

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 6.00pm Tuesday 25th November 2025 at the Council Chamber, Blaina Institute, High Street, Blaina.

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

Present: Councillor K Jones JP, Deputy Town Mayor, presiding
Councillors L Higgins; D Hillman; C Hillman (remotely); L Harris; D Wright; M Evans;
W Lewis; M Williams (remotely); L Emanuel; E Singleton; D Finch & S Howlett

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. **Resolved** to note that no such declarations were received.

1. Apologies:

Members were invited to consider the apologies for absence received and to formally resolve to accept.

Resolved to note apologies were received from Councillors G Morvan, E Singleton and A Fryer. **Further Resolved** that the apologies be accepted.

2. Town Mayor's Communications:

The Town Mayor's communications for November 2025.

In the absence of the Town Mayor, the Town Clerk informed that the Town Mayor had attended the Remembrance Day Parade and Service at the War Memorial, Central Park, Blaina on Sunday 9th November 2025, whereby a wreath was laid as a mark of respect by the Town Council. Deputy Lord Lieutenant Mrs Susan Gwyer-Roberts and the High Sheriff of Gwent, Lieutenant Colonel Ralph Griffin were also in attendance.

It was commented that despite the inclement weather the attendance was excellent and that pupils from the local primary schools provided excellent readings at the service.

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

4. Minutes of the Full Council 28th October 2025 (pages 72 – 76)

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 73 Item 4a) In response to a query, the Town Clerk informed that there had not been any further update received.

Page 74 Item 8a – A Member challenged that the abstained vote be struck from the minutes regarding Members Allowances (meeting held on 14/10/2025) claiming it was inaccurate. During the discussion, the Member in question stated she was unsure if she had voted or not during that meeting stating she did not remember. The Town Clerk and Assistant Officer both informed that the vote, by way of a show of hands was taken twice for accuracy and that the Member in question did not vote either yes or no in respect of the Member Allowances. Despite the previous minutes (for this meeting held on 14/10/2025) having been approved and resolved as accurate, it was asked that the abstained vote be struck from the minutes as it was inaccurate. The Acting Chair sought views of Members in attendance as to this request and it was noted that another Member was unsure if a comment he had made caused the confusion. The Town Clerk informed that his comment did not form part of the issue or confusion. The Acting Chair then requested that Members vote whether or not to change the previously recorded and agreed minutes as inaccurate i.e. that the Member in question did not abstain but voted in favour of the Council resolving that Attendance Allowance for Members be paid by the Town Council.

Unanimously Resolved that the previously recorded, agreed and resolved minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting held on 14th October 2025 (Page 70, item 6) be 'struck as inaccurate' and that the Member in question did not abstain but voted in favour of the Council resolving that Attendance Allowance be paid by the Town Council.

Page 75 Item 9b) In response to a query, the Town Clerk informed that no further updates had been received.

Resolved that the minutes be approved and **Further Resolved** that the Abstained Vote be struck from the minutes of Pg 70, Item 6 of the Finance and General Purposes meeting 14th October 2025.

5. Minutes of the Events Committee held 28th October 2025 (pages 77 – 80)

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 79 Item 3d) It was confirmed that a 50% discount had been given by Blaina Community Sports Club for the hiring of the venue for the David Watkins MBE Brick Memorial unveiling event.

Resolved that the minutes be approved.

6. Minutes of the Personnel Committee Meeting held 10th November 2025 (pages 81-83)

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 81 Item 2) Members congratulated the Assistant Officer on the 6-month probation period, the AO thanked members and the Town Clerk in return. It was agreed that the AO be made permanent and that they learn how to process payments in case of emergency.

Pg 82 Item 3) Potential Code of Conduct Issues/Members Acting as Representatives of Nantyglo and Blaina Town Council.

Pg 82 & 83 Item 4) Officer Working Practices and Health and Safety Issues:

- Working from Home
- Lone Working
- Health and Safety Issues
- Other Item – Town Clerk Appraisal

Resolved that the minutes be approved and **Further Resolved** that the recommendations be **Ratified**.

