

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
6:30pm on Tuesday 13th May 2025 at the Council Chamber, Blaina Institute, High Street,
Blaina.**

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

Present: Cllr D Hillman, Chair of Finance & General Purposes Committee, presiding
Cllr G Morvan, Cllr M Williams, Cllr C Hillman (remote), Cllr L Higgins, Cllr L Harris,
& Cllr L Emanuel

In attendance: Mrs T Hughes, Town Clerk / RFO

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 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 K Jones JP, Cllr D Wright and Mr K Rowland, Assistant Officer. **Resolved** that the apologies were accepted.

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 such questions were 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) Blaenau Gwent Foodbank (for information):

Email informing of thanks in respect of £200 donation made to Blaenau Gwent Foodbank in April 2025.

Resolved to note the information received.

b) Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council (for information & consideration):

Email informing of two elected member training opportunities relating to weather risks and community response to climate change. This information had already been emailed to Members for information.

Resolved to note the information received.

4. Town Mayor's Appeal – Bank Account:

The Town Clerk / RFO to provide a verbal update.

The Town Clerk informed that investigations into a suitable bank account for the Town Mayor's Appeal had resulted in learning that there were NO free bank accounts available. In order to receive a 'free' bank account, the charity would need to be registered with the Charity Commission, which would trigger a large number of administrative requirements. One Voice Wales had been contacted for advice with this matter.

Members considered the information received and supported the Town Clerk / RFO with the information provided. It was requested if it was possible to obtain an exemption certificate regarding registration with the Charity Commission.

Resolved to note the information received and **Further Resolved** that the Town Clerk / RFO continue to investigate.

5. 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 May 2025.

Resolved that a financial donation of £200.00 be made to Blaenau Gwent Foodbank to assist Nantyglo & Blaina residents for the month of May 2025.

6. Town Council Insurance:

Members were invited to consider the information in respect of the Town Council insurance which requires renewal on 1st June 2025:

- Aviva via broker James Hallam Ltd (current provider & broker) - £5,668.74

Members are additionally informed that many insurance companies would not provide insurance or a quotation in respect of an unoccupied listed building, hence it was much more efficient to obtain a quotation and correct level of cover via a broker who could contact a number of specialist insurance companies for a quotation.

The Chair queried GPA/Sickness/Business travel & the Town Clerk / RFO explained that this was to cover for staff and members whilst on business and that the previous Internal Auditor to the Town Council advised that this was recommended.

Additional information received regarding the insurance proposal with permission of the Chair:

Members were also informed of an additional premium payable in respect of Cyber Insurance. The Town Clerk / RFO informed that the Town Council's IT provider (Orbits IT) already ensured the security and backup of the IT system. A Member agreed that such cover would benefit the retail sector and larger scale businesses etc. but that the Town Council's IT equipment and system was already secured and backed up by the Town Council's IT provider. All Members agreed that Cyber insurance was not required.

Resolved to note the information received, **Further Resolved** to renew insurance as stated and **Additionally Resolved** not to purchase cyber insurance.

7. Millenium Wall at Nantyglo:

Members were informed that a repair was necessary to maintain the Town Council's 'Millenium Wall' which was located at the front of Nantyglo Community Centre (opposite Wesley Church). Three of the information plaques had come away from the wall due to the wood surround having rotted. Members were requested to consider Mr R Dunham to repair as necessary.

The Town Clerk explained that a phone call from Mr Lyndon Moore (who lived very near to the wall) informed of damage and that he had retained the three plaques for safe keeping. The Town Clerk also informed that to date, Mr Russell Dunham (contractor) had not been approached about the remedial work, and that it was unknown how much it would cost to repair.

Members considered the information and agreed that the Millenium Wall was owned by and was the responsibility of the Town Council and would need to be repaired.

Resolved that information has been received and **Further Resolved** that Mr Russell Dunham (contractor) to carry out the work up to a maximum cost of £500.

8. 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) Marie Curie:

Members noted that the Charity worked within the Nantyglo & Blaina area.

Resolved that a donation of £100 be made.

b) Llys y Capel Social Club:

Members noted that the application highlighted many positive benefits for residents of Nantyglo & Blaina.

Resolved that a donation of £100 be made.

9. Salem Chapel:

Members were invited to consider the attached inspection report:

- April 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.

In response to a Member's query, the Chair informed that the auctioneer would attend the Chapel on Thursday 15th May 2025. It was confirmed that as the Town Clerk was not in the office on that date, Councillors D Hillman & G Morvan would be in attendance with the Assistant Officer and Mr R Dunham (member of the Nantyglo & Blaina Charter Group & contractor).

Resolved that the report be approved and **Further Resolved** the auctioneer, Councillors D Hillman & G Morvan, Mr R Dunham and the Assistant Officer would be in attendance at Salem Chapel on Thursday 15th May 2025 at 9am.

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.

a) Precept, Income and Expenditure Report:

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

- April 2025:

Comments and queries were invited:

The Chair requested that the 'x12' be deleted from the report.

It was also commented that the photocopier was poor.

In response to a query, the Town Clerk / RFO informed that she was still waiting bank details for 2 schools and that a payment was made to one school on 13th May 2025.

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

Meeting declared closed at 7:03pm