

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, Council Chamber, Blaina Institute, High Street, Blaina at 6.14pm on Tuesday 14th October 2025.

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

Present: Councillor D Hillman, Chair of the Finance & General Purposes Committee, presiding
Councillors G Morvan, M Williams(remotely), C Hillman(remotely), L Higgins, L Harris,
L Emanuel, A Fryer, S Howlett, M Evans, W Lewis & E Singleton.

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. Members were reminded that all declarations must be recorded in the book provided. **Resolved** to note that Councillor G Morvan declared an interest in Item 3) f.

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 Councillors K Jones JP, L King, D Wright & D Finch. **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 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 Chairman's permission, any urgent information that may be received prior to the date of the meeting.

- a) Cancellation of Conference and AGM 1st October 2025 (for information)
Notification that the OVW Conference and AGM that was due to take place on 1st October.

Resolved to note the information received.

b) Welsh Government (for information):

Written Statement – Update on actions to support the role, governance & accountability of the Town & Community Council sector.

The Town Clerk / RFO informed that no further information had been received and that the Town Council was still waiting for the audit opinion from Audit Wales in respect of the audit for year end 31st March 2025.

Resolved to note the information received.

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

Responses received from BGCBC in respect of queries regarding the Charter of Common Agreement.

Resolved to note the information received.

d) Nick Smith MP (for consideration):

Letter and information regarding 'Everyone deserves a Christmas 2025'. Members were informed that a standard grant application and copy of the Town Council's grant policy had also been sent in response.

There was disappointment that the office of Nick Smith MP did not know the correct name of Nantyglo and Blaina Town Council, and using 'Nantyglo Community Council' instead.

Resolved to note the information received.

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

The Liaison Meeting between Town & Community Councils and Blaenau Gwent CBC would take place remotely on Tuesday 14th October 2025. Please note that a pre-meeting for Town & Community Council's representatives would take place remotely at 1:30pm.

Resolved to note the information received.

Additional correspondence received with permission of the Chair:

Resolved to note that Cllr G Morvan declared an interest in item 3f below and **Further Resolved** that Cllr G Morvan remain in the meeting.

f) Royal British Legion, Blaina Branch (for information):

Letter of thanks for the s.137 donation received in respect of the Remembrance Gates and Railings around the War Memorial at Central Park, Blaina. Copies of the letter and photos were provided to all Members for information.

Members were pleased how it looked and how the monument now looked 'finished'. It was mentioned that funds were raised by Nantyglo and Blaina Town Council with Travis Perkins and Tai Calon also contributing.

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 month of October 2025.

The Town Clerk informed that the item should read 'October 2025'.

Resolved that a s.137 donation of £200.00 be made to Blaenau Gwent Foodbank to assist residents of Nantyglo & Blaina for the month of October 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 may 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. Member Allowances 2025/26:

a) Optional payments:

In accordance with the Annual Remuneration report, Members must consider whether or not Council formally resolved to make optional payments to Members. Members were reminded that the Payment for extra costs for working from home & set payment for consumables were mandatory payments although individual members can decline all or part of the allowances (for information, Nantyglo & Blaina Town Council was classed as a group 3 council)

Optional payments to consider for the civic year 2025/26 were:

- Senior Member Allowances (currently 3, Chair of Planning & Highways, Chair of Finance & General Purposes & Chair of Events - £500 per year)
- Attendance Allowance (see attached information)
- Financial Loss payment (£126.74 for a full day & £63.37 for a half day – cannot be claimed if claiming attendance allowance).
- Travel & subsistence – currently 45p per mile for mileage occurred whilst attending authorised council business outside of the Blaenau Gwent area.

(please note that only the information in respect of Town & Community Councils had been included).

Two proposals were received. The first was to not pay the optional allowance to help save money for local residents and the second proposal was made to continue the optional payments and allow members to choose individually as they are not required to take all of the allowances.

Members voted in favour of the Town Council paying the optional allowances to those members who correctly claimed them (7 in favour, 4 against and 1 abstention).

Resolved that the Town Council pay the optional allowances to individual members who correctly claim the appropriate allowances.

7. Draft annual Remuneration report 2026-2027

Members were invited to consider the Draft annual remuneration report for 2026 -2027 for observations which could be made to the Democracy & Boundary Commission Cymru.

It was noted that Nantyglo and Blaina Town Council is a group 3 Council in relation to allowances.

Resolved to note the information received.

8. Salem Chapel:

Members were invited to consider the attached inspection reports:

- September 2025:

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 that the report be approved.

9. 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:

- September 2025:

Comments and queries were invited:

It was noted that income during July was due to internal items from Salem Chapel having sold at auction.

Resolved that the report be approved.

b) Periodic Financial Reports:

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

- Budget & Monitoring Report – 1st April 2025 to 30st September 2025:
Comments and queries were invited – none received.
Resolved that the report be approved.
- Bank Reconciliation – 1st July 2025 to 30th September 2025:
Comments and queries were invited – none received.
Resolved that the report be approved.

Meeting declared closed at 18:37pm