

# **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 Planning and Highways Committee held on**  
**Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> July 2026 at 17:30pm (start time)**  
**At the Council Chamber, Blaina Institute, High Street, Blaina.**

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

**Present:** Cllr G Morvan, Leader of the Council, presiding of the presentation  
Cllr K Jones JP, Chair of Planning & Highways Committee, presiding  
Councillors L Harris, C Hillman, M Williams (remote), L Emanuel, M Evans, A Fryer, D Hillman, S Howlett, and D Finch.

**In attendance:** Mrs V Williams, Town Clerk/RFO  
Mr K Rowland, Assistant Officer

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

**To receive: Blaenau Gwent CBC Councillors L Winnett and J Morgan and Alun Watkins of Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council to give a presentation on upgrading Blaina Skate Park.**

**Councillor G Morvan, Leader of the Town Council chaired the presentation.**

**Members were reminded to note the Standing Orders relating to guest speakers:**

1. Members received the presentation.
2. Questions were invited at the end of the presentation.
3. Members were requested to ask only one question each – if time allows AND with permission of the Chair, a second question may be asked.
4. Members were reminded that there was to be no discussion or exchange of points of view between Members and that all dialogue was to be directed through the Chair.

Mr Watkins began the presentation, stating that funding to refurbish the skatepark had been difficult to fund with a lack of capital. Currently looking to raise funds to obtain special contractors to upgrade the well used skatepark in Blaina. In other parks where refurbishment has happened and involved the children who frequent the park, a drop in antisocial behaviour was seen as the kids look after the area and any trouble makers were likely known by locals. Mr Watkins was hoping that Nantyglo and Blaina Town Council could contribute. If so, Mr Watkins was hoping to obtain match funding of around £20,000 to also help with the costs. Mr Watkins also mentioned 'The Deal' and how having community driven projects can invigorate and look after an area or project. A scheme was also mentioned 'Section 106 Community Infrastructure Levy where new houses built in a specific ward contribute £3000 so that new amenities can be built or maintained to accommodate the new housing.

Councillor Winnett stated that Tai Calon were match funding the contributions L Winnett and J Morgan had put in, £10,000 each so they were up to £40,000. Cllr Winnett also thank Members for cancelling the previous meeting in which they were to give this presentation out of respect for a young girl who had died that week. Cllr Morgan mentioned that with recent events doing something for the teenagers in the area would be a positive step. Cllr Winnett also mentioned that the more the public are consulted the better looked after the area will be.

Q. What is the time frame for the project?

A. As soon as money is obtained it will be started quickly.

Mr Watkins stated when ready to be started it can then go to BGCBC to put forward and commence. Play Wales has also been part of consultation. Teenagers felt left out as parks cater for younger children so important to address something for older children to use and be involved in.

Cllr Winnett commented that the Hold Up event held by BG Youth Services was planned to be held at the skatepark but due to the concerns on the safety conditions it was held elsewhere.

Cllr Williams mentioned that early designs that had been shown previously looked more like a pump track than a skatepark. Having no plans currently is a concern as N&BTC would need to know the money will be used well. He stated that people from their 20's up to people in their 40's also frequented Blaina Skatepark. Mountain Ash had a good skatepark that could be good inspiration for Blaina as it is a similar size.

Q. How much were they looking for N&BTC to contribute?

A. £20,000.

AW – Site was visited earlier that day, lower area could be developed and there was potential to go further up the banking but would make delays and consulting with Biodiversity. There is a good footprint to work with as it is. A Pump Track could be located around the Skatepark area too.

Q. Pump tracks could hold risks with younger and older kids, has this been looked into?

A. there is always some level of risk with a project like this but a lot of caution is used to mitigate as much risk as possible. Bendcrete create designs that work best for the area in terms of use and safety.

Q. Is there any money available from 'The Deal'?

A. No answer currently, usually have to have something in place. Sirhowy Valley getting much funding from The Deal but it was a Parliament decision. There may be some available for other areas of Blaenau Gwent. Two playgrounds have recently been refurbished in Blaina and Brynmawr, but physical help through volunteering not financially. 'Friends of' groups helped immensely, litter picking, painting your park schemes and offering staff. BG Youth Services had also contributed help with murals.

Q. Other grants are available, Health Board, High Sheriff etc, have these been applied for?

A. Wants to keep funding local, others can often take a lot of time to apply for and then receive. Mr Watkins will note these other organisations for potential avenues of funding.

AW – Friends of groups were used predominantly as they are able to apply for funding, and was encouraged in this practice by the previous government. They then can donate to a project.

Q. where was capitol for Ebbw Vale and Tredegar obtained?

A. Pride of Place funding.

Q. Have any other Town Councils previously contributed to similar projects of this level?

A. No collaborations previously, only through 'Friends of' groups.

Q. Response - Investing capitol into a site we do not own or control could have issues.

Councillor Fryer stated that there are constraints spending money on things we do not own.

Q. Is there time to explore a 'Friends of' group to help?

A. Because of time constraints there is not.

AW added – 31<sup>st</sup> March is the completion date, end of financial year. Internal capitol presents restrictions, need to get the ball rolling.

Q. Local residents could 'take ownership' to help their kids.

A. Asset transfers take time.

Q response – stated they meant more in an emotional ownership.

AW – Six Bells for example, used to be high in anti social behaviour but after more of the locals were involved it is well looked after and maintained by the volunteers there. Blaina Community Sports Club was provided as a great example of an asset transfer.

N&BTC members and the Town Clerk did state that money received from the sale of Salem Chapel cannot be used for projects that are not own by the Town Council and must be used on a physical item.

Cllr Morgan – Best way to spend money is on the kids.

AW – Would be happy to seek advice, and come back with an update to ensure a clear paper trail is available for Audit.

GM – Members wish to help, just have to work in the confines of the limitations held by the Audit especially in terms of a donation.

Councillor Morvan thanked Cllr's Winnett and Morgan and Alun Watkins for their presentation and that this project will be considered with caution to keep the Auditors happy.

### **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 of interest must be recorded in the book provided.

#### **1. Apologies for absence:**

Members were invited to consider the apologies for absence and to formally resolve to accept. Apologies received from Cllr D Wright. **Resolved** to accept the apologies.

#### **2. Questions from the public:**

To receive any questions from the public regarding matters on the agenda. There is a 10-minute allocation time for any questions from the public.

**Resolved** to note that no members of the public were in attendance.

#### **3. Correspondence:**

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

#### **4. Planning Applications:**

Members were invited to consider the applications listed below and, with the permission of the Chair, any further applications that may be received prior to the date of the meeting:

a) Plan Application No. P/2026/0129 60 Lancaster Street, Blaina, NP13 3EQ

Proposed two storey rear house extension.

Member lamented that many planning applications are in different formats and wondered if there was consultations with residents nearby as it could impact them.

**Resolved** to note no objections or representations were made.

**5. Licence Applications:**

Members were invited to note the application(s) **for information only**:

*Additional License application received with permission of the Chair:*

Alana Insley, 73 Lancaster Street, Blaina.

Temporary Street Trading consent on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> August 2026 – various commercial traders selling food.

Premises address: Llanhilleth RFC Pitch, Colliery Way, Llanhilleth, NP132RX

**Resolved** to note the information received.

Meeting declared closed at 18:23pm

Signed by Town Mayor \_\_\_\_\_ .