

NANTYGLO & BLAINA TOWN COUNCIL CYNGOR TREF NANT-Y-GLO A BLAENAU

Mrs T Hughes Town Clerk/RFO

Council Offices, Blaina Institute, High Street, Blaina NP13 3BN
Swyddfa'r Cyngor, Sefydliad Blaenau, Y Stryd Fawr, Blaenau, NP13 3BN
Tel: 01495 292817 e-mail: clerk@nantygloandblainatc.co.uk

Minutes of the hybrid meeting of the Events Committee held at 6.45pm on Tuesday 23rd September 2025 at the Council Chamber, Blaina Institute, High Street, Blaina.

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

Present: Councillor D Hillman, acting Chair, presiding
Councillors L Higgins (R), D Wright (R), K Jones JP, C Hillman,
L Harris, A Fryer, M Evans, W Lewis, S Howlett & D Finch

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

Prior to the start of the meeting, the Town Clerk informed that Cllr L Higgins, Chair of the Events Committee was ill and was in attendance remotely. Cllr Higgins had informed that as she was ill, she would have difficulty in Chairing the meeting. Due to apologies given by the Vice Chair of Events, Cllr M Williams, it was **Proposed, Seconded and Resolved** that Councillor D Hillman chair the meeting of the Events Committee.

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

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 Councillors G Morvan, L King, M Williams & E Singleton
Resolved that the apologies be accepted.

2. Questions from the public:

To receive any questions from the public regarding matters on the agenda. There was a 10 minute allocation time for any questions from the public. **Resolved** to note that no questions were received and **Further Resolved** to note that no members of the public or press were 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) Summer Play Scheme sessions in Nantyglo and Blaina (for information and consideration):

Email response from Sharon Cargill (Blaenau Gwent CBC) informing of the numbers of the children who attended the Play Scheme supplied by Nantyglo and Blaina Town Council throughout the summer at Central Park, Cwmcelyn.

Members noted that the scheme had been well received.

Resolved to note the information received.

b) Free Cinema Tickets at Market Hall Cinema (for information and consideration)

Email response from the Duty Manager at Market Hall Cinema Brynmawr regarding the number of tickets redeemed during the summer screenings.

The Town Clerk informed of an update from Market Hall Cinema which informed that as of today (23rd September 2025), 250 tickets had been redeemed, but that the Cinema would extend the date unused tickets could be redeemed until 31st October 2025.

Members commented that the scheme had been very well received and that the take up was very good considering the hot and dry summer.

Resolved to note the information received.

c) Free Swimming Sessions at Abertillery Sports Centre (for information and consideration)

Email response from Kirsty Harrison at Aneurin Leisure Abertillery Sports Centre regarding the numbers of tickets redeemed for the Free Swimming Sessions sponsored by Nantyglo and Blaina Town Council during the summer.

The Town Clerk informed that approximately 120 tickets for each date had been distributed and that the cost of the two sessions was very good value.

Resolved to note the information received.

4. Update regarding Planters Delivered: (information & consideration):

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 had 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.

The Assistant Officer also informed that following an informal meeting with a Youth Worker from Blaenau Gwent Youth Service and consisted of the idea of setting up an event to bring young adults aged 16-25 who are interested in gardening together with members to help maintain planters.

Members agreed this was a great idea and to further look into how to facilitate this.

Resolved to note the information received and **Further Resolved** to purchase the larger planters whilst returning the existing planters and **Additionally Resolved** to continue looking into setting up an event in 2026 in conjunction with Blaenau Gwent Youth Services.

Councillors K Jones JP and L Higgins declared a professional interest in item 5 below due to being school governors for the schools concerned. **Resolved** to note the declaration of interest and **Further Resolved** to remain in the meeting for the discussion.

5. Selection Boxes for Christmas to local school children (*information & for consideration*):

Members were invited to consider the cost of selection packs this year for the 4 local schools or to make a financial donation to each school instead of the selection packs. Selection packs were currently £1.75 which would equate to a total approx. spend of £2100. This does not include selection packs for children taking part in the joint Christmas Carol Concert. The Town Clerk informed that Blaen y Cwm Primary School had already contacted the Town Clerk to inform that a financial donation would be preferable for their pupils.

Members debated the rise in cost of selection boxes which were now smaller than previous years and considered whether to donate money to schools for them to decide how best to use it to give the children a Christmas treat.

Resolved to note the information received and **Further Resolved** that members will contribute ideas in an ongoing process, **Additionally Resolved** that this item be on another agenda in the future for further consideration.

