

NANTYGLO & BLAINA TOWN COUNCIL

CYNGOR TREF NANT-Y-GLO A BLAENAU

Mrs V Williams 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 5:30pm Tuesday 28th July 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; D Hillman; C Hillman; D Wright; A Fryer; M Williams(r); L Emanuel; L Higgins; M Evans, E Singleton, L Harris, D Wright & 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.

To receive: David Leech (DL), Deputy Chief Executive, Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council and David Arnold (DA) with an update on The Deal.

1. Members received the presentation.
2. Questions were to be 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 D Leech gave a recap on The Deal as provided at their last presentation, emphasizing to 'think differently' looking ahead and building relationships with community groups in our areas to pool resources together. Mr D Leech stated that he felt the working relationship between themselves and Nantyglo and Blaina Town Council 'was not there yet' and need to interact more to work together effectively.

Q&A

Q What are the benefits for Nantyglo and Blaina?

A. No benefits as of yet, but this is where we need to build our relationship, nominate a 'Champion' so that

we have more contact with each other.

Q. Is this a case of transferring responsibility?

A. Absolutely not. Looking to increase our capabilities by working with volunteers and community groups and doing things differently. We can achieve more with a bigger pool of volunteers and resources. If this isn't how its being perceived then we need to work better to get the message out there.

Q. The Charter between the Town/Community Councils and BGCBC doesn't seem to be working

A. We need to look into why it isn't and look into how we can fix it. Perhaps a more organised session to discuss this. We need to know what is going on with local Councils in case we need to be consulted and reported on and we haven't done that piece of work with you.

Q. We obviously need to find out what community groups are out there and who needs help. Are there other examples of what is being done elsewhere?

A. Can send some info but in Abertillery In Bloom is a good example. They can do the planters, we need you to stand out of the way so we can place planters where needed. Secondly, help us with infrastructure and thirdly was the DIY SOS day to help with the look of the town.

Q. Abertillery have been doing well, you mentioned In Bloom. We've tried to do things with hanging baskets but lamp posts aren't strong enough so we feel like we're coming up against a brick wall.

A. Could you make a list of these things for us to take a look at to see what we can help with.

Q. Lots of towns in Blaenau Gwent and Monmouth have banners on, we were denied even though the lamp posts are the same despite being told ours were not strong enough.

A. More reason to see this list and ask our teams 'Why not?'

Q. We even had schools design banners for us. Very frustrating.

A. This is why the Charter is important and why we're looking to do things differently. Previous meetings with other Town/Councils at the same meeting were not effective. Now that we have more direct contact with meetings like this we feel like we can focus on issues that are local.

Q. T&F group has been busy with a list and with new Councillors and a new Town Clerk that's probably why we're a little behind. Trying to do more with Youth Services with Play schemes so we are trying to grow things from previous years and move forward. The mechanism for interacting does seem to be missing.

A. We agree completely. We need to hold each other to account so having a point of contact we know who you can get advice from to be able to help facilitate these ideas and build the relationship. With the Youth and Play groups see if there are any local community groups that may wish to help with that. Imagine 50 volunteers helping a team of five staff how much more could be done?

Q. Worked with Town Centre Manager closely on helping with projects but feels like other towns seem to be getting more and better events, we feel like ours are less advertised and its frustrating for Town Council

A. The work Karen does is fantastic, it depends on Town Council for what we're trying to achieve in each location. Are you working with her to say 'we have a pool of resources to increase what you're doing'. In

Abertillery their event was big because a lot of volunteers helped to make it a bigger event but it falls on those volunteers. The community is wrapping around the work Karen is doing

Q. Her team is key, big event in the local park and there was a lot of space but we were not able to put a stall there.

A. I'd be disappointed if that happened again two years later. Has that happened with Blaina Food Festival?

Q. The mention of hanging baskets, We have spent a lot of money on placing planters in strategic areas to make them look lovely however sometimes the area around them doesn't look appealing, unsure who is responsible for cleaning and tidying the area like grass cutting and also plant watering.

A. What a great opportunity and perhaps this is a great way to first talk to our environment department, so lets talk about 2-3 of these and look at the land management in those areas. The community makes their effort to look after the planters and the CBC can make sure the land around is well maintained. Very important to pick that person as a point of contact between yourselves and us.

D Arnold discussed the Skate Park. Lot of routes to go down, finance colleagues may know more in terms of VAT implications.

D Leech asked how do we want that project to run? Broadly three ways. Give a grant Borough Council to maintain. Borough Council gives grant to Town Council. Asset transfer. We need to know which of those you want as they all have implications in regard to VAT, so what is your ideal outcome and how can we help facilitate.

