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 Events Committee held at 18:30pm 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 L Higgins, Chair of the Events Committee, presiding
Councillors M Williams, D Hillman, C Hillman, K Jones JP, L Emanuel & D Wright.

In attendance: Mrs T Hughes, Town Clerk / RFO
Mr K Rowland. Assistant Officer

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 Councillor G Morvan, Councillor L Harris and Councillor L King.

2. Questions from the public:

To receive any questions from the public regarding matters on the agenda. Please note that there was a 10-minute allocation time for any questions from the public.

Resolved to note that no such questions were received nor were any members of the public or press in attendance.

3. Correspondence:

Members were invited to consider the listed correspondence, plus with the Chair's permission, any urgent information that might be received prior to the date of the meeting.

a) Councillor David Wright *(for information/consideration):*
Proposal for ideas regarding events in Nantyglo and Blaina:

- Fun day in Blaina Town Centre
- Partner with Community Sports Club for the annual Party in the Park
- Outdoor Cinema Night in conjunction with Nantyglo Rugby Club

Councillor D Wright gave an outline of his ideas.

Members noted that the ideas were very positive and that the Town Council were trying to provide more events or help to fund/organise ongoing events (collaboration) within the Nantyglo & Blaina area such as the Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council's Fun Days within Blaina Town Centre.

The Town Clerk / RFO informed that the budget was discussed and resolved in January of each year for the forthcoming financial year and that the budget for all events was agreed at this time.

Councillors stated that providing such events were difficult due to factors such as health & safety legislation and that collaborating with other organisations to provide such events ensured that all resources available could be shared.

Resolved to note the information received and **Further Resolved** that a Task and Finish group meeting be arranged to discuss this matter in more detail.

b) Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council - events at Tredegar *(for information & consideration):*

i) Armed Forces Day – to be held on Sunday 29th June 2025
ii) Aneurin Bevan Day – to be held on Sunday 6th July 2025

A number of Members (including the Town Mayor) informed of their intention to attend the events.

The Town Clerk informed members that all were welcome to attend the events.

Resolved to note the information received.

c) Blaina Community Sports Club – (for information):

Photo showing the memorial brick purchased by the Town Council in honour of David Watkins MBE which was now displayed in Blaina Community Sports Club

Members discussed that the family of David Watkins, Town Mayor and Members of the Council should have been invited for a photo opportunity and to all see firsthand how the brick looked. One Member confirmed they had seen the brick and informed that it was a fitting memorial to David Watkins.

Resolved to note the information received and **Further Resolved** to contact Blaina Community Sports Club to enquire if there was a possibility of an 'unveiling' event.

Additional correspondence with permission of the Chair:

d) GE Views *(for information & consideration)*:

The Town Clerk informed that the cost of delivery of the 3 new planters delivery was £50 per location, meaning the cost of each planter to be delivered to each of their locations throughout Nantyglo and Blaina would cost £150 in total

Members discussed the price for delivery appeared excessive and to contact contractor, Mr R Dunham to enquire if he would be available to help with this issue.

Members also considered the requirement of gravel and compost that would be needed for each of the three new planters and agreed this would need to be purchased.

Resolved to note that information received and **Further Resolved** to contact R Dunham to relocate planters and **Further Resolved** to purchase appropriate amounts of gravel and compost for the three planters.

4. VJ Day – 15th August 2025:

Members were invited to consider collaborating with the Royal British Legion and other possibly organisations to hold an event to celebrate VJ Day (similar to the recent VE Day event) and also to consider purchasing a total of 6 specific VJ Day commemorative flags.

The Town Clerk informed that VJ Day memorial flags were at a cost of approximately £7 per flag, and 6 were needed for an appropriate display. Members queried as to what would the Royal British Legion (Blaina Branch) fund regarding the event and to enquire with them how Nantyglo and Blaina Town Council could assist.

Resolved to purchase 6 VJ Day Memorial flags as detailed and **Further Resolved** to make further enquiries with Royal British Legion (Blaina Branch) as to the format and costs etc of the event.

5. Summer Play Scheme sessions in Nantyglo & Blaina 2025:

Members were invited to consider the purchase of summer play scheme sessions in Nantyglo & Blaina as purchased and provided in 2024. The attached email and information from Sharon Cargill (Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council) contained the relevant information and stated the cost of the sessions as £500 (same as 2024), plus offers an extra session for free - 5 sessions for the price of 4.

Members discussed the information provided and agreed that the play sessions were excellent for the children of the area and how they had been grant funded in 2024.
The Town Clerk / RFO clarified that the summer play schemes had been purchased by Nantyglo and Blaina Town Council in 2024 and not grant funded.

Resolved to note the information received and **Further Resolved** to purchase the Summer Play Sessions as detailed.

6. Cinema Showings 2025:

Members were invited to consider the provision of cinema showings for local children throughout the school summer holidays (as in 2024).

