

NANTYGLO & BLAINA TOWN COUNCIL

CYNGOR TREF NANT-Y-GLO A BLAENAU

Mrs V Williams Town Clerk/RFO

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Minutes of the hybrid Meeting of the Town Council held at 6:00pm Tuesday 30rd June 2026 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, Town Mayor, presiding
Councillors G Morvan(r); D Hillman; C Hillman; D Wright; A Fryer; M Williams(r); L Emanuel;
L Higgins; M Evans & S Howlett

In attendance: V Williams 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.

The Chair took time to explain the postponement of this meeting originally scheduled for the 23rd June 2026. Due to the death of a local resident, the meeting was postponed out of respect to the tragic circumstances and one minutes silence was held to pay tribute to her. Cllr Higgins stated they were disappointed that so few Councillors were able to attend St. Peters to speak with those affected and hoped they would be available for the last opening.

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 apologies received from

2. Town Mayor's Communications:

The Town Mayor gave an update regarding the month of June.

The Town Mayor stated that they had conducted an interview with BBC Wales News to pay tribute to the young girl who had passed away and gave condolences on behalf of Nantyglo and Blaina Town Council.

The Town Mayor also mentioned they had visited Blaina Library and was impressed with how community driven it is and the options that it provides to residents such as BGCBC contacts and advice for youth employment.

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 is limited to 10 minutes).

No questions from the public were received.

Resolved accordingly

4. Minutes of the Meeting of the Full Council held 28th April 2026 (pages 165 - 169):

Members are 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 167 Item 9b) – Members requested a letter of thanks be sent to Ms A Edwards and Tredegar Town Council for their assistance in helping with the Internal and External Audits.

Page 168 Item 12 – Standing Orders to be updated that mobile phones and recording devices should not be allowed in a meeting unless responsibly needed for the meeting by members.

Resolved that the minutes be approved

5. Minutes of the Events Committee held 28th April 2026 (pages 170 - 172):

Members are 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 170 – Present: Should read 'Vice Chair Presiding' not Chair presiding.

Resolved that the minutes be approved.

6. Minutes of the Planning & Highways Committee held 12th May 2026 (pages 173 – 175):

Members are 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 Finance & General Purposes Committee held 12th May 2026 (pages 176 – 180)

Members are 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 177 Item 3d) - Member enquired about contacting an electrician to add outlet at St Peters Church for Xmas lights. It was mentioned NBTC contractor R Dunham was to explain what was needed so that it could be costed appropriately.

Page 179 Item 7 – The Chair of Finance and General Purposes gave an update regarding the meeting held 25th June at Brynmawr Town Council. Member stated that all present were unified in and that losing so many Councillors would be a detriment to residents of all Town/Community Council areas. The member had received an email from the Town Clerk of Abertillery & Llanhilleth Community Council to say an error had been made due to decisions being made when it had been expressed there should not have been but the member was clear no decisions had been made, only to send a letter to the Leader of Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council. A meeting with the 5 Assembly Members would also potentially be desired.

A member also stated that other members of N&BTC should be more present at events throughout the area.

Resolved that the minutes be approved.

8. Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Nantyglo and Blaina Town Council held 26th May (pages 1 - 6):

Members are 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 5 Item 13 – should read ‘Deputy Leader of the Council for 2026/27’.

Resolved that the minutes be approved.

9. Minutes of the Task & Finish Group held 27th May 2026 (pages 7 – 8):

Members are 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:

Title should read 'Hybrid meeting of the Task and Finish Group'.

Page 8 Item 2. Members feel another Task and Finish group should be set up to start projects talked about during this meeting.

An update was enquired into the following:

Video: Member felt that the video was to be about youths in the local area and to highlight what they wanted, but others understood it was for the youths to contribute to its creation with an outside organisation and to highlight areas and groups in Nantyglo and Blaina.

Resolved that the minutes be approved.

10. Minutes of the Planning & Highways Committee held 9th June 2026 (pages 9 - 11):

Members are 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 11. Red Lion: Members queried if local residents had been consulted/notified.

Resolved that the minutes be approved.

11. Minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee held 9th June 2026 (pages 12 – 17)

Members are 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 14 Item 7. Members asked for clarity in regards to the recording of meetings. The Town Clerk and Assistant Officer stated that recordings will be available until the minutes have been resolved as being accurate and are subject to Freedom of Information.

Pg 15 Item 11a) Members queried the loan for Salem Chapel. The Town Clerk gave a figure which had been stated at a previous date and is likely to change depending on date. Members agreed to pay off the remaining loan for Salem Chapel.

Resolved that the minutes be approved and **Further Resolved** to pay off the remaining loan for Salem Chapel.

12. 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.

Additional correspondence received with permission from the chair:

a) Email from Alanna Russell, Business Support Officer, Environment & Regeneration - (copy attached – for information):

Response from BGCBC regarding the email from Amanda Lewis regarding the Cwm Farm development.

