

# 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 at the Council Chamber, Blaina Institute, High Street, Blaina at 6.07pm on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> April 2025.**

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

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

In attendance: Mrs T Hughes, Town Clerk / RFO  
Mr DJ Wright, member of public

Prior to the start of the meeting, the Chair welcomed Mr Wright to the meeting and informed of the procedures to be taken in the event of a fire or emergency. **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 no 3c and Mr DJ Wright declared a personal interest in item 4. **Resolved** to note the information received and **Further Resolved** that Cllr G Morvan remain in the meeting for item 3c but not take part in any discussion or vote and that Mr Wright leave the Chamber for item 4.

### **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 may be received prior to the date of the meeting.

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

Dates of training modules and their overview.

Cllr L Higgins informed that she had already completed 2 modules and wanted to complete the Chairing Skills module.

**Resolved** to note the information received and **Further Resolved** that any Member who wanted to attend any training, to contact the Town Clerk.

b) Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales (for information):

Email informing that the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales (IRPW) was to be abolished from 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025.

**Resolved** to note the information received.

*Cllr G Morvan declared an interest in item 3c below.*

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

Photographs of planned fencing and gates for erection at the War Memorial, Central Park, Blaina (in connection with request for a financial contribution towards the fence & gates).

Members were provided with additional information in respect of the details of the proposed fence, gates and cost at the meeting.

In response to a query, Cllr Morvan confirmed that the estimate received included erection of the fence & gate.

Members noted that the proposed fence and gates were almost identical in design to those erected around a memorial at Brynmawr town centre.

**Proposed, Seconded and Resolved** that an amount of £3,425.00 (i.e. half the cost of the estimate) be donated to the cost of the fence/gates via s.137 of the Local Government Act 1972.

*Mr DJ Wright declared a personal interest in item 4 below and left the Chamber.*

**4. Town Council Vacancies:**

Members were invited to consider the attached application received in respect of an advertised vacancy in the Nantyglo Ward for co-option to the Town Council.

Members were reminded of the Council's standing Orders in respect of co-option.

- David John Wright

It was **Resolved** that the Town Clerk and Leader of the Council act as 'tellers' for the vote.

**Resolved** that Mr David John Wright be co-opted as a Town Councillor for the Nantyglo Ward.

*Mr DJ Wright returned to the Chamber and was informed of the result and congratulated on his co-option to Nantyglo & Blaina Town Council as a Councillor for the Nantyglo Ward.*

## 5. **Easter Eggs to Local Primary Schools:**

Members were informed that the order of 1138 easter eggs for the 4 local primary schools has not been fulfilled and, as such, it has been impossible to purchase the required number of easter eggs. Due to the time limit, Members might wish to consider a more achievable way of helping the local primary schools celebrate Easter, such as a financial donation.

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

- It was **proposed** that a financial donation of £250 per school be made - £1,000 total.
- It was queried how such a donation would benefit the children?
- A condition of the donation would be that it would need to be used for a treat for the children and not for educational purposes.
- The Town Clerk / RFO informed that the Town Council could not lawfully make a donation for educational purposes.
- Any such donation would need to be publicised by each school and the school would need to inform the Town Council as to what was provided to the children.

**Resolved** that a £250 financial donation (£1,000 in total) be made to each of the four local primary schools in Nantyglo & Blaina i.e. Blaen y Cwm Primary, Coed y Garn Primary, Ystruth Primary & Ysgol Bro Helyg in lieu of Easter Eggs, to provide each primary school child with a treat for Easter. **Further Resolved** that each school publicise the donation and inform the Town Council as to what the pupils would receive.

## 6 **Meeting of the Joint Committee of Local Councils:**

Members were informed that a hybrid meeting of the Joint Committee of Local Councils will take place at 10.00am on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> April 2025 at the Council Chamber, Blaina Institute.

**Resolved** to note the information received.

## 7. **Town Mayor's Appeal – Bank Account:**

Members might be aware that the bank account set up in respect of the Town Mayor's Appeal has been with Lloyds Bank for a number of years. Members were informed that this account was now subject to a monthly charge of £4.25 and that Lloyds Bank do NOT have any other appropriate accounts which were fee free. Members were informed that this account had been cancelled in order to avoid this charge and that a replacement 'fee free' account was being sought.

In response to a query, the Town Clerk / RFO informed that enquiries so far suggested that an appropriate free account was available with the Co-op Bank, but this would be investigated further.

**Resolved** to note the information received and **Further Resolved** to delegate the actions required to the Town Clerk / RFO.

## 8. **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 April 2025.

**Resolved** that a donation of £200.00 be made to Blaenau Gwent Foodbank for the month of April 2025 to assist resident of Nantyglo & Blaina.

**9. 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.

**10. Salem Chapel:**

Members were invited to consider the attached inspection report:

- March 2025:

In response to a query received, the Town Clerk informed that, to her untrained eye, 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.

**11. 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 DJ Wright left the chamber at this juncture.*

a) Precept, Income and Expenditure Report:

Members were invited to consider, and if appropriate approve the Precept, Income and Expenditure Report for:

- March 2025:

Queries and comments were invited:

In response to a query, the Town Clerk / RFO informed that the precept balance at the end of March 2025 was £9,467.18 which highlighted the finance available in respect of the s.137 donation resolved for the memorial fence/gate at the War Memorial, Central Park, Blaina.

**Resolved** that the report be approved.

b) Periodic Financial Reports:

Members were invited to consider, and if appropriate approve the following reports:

i) Budget Monitoring for 1<sup>st</sup> January 2025 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025:

Queries and comments were invited.

Q: was the cost of the bank charges normal?

A: yes, there was a flat monthly cost and additional charges depending upon the number of cheques paid out.

Q: Would the cost of the annual insurance premium reduce if Salem Chapel was sold?

A: Probably but would need to clarify this at the time due to rising insurance costs in the recent years.

Q: Why was there a difference in the precept balance between the monthly precept report (item 11a) and the budget expenditure report (item 11bi)?

A: The monthly precept report (item 11a) shows the amount remaining from the actual precept amount (£105,000) and the budget monitoring report (item 11bi) shows the underspend as a result of actual expenditure against estimated expenditure at the time the budget and precept was forecast, not the actual precept amount.

**Resolved** that the report be approved.

ii) Bank Reconciliation for 1<sup>st</sup> January 2025 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025:

Queries and comments were invited.

**Resolved** that the report be approved.

iii) General & earmarked Reserves for 1<sup>st</sup> December 2024 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025

Queries and comments were invited.

Repeated sentence to be deleted.

**Resolved** that the report be approved.

Meeting declared closed at 6.35pm