

# 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 6.00pm on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2025 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, 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.

### 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 Councillors L Harris and L King. **Further Resolved** that the apologies be accepted.

### 2. Town Mayor's Communications:

The Town Mayor's communications for February 2025.

The Town Mayor informed that he had met with the Head Teacher of Coed y Garn Primary School to discuss the forthcoming anniversary of the Blaina Riots, and it was agreed that a small ceremony would take place in the school on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2025 to which Members of the Council were welcome to attend. The Blaina Riots plaque would be sited in the school's reception area. Some of the pupils visited Blaina Heritage Museum to investigate information relating to the Blaina Riots and other information will be provided to Coed y Garn Primary school by Blaina Heritage Museum. Additionally, the Town Mayor informed that he would be working with the pupils of Coed y Garn Primary School in respect of Hedgehog Awareness week which would contribute towards the school's biodiversity work.

**Resolved** to note the information received and **Further Resolved** that the Town Clerk contact Coed y Garn Primary School to confirm details of the ceremony in respect of the Blaina Riots.

**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 28<sup>th</sup> January 2025 (pages 113 – 117)**

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 114(4a) – in response to a query, the Town Clerk informed that she had again queried this with the contractor, who agreed this would be completed this week.

Page 114(5a) – it was clarified that all recommendations had been ratified.

Page 115(8a) – it was clarified that all recommendations had been ratified.

Page 117(14a) – Cllr D Hillman informed that he had information in respect of this which he would provide to the Town Clerk.

**Resolved** that the minutes be approved.

**5. Minutes of the Events Committee Meeting held 28<sup>th</sup> January 2025 (pages 118 – 120)**

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

7) Matters arising, for information & clarification only:

Page 118 – It was clarified that Cllr L King was NOT present at the meeting and that the paragraph 'Due to the absence...' be deleted due to it being incorrect.

Page 119(5) – Update would be provided during the Events Committee meeting.

Page 120(8) – should read 'shield' not 'plaque'.

**Resolved** that the minutes be approved.

**6. Minutes of the Planning & Highways Committee Meeting held 11<sup>th</sup> February 2025 (pages 121 – 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:

Page 123(guest speaker, Mrs M Hurter) – it was emphasised that Cllr D Hillman also expressed thanks to Mrs M Hurter and requested that the thanks on behalf of the Town Council be relayed to all who helped with the project.

**Resolved** that the minutes be approved.

**7. Minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee Meeting held 11<sup>th</sup> February 2025 (pages 125 – 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:

Page 126(3b) – it was emphasised that the Chair expressed his thanks to the Assistant Officer and his regret at her resignation.

Page 126/7(5) – the Town Clerk informed that Abertillery Community Council had NOT adopted the updated Charter of Common agreement. A meeting of the Joint Committee of Local Councils would be required to discuss this issue, and Members could express their views by emailing them to the Town Clerk.

**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 may be received prior to the date of the meeting:

a) Blaina Community Institute Ltd – (for information):

Letter informing of the requirement for all contractors/workers must read and sign asbestos register.

In response to a query, the Town Clerk confirmed that any contractors working on behalf of the Town Council would be made aware of this requirement.

**Resolved** to note the information received.

b) One Voice Wales – (for information):

Joint event – One Voice Wales & Planning Aid Wales “Understanding the Planning System - your questions answered” on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2025 via Zoom.

Members expressed concern at the cost of the training and queried if a summary of the training could be obtained from OVW free of charge.

**Resolved** to note the information received and **Further Resolved** that the Town Clerk try to obtain a summary of the training free of charge from OVW.

c) Cwmpas – (for information/consideration):

Letter offering presentation etc to inform Council of community led housing.

**Resolved** to note the information received and **Further Resolved** to invite a representative/s from Cwmpas to attend a future meeting to inform of community led housing.

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

Members were invited to consider, and if agree, to approve the updated policies for 2025/26:

a) Standing Orders 2025/26:

Members considered the Standing Orders and in response to a query, the Town Clerk informed that most of the changes related to the years.

Page 28(5.1) In response to a query, the Town Clerk informed that, if there was no Leader of a Minority Group then the third member would be determined at the Annual Meeting of the Council as has been the practice for a number of years.

**Resolved** to note the information received and **Further Resolved** that the Standing Orders for 2025/26 be adopted.

b) Financial Regulations 2025/26 (– please note the regulations include any necessary updates as required by the updated model financial regulations 2024 (see email)):

Members considered the Financial Regulations and in response to a query, the Town Clerk informed that some changes had been made to reflect the updated Model Financial Regulations provided by One Voice Wales. The regulations also highlighted text in **bold** which emphasised legal requirements that could not be altered.

Page 7(5.6 & 5.7) The Town Clerk informed that the threshold had been increased from £25,000 to £30,000 in line with the amount stated in the Model Financial Regulations and to more accurately reflect the increased prices.

**Resolved** to note the information received and **Further Resolved** that the Financial Regulations for 2025/26 be adopted.

c) Risk Management Policy 2025/26:

In response to a query, the Town Clerk informed that there were minimal changes to policy, only to some scores but the risk classifications had not altered.

**Resolved** to note the information received and **Further Resolved** that the Risk Management policy for 2025/26 be adopted.

d) Financial Grant Policy and application form 2025/26:

The Town Clerk informed that the date at the bottom of page 2 needed to be altered to 2025/26.

Members attention was drawn to the amounts listed on page 4 of the policy.

In response to a query, the Town Clerk agreed that the application form was not clear in the agenda pack, but the forms provided to applicants were clearly printed.

**Resolved** to note the information received and **Further Resolved** that the Financial Grant Policy & application form for 2025/26 be adopted.

## 10. **Planning Applications:**

Members were invited to consider the applications listed below:

a) Planning Application No. P/2025/0052 – 55 Lakeside Way, Nantyglo, NP23 4EN:

Proposed single storey extension to rear of the property.

**Resolved** that no representations or objections be made.

**11. 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.

**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 7.00pm