, L Harris, K Jones JP, L Higgins,  
& L Emanuel.

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.

**To receive: Mr Steve Edwards – Community Clerk for Abertillery & Llanhilleth Community Council.**

**Members are 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 allows AND with permission of the Chair, a second question may 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 Town Mayor introduced Mr Steve Edwards, Clerk to Abertillery & Llanhilleth Community Council (ALCC) and welcomed him to the meeting.

Steve Edwards explained that the 'Party in the Park' was a party held in Abertillery Park and was free for people to attend. The party had taken place each year on the second Saturday in June since 2018 (except for 2020) and included bands, crafts and food stalls etc. The party was funded by Abertillery & Llanhilleth Community Council and the Leisure Committee had asked that he speak to Nantyglo & Blaina Town Council with an invitation to join in with the Party in the Park (PIP) by way of making a financial grant of £1,000. This grant would then entitle NBTC to a seat on the management committee for PIP which would provide a direct say in the organisation of the event.

Steve Edwards informed that the PIP usually comprised of the following, the Rugby Club bar was opened, inflatables, Viking re-enactment, stalls, bands and other performances. No fairground rides were included to avoid the event being dominated by teenagers. The event was primarily aimed at young families following investigations that revealed young families benefitted most from such a free entry event (although the event was open to all).

Questions were invited:

- Q: Were stallholders charged to participate in the event?  
A: £5 per stall was charged to avoid no-shows on the day. Approximately 25 stalls were at PIP and all were sited under a marquee. The committee try to avoid 'duplicate' stalls offering similar goods.
- Q: Where did the profit (from the event) go towards?  
A: The profit goes to the Chair's (of Abertillery & Llanhilleth CC) chosen charity, which for 2024/25 was the toilets in St Michael's Church but the charity could be negotiated each year. The food stalls in attendance at the event also give a donation.
- Q: Are the stalls at PIP local?  
A: Local stalls have priority.
- Q: What was the total cost of putting the event on?  
A: £15,000 in total and if NBTC wanted to join the event, a grant/donation of £1,000 would be required.
- Q: How many residents from Nantyglo & Blaina attend the event?  
A: It's unknown how many people from Nantyglo & Blaina attend but attendees were from many different areas.
- Q: NBTC would have an issue in justifying spending such an amount of money in a different town.  
A: The Leisure Committee would ensure that the event is well advertised within Nantyglo & Blaina and could look into the possibility of providing a bus to the event.
- Q: Could the possible donation/grant from NBTC event go towards something specific?  
A: That would need to be discussed, and the Leisure Committee would welcome ideas from NBTC, but the only limit was that no motorised displays were to be included due to insurance purposes.
- Q: Why were donations made to St Michael's Church?  
A: St Michael's Church was the Chair's chosen charity for 2024/25, but this would change next year. ALCC support St Michael's Church as many events took place there. The cost of maintaining the toilets was £20,000 per year and some grants were received from the solar farm for this too.
- Q: What food trucks were at the event?  
A: The Leisure Committee try to ensure there were no duplications and that a variety of food was available, but no burger type food trucks as burgers were provided by the Rugby Club at the event.
- Q: How was the event advertised?  
A: Via the ALCC website, social media and word of mouth.
- Q: Could some of the profits go towards a Nantyglo & Blaina charity? This could be an incentive for NBTC to consider joining the event.

A: Yes, there would be a pro-rata split depending upon the contribution provided. ALCC could give the £15,000 amount that it costs to put the event on, to charity but the purpose was to help local families have a cheap day out.

Q: Were photos of previous PIPs available?

A: Yes and will email to the Clerk together with the previous Clerk's report on the event.

The Chair and Members thanked Steve Edwards for attending the meeting and providing comprehensive information about the Party in the Park.

*Mr Steve Edwards left the meeting at this juncture.*

**Resolved** to note the information received and **Further Resolved** to re-agenda the item, together with the report and photos for a future meeting of the Events Committee.

### **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

#### **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 Cllr J Bond.

**Further Resolved** that the apologies be accepted.

Cllr L Emanuel gave apologies for her absence at the Meetings of the Planning & Highways and Finance & General Purposes Committees held on 8<sup>th</sup> October 2024 due to illness.

**Resolved** to note the information received.

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

The Town Mayor's communications for September & October 2024.

The Town Mayor informed that he had been invited to open (& help out) at the opening of a new branch of a Martial Arts group in Abergavenny. The Town Mayor informed that he had tried unsuccessfully to contact Abergavenny Town Council to obtain their consent.

