

# 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 18:23 pm on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> September 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  
Councillors G Morvan, L Higgins, C Hillman, M Williams, L Harris, K Jones JP,  
L Emanuel, A Fryer, M Evans & E Singleton.

In attendance: Mrs T Hughes, Town Clerk / RFO  
Mr Kevin 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. Members were reminded that all declarations must be recorded in the book provided. **Resolved** to note that the Assistant Officer declared a personal & pecuniary interest in item 10 and the Town Clerk/RFO and Assistant Officer declared a personal & pecuniary interest in item 12a, and Councillors D Hillman, C Hillman, L Harris and L Emanuel declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 3.

## **1. Apologies for absence:**

Members were invited to consider the apologies for absence and to formally resolve to accept. **Resolved** to note apologies received from Councillors L King, D Wright, W Lewis & S Howlett.

**Further Resolved** that 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 be received prior to the date of the meeting.

a) Royal Voluntary Service / Memory café & Activity Group (for information):

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

**Resolved** to note the information received.

b) Aneurin Bevan UHB (for information)

Email informing of the Blaenau Gwent Food summit.

Councillor Morvan stated that, if possible, he would attend the event.

**Resolved** to note the information received.

c) One Voice Wales (for information):

i. Email informing that the Extraordinary meeting had now been cancelled.

**Resolved** to note the information received.

ii. Email informing of the National Conference & Annual General Meeting to take place on 1<sup>st</sup> August 2025.

Members were informed of additional information received from One Voice Wales in respect of this item i.e. that a motion submitted by Chepstow Town Council had been omitted from the original list by OVW – ‘Chepstow Town Council calls upon One Voice Wales to lobby the Welsh Government to consider increasing and extending the financial threshold for free school meals in Wales to secondary school children in line with other devolved governments in the united Kingdom’.

Nantyglo and Blaina Town Council representative informed that they would be unable to attend the Annual Conference and General Meeting but that any motions discussed should be supported by Nantyglo and Blaina Town Council.

**Resolved** to note the information received and **Further Resolved** to support the motions submitted.

d) Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council (for information & consideration):

Invitation to the unveiling of the Steve Jones statue followed by a special Q & A event at the General Offices, Ebbw Vale for two representatives of the Town Council to attend. Due to the request of Blaenau Gwent CBC for the names of the attendees be submitted as soon as possible, the Town Mayor/Leader of the Council had agreed (via delegated decisions) that himself and the Chair of Events, Cllr L Higgins attend.

**Resolved** to note the information received.

4. **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 months of August & September 2025.

**Resolved** that a financial donation of £400.00 be made to Blaenau Gwent Foodbank to assist Nantyglo & Blaina residents for the months of August and September 2025.

**5. 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 might be received prior to the date of the meeting. Members were also reminded that applications would need to be considered in conjunction with the current policy.

a) *None received to date.*

**Resolved** accordingly.

**6. Town Council Vacancies:**

Members were invited to consider the attached application received in respect of an advertised vacancy in the Nantyglo Ward for co-option to the Town Council.

Members were reminded of the Council's standing Orders in respect of co-option.

- David FINCH

It was **Resolved** that the Town Clerk and Assistant Officer act as 'tellers' for the vote.

**Unanimously Resolved** that David Finch be co-opted as a Town Councillor to Nantyglo & Blaina Town Council.

**7. For Information / Consideration:**

Members were informed of the following:

- Due to building work ongoing at Blaina Institute, The Town Council had displayed the Red Ensign on Blaina Constitutional Club in commemoration of Merchant Navy Day on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2025.

**Resolved** to note information received.

- A delivery of the three additional planters has been received, but Members were informed that the planters were the wrong size. Members were informed that whilst the Town Council have paid the correct price for the planters already received an additional payment of £562.27 would need to be paid in order to receive the larger planters.

**Resolved** to note information received and **Further Resolved** that item be submitted to the Events Committee for consideration.

**8. Salem Chapel:**

Members were invited to consider the attached inspection reports:

- July 2025
- August 2025

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

**Resolved** that the reports be approved and **further Resolved** that an update be provided by the Town Clerk at the next meeting of the Full Council.

