

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 17:36 pm on Tuesday 22nd July 2025 (rescheduled from 8th July 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 C Hillman (remotely), Cllr G Morvan, Cllr M Williams, Cllr L Harris, Cllr L Higgins,
Cllr K Jones JP & Cllr D Wright

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

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

Prior to the start of the meeting, the Town Clerk informed that no members of the press or public 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 are 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 L King.

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.

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) One Voice Wales (for information / consideration):

Members were invited to consider changes to their constitution proposed by One Voice Wales and the following comments were made:

- OVW were looking to reduce number of councils in attendance (quorum) when discussing issues due to low attendance from councils has meant that many meetings had been inquorate.
- There were concerns regarding OVW being the sole 'voice' to represent with Welsh Government (page 3 – 2.2.d). Members were assured that Town Councils were still able to voice concerns and issues.
- (page 6 item 4.3) – wording did not appear to make sense and page 9 stated the same wording which some Members thought confusing.

Resolved to note the information received and **Further Resolved** to clarify the above points.

b) Marie Curie (for information):

Letter of thanks in respect of a recent financial donation provided.

Resolved to note the information received.

4. **Charter of Common Agreement with Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council:**

Members were invited to consider signing the charter with Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council and the following comments were made:

Pg 6 - Local democracy, there were concerns regarding the accessibility of meetings towards the general public.

Pg 7 – Planning Training – it was commented that Blaenau Gwent CBC should offer more training for Town Councils in order to keep up to date with new legislation.

Pg 8 – Ethics – Most people were unaware as to who was the Monitoring Officer at Blaenau Gwent CBC?

Pg 11 – it was noted that the Annual Progress Report on the Charter had not been received.

The Town Clerk informed that Blaenau Gwent CBC had requested that, providing Council agreed with the Charter of Common agreement in principle, the Town Council could sign the Charter and, that any operational issues could be resolved at a later date.

Resolved to note the information received and **Further Resolved** for Nantyglo and Blaina Town Council to sign the Charter of Common Agreement with Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council in principle.

5. **S.137 donations (Local Government Act 1972 & Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015:**

As previously resolved, Members are invited to consider making further financial donations to Blaenau Gwent Foodbank to assist residents of Nantyglo and Blaina for the month of July 2025.

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

6. Application to the Community Grant Fund:

Members are invited to consider the listed application(s), plus with the Chairman's permission any additional applications that may be received prior to the date of the meeting. Members are also reminded that applications will need to be considered in conjunction with the current policy.

- a) *None received to date.*

Resolved accordingly.

7. Salem Chapel:

Members were invited to consider the attached inspection report:

- June 2025.
Comments and queries were invited:

In response to a query, the Town Clerk informed that, to her untrained eye, whilst the physical condition of the chapel continued to deteriorate, there did not appear to be any additional issues.

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

8. 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:

- June 2025 – comments and/or queries were invited:

It was noted that expenditure forecast was just above the recommended level. The Town Clerk / RFO informed that this was due to annual insurance being paid.

Resolved that the report be approved

b) Periodic Financial Reports:

Members were invited to consider, and if appropriate approve the following reports for April – June 2025:

- i. Budget Monitoring – 1st April 2025 – 30th June 2025 – comments and / or queries were invited:

In response to a query regarding VAT expenditure the Town Clerk RFO explained that the variance was due to several larger VAT related items such as Christmas lights had not been purchased.

Resolved that the report be approved.

- ii. Bank Reconciliation – 1st April 2025 – 30th June 2025 – comments and / or queries were invited:

In response to a query regarding two cheques unpresented cheques – the Town Clerk / RFO informed that the cheques were made to a Member, who would present the cheques for payment in the near future.

Resolved that the report be approved.

Meeting declared closed at 17:52 pm