

# 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 Annual Meeting of Nantyglo & Blaina Town Council held in the Council Chamber, Blaina Institute, High Street, Blaina at 6.00pm on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> May 2025.**

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

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

**In attendance:** Mrs T Hughes, Town Clerk / RFO  
Mr K Rowland, Assistant Officer  
Mrs S Gwyer-Roberts, Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Gwent  
Mr D Gwyer-Roberts, Consort  
Reverend R Watson, BEM, Town Mayor's Chaplain  
Councillor A Tippings, Town Mayor, Tredegar Town Council  
Councillor L Winnett, Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council  
Councillor S Behr, Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council  
Invited guests

Prior to the commencement of the meeting, the Town Mayor informed of the procedures to be taken in the event of a fire or emergency. **Resolved** to note the information received.

### **1. Declarations of Interest:**

Members were reminded that all Declarations of Interest must be recorded in the book provided for this purpose. **Resolved** to note that no such declarations were received.

### **2. Apologies for absence:**

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

### **3. Councillor M Williams:**

To offer a Civic Welcome.

The Town Mayor, Cllr M Williams offered a civic greeting and welcomed all present to the Annual Meeting of the Town Council and introduced the Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Gwent Mrs Susan Gwyer-Roberts and her Consort Mr Dylan Gwyer-Roberts, Reverend R Watson, Cllr A Tippings Town Mayor of Tredegar Town Council and Consort, Blaenau Gwent Ward Councillors L Winnett & S Behr and Gwent Neighbourhood Police.

**Resolved** accordingly.

#### **4. Councillor M Williams:**

To review his Term of Office as Chairman of the Council.

Councillor Michael Williams thanked Councillors for nominations and paid tribute to the previous Town Mayor Councillor Keith Jenkins who passed away prior to his end of Term. The Councillor noted the following anniversaries and how it was an honour to be a part of them:

Cllr Williams informed that he was the 50<sup>th</sup> Mayor for Nantyglo and Blaina Town Council since it transitioned into an Urban District Council in 1974.

80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of D-Day.

90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Blaina Riots.

80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of VE Day.

Councillor Williams also gave an overview of his term in office and events attended:

##### May 2024:

Attendance at Reverend Roy Watson's British Empire Medal ceremony.

##### June 2024:

50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations of the Riverside Flats to which the Town Mayor attended.

##### July 2024:

The Town Mayor completed the Three Peaks Challenge and raised £1164 for his Mayoral Appeal, the Hospice of the Valleys.

##### August 2024:

The Town Mayor dressed up for Nantyglo and Blaina fun days in addition to distributing free cinema tickets to local children & residents (funded by the Town Council) for cinema showings at Market Hall Cinema in Brynmawr during the school summer holidays.

##### September 2024:

The Town Council presented the awards to the successful entrants in respect of the annual Nantyglo & Blaina In Bloom competition.

##### October 2024:

The Town Mayor raised money for Ayva Batkin who had been attacked by a XL Bully Dog in Nantyglo and jointly with Tang Soo Do (Martial Arts club), £1250 was raised.

##### November 2024:

The Mayor represented Nantyglo and Blaina Town Council at the Remembrance Day service.

##### December 2024:

The Town Mayor, with the High Sheriff of Gwent and other Councillors, attended a joint Christmas Carol Service at Blaen y Cwm Primary School with all four local primary schools, whereby the Town Council also presented a selection pack to each pupil in attendance. The Town Mayor became a 'Ghostbuster' and (with the Leader of the Town Council) accompanied the Santa Sleigh run throughout Nantyglo & Blaina. A raffle was arranged to raise funds in aid of his Mayoral Appeal and Ystruth Primary's PTA before delivering

Selection Boxes from the Town Council to each of the four local primary schools. Last in December they sponsored a Christmas activity day with Santa for the Hospice of the Valleys.

January 2025:

The Town Mayor attended the 1<sup>st</sup> year anniversary of the local Men's Den to witness firsthand their great work and their achievements in that time.

March 2025:

The Town Mayor attended Welsh History Week at Coed-Y-Garn Primary School whereby a service was held to commemorate the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Blaina Riots. The Town Council had arranged for a commemorative plaque to be placed within the school's lobby (school was on the location of the old Blaina Inn associated with the Blaina Riots).

April 2025:

The Town Mayor (with others) completed the Pen-Y-Fan and Snowdonia Twin Peak Challenge raising over £1100 for the National Autistic Society. The next week Councillor Williams was disheartened to hear that the Hospice of the Valleys shop in Blaina had been broken into and Easter raffle prizes were stolen. Prizes were replaced from the Town Mayor's budget and the raffle went on to raise £136 towards the Hospice of the Valleys.

May 2025:

Finally, in May, Councillor Williams proudly witnessed Nantyglo FC beating Marshfield AFC at the Gwent County FA Amateur Cup Final Match, whereby he took photos of the win. He was also able to take photos of the Nantyglo Under12's Girls team winning the league and has since signed up with the FAW to be a coach for the Nantyglo Under10's football team a team in which his son also plays for.

The Town Mayor thanked everyone once again and was thankful for having taken so many photos taken during his time in office so that he would not forget those wonderful moments.

**Resolved** to note the information received.

**5. Councillor M Williams:**

To invite nominations for the Office of Town Mayor 2025/26.

It was **Proposed, Seconded and Resolved** that Councillor Glyn Morvan be appointed as Town Mayor for 2025/26.

**6. Councillor M Williams:**

Councillor M Williams invited the incoming Town Mayor, Councillor G Morvan to join him on the Dias. Councillor Williams placed the Official Chain of Office around the shoulders of the Town Mayor for 2025/26, Councillor G Morvan.

**Resolved** to note the information received.

**7. Declaration of Acceptance of Office:**

Councillor G Morvan signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office of Town Mayor which was witnessed by the Town Clerk / Proper Officer of the Town Council and was thereupon appointed as the Town Mayor of Nantyglo & Blaina for the civic year 2025/26.

**Resolved** to note the signing of the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

*Councillor M Williams took his seat with Members of the Council.*

***At this juncture proceedings paused for photographs to be taken.***

**8. The Town Mayor:**

The new Mayor personally welcomed everyone attending, notably the Deputy Lord-Lieutenant, Mrs Susan Gwyer-Roberts and her husband Dylan Gwyer-Roberts who he noted was a fantastic ambassador and supporter, Reverend Roy Watson BEM & the Town Mayor of Tredegar, Cllr A Tippings and her Consort together with invited guests. The Mayor stated it was an honour and a privilege to be nominated again as Town Mayor after being elected first in 2018. The Mayor informed that he held Nantyglo and Blaina and its residents in high regard since he joined the Police Force in 1974 and having served the community since in many guises. During his next 12 months the new Mayor intends to serve to the highest of standards, wanting to give back some of the support and loyalty he has received over the years. The Mayor gave his thanks for nominating him for this opportunity to continue working in the community that he has the highest respect for and considers his second home.

**Resolved** accordingly.

**9. The Town Mayor:**

The Town Mayor invited the Mayor's Chaplain, Reverend Roy Watson to lead Council in Prayer.

Reverend Roy Watson congratulated the Town Mayor on his appointment and informed that he had acted as Mayor's Chaplain to many of the previous Town Mayors. Reverend Roy Watson led the Council in Prayer.

**Resolved** accordingly.

**10. Vote of Thanks to Councillor M Williams:**

The Town Mayor offered a vote of thanks to the out-going Mayor, Councillor Michael Williams, stating that in his twelve months of service he conducted his duties to the highest of standards. Councillor Williams' dedication and enthusiasm for the role was noted and that he always conducted himself with dignity and respect, whilst moving at 100 miles per hour. The Mayor stated that Councillor Williams left behind an impressive legacy and would be a hard act to follow, though he had now signed up to the gym and bought a new pair of trainers to try and continue at a similar pace. The Mayor thanked Councillor Williams once again for everything that he had done and for being such an excellent ambassador for the Council and a credit to himself as a Town Councillor.

**Resolved** accordingly.

**11. Deputy Town Mayor:**

The Town Mayor invited nominations for the Office of Deputy Town Mayor for 2025-2026.

**Proposed, Seconded and Resolved** that Councillor Ken Jones JP be appointed to the Office of Deputy Mayor for 2025/26.

The Deputy Town Mayor, Cllr K Jones JP stated that it would be an honour and privilege to work alongside the Town Mayor.

**12. Leader of the Council:**

The Town Mayor invited nominations for the position of Leader of the Council 2025-2026.

**Proposed, Seconded and Resolved** that Councillor Glyn Morvan be appointed to the Office of Leader of the Council for 2025/26.

Cllr G Morvan thanked his fellow Councillors for the nomination and stated that he was happy to accept the position of Leader of the Town Council.

**Appointment of Town Council Committees and Delegates to Other Organisations:**

**13. To invite Members to consider the appointment of Chairman and Members of Committees and of Delegates to other Organisations:**

(Members may wish to approve itemised list).

**Proposed, Seconded and Resolved** to approve the previously distributed list.

**14. Mayoral Appeal 2025/26:** The Town Mayor informed that his Mayoral Appeal for 2025/26 was in support of the Community Hope Project which was a local charity that covered Blaenau Gwent and was based in Brynmawr. The charity was formed just after the Covid Pandemic and worked closely with statutory agencies and local organisations to identify areas of need within the borough of Blaenau Gwent. The Mayor intended to support the Community Hope Project so that they could continue to help the local area as it was needed.

The Town Mayor informed that there would be a raffle draw during the evening to help start the appeal with a number of prizes on offer.

**Resolved** to note the information received.

**15. Invitation for invited guests to join with the Town Mayor for refreshments.**

The Town Mayor declared the business of the Council closed and thereupon invited the Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Gwent, Mrs Susan Gwyer-Roberts, to open the buffet and for all present to join him for refreshments.

Meeting declared closed at 18:27pm