NANTYGLO & BLAINA TOWN COUNCIL
CYNGOR TREF NANT-Y-GLO A BLAENAU

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Minutes of the hybrid meeting of the Planning and Highways Committee held on Tuesday 13th October 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 K Jones JP, Chair of Planning & Highways Committee, presiding
Councillors G Morven, L Harris, C Hillman, M Williams (remote), L Emanual, A Fryer, D Hillman, S Howlett, E Singleton, D Finch, L Higgins.

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: Councillors Sonia Behr and Peter Baldwin, Blaenau Gwent CBC, gave a presentation on upgrading Coed Cae House and a request for financial support towards the project.

1. Members were to receive 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.

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.

Councillors Sonia Behr and Peter Baldwin also introduced Jo Reames of Tai Calon, and Billy and Ellie Eversfield who were volunteers at Coed Cae House.

The guests gave a history of the building of Coed Cae Community Centre, details of the annex refurbishment and how the main hall was being taken over by the Education department to help children who struggled school. They spoke of their current situation based in a house where they are only able to help so many people at one time and often turn several away due to a lack of room. Taking over the annex of the Coed Cae Community Centre would allow the volunteers to help so many more people can benefit from the food pantry. Refurbishment of the kitchen was also

important as volunteers can help teach residents to cook and put on classes, allowing residents to develop their skills and learn to cook fresh ingredients as a garden would also be worked on at the Community Centre.

Q. Where in the 25 year lease would you be?
A. We are about to sign the lease, so at the start. Current house would revert back to Tai Calon. Utilities free currently at the house but if not needed will be available for a family to move in.

Q. Each member for each ward has £28,000 to give for funding. BGCBC members all gave £8000 towards road maintenance, why not give more? Also there is £1900 for them to give also?
A. The £1900 is now only £1000. The other £10,000 is available for other organisations or groups to apply for, hence why we are looking for match funding.

Q. Would residents in other areas benefit?
A. Absolutely, those in Blaina would be welcome, with the sports hall being available from 3pm activities can be held especially indoor sports.

Q. Name of organization?
A. Coed Cae Community House was Friends of Coed Cae House, BGCBC own the building.
Q-response. Refurbing a Council owned building.

Q. Would there be a chance for savings in the quotes?
A. Quotes come from trusted Tai Calon contractors. Previous work speaks for itself and are known to be of good quality, however there could be some room potentially for savings.

Q. Would children pay a subscription to help with the every week costs of running the building?
A. We'd like to hold a youth club, but ideally we would prefer it if children did not pay. For hall costs there will be a fee, but keeping costs low for users is key.

Q. Would there be a position on the board for a Town Councillor to be part of?
A. Absolutely yes.

Q. Similar set up to the Cwtch in Blaina, but you have a kitchen which is very appealing.
A. J Reames – Was on the board with the Cwtch and know of their set up. This will not encroach on them and offer many different things so we are very keen not to take away from The Cwtch.

Q. How many volunteers do you currently have?
A. 8 Volunteers, but always looking for more.

Q. There is a flat on part of the building, any plans to use this?
A. Its located at the other end of the building to the annex, our main focus is the annex and the community garden. Perhaps in the future it could be utilized to help young adults and children learn life skills, but a distant project.

Q. Do you have officers in place?
A. Yes.

Q. What about ongoing costs and repairs?
A. We have a fund of £9000 for such expenditure, as well as public liability.

Q. Would a drip fed method of being given money be better?
A. Construction company is very reputable, all done up to Local Authority specifications. Many of the Flying Start hubs have been shut down due to lack of ventilation but we are taking that into account so Flying Start can be a funding stream to use our facilities. A positive comment about the community, when we first went in we expected a lot of damage and vandalism however it was in reasonably good condition considering the amount of time it was left. No damp and very little vandalism.

The Chair K Jones JP thanked the guests for their presentation and Nantyglo and Blaina Town Council would decide on the next course of action.

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 M Evans.

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 were 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.

a) Hospice of the Valleys 'An Evening With' Event: Invitation to Nantyglo & Blaina Town Councillors *(copy attached – for information/consideration):*

Resolved to note the information received.

a) **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/2026/0189 Blaina Community Sports Club Ltd, CENTRAL PARK CRICKET PAVILION Surgery Road, Blaina, Blaenau Gwent

Proposed retention of storage containers, patio extension including protective fence and retention of container at rear of stand used as physiotherapy room

Resolved to note no objections or representations were made.

b) Plan Application No. P/2026/0191 Land At Glyn Milwr Stones Houses, Blaina, Blaenau Gwent

Retrospective application to accommodate 5 pitches for family members, communal utility room with access & ecological enhancements

Members made the following observations

- No neighbour or community consultation.
- 5 pitches and a utility room.
- Previous application was refused due to highway access.
- No waste/sewage mentioned.
- Not sole owners of the land, wouldn't they need permission.
- Retrospective for what exists, is there 5 pitches already.
- Permission for named people to continue.
- Have been refused elsewhere, BGCBC cannot afford to remove them.

Resolved to make these observations and support Blaenau Gwent CBC on their decision.

5. Licence Applications:

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

None received.

Meeting declared closed at 18:34pm

Signed by Town Mayor _____ .