Q. We don't feel like the trust is there as we're likely losing members due to the Electoral arrangements.

Q. Earlier meeting was to have an asset transfer then lease back to CBC, is there any legs ?

A. this is the most expensive way as its VAT-able because its commissioned and not a grant. Simpler way may be to make a contribution of the costs and not take on the ownership, or take on ownership and be responsible for its delivery.

Q. Skatepark has been difficult, had no plan or costing but they want £20,000. It didn't help when after a meeting in which Borough Councillors were in attendance of Town Council a Facebook post was made. It is important to know we are part of the planning and not just there to pay the bill.

A, Absolutely agree, need to make it achievable. Not having a plan does not make it feel like a partnership. Town Council needs to decide what they want from the project. Do the people want it, will it help anti social behaviour, provide exercise to different people? All beneficial, Borough Council also gets something out of it.

Q. We need to be more involved with Public Hubs, consensus on what residents are asking for.

A. Depends on area. Town Centres generally to make the area look better, activities for children and to counter OAP Loneliness. These seem to be the main concerns, and where can Town Council get involved? Need to get teams to work with you. The Food Festival would be a good opportunity to get public views, produce a public survey, we can even help you host that online.

David Arnold brought up the Electorate Review, saying that it was important to question it at every consultation period. They understood the frustrations but must have conversations with the Deputy Leader who has taken ownership. The Chair stated that The Deal is about more people helping but the Town Council would be losing a significant amount of members. All members were unanimous against the recommendations but it felt like nothing was getting through, all believed the figures given were incorrect.

David Leech stated he would contact Audra to check if the figures were correct, making sure questions were asked. Everything must go through the appropriate process with the elector ratio. They didn't feel there was an 'agenda'. Member stated they let like contacting the Senedd members for the area to consult with, and Mr Leech stated Town Council should do what they feel is right. The Boundary Commission is impartial.

The Chair thanked David Arnold and David Leech for coming and giving an update regarding The Deal and that they looked forward to working with them more in the future.

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 Cllr's D Finch and S Howlett.

2. Town Mayor's Communications:

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

The Town Mayor K Jones mentioned to members about the presentation with the two young men who had helped with a N&BTC planter in Blaina Square and commented on how well they had one and were setting an excellent standard for the future youths of Nantyglo and Blaina.

While strolling through town the Town Mayor happened upon an engineer who was working on CCTV cameras, who also showed him the feed from a device but did not know where the CCTV was being streamed to. The Town Mayor had also attended Armed Forces day in Tredegar and there had been a great turn out.

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 30th June 2026 (pages 16 – 23):

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:

Of note, a change to the resolution as advised by the Temporary RFO A Edwards to be Audit compliant on page 22, Item15) v.

Pg 21 Item 15. b) delete repetition of 'consider the overall'.

Pg 22 Item 15 c) iv – Change VAT on entry.

Resolved that the minutes be approved with the changes above.

5. Minutes of the Events Committee held 30th June 2026 (pages 24 - 25):

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:

Front Page – strike 'Town Mayor' from Chair.

Resolved that the minutes be approved.

6. Minutes of the Planning & Highways Committee held 14th July 2026 (pages 26 – 30):

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:

Member raised a concern over the use of initials when identifying members and guests and how titles and roles had been earned.

Resolved that the minutes be approved.

7. Minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee held 14th July 2026 (pages 31 – 34)

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:

When a Task and Finish group is arranged for other events also to arrange a Paint Your Park Day.

Resolved that the minutes be approved.

8. 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) Rafi Abbas re: Community Positivity (copy attached – for information/consideration):

Email from Rafi Abbas.

The Chair asked whether members wanted to discuss the letter as police have asked for any matters into the case to not discussed. The Funeral had been set for 6th August and many in the local area are still sensitive to the events. Another member stated that the Bahai' Faith are keen on community and perhaps should be approached with The Deal in mind.

Resolved to note the information received and **Further Resolved** to respond at a later date.

9. 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 prior to the meeting.

10. Members Updates:

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

Cllr D Hillman also attended the presentation for the young men who had tended to the planter in Blaina and how well mannered they were. They also attended St Peters and wrote a tribute to Lily on behalf of the Mayor. The member also attended a course on Finance and had obtained the slides from there citing them 'extremely useful and beneficial for other members'. They had also spoken to a local business owner who has 7 properties and they were very positive for them to be painted for an event/scheme in the future.

Resolved to note the information received.

11. Task & Finish Group Update:

Members were invited to discuss any business following a Task & Finish Group from the 24th July.

The Town Clerk is to arrange an officer from BGCBC to coming in on a Task and Finish Group meeting to discuss any legal issues and concerns to contributing to the cost of Blaina Skatepark.

Meeting declared closed at 18:51pm.

Signed by Town Mayor _____ .