6. Christmas Carol Joint Schools Concert:

Town Clerk provided an update as to the Christmas Carol Concert with Ysgol Bro Helyg, Ystruth Primary School, Coed Y Garn Primary School, and Blaen Y Cwm Primary School.

The Town Clerk informed that three of the four primary schools had informed they would take part in the joint Carol Concert and that they had agreed to the date and time as 4.30pm on Tuesday 2nd December 2025 at Ystruth Primary School.

A Change in head teacher at one school has caused a delay in decision between schools. Ystruth Primary agreed to host the Carol Concert and this was agreed by Blaen y Cwm Primary and Cod y Garn Primary. Selection packs had traditionally given to school children to those performing and in attendance and Blaen y Cwm Primary would arrange for Santa to attend the concert as in previous years.

Resolved to note the information received and **Further Resolved** to purchase an appropriate number of selection packs for the children performing and those in attendance and **Additionally Resolved** to donate any leftover selection packs to Blaenau Gwent Foodbank.

7. Christmas Lights/Banners:

Members were invited consider the purchase of two 5ft x 3ft Christmas banners stating 'Merry Christmas from Nantyglo and Blaina Town Council'. Mr. R Dunham, Christmas lights contractor, had informed he was able to utilise two banners to make a Christmas lights feature for both Nantyglo and Blaina and that he would enquire with JP Print, Blaina as to the cost of such banners.

The Town Clerk informed that the cost of the banners would be approximately £45 each.

Message on banners to display 'Merry Christmas from Nantyglo and Blaina Town Council'. Whilst a price was given the Town Clerk mentioned they would strive to obtain two more quotes to find best value and comply with the Town Council's financial regulations. The locations of lights with banners was yet to be decided.

Resolved to note the information received and **Further Resolved** to purchase the two banners as detailed from JP Print, Blaina.

8. Mural Artwork in Nantyglo and Blaina:

Town Clerk provided information regarding a possible collaboration with Town Centre Manager Karen Williams on creating murals for Nantyglo and Blaina.

The Town Clerk informed that the Town Centre Manager was hoping to provide a large mural on the side of a suitable property within Blaina Town Centre at an approximate cost of £1000. The Town Centre Manager informed that she was not able to fund such a mural at Nantyglo as the funding was for town centres only, but this could be a collaborative project whereby the Town Council funded a similar mural at an appropriate location within Nantyglo.

Resolved to note the information received and **Further Resolved** to invite Town Manager Karen Williams as a guest speaker to talk more about the project.

Additional Items for consideration with permission of the Chair:

*Cllr L Harris declared a personal interest in item 9 below. **Resolved** to note the declaration of interest and **Further Resolved** that Cllr L Harris remain in the meeting for the discussion and to provide the required information.*

9. In Bloom Presentation Awards:

- To take place on Thursday 9th October 2025 at 10.30am at the Council Chamber. Deputy Lord Lieutenant Jack Hanbury to attend.
- Cllr L Harris proposed if a Town Mayor award and certificate could be presented to Mr David Seale (local resident) in recognition of his voluntary work re: in respect of public areas near to Cwmcelyn Pond. Members were informed that no additional costs would be incurred as such awards are already in the office.

Two Members informed that Thursdays were a difficult day to arrange things around.

Resolved to note the information received and **Further Resolved** to present David Seal with a Mayoral award.

*Cllr D Finch declared a professional interest in item 10 below. **Resolved** to note the declaration received and **Further Resolved** that Cllr D Finch remain in the meeting for the discussion.*

10. Memorial Brick in honour of David Watkins MBE:

- David Watkins' family informed that they (3) would be happy to attend the unveiling of the Memorial Brick at Blaina Community Sports Club on Thursday 23rd October 2025 at the lunchtime period. Blaina Community Sports Club had

informed that a buffet with tea/coffee could be provided for approximately 20 people at £7 per head.

A Councillor informed that a number of members of Blaina RFC and Blaina Community Sports Club had recently completed a 300 mile bike ride for charity with an even held at Blaina Sports Community Club and discussed whether an award could be given at the brick unveiling event to commemorate this achievement.

Resolved to note the information received and **Further Resolved** to pay for a light buffet at £7 a head for 20 people and **Additionally Resolved** to arrange for a Mayoral award to be given to associates of Blaina RFC and Blaina Community Sports Club that took part in the 300 mile bike ride for charity.

11. Task & Finish Group Meeting (requested by Cllr D Wright):

- A hybrid meeting of the Task & Finish Group (Events) as requested by Cllr D Wright had been arranged to take place at the Council Chamber at 10am on Thursday 2nd October 2025 to discuss Cllr Wright's proposals (agenda was provided to Members).

Resolved to note the information received.

Meeting declared closed at 19:28pm