

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 Town Council held at 5:30pm on Tuesday 24th June 2025 at the Council Chamber, Blaina Institute, High Street, Blaina.

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

Present: Councillor K Jones JP, Deputy Town Mayor, presiding
Councillors M Williams, 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

Prior to the start of the meeting, the Chair informed of the procedures to be taken in the event of an emergency. **Resolved** to note the information received.

To receive: PC G Davies– Brynmawr Neighbourhood Policing Team.

To provide a local update.

Members were reminded to note the Standing Orders relating to guest speakers:

1. Members to receive the presentation.
2. Questions were invited at the end of the presentation.
3. Members were requested to ask only one question each – if time allowed AND with permission of the Chair, a second question might be asked.
4. Members were reminded that there was to be no discussion or exchange of points of view between Members and that all dialogue was to be directed through the Chair.

The Chair introduced and welcomed PC Gavin Davies and PCSO Jo Robins to the meeting.

PC Davies informed that there was still much work taking place in relation to offroad vehicles within the area and that the Community Action Team (CAT), which were based in Tredegar, had seized many vehicles in the Blaenau Gwent area.

PC Davies mentioned that an upcoming Traveller funeral was taking place on 27th June and some areas of Nantyglo would be affected. No road closures were planned but more officers were made available in case closures to roads were needed to accommodate the funeral. Blaina Police Station is not closed permanently however it is unknown when it will be opened once again as it

had been deemed 'unsafe' due to an officer being alone when approached by a male with a knife. There were reports of slingshots being used to kill small animal in the area but there had been some identifications, and the Police were hoping to gather more evidence and were using the local schools and youth services to try and dissuade youths from using slingshots for such activities. Councillors. Two local men had also been reported going into local churches disrupting services held there and Police are currently gathering evidence. Police surgeries in Blaina Library had been held on a regular basis (Town Mayor Cllr Glyn Morvan had been in attendance) and were to continue, and it was hoped more people would be able to attend.

Questions were invited at this juncture:

- Q) Would there be any disruption to another funeral happening in Brynmawr on the same day?
A) It was hoped that there would not be any disruption or interference but numbers regarding the Travellers funeral were unknown and thus there could be potential for some disruption, particularly on the roads around Nantyglo & Brynmawr.
- Q) Member noted that residents felt safer knowing that there was a police station in Blaina.
Q) There was an arson attack recently occurred in Alexander Street, Blaina.
A) Currently being investigated however no information could be given at this time.
- Q) There was a similar event on High Street, were the incidents connected?
A) It was a separate incident.
- Q) Would there be any interruptions to Hywel Axford's funeral in Brynmawr on the same day as the Travellers funeral?
A) It was hoped there would not be but due to not knowing the numbers of attendees for the Travellers funeral there could be.
- Q) In what areas were the slingshots being used illegally?
A) Brynmawr, Nantyglo and around the Cwmcelyn Pond area in Blaina. There seemed to be two separate groups using the slingshots in this way.
- Q) Were slingshots illegal?
A) Slingshots were not illegal, however if being used to cause harm or vandalism they would be confiscated and so it depended on the intention of the slingshot. A no nonsense approach was being taken.

PC G Davies and PCSO J Robins were thanked for attending the meeting and providing the update and left the meeting at this juncture.

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. Please note that all declarations of interest must be recorded in the book provided. **Resolved** to note that no such declarations were received.

1. Apologies:

Members were invited to consider the apologies for absence received and to formally resolve to accept. **Resolved** to note that apologies were received from Cllr G Morvan, Cllr L Harris and Cllr L King. **Further Resolved** that the apologies be accepted.

2. Town Mayor's Communications:

The Town Mayor's communications for April 2025

Nantyglo and Blaina Town Mayor Cllr G Morvan was not in attendance and therefore not able to give communications.

Resolved accordingly.

3. Questions from the Public:

To receive any questions from the public regarding matters on the agenda (please note this was limited to 10 minutes).

Resolved to note that no such questions were received.

4. Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held 29th April 2025 (pages 164 - 170):

Members were invited to consider the above minutes and if appropriate to approve them as an accurate record of proceedings.

a) Matters arising, for information & clarification only:

i) page 166 Item 8 a) should read 'Cllr Ken Jones JP'

ii) page 16 Item 13 v) RFO clarified statement in response to Members' query.

Resolved that the minutes be approved

5. Minutes of the Events Committee Meeting held 29th April 2025 (pages 171 - 172)

Members were invited to consider the above minutes and if appropriate to approve them as an accurate record of proceedings.

a) Matters arising, for information & clarification only:

i) Page 172 Item 5) the Town Clerk /RFO gave update in terms of planters later in the Agenda.

Resolved that the minutes be approved.

6. Minutes of the Planning & Highways Committee Meeting held 13th May 2025 (pages 173 - 175)

Members were invited to consider the above minutes and if appropriate to approve them as an accurate record of proceedings.

a) Matters arising, for information & clarification only:

Cllr K Jones JP thanked Cllr G Morvan for chairing the meeting in his absence.