Market Hall Cinema, Brynmawr confirmed that whilst the price of a child's ticket has increased from £3.50 to £4, they would keep the cost to the Town Council at £3.50 per child and the total invoice, the same cost as in 2024 (based on 150 tickets per showing for four showings - £2,100 total cost).

This cost was based on the purchase of 150 tickets per showing and four showings (1 showing per week) throughout the school summer holidays, with the Town Council printing and distributing the tickets as last year.

Market Hall Cinema would screen a suitable film for children/all ages although the titles of these would be confirmed at a later date.

Market Hall Cinema had also confirmed that people who could not use their tickets on the specified date of the showings would be able to use them at another screening during the school summer holidays, providing they showed their ticket.

Members thought it was again an excellent idea to bring to residents and asked to see if there was any grant funding available to assist. RFO advised that £2800 had been secured for summer events to take place throughout the school summer holidays in Nantyglo and Blaina.

Resolved to note the information received and **Further Resolved** to purchase cinema tickets as detailed for 2025.

7. Nantyglo & Blaina In Bloom 2025 – Update:

A verbal update in respect of Nantyglo & Blaina In Bloom 2025 was provided.

The Town Clerk informed that to date, only two applications had been received despite the competition having been advertised on Facebook, applications sent to previous applicants and posters put up through the town.

Members were disappointed that only 2 entries had been received so far but one member may have 3 additional applications but had been unable to attend the meeting.

Members discussed delaying the closing date to allow for more entries or to send commendations (either as plaques or certificates) to the two or more entries that had been received but no prize be given.

Resolved to note the information received and **Further Resolved** to purchase 2 to 5 awards as stated above if only a small number of applications were received and to suspend the competition (and prize).

8. Joint Primary Schools Christmas Carol Concert:

Members were invited to consider organising a Joint Primary Schools Christmas Carol Concert as in previous years. Early resolution of this would ensure that the local primary schools have adequate notice to agree and arrange a suitable date for the concert.

If resolved, Members were invited to consider that the format be as in previous years i.e.:

- One school to offer to hold the concert
- The four schools to agree a mutually convenient date and time

- The Town Council to produce and provide the programmes
- Santa to be in attendance
- Selection packs to be provided to all children present
- A joint raffle to be held in aid of the Town Mayor's appeal and the hosting school's PTA

Resolved that the joint Primary Schools Christmas Carol concert be arranged as in previous years (as detailed above) and **Further Resolved** that selection packs be purchased for children present at the concert.

9. Selection Packs to Local Primary Schools:

Members were invited to consider the purchase and provision of selection packs to each primary school pupil within Nantyglo & Blaina who attend Blaen y Cwm Primary, Coed y Garn Primary, Ysgol Bro Helyg & Ystruth Primary.

Members were informed that (subject to confirmation), there were approximately 1150 pupils and the cost of each selection pack in 2024 was £1.19.

Members considered the information and noted that the cost of selection packs was likely to have increased for Christmas 2025 but also considered that the Town Council had purchased selection packs for each primary school pupil since 2020.

Resolved to note the information received and **Further Resolved** to purchase the selection packs for all primary school pupils within Nantyglo and Blaina as in previous years.

10. Christmas Lights 2025:

Members were invited to consider the purchase of additional Christmas Lights & transformers to replace the lights currently erected at Blaina Institute and to also erect in the five trees opposite Blaina Institute and square to achieve an even more effective display for the forthcoming Christmas period. Mr R Dunham (Christmas Lights contractor) had estimated that the amount of additional lights required for this would be the same as purchased in 2024 i.e.

- 111 x 10 metre lengths of LED lights (£3,106.15 inc. Vat in 2024)
- 12 transformers (£125.90 inc. VAT in 2024)

If agreed to purchase, Members were invited to consider the colour of lights purchased for display in the trees i.e. red, white and blue or multi-coloured (the lights for replacement on Blaina Institute would be white).

Members were also reminded that it could sometimes be cheaper to purchase Christmas Lights in the summer rather than the autumn.

Members stated that additional sites need to be located in Nantyglo in regard to placing lights, also that one tree that had been used for lights needed to be trimmed. Members also thought white lights for Blaina Institute and multi coloured lights for the trees would be appropriate.

Resolved to note the information received and **Further Resolved** to identify additional areas to place lights in Nantyglo. **Further Resolved** to purchase white lights for Blaina Institute and multi coloured lights for trees and transformers as detailed above.

11) Any Other Business:

Update regarding the planters:

Cllr D Hillman informed that all planters had been attended to in the area except for the Co-op where building work was being ongoing and that all the planters looked fantastic. Members all agreed that the planters looked wonderful and thanked those Members who had helped to plant and tend to them. The Town Clerk reminded that all members were members of the Events Committee and were welcome to help.

Resolved to note information received.

Meeting declared closed at 19:24pm.