The Town Mayor also informed that his Martial Arts Group had set up a fundraiser in respect of the young girl from Nantyglo who had recently been badly injured in a dog attack. A GoFundMe Me page had already raised over £500, and an event was due to take place at Halloween. The Martial Arts Group were hoping to raise enough money to send the family on a short break and were working with Edwards Coaches to do so. Members congratulated the Town Mayor.

**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.

**5. Notes of the Meeting of the Town Council held 24<sup>th</sup> September 2024 (pages 55 – 59)**

Members were invited to consider the above notes and if appropriate to approve them as an accurate record of proceedings.

a) Matters arising, for information & clarification only:

The Town Clerk informed that as the meeting wasn't quorate, these should be considered as notes rather than minutes of the meeting.

Page 57(8b) The Town Clerk informed that the query in respect of the Rights of Way had been put to Blaenau Gwent CBC, although a response had not yet been received.

Page 59(14) The issue of the Town Council signage was raised by Cllr D Hillman and supported by Cllr L Emanuel. The Town Clerk informed that ID and business cards were being produced.

It was **Proposed** and **Resolved** that all the recommendations contained within be **Ratified**.

**Resolved** that the notes be approved.

**5. Notes of the Events Committee Meeting held 24<sup>th</sup> September 2024 (pages 60 -63)**

Members were invited to consider the above notes and if appropriate to approve them as an accurate record of proceedings.

a) Matters arising, for information & clarification only:

It was **Proposed** and **Resolved** that all the recommendations

Page 61 (3) – the Town Clerk informed that it had been ascertained as far as possible that David Watkins was born in Blaina and that the memorial brick had been ordered.

Page 63 (9) – should read 'Miners' Memorial'. The Town Clerk informed that the memorial was erected by Blaina Heritage and supported by Nantyglo Comprehensive school and was not the Town Council. **Resolved** to re-agenda item to consider ongoing maintenance.

**Resolved** that the notes be approved.

**6. Minutes of the Planning & Highways Committee Meeting held 8<sup>th</sup> October 2024 (pages 64 – 66)**

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.

**6. Minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee Meeting held 8<sup>th</sup> October 2024 (pages 67 – 70)**

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 69 (8) – the Town Clerk informed that the Christmas Lights had been ordered. In response to a query, the Town Clerk informed that no information had been received in respect of the quotation to be received from Russell Dunham (Christmas Lights contractor) for brackets to help site Christmas Lights across the High Street but that this would be queried.

**Resolved** that the minutes be approved and **Further Resolved** that the quotation in respect of brackets for the Christmas Lights be queried with the Christmas Lights contractor.

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

E-mail re: Application for Free Webinar Training Places.

The Chair/Town Mayor informed that he would be interested in attending the courses.

**Resolved** to note the information received and **Further Resolved** to arrange for the Town Mayor to attend the courses.

b) Welsh Government – Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales (for information & consideration):

Consultation re: IRPW draft Annual Report for 2025/26 (please note only the information in respect of Community / Town Councils is attached).

The Town Clerk informed that the draft report did not contain any changes relating to the Town Council and that the Town Council complied with all aspects of the report.

Members were informed that any comments in respect of the consultation could be sent directly to IRPW.

**Resolved** to note the information received.

*Councillors M Williams and K Jones JP declared a personal interest in the next item. **Resolved** that both remain in the meeting but not take part in any discussion or vote. **Proposed** and **Resolved** that Cllr G Morvan chair item 9.*

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

a) Hospice of the Valleys:

**Resolved** that a financial grant of £100.00 be made to the Hospice of the Valleys.

**10. Audit Wales:**

Members were informed that the External Auditor's report and certificate in respect of the Annual Return for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024 had been received. Members were invited to note, and if agreed, to approve and accept the Annual Return and Audit Opinion.

Members were also informed that the Annual Return and Audit Opinion had been displayed on the Town Council's website and notice board as required by legislation.

The Town Clerk / RFO also informed that as the Audit Opinion did NOT contain any recommendations, the Audit Action Plan as agreed by Council at the Full Council meeting in September 2024 did not require updating.

Members thanked the Officers for their work in respect of the audit.

**Resolved** to note the information received and **Further Resolved** that the Audit Opinion be accepted.

#### 11. **Members Updates:**

Members were invited to inform and provide updates of any recent activities and/or concerns.

##### Cllr D Hillman:

Cllr D Hillman enquired as to the Mayoral photographs which were to be located in the Council Chamber.

The Town Clerk informed that they were currently awaiting printing, and the Town Mayor informed that the photos should be received in approximately one week.

**Resolved** to note the information received.

#### 12. **Confidential Information:**

The following item(s) may contain information that is of a confidential or personal nature and is 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 6.20pm.