

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

Mrs T Hughes Town Clerk/RFO

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Minutes of the Full Council meeting held on Tuesday 24th September 2019.

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

Present: Councillor K Jones, Town Mayor, Chair of Council
Councillors D Hillman, C Hillman, K Jenkins, R Abbas, T McKnight,
G Morvan

In attendance: Mrs T Hughes, Town Clerk/RFO
Miss H Roberts, Assistant Officer

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. **Resolved** to note that Councillor G Morvan declared an interest in 11b. **Further Resolved** that Councillor G Morvan remain in the Chamber but abstain from taking part in the discussion.

1. Apologies:

Members were invited to consider the apologies for absence received and to formally resolve to accept.

Resolved to note that apologies were received from Councillors G Watkins and C Bridgeman.

Further Resolved to accept apologies.

2. Town Mayor's Communications:

The Town Mayor to inform of his activities during August and September 2019.

Councillor Jones informed members that the Red Ensign Day was a successful event.

Resolved to note the information received.

3. Minutes of the Events Committee Meeting held 23rd July 2019 (pages 35-38)

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:
Resolved that the minutes be approved.

4. Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held 23rd July 2019 (pages 39- 46)

Members were invited to consider the above minutes and if appropriate to approve them as an accurate record of proceedings.

- 62) Matters arising, for information & clarification only:

Councillor Jones thanked Councillor D Hillman for attending as Deputy Mayor to the Building Musical Bridges event.

A member queried item 7d on page 41 and was informed that the response from One Voice Wales was no decision had been taken.

Resolved that the minutes be approved.

5. Minutes of the Planning & Highways Committee Meeting held 9th September 2019 (pages 47-50)

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:

Page 47, 3ai): A member queried whether there had been a response and was informed that one had not been received.

Resolved that the minutes be approved.

6. Minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee Meeting held 9th September 2019 (pages 51-55)

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:

Resolved that the minutes be approved.

7. 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) Aneurin Bevan University Health Board

- i. Building a healthier Gwent.

Resolved to note the information received.

b) Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council

I E-mail response in respect of licensing query.

Resolved to note the information received.

ii. Hate Crime Awareness Week – Community Project Funding Application.

Resolved to note the information received.

c) Planning Aid Wales

I 40th Anniversary Reception.

Resolved to note the information received.

d) One Voice Wales

I Agendas in respect of One Voice Wales Conference and AGM – 5th October 2019

Members were informed that no response had been received. Members felt that this needed to be pursued.

Resolved to contact One Voice Wales in respect of this item.

Additional correspondence received with the permission of the Chairman:

e) Community Health Council

i. Notification of a meeting of the Full Council of Aneurin Bevan Community Health Council which was to take place on 2nd October 2019 at 5.30pm at Greenmeadow Golf Club.

Councillors D Hillman and C Hillman informed members that they would be in attendance.

Resolved to note the information received.

f) The Stute Speakers

Poster advertising 'A Life in the Family Business' to take place on Wednesday 25th September 2019 7-8pm at Blaina Institute.

Resolved to note the information received.

8. Application to the Community Grant Fund:

Members are 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 are also reminded that applications will need to be considered in conjunction with the current policy.

63) *None received to date.*

Resolved accordingly.

9. Council Meeting at Nantyglo Ward:

Members were invited to consider holding a forthcoming Meeting of the Town Council at an appropriate venue and date within the Nantyglo Ward.

Members welcomed this item and were reminded that the last meeting held at Nantyglo was April 2019. Members suggested that the meeting could be held at Wesley OAP Hall in October 2019.

Resolved that a meeting be held in Nantyglo at Wesley OAP Hall, October 2019 subject to availability.

10. Mayoral Appeal Cheque Presentation to Phoenix House Domestic Abuse Services:

Councillor G Morvan (Town Mayor for 2018/19) would present the total of his Mayoral Appeal (2018/19) to Phoenix House Domestic Abuse Services at the Town Council Chamber on Thursday 3rd October 2019 at 12 noon. A light buffet lunch would be available following the presentation. All Members were invited to attend.

Councillor Jenkins gave his apologies for this event.

Resolved to note the information received.

11. Renewal of Town Council Contracts:

In line with the Town Council's Financial Regulations, Members were invited to consider the renewal of contracts in respect of:

64) Photocopier Service:

A total of three quotations were sought:

- Konica Minolta – current provider (quotation attached)
- Digital Systems UK (quotation attached)
- AR Digital (declined to provide quotation)

Members were reminded that the Town Council currently had a contract with Konica Minolta. This had been the case since the Town Clerk first took up her post some years ago. Members were reminded of the quote and were informed that a 5-year lease was cheaper and that additionally a new machine would be provided. Consumables would also be included in this price. Members were informed that there had been no issues in the past and that they have been easy to deal with.

The Town Clerk informed members of the meeting with the representative from Digital Systems UK who commented that Konica Minolta's quote was below trade and as such would not be able to compete with this. Digital Systems UK would not be able to provide a new machine, but the lease would be slightly cheaper.

Resolved that the contract with Konica Minolta be renewed for five years for a three year period up to and including Christmas 2021.

b) Christmas Lights:

A total of three quotations were sought:

- Russell Dunham – current provider (quotation attached)
- Centregreat – (quotation attached)
- Roman Builders – (quotation attached)

Resolved to note that Councillor G Morvan declared an interest in 11b. **Further Resolved** that Councillor G Morvan remain in the Chamber but abstain from taking part in the discussion.

Members began discussing the quote provided by local contractor, Mr Russell Dunham. A member commented that St Anne's Church was not included on the quote. The Town Clerk informed members that this had been clarified via a phone conversation. Mr Dunham's quote included everything that had been done in previous years since he was the contractor for almost 20 years. Members were informed that Mr Dunham intended to retire in 2022 so this contract would only be available for 3 years.

The Town Clerk informed members that she tried to supply as much information as possible for other quotations.

Members discussed the quotation provided by Roman Builders which was notably significantly cheaper. Members were informed that it was possible that the quotation did not consider all the services that Mr Dunham currently provided. Members queried whether Roman Builders had served similar organisations as references. This information was unknown. Members were not confident in this quote as there had been no attempt from Roman Builders to make a physical inspection of the streets and area in question.

Members discussed Centregreat's quote and were informed that this company provided the Christmas lighting service to Abertillery and Llanhilleth Community Council. Members noted that the price quoted was significantly more and were additionally reminded that the quote given may not consider all works necessary.

Resolved that Mr R Dunham be given the contract for the Christmas lighting.

12. Planning Applications:

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.

- a) *None received to date.*

Resolved accordingly.

13. Licensing Applications:

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.

None received to date.

Resolved accordingly.

14. Members' Updates:

Members were invited to inform and provide updates of any recent activities and/or concerns:

a) Cllr R Abbas – Building Musical Bridges

Councillor Abbas gave members an overview of the successes of this year's Building Musical Bridges event which was held in Blaina Community Centre. Councillor Abbas informed members that this was the fourth year for this event to take place and that 32 artists, musicians and chanters took part in the celebration which was attended by 120 people. Councillor Abbas added that this was hosted by the smallest faith group in Blaenau Gwent.

Resolved to note the information received.

b) Cllrs K Jones; D Hillman and C Hillman – Quarterly Liaison Meeting with Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council (18/09/2019)

Councillors D Hillman and C Hillman were