

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 Finance and General Purposes Committee held on Tuesday 8th September 2026 at 18:20pm at the Council Chamber, Blaina Institute, High Street, Blaina.

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

Present: Cllr D Hillman, Chair of Finance & General Purposes Committee, presiding
Councillors L Harris, C Hillman, M Williams (remote), L Emanuel, M Evans, A Fryer, K Jones JP, S Howlett, E Singleton 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.

Declaration of Interest

Members were invited to declare matters of interest either at the beginning or at any time during the proceedings. Members are reminded that all declarations 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. No apologies were received before the start of the meeting. Apologies received from Cllr's G Morvan and L Higgins.

Resolved to note apologies accepted.

2. Questions from the Public:

To receive any questions from the public regarding matters itemised on the agenda (limited to 10 minutes total).

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

3. Correspondence:

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

a) Local Nature Partnership meeting (for information – copy attached):

Agenda for the next Local Nature Partnership meeting on the 23 September.

Update: To be held at Pontypool Museum at 10am.

Resolved to note information received.

b) Community Review via Audra Williams (for information – copy attached)

Regarding the Electorate Review, a meeting is to be held with Audra Williams and Tommy Smith, the Deputy Leader and Chair of the Task and Finish group on 9th September at 9:30am. The Town Clerk V Williams and a representative for Town Council will be attending.

The Chair, Cllr Hillman stated he would be attending the meeting with the Town Clerk, and was pleased that the other Town/Community Council's would all be in attendance at the same time as 'it won't only be me shouting'. Disappointment was mentioned that One Voice Wales had not been involved in the situation, especially with how much is paid to them for a yearly fee. Another member was surprised at how small Brynmawr Town Council's precept was.

It was proposed, seconded and supported for Cllr K Jones to contact One Voice Wales for support and to question them about the lack of communication on this matter when the yearly subscription is up.

Resolved to note information received and **Further Resolved** for Cllr K Jones to contact One Voice Wales to for support on the matter of the Electorate Review.

Additional correspondence received with permission of the Chair.

c) Market Hall Cinema Steelworks Documentary:

Members were made aware of an email from Market Hall Cinema, Brynmawr, regarding a Steel on Film Roadshow screening on 18th September at 6pm.

Resolved to note the information received.

d) Letter of Thanks from resident Sarah Jones:

A letter of thanks was received from S Jones in regard to the events held in the summer put on by Nantyglo and Blaina Town Council. Their daughter and friends had grown in confidence having events to go to and really enjoyed their time with friends at the events and Ms Jones looks forward to seeing more events and had even offered to volunteer helping at said events.

Members welcomed the warm letter.

Resolved to note the information received.

f) Email from Jane Phipps of Kids Cancer:

A letter of thanks from Jane Phipps of Kids Cancer Charity thanking Nantyglo and Blaina Town Council for their recent donation. In turn, this gives families in the area hope and something exciting to focus on.

Members were again pleased to receive a grateful letter of thanks.

Resolved to note the information received.

g) Email from L Winnett asking for an update on Blaina Skate Park:

Members were informed that Blaenau Gwent CBC Councillor L Winnett had emailed to find out if any progress had been made in supporting Blaina Skatepark.

Member proposed that we should be positive subject to plans and working with the officer.

Member brought up Survey results and that they didn't understand why so many 50-70 year olds supported upgrading the Skatepark compared to just one 16-24 yr old. One member mentioned that electronic surveys need to be created to be sent to local schools and another member stated that perhaps those older members were family of children who wanted the skatepark upgraded for their family.

The Town Clerk informed Town Council that a meeting is scheduled with Adele from BGCBC to conduct an online survey.

Member mentioned how three streets were chosen in Brynmawr and the public chose which one to improve. They mentioned the Town Centre Manager and that they liked them but didn't feel like Nantyglo and Blaina were getting the same support and that they need to give equal reign.

Member stated that BGCBC Councillor L Winnett was asking if we are exploring seriously, yes we are. But we need plans to commit. Make a point about a partnership and be positive as Town Council is happy to explore.

Member stated that some were looking for Town Council to use Salem Chapel money, even though the Borough Councillor's weren't putting all of their money in and would unlikely do so if asked. Another member felt like Town Council would go round in circles until designs are presented. Perhaps they should take initiative.

