

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 5:45pm on Tuesday 10th June 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 C Hillman, Cllr L Higgins, Cllr L Harris, Cllr K Jones JP &
Cllr L Emanuel

In attendance: Mrs T Hughes, Town Clerk / RFO

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

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.

Declaration of Interest

Members are invited to declare matters of interest either at the beginning or at any time during the proceedings. Members are reminded that all declarations must be recorded in the book provided.

Resolved to note that Cllr L Higgins declared an interest in item 4.

1. Apologies for absence:

Members are invited to consider the apologies for absence and to formally resolve to accept.

Resolved to note that apologies were received from Mr K Rowland, Assistant Officer, Cllr L King & Cllr D Wright. **Further Resolved** that the apologies be 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 questions were received and **Further Resolved** to note that no members of the public or press were present.

3. Correspondence:

Members were invited to consider the listed correspondence, plus with the Chairman's permission, any urgent information that may have been received prior to the date of the meeting.

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

i. Training Dates for May and June 2025.

Cllr L Higgins – informed she had completed three training modules and would inform Town Clerk if she wished to participate in further courses.

Resolved to note the information received.

ii. Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015: Post-legislative scrutiny.

Members noted the information and also noted that One Voice Wales was to put forward a response.

Resolved to note the information received

iii. Consultation re: Proposals to improve the administration and enforcement of Council Tax in Wales.

Members noted that any comments could be made via the link stated.

Resolved to note the information received

iv. Innovative Practice Conference – 2nd July 2025.

Resolved to note the information received.

v. National Awards Conference Report 2025 – please see page 33 – Nantyglo & Blaina Town Council commended for 'Best Initiative addressing the Cost of Living Crisis.

The Chair noted Nantyglo and Blaina Town Council were doing similar work to other councils and that this should be more widely publicized.

Resolved to note the information received.

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

Invitation to an exhibition 'Art After Hours @ Goldworks'.

The Chair and Councillor C Hillman noted that they may attend.

Resolved to note the information received.

c) Gwent VAWSADV (for information)

Email and poster re: Lunch and Learn event on 24th June 2025.

Resolved to note the information received.

d) Orbits IT (for information & consideration):

Proposal re: project quote for the end of Windows 10 support and transfer to Windows 11.

The Town Clerk mentioned that the Assistant Officer and Cllr M Williams could explain the requirement for this in more details but explained that the support would be required and should be purchased.

The Town Clerk also explained that there was not a requirement to have 3 quotes as Orbits IT were the Town Council's IT provider and the service could be classed as a specialised service and support.

Resolved to note the information received and **Resolved** to purchase the Windows 11 support as detailed.

Resolved to note that Councillor L Higgins declared an interest in item 4 below. **Resolved** that Cllr L Higgins to remain in meeting but not take part in the discussion and / or vote.

4. **Nativity Set owned by Town Council:**

Members were invited to consider the future use of the Nativity Set owned by the Town Council i.e. possible donation to a local church such as St Peter's Church, Blaina.

It was proposed and seconded that the Nativity set be relocated to St Peter Church, Blaina., whereby the local community could continue to enjoy viewing it at Christmas time.

Resolved to note the information received and **Further Resolved** that the Nativity set be relocated to St Peter Church.

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 June 2025.

Members noted that the Town Council had recently been commended by One Voice Wales for this ongoing donation to help the local community.

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

6. **Purchase of Welsh Flags for display throughout Nantyglo & Blaina:**

Members were politely requested to ratify the purchase of 15 Welsh Flags (5' x 3') for display throughout Nantyglo & Blaina. Contractor Mr Russell Dunham informed that it would be more cost effective if the flags were purchased in time for them to be put up at the same time the VE Day flags were taken down. The cost of the flags were £56.86.

Councillor G Morvan explained the request, citing that keeping the display throughout the towns looking appropriate and to reduce the cost of putting up and down. A request was made to ratify the purchase. It would enhance the town display and was also appropriate for VJ Day.

A Member commented that a new resident commented on the flag display throughout Blaina.

A Member informed that the Red Lion pub had been sold and that, hopefully, it would be renovated, which would further help to enhance the town.

Resolved to note the information received and **Further Resolved** to **Ratify** the purchase of the 15 Welsh Flags as detailed.

7. **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 may have been received prior to the date of the meeting. Members were also reminded that applications will need to be considered in conjunction with the current policy.

a) *None received to date.*

Resolved accordingly.

8. **Salem Chapel:**

Members were invited to consider the attached inspection report:

- May 2025).
Comments and queries were invited:
In a response to a query, 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.
It was informed that Mr R Dunham Local contractor) informed that the dry rot present had not progressed any further.

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

9. **Confidential Information:**

The following item(s) contained information 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:

May 2025:

Queries and comments were invited, and the following comments were made:

- Salem Chapel charges were mounting up. It was also mentioned that some items from Salem would need to be relocated.
- It was queried if the donation in lieu of Easter Eggs had been made to all four local primary schools? The Town Clerk / RFO informed that the donation had been made to 2 of the schools but were still awaiting details from the two other schools in order to make the payment.
- Repairs had been completed to the Mayoral Chain, and it has been received back.

Resolved that the report be approved.

10. Any Other Business:

Councillor Ken Jones offered congratulations to the League of Friends (some members were present) on the opening of the Day Room at Ysbyty Aneurin Bevan in Ebbw Vale.

Meeting declared closed at 6:10pm