**9. Statement of Payments made to Members – 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025:**

Members were informed that the annual Statement of Payments made to Members for the financial year 2024/25 had been provided to the Democracy & Boundary Commission Cymru & Audit Wales and published on the Town Council's website as required by s.151 of the Local Government Measure 2011

**Resolved** to note the information received.

*The Assistant Officer declared a personal interest in item 10 below. **Resolved** to note information received and **Further Resolved** that the Assistant Officer to remain in the Council Chamber for the item.*

**10. Training:**

Members were invited to consider and approve, that the Assistant Officer undertakes the training course Introduction to Local Council Administration (ILCA) which was provided by the Society of Local Council Clerks (SLCC). The training is recommended as the first course for newly appointed Town Clerks and deputies and is completed online within a one year period. The cost of the training is £120.00 + VAT. Members are reminded that the job description for the post of Assistant Officer states it is an essential requirement that this training is to be completed.

**Resolved** that the Assistant Officer undertakes the Introduction to Local Council Administration (ILCA) which would be funded by the Town Council.

**11. In Bloom:**

The Town Clerk provided a verbal update.

The Town Clerk informed that judging had taken place on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> August 2025 with Gwynfor Evans and Aaron Browning (Tai Calon). A total of seven gardens were visited and judged. Members were provided with a copy of the scores which were noted. The Town Clerk informed that judging could not take place at Ysgol Bro Helyg due to the school not being open during the school holidays. The Town Clerk had contacted the lead teacher for Ysgol Bro Helyg's entry to offer judging taking place in September based on what the garden would have looked like but, Ysgol Bro Helyg declined this due to most of the garden and growth having been cut back etc but thanked the Town Council for the offer and stated that they would apply next year. The Town Clerk informed that she had discussed this item being considered by the Finance & General Purposes Committee with the Chair of Events Committee due to time constraints.

Members considered the judges scores and **Resolved** the results as indicated and **Further Resolved** that the overall winner of the 2025 In Bloom competition is Mark Williams.

## 12. Confidential Information:

The following item(s) may contain information that is of a confidential or personal nature and is therefore exclusive to Members of the Town Council only. (Public Bodies Admission to Meetings Act 1960). **Resolved** that the motion be supported.

*The Town Clerk / RFO and Assistant Officer declared a pecuniary and personal interest in item 12a. **Resolved** that Town Clerk/RFO and Assistant Officer leave the Council Chamber for the item.*

*Town Clerk/RFO and Assistant Officer left the Council Chamber at this junction.*

### a) Annual Pay Award 2025/26 – Society of Local Council Clerks

Members were informed of the National Salary Award and to resolve as appropriate.

Members were informed that:

- The Town Council had adopted the National Agreement regarding wages and employment terms.
- The agreement is to be implemented from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2025.
- The Town Council included an amount equivalent to 3% for any such wage agreement in its budget and precept report for 2025/26.
- The pay agreement stated is 3.2%.

*The Town Clerk/RFO and Assistant Officer returned to the Council Chamber and were informed by that Council had agreed to the 3.2% pay increase backdated to the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2025 as detailed, with the Council's reserves accounts to facilitate the additional 0.2% if required.*

**Resolved** to note the information received and **Further Resolved** that the pay award be implemented as per the National Agreement.

### b) Precept, Income and Expenditure Report:

Members were invited to consider, and if appropriate approve the Precept, Income and Expenditure Report for:

- July 2025
- August 2025

Chair commented that the current monthly expenditure aligned with the recommended forecasted expenditure.

**Resolved** that the report be approved

### c) Periodic Financial Reports:

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

- General & Earmarked Reserves – 1<sup>st</sup> April 2025 – 31<sup>st</sup> July 2025

Comments and queries were invited – none received.

**Resolved** that the report be approved.

**13. Additional Information:**

- Cllr E Singleton:

Informed of an issue at Central Park, Cwmcelyn, whereby the remainder of a bench that had been removed by (it was assumed) Blaenau Gwent CBC, caused an injury to a child and to enquire if it could be removed as not to cause harm in the future.

**Resolved** to note information received and **Further Resolved** to contact Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council to make the request.

- Cllr A Fryer:

Informed that wildflowers that grow in an area near Cwmcelyn Pond and Ystruth Primary School. Cllr Fryer requested if the grass could be cut as the wildflowers there may not grow again next year.

**Resolved** to note information received and **Further Resolved** to contact Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council to make the request.

Meeting declared closed at 19:01 pm