Another member questioned whether it was being used and if more things needed to be added to increase the age range use of the area, like crazy golf and exercise equipment was added to Bryn Bach Parc. Member responded that they pass the skatepark often and see if being used consistently. If Councillors Winnett and Morgan have done consultation it might be useful for that to have been presented to Town Council also. Town Council are positive in supporting but need more information, costings and consultations etc.

Resolved to note information received and **Further Resolved** to respond to Councillor Winnett of BGCBC that Nantyglo and Blaina Town Council are happy to support in principle for the £20,000 subject to plans and cost approval.

4. S.137 donations (Local Government Act 1972 & Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015:

As previously resolved, Members were invited to consider making further financial donations to Blaenau Gwent Foodbank to assist residents of Nantyglo and Blaina for the months of August and September 2026.

The Town Clerk queried whether Blaenau Gwent Food Bank would need to re-apply through the grants scheme, or if a yearly payment could be made. Member agreed that paying an annual lump sum might be preferable to paying monthly and saving time on the Agenda and that the mechanics of this was an issue.

It was stated that the previous Town Clerk had paid upwards of £200 on groceries and delivered it to the Food Bank but after the first two months it was deemed to not be part of their role.

Member queried that on a website it still says they are not operating, but then discovered they are known as Blaenau Gwent Community Aid and are active. Another member asked where the Food Bank is and if it is accessible for residents of Nantyglo and Blaina. The Food Bank is currently located in Brynmawr but there is one in Nantyglo. Member stated that it is known at least 12 children in the Coed Cae use the food bank there, and also mentioned D Wallbank of Brynmawr Rotary also ask for funding towards Christmas Hampers.

It was agreed to wait on any changes until a meeting with Wayne who runs the foodbank can be held.

A discussion was then held about whether Section 137 was suitable, the Town Clerk stating that if they were asked about the grants they would need to know with clarity to answer questions why one organisation may get more than others.

Resolved that a financial donation of £400.00n total be made to Blaenau Gwent Foodbank to assist Nantyglo & Blaina residents for the months of August (£200) and September (£200) 2026 and **Further Resolved** to re-assess the situation after a representative of Blaenau Food Bank can attend a meeting to offer more information **Further Resolved** to research if there are any other Food Banks in Nantyglo and Blaina.

5. Application to the Community Grant Fund:

Members were invited to consider the listed application(s), plus with the Chairman's permission any additional applications that may be received prior to the date of the meeting. Members were also reminded that applications will need to be considered in conjunction with the current policy.

a) The Cwtch, Blaina Community Centre (application form attached)

Members discussed that the full £279 could not be given but that £200 would be awarded and that another group based at the Cwtch could also make an application.

Resolved to award The Cwtch £200 towards the cost of the Defibrillator.

Additional Grant Application received with permission of the Chair:

b) Julie Williams of Hospice of the Valleys (application form presented):

As long as the Hospice of the Valleys had not applied for a grant in the previous 12 months, a £200 grant would be awarded.

Resolved to award Hospice of the Valleys £200 subject to a check that a previous application had not been submitted within 12 months.

6. Results from the Nantyglo and Blaina Community Survey (copies attached):

Statistics compiled from recent surveys completed by residents of Nantyglo and Blaina.

Resolved to note this would be referred to the meeting of the Events Committee.

7. Expenditure Report for August 2026 (*copies attached*):

Members were invited to consider, and if appropriate approve the Expenditure Report for August 2026.

Resolved that the report be approved.

8. First Quarter Budget Against Actual Expenditure Report (*copy attached*):

Members were invited to review the First Quarter Budget Against Actual Expenditure Report April – June.

The Town Clerk informed Town Council that Bank reconciliations were available to view at the meeting.

Resolved that the report be approved.

9. Annual Pay Award 2026/27 – Society of Local Council Clerks (*copy attached*):

Members were informed of the National Salary Award and resolved as appropriate.

- The Town Council has adopted the National Agreement regarding wages and employment terms.
- The pay agreement stated is 3.3%.
- The agreement is to be implemented from 1st April 2026.

Members queried the pay scale of both the Town Clerk/RFO and Assistant Officer.

Resolved to approve the National Salary Award.

Meeting declared closed at 19:26pm

Signed by Town Mayor _____ .