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

Mrs V Williams Town Clerk/RFO
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DRAFT MINUTES

Minutes of the hybrid Meeting of the Town Council held at 5:30pm Tuesday 27th October 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; A Fryer; M Williams; L Higgins; D Finch, L Emanual; D Wright & S Howlett(r)

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.

Standing Orders were suspended to start the meeting early due to guest running late.

To receive: R. Wayne Evans of Blaenau Gwent Foodbank to give a presentation on the Food Bank's assistance to local residents.

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.

Members received the presentation from Mr Evans and questions were welcomed.

Q. Do you work with the EVI or Brynmawr/Coed Cae Rotary club?
A. One member of the Brynmawr Rotary Club works with us so partially, have asked us about taking over Coed Cae House to provide better food to residents. EVI has different model, providing fresh food. We only

provide tinned and packet food that can be stored and has a long shelf life. We do share with others if we have surplus.

Q. What is your link to the Trussell Trust?
A. 20 years ago joined into a partnership, approx. 150 food banks in total, some are based in cities and towns and others are smaller. Trussell Trust is the governing body and provide a 'bible' for us to operate under with policies and to make sure regulations are adhered to.

Q. Currently we pay £200 per month, would it be plausible to pay a yearly payment of £2400 instead?
A. Indeed, we could ring fence it for residents and take from it during the year to make sure it goes where it needs.
Response. Town Council could change, perhaps would damage when the elections are held if full amount paid.
A. BGFB does struggle with internet use, app does help a lot and we try to update it regularly so people know what local residents need in the local area. Currently have 3 tonnes of baked beans, quite a lot of tinned fish and pasta also. Toiletries are expensive, always asked for toilet rolls, women's and men's toiletries, shower gels, toothcare etc.

Q. How much food comes from donations compared to bought?
A. 4-5 tonnes are donated out of approximately 18 tonnes in total.

Q. So under a third? Does this include supermarkets getting rid of fresh produce?
A. We have collections, 'Tin on the Wall' scheme. Don't collect fresh. Have been asked to help with Christmas Hampers.

Q. While on a bus trip I overheard someone from Clydach obtaining food from a Monmouth based food bank. Is that correct?
A. Residents with a voucher can obtain food from any food bank, they could be travelling and need access to food, just has to be Trussell Trust based.

Q. Going by financial background, unless I've read it wrong, it looks like you made a loss the last couple of years?
A. Not at a loss, our previous employee had their tenure ended and their loss of salary is why the numbers are different. They were paid approximately £20,000 for 30 hours a week so big difference on expenditure. We have had some generous donors giving between £500-600 but that only goes so far so we can't rely on donations alone. Over the last 18 years only asked Blaenau Gwent CBC once for help, during the Pandemic where we asked for a permanent and resident Citizens Advice Bureau person to be located at one of our locations at all times. Did have conversation with previous Town Clerk about bringing the amount of donations down if it was too much.

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 M Evans, L Harris and E Singleton.

2. Town Mayor's Communications:

The Town Mayor gave an update regarding the months of August and September.

The Town Mayor updated members of the In Bloom awards, in which one minutes silence was held for those lost in the Aberfan Disaster which marked its 60th anniversary on this day. It seemed that all those in attendance had enjoyed the awards ceremony goibng by the photos that had been shared on social media and it had been an excellent morning.

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 to10 minutes).

No questions from the public were received.

Resolved accordingly

4. Members are Invited to review the following minutes and approve as an accurate record of proceedings.

Members are reminded of the Standing Orders 10 b) - No discussion of the draft minutes of a preceding meeting shall take place except in relation to their accuracy. If members require an update regarding an item on previous minutes, please request this to be included in an agenda for a future meeting.

Members voted to suspend standing orders in regard to 10b to enact 5.xxii

a) Minutes of the Task and Finish Group held 22nd September 2026 *(pages 65 – 66)*

Resolved that the minutes be approved.

b) Minutes of the Meeting of the Full Council held 22nd September 2026 *(pages 67 - 71)*

Pg 67 – Apologies and attended: Update.

Resolved that the minutes be approved.

c) Minutes of the Events Committee held 22nd September *(pages 72 - 74):*

Resolved that the minutes be approved

d) Minutes of the Planning & Highways Committee held 13th October 2026 *(pages 75 - 79)*

Pg 75 – Should read Brian not Billy who was introduced by BGCBC Councillor S Behr,

Resolved that the minutes be approved

e) Minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee held 13th October 2026 *(pages 80 -84)*

Resolved that the minutes be approved

5. Correspondence

Members are 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) Response from Steph Hopkins – Planning BGCBC- *(copy attached – for information/consideration):*

Responses to observations and comments made by Nantyglo and Blaina Town Councillors in regard to planning application P/2026/0191.

Members updated that recycling waste was specified not sewage and also that if access to private land had been considered.

Resolved to accept the information and **Further Resolved** to respond with full support and enquire about the updated queries.

6. Members are invited to discuss the presentation given by R. Wayne Evans of Blaenau Gwent Foodbank and any actions they wish to take as a result.

Resolved to refer this item to the Task and Finish Group to take place 28th October 2026.

7. Committees to submit request for Budget 2027/28 by December.

To assist with the correct budgets being set for 2027/2028 members are invited to discuss planning of possible expenditure.
Any committee desiring to incur expenditure shall give the proper officer a written estimate of expenditure recommended for the coming year no later than December.

Members enquired whether the Internal Auditor would be available to give a presentation to Town Council.

Resolved to accept the information and **Further Resolved** to invite the Internal Auditor to a meeting to give a presentation.

Meeting declared closed at 19:05pm

Signed by Town Mayor _____ .