Resolved that the minutes be approved.

7. Minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee Meeting held 13th May 2025 (pages 176 - 179)

Members were invited to consider the above minutes and if appropriate to approve them as an accurate record of proceedings.

a) Matters arising, for information & clarification only:

Page 178 (item 5) In response to a query, Town Clerk / RFO informed that Mr R Dunham (contractor) was liaising with Mr L Moore and would provide the necessary information as soon as possible.

Resolved that the minutes be approved.

8. Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Council held 27th May 2025 (pages 1 - 5)

Members were invited to consider the above minutes and if appropriate to approve them as an accurate record of proceedings.

a) Matters arising, for information & clarification only:

Page 4 (item 10) – include Cllr D Hillman gave a vote of thanks to the outgoing Town Mayor.

Resolved that the minutes be approved

9. Minutes of the Planning and Highways Committee Meeting held 10th June 2025 (pages 6 - 8):

Members were invited to consider the above minutes and if appropriate to approve them as an accurate record of proceedings.

a) Matters arising, for information & clarification only:

It was confirmed that the funerals of Shirley Ford would take place on July 4th 2025 and Hywel (not Howard) Axford would take place on 27th July 2025.

Resolved that the minutes be approved.

10. Minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee Meeting held June 10th 2025 (pages 9 – 13):

13 Members were invited to consider the above minutes and if appropriate to approve them as an accurate record of proceedings.

a) Matters arising, for information & clarification only:

Page 13, Item 10) should read 'family room of cancer ward'.

Resolved that the minutes be approved.

11. 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):

Remote training dates available between June – September 2025.

Councillor L Higgins requested to take attend the training course module 9 'Code of Conduct'.

Resolved to note the information received and **Further Resolved** to book the module 9 Code of Conduct training for Councillor Higgins.

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

- i. Lack of a cash point in Blaina due to Co-op closing for 5-6 weeks and Post Office closing for a short time and the subsequent response from Blaenau Gwent Councillor Lisa Winnett.

Councillor noted a cash point was located in the Premier shop, but it did charge per use. Also noted that the Co-op will have its cash point located in store when it reopens.

Resolved to note the information received

c) Cllr L Winnett – (for information/consideration):

Email querying rumour regarding the 'knocking down' of Salem Chapel and the Town Clerk's response on behalf of the Town Council.

Resolved to note the information received.

Additional correspondence received with permission of the Chair:

d) Blaina Community Institute Ltd (for information & consideration):

Letter requesting that the Town Council sign erected by Mr R Dunham on the south side of the Institute be removed and re-sited to the front of the building, to the right hand side of the front door.

Members considered the information and Town Clerk had updated that permission had been given by Blaina Institute prior, however contractor R Dunham was unable to place the sign near to the entrance due to the sign's size, thus it was placed on the side of the building instead.

Resolved to note the information received and **Further Resolved** to discuss this further with Blaina Community Institute Limited and Mr R Dunham (contractor) and re-site the sign as appropriate.

12. Town Councils Liaison Meeting with Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council:

Members were informed that the forthcoming Liaison Meeting with Blaenau Gwent CBC will take place on Tuesday 15th July 2025, 2.00pm to 3.30pm. A pre-meeting had been arranged for 1.30pm to 2pm just prior to the Liaison Meeting. The meeting would take place via MS Teams (agenda to follow).

It was noted that members could attend the meeting at the Council Chambers as it was to be attended via Microsoft Teams. The Town Clerk informed that no agenda had yet been received.

Resolved to note the information received.

13. Councillor Photos:

Members were invited to consider photographs of the councillors being uploaded to the website in line with many other Town Council websites. A brief discussion ensued and it was accepted that some Members did not wish to be photographed would , other Members were happy to have photos uploaded to the website.

Members also considered a group photograph be taken for posterity as a number of previous Town Councils had done.

Resolved to note information considered and **Further Resolved** that members who were to have photographs taken and uploaded to website to contact RFO to arrange.

14. Application to the Community Grant Fund:

Members were invited to consider the listed application(s). Members were also reminded that applications would need to be considered in conjunction with the current policy.

None received to date

Resolved accordingly.

15. Members Updates:

Members were invited to provide any relevant updates and / or information:

Cllr D Hillman:

Cllr D Hillman informed of an email received from Nevill Hall Hospital regarding a survey and its future use by residents, citing its importance to residents of Nantyglo and Blaina. The Town Clerk informed that the email had been sent on to Members.

Resolved to note the information received.

Auction regarding surplus items from Salem Chapel had progressed well, with over £1200 raised from items sold.

Resolved to note the information received.

Nativity set to be donated to St Peters was being arranged by R Dunham who would ensure that it would be thoroughly cleaned.

Resolved to note all information received.

Meeting declared closed at 18:29pm