

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 and General Purposes Committee held at the Council Chamber, Blaina Institute, High Street, Blaina at 6.10pm Tuesday 11th March 2025.

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, M Williams, K Jones JP, C Hillman, L Harris, L Higgins,
& L Emanuel.

In attendance: Mrs T Hughes, Town Clerk / RFO

Prior to the start of the meeting, the Chair informed of the action to be taken in the event of a fire or 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 present were present. **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 Cllr G Morvan declared an interest in item nos. 3c. & 6.

1. Apologies for absence:

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

a) One Voice Wales (for information & consideration):

Town Council to renew its annual membership for 2025 with One Voice Wales.

Resolved to renew the Town council's membership to One Voice Wales for 2025.

b) Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales (for information)

Annual Report for 2025 (Members were informed that only the pages relating to Town & Community Councils are included).

Members were additionally informed that the Council has previously resolved all the determinations stated and that the report was for information only.

Resolved to note the information received.

Cllr G Morvan declared an interest in item 3c below and left the chamber at this juncture.

c) Mr R Hancocks - Blaina Branch, Royal British Legion (for consideration):

Letter received requesting funding for a memorial fence around the Cenotaph at Central Park, Blaina.

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

- What was the reason for the proposed fence – would it be purely decorative or for protection too?
- Would the proposed fence include gates for access?
- Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council maintained the War memorial.
- It would be a good idea for the Town Council to be involved in providing such a community asset.
- An expenditure underspend in the Town Council's finances was currently forecast.
- It was agreed that further information was required (such as design, reason for and if gates etc) prior to any decision being made.

Cllr G Morvan returned to the Council Chamber and meeting at this juncture.

The Chair informed Cllr Morvan of the discussion that had taken place and that the Town Council were supportive of the plans, but that further information was required.

In response to queries, Cllr Morvan informed that the proposed fence was not for protection but mainly for decoration and to enhance the memorial. It was planned that the fence would include two gates on the front so that the War memorial could be easily accessed. The gates would also include images of soldiers to provide a more 'polished and appropriate' finish. It was hoped that the proposed fence (with gates) would, together with the recent addition of two flagpoles, enhance the area to help the community remember those who gave their lives for their Country.

Cllr Morvan also informed that the anticipated cost of the fence and gates was just under £7,000 and that it was unlikely to require planning permission (although checks into this was ongoing). The Royal British Legion (Blaina Branch) hoped to start the project soon in order to avoid rising costs due to the increasing price of materials and in time for Armistice Day 2025.

In response to a query, Cllr Morvan informed that if the Town Council did contribute to the project then a dedication service would take place which would also include thanks to all who contributed to the project and it might be possible to have an appropriate sign or plaque on or nearby the fence in respect of the contributors to the project.

The Chair thanked Cllr Morvan for providing the information.

Resolved to note the information received and **Further Resolved** to await further information in respect of the design of the proposed fence & gates prior to making a decision.

4. **Asset Register:**

Members were invited to consider and if appropriate, resolve the report in respect of the Council's Asset Register as at 31st March 2025.

Members were informed that there were no additional assets to be included or purchased for inclusion in the Asset Register until after 31st March 2025.

The Town Clerk additionally informed that the Asset Register had previously been resolved annually up to March 2024 and that the information in respect of 2024/25 required consideration.

Resolved that the report be agreed.

5. **Draft Annual Report 2023/24:**

Members were invited to consider the report, and if appropriate, resolve for publication.

The Chair drew Members' attention to the section in respect of training and invited Members to consider any additional or ongoing training needs they might require. Cllr L Higgins informed that she had recently completed two training modules which she had found to be very useful and requested that she complete the module 'Chairing skills'.

The Town Clerk also reminded that Members were welcome to call into the office to discuss or go through any specific queries or information on an informal 'training' basis.

Resolved to note the information received and **Further Resolved** that Cllr L Higgins attend the Chairing skills module.

Cllr G Morvan declared an interest in item 6 below. **Resolved** that Cllr G Morvan remain in the meeting to provide further information.

6. **VE Day – 80th Anniversary:**

Members were requested to consider the forthcoming 80th Anniversary of VE Day on 8th May 2025. It was decided that an appropriate service will take place at 11am on Thursday 8th May 2025 with local schools and organisations to which members of the public will be encouraged to attend. Blaina Branch, Royal British Legion are requesting that this be a joint event with the Town Council and that the Town Council purchase 5 VE Day anniversary flags & 5 Union Jacks (cost approx. £40 total) & red, white and blue bunting (approx. £120 for 2,000 metres) for display throughout Nantyglo & Blaina. Mr R Dunham (contractor) has verbally quoted £450 to erect and take down the bunting (approx. 3 days work for 2 people) It was also requested that if the Town Council could provide light refreshments at the Council Chamber following the service. Blaina Branch, Royal British Legion will purchase other appropriate flags for display, Mr R Dunham will provide commemorative lights for

display at a suitable location in both Nantyglo & Blaina. Councillor G Morvan to provide additional details as required.

Cllr Morvan informed that the Royal British Legion (Blaina Branch) hoped to commemorate the 80th Anniversary of VE Day with a joint event with the Town Council similar to the event to commemorate D Day in 2024. The RBL (Blaina Branch) were purchasing the military & service flags for display within Nantyglo & Blaina and Mr R Dunham of the Blaina Branch was to make and erect commemorative VE Day lights for display in both Nantyglo & Blaina and also erect appropriate flags at a number of locations in Nantyglo & Blaina.

Resolved that Town Council to purchase 5 VE Day flags and 5 Union Jack flags, plus 2,000 metres of red, white and blue bunting for display in Nantyglo & Blaina and provide the light refreshments for the event up to a maximum spend of £700 in total.

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

As previously resolved, Members are invited to consider making further financial donations to Blaenau Gwent Foodbank to assist residents of Nantyglo and Blaina for the month of March 2025.

Resolved that a s.137 donation of £200.00 be made to Blaenau Gwent Foodbank for the month of March 2025 in respect of Nantyglo & Blaina residents.

8. Application to the Community Grant Fund:

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

a) None received to date.

Resolved accordingly.

9. Salem Chapel:

Members are invited to consider the attached inspection report:

February 2025 (*copy attached*).

In response to a query, the Town Clerk informed that, to her untrained eye, that whilst the physical condition of the building continued to deteriorate, there did not appear to be any additional issues.

Resolved that the report be approved.

10. 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 6.50pm