

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 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 Town Council held at 6:00 pm Tuesday 28th October 2025 at the Council Chamber, Blaina Institute, High Street, Blaina.

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

Present: Councillor G Morvan, Town Mayor, presiding
Councillors L Higgins; K Jones JP; D Hillman; C Hillman; D Wright; A Fryer;
M Evans; W Lewis; D Finch; S Howlett, M Williams (remote), Elaine Singleton
& L Emanuel

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

Prior to the start of the meeting, the Chair informed of the procedures to be taken in the event of an emergency. **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. Please note that all declarations of interest must be recorded in the book provided.

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 L Harris. **Further Resolved** that the apologies be accepted.

2. Town Mayor's Communications:

The Town Mayor's communications for October 2025.

The Town Mayor informed Council that on 13th September he attended the 100th Anniversary of Blaina RFC. The day consisted of welcoming home cyclists from a charity bike ride to fundraise for the Hospice of the Valleys, entertainment and a match between Blaina RFC and Brynmawr RFC. A very well attended event and the cyclists have almost doubled their target of £15,000.

On 14th September the Town Mayor attended a service in Brynmawr to celebrate and welcome Darren Foote during the last steps of his charity walk. The walk consisted of 400 miles from Mametz Wood in France to Ebbw Vale Rugby Club to raise money for Blesma. Darren laid a wreath at the War Memorial in Brynmawr on the last stop before his destination. The Town Council agreed it was an amazing achievement and that a letter of congratulations be sent to him.

On 3rd October the Town Mayor attended a Police Surgery in Blaina Library.
On 9th October the In Bloom awards were held at Nantyglo and Blaina Town Council Chambers. The Town Mayor lamented that only one winner had shown up and a member but thanked the Deputy Lord Lieutenant Doctor Jack Hanbury Tenison for attending and that all awards had been sent to the winners.

On 22nd October the Town Mayor attended a Police Surgery in Asda Nantyglo.
On the 23rd October they attended the Memorial Brick event in honour of Blaina born David Watkins MBE. The event was very well attended, and a Mayoral Award was also given to representatives of the Charity Bike Ride team to congratulate their 300 mile ride to raise money for Hospice of the Valleys.

Resolved to note the information received.

3. Questions from the Public:

To receive any questions from the public regarding matters on the agenda (please note this was limited to 10 minutes).

Resolved to note that no questions were received and **Further Resolved** to note that no members of the public or press were present.

4. Minutes of the Full Council held 23rd September 2025 (pages 51 – 57)

Members were invited to consider the above minutes and if appropriate to approve them as an accurate record of proceedings.

a) Matters arising, for information & clarification only:

Pg 54 Item 6 a) in response to a query Blaina Institute Trust Fund did not appear to be operating currently but more information will be sought.
Pg 54 Item 7 a) In response to a query regarding the new logo design, the Assistant Officer informed that this was ongoing.
Pg 56 Item 13. In response to a query about training for new members and induction, the Town Clerk informed that the training information was still being updated.

Resolved that the minutes be approved.

5. Minutes of the Events Committee held 23rd September 2025 (pages 58 – 62)

Members were invited to consider the above minutes and if appropriate to approve them as an accurate record of proceedings.

a) Matters arising, for information & clarification only:

Page 59 (item 4): In a response to a query, the Town Clerk informed that this project was ongoing.

Resolved that the minutes be approved.

6. Minutes of the Task & Finish Group Meeting (Events) held 2nd October 2025 (pages 63 – 64)

Members were invited to consider the above minutes and if appropriate to approve them as an accurate record of proceedings.

- a) Matters arising, for information & clarification only:

Resolved that the minutes be approved.

7. Minutes of the Meeting of the Planning and Highways Committee held 14th October 2025 (pages 65 - 66)

Members were invited to consider the above minutes and if appropriate to approve them as an accurate record of proceedings.

- a) Matters arising, for information & clarification only:

Resolved that the minutes be approved.

8. Minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held 14th October 2025 (pages 67 - 71)

Members were invited to consider the above minutes and if appropriate to approve them as an accurate record of proceedings.

- a) Matters arising, for information & clarification only:

Pg 68 item 3 e) Member thanked Abertillery and Llanhilleth Community Council for hosting the premeeting and Liaison meeting between the Town & Community Councils and Blaenau Gwent CBC.

Pg 68 item 3 f) in response to a query the Chair informed that the mount paid was 50% of the invoice total for the railings and gates around the War Memorial.

Pg 69 item 5. In response to a query Town Clerk mentioned the Grants Policy would be updated as usual in February 2026

Pg 70 item 6. In response to a members query it was stated that one member abstained from voting.

Resolved that the minutes be approved.

9. 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) Brynmawr Rotary – (for information/consideration):

Email requesting support for financial and volunteering for the Christmas Hampers 2025. Members may wish to consider any possible donation to be made via s. 137 of the Local Government act 1972 & Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. For information, the Town Council made a donation of £500.00 to this request in November 2024.

Members considered and discussed about the good work the Rotary Club did with the local

community, and it was **Proposed** and **Seconded** that the same amount of £500 be given as it was in 2024.

Resolved to note information received and **Further Resolved** to note that a £500 financial donation be given towards the Christmas Hamper scheme 2025 via the S.137 donations (Local Government Act 1972 & Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015).

b) Cllr L Winnett, Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council – (for information & consideration):

Members were invited to consider the attached email in respect of the area of land around the memorial garden adjacent to High Street in Blaina (between the Red Lion Inn and shops).

Chair informed members of issues and history of the piece of land. It was agreed that it could become a good project and that Men's Den had been approached about potential help with maintenance, citing a collaboration between Men's Shed and Nantyglo & Blaina Town Council. A number of issues were brought up:

- BGCBC to take on initial work
- Transfer of ownership, insurance and liabilities
- Consistent group of volunteers would be needed
- Checks as to the ownership of the land
- Concern as to liability regarding any accidents on the land and steps.

Resolved to support the idea in principle subject to further information, enquiries and costs.

Additional correspondence received with permission of the Chair:

c) J Hallett – Dale View, Nantyglo (for information & consideration):

Email complaint regarding the recycling collection in Dale View, Nantyglo. The Town Clerk informed that the complainant had been responded to and provided with information and that the complaint had been forwarded to the Blaenau Gwent Ward Councillors for Nantyglo and to Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council.

Members received the information and also spoke about the difficulties in communication with the Recycling team through the Blaenau Gwent CBC website.

Resolved to note the information received and **Further Resolved** to send a letter to the Executive Member in BGCBC in respect of the query and issue.

10. **Application to the Community Grant Fund:**

Members were invited to consider the listed application(s). Members were also reminded that applications would need to be considered in conjunction with the current policy.

None received to date.

Resolved accordingly.

11. Declaration of Vacancy – Blaina Ward (*for information only*):

Members were informed that there was now one vacancy for the Blaina Ward. The Declaration of Vacancy had been provided to the Monitoring Officer at Blaenau Gwent CBC and a co-option notice would be issued if and when the Monitoring Officer advises that no demand for election had been received.

Resolved to note the information received.

12. 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.

Salem Chapel:

The Town Clerk provided a verbal update in respect of Salem Chapel.

The Town Clerk informed that Mr R Dunham was still trying to contact Risca Chartists regarding the re-housing of the printing press that was still housed within Salem Chapel. There were a number of upcoming auctions (with Auction House Wales) between now and December (with more dates in 2026).

Members debated whether it was wise to sell Salem Chapel in an auction where two other chapels are also being sold although Members agreed that selling it as soon as possible was the best possible action.

Resolved to note the information received and **Further Resolved** to sell Salem Chapel at auction on 10/12/2025.

Meeting declared closed at 6:50pm