Resolved to note the information received

Additional correspondence received with permission of the chair:

b) Update regarding the meeting held at Brynmawr Town Council to discuss the Electorate Review – (copy attached – for information):

Councillor Hillman updated members. It had been a productive meeting, representation from each local council in Blaenau Gwent. All unanimous against the proposals of the Electorate Review and a letter had been sent to Blaenau Gwent CBC Leader to reflect this. Organising a meeting with the five members of the Sennedd for Blaenau Gwent was also discussed to highlight the local Council's concerns for the Electorate Review. An email was received from the Town Clerk of Abertillery & Llanhilleth Community Council over decisions being made as the meeting was to be 'informal' however Cllr Hillman stated that no decision had been made and was clear in the minutes sent from the Town Clerk of Brynmawr Town Council.

Resolved to note the information received.

13. 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.

Joanne Edwards, Ffrindiau'r Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Helyg (application form attached):

Resolved to give a grant £100 to Ffrindiau'r Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Helyg

14. Members Updates:

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

Members were disappointed that Blaenau Gwent Youth Service were unable to attend cleaning looking after planters and repotting them with fresh flowers as had been arranged but understood the situation with the organiser. Members who did attend were pleased with their progress and other members mentioned they looked lovely.

Resolved to note the information received.

15. Internal & External Audits for 2025/26

a) Report of the Internal Auditor for 2025/25 (copy attached):

Members are invited to consider the report submitted by Mr John Henry of JDH Business Services Ltd, Internal Auditor to the Town Council following the internal audit of Nantyglo & Blaina Town Council for the year end of March 31st 2026.

Actions resulting from the report;

- Use of Capital Receipts to repay the loan outstanding on Salem Chapel.
- VW highlighted the use of confidential items in meetings is limited, but not restricted to, 'Appointment, terms of service, conduct and dismissal of employees
Terms of tenders and negotiations for contracts to be entered into.
The early stages of any dispute and the preparation of cases in legal proceedings'
(SLCC -AN146 Council Meetings: Admission Of Public and Press)

VW also highlighted that the precept/budget should be included in future meetings where appropriate.

Resolved to note the information received.

b) Statutory Review of Internal Audit:

Members are invited to consider the report regarding the statutory review of the Internal Audit System of the Town Council. Members should also consider the overall performance of the Internal Auditor prior to 'signing off' the Annual Return (item 13c.v) below.

Members were happy with the audit company used and are happy to reappoint this internal auditor for the 2026-2027 financial year.

Resolved to note the information received.

c) Audit Wales (External Auditors) Annual Return for 2025/26 (copies attached):

Members are supplied with copies of other financial reports which are required by the external auditors for the purpose of the Annual Return and External Audit, to consider and if appropriate, to approve each report:

i. Cash Book Analysis.

Resolved to note the report be approved

ii. Balance Sheet as at March 2026.

Members expressed they would like confirmation what s.137 money was used for when issued.

Resolved to note the report be approved

iii. Bank Reconciliation as at 31st March 2026

Resolved to note

iv. Actual Against Budget Expenditure 2025/26

Members questioned why VAT expenditure included Christmas lights, selection boxes, planters and easter eggs.

Resolved to note the report be approved

v. Annual Return 2025/26 – Members are required to consider the Annual Return, and if appropriate, complete parts 1& 2 and approve the signature of the Town Mayor (Chair of the Council) on page 3.

Resolved to note the report be approved. Section 1 & 2 completed of the Annual Report and signed by the Mayor in the presence of council.

16. Annual Review of Policies of the Council 2025/26:

Members are invited to consider, and if agree, to approve the updated policies for 2025/26.

a) Standing Orders 2025/26 (copy attached):

Addition of mobile phone policy to item1, page 4

“The use of mobile phones is restricted; all mobile phones should be silenced for the duration of the meeting unless specifically agreed by the Chair and should only be used as required to participate in the meeting.”

Resolved to note to approve the Standing Orders and **Further Resolved** to add the above to Item 1, pg 4 regarding mobile phones

b) Financial Regulations 2025/26 (copy attached):

Amend the word ‘Planning’ to ‘Purposes’ (item 3.1, page 6)

Amend the word ‘Off’ to ‘On’ (item 5.2, page 8)

Addition of ‘When acting in a responsible manner’ (item 15.5, page 20)

Resolved to approve the Financial Regulations and **Further Resolved** to make the amends listed above and **Further Resolved** to add the third point to item 15.5 on page 20.

c) Risk management Policy 2025/26 (copy attached):

Remove reference to Salem Chapel in the ‘Fire’ section (page 5)

Resolved to approve the Risk Management Policy 2025/26 and **Further Resolved** to amend the above point. On page 5.

d) *Financial Grant Policy and application form 2025/26 please note, financial amounts to be decided at meeting (copy attached):*

Members decided to update grant amounts to £200, £150, £100 and £50. These amounts have also been added to the ‘To be Considered For’ section (page 4).

Members would like proof from applicants’ grants have been used for the reason they have been applied for.

It was requested a large reusable cheque is acquired so this can be presented to successful grant applicants, to provide a more personal connection to the community when issuing grant monies.

Resolved to note to approve the Financial Grants Policy 2025/26 and **Further Resolved** to update the grant amounts to £200, £150, £100 and £50.

Meeting declared closed at 19:49 pm