7. Minutes of the Meeting of the Planning and Highways Committee held 11th November 2025 (pages 84 -87)

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 87 Item 6 – In response to a query, the Town Clerk informed that an update would be given at a future meeting when it had been received.

Resolved that the minutes be approved.

8. Minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held 11th November 2025 (pages 88 -91)

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.

9. Correspondence

Members were invited to consider the listed correspondence, plus with the Chair's permission, any urgent information that may be received prior to the date of the meeting.

a) Blaina Community Institute LTD – (for information/consideration):

Letter requesting an update in relation to the Nantyglo and Blaina Town Council sign being relocated from the south wall of the building.

Tow Clerk informed that R Dunham, Nantyglo and Blaina Town Council contractor had stated that the sign was too large to be mounted on the front of the building, and that the only other place would be on the north facing side of the building. R Dunham also stated that the Blaina Institute building was to be rendered in the near future which might cause a delay. Members debated whether a new sign would be required to sit on the front of the building. It was queried if the Town Mayor/Leader of the Town Council, Councillor G Morvan could meet with the committee of Blaina Institute LTD to discuss matters and costings for a new sign.

Resolved to note the information received and **Further Resolved** that the Town Council Leader/Town Mayor, Cllr G Morvan meet with the committee of Blaina Institute LTD to discuss the issue and **Further Resolved** that costings for a smaller sign to be located on the front of the building be investigated.

b) Free Councillor Training – (for information & consideration):

Members were invited to consider free training courses funded by the Welsh Government.

A Member stated their interest in attending the Finance and Governance Toolkit training Webinar.

Resolved to note the information received.

c) One Voice Wales Annual General Meeting 21/01/2026 (for information & consideration):

Members were invited to consider the following email from One Voice Wales and the Annual General Meeting to be held remotely on January 21st 2026.

It was agreed that Town Council leader G Morvan should represent Nantyglo and Blaina Town Council at the One Voice Wales Annual General Meeting and Councillor L Higgins be his substitute. A Member informed that they did not agree with the proposed 4% increase in the cost of membership to One Voice Wales.

Resolved to note the information received and **Further Resolved** that Cllr G Morvan attend the Annual general Meeting on behalf of Nantyglo & Blaina Town Council.

d) Notice of Vacancy update from A. Williams BGCBC (for information & consideration)

Email concerning an update on the Notice of Vacancy in the Blaina Ward of Nantyglo & Blaina Town Council from Audra Williams, Blaenau Gwent CBC.

Resolved to note the information received.

e) High Sheriff of Gwent (for information):

Letter of thanks in respect of the recent Remembrance Day Parade.

Members requested that the letter of thanks from the High Sheriff to the participating schools in addition to thanking each school for attending and giving readings in difficult weather conditions.

Resolved to note the information received and **Further Resolved** to forward the High Sheriffs letter of thanks and thank each school for their attending and performing at the Remembrance Sunday Service.

10. Application to the Community Grant Fund:

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

None received to date.

Resolved accordingly.

11. Members Updates:

Members were invited to inform and provide updates in respect of any recent activities and/or concerns.

Councillor D Hillman:

The Nantyglo and Blaina Town Council planters were now looking worse for wear during the winter months, and some assistance would be appreciated in preparing them for Spring.

Councillor D Finch:

Cllr Finch informed that International Men's Day event was held the 19th November and was a very good experience with great choir and fantastic speakers participating. The event had some incredibly positive vibes.

Cllr Finch also informed that the Men's Shed they help operate had been nominated for Shed of the Year along with two others in the UK. Over 1000 Men's Sheds operate in the UK and they were to discover the results in Westminster later that week and Cllr Finch would provide an update at a future meeting.

Councillor K Jones JP:

Cllr Jones informed the newer members that the only meetings in December would be the Planning and Highways and Finance and General Purposes meeting on 9th December 2025. Meetings would continue as usual on the second and fourth Tuesday of the month from January onwards.

Resolved to note the information received.

Meeting declared closed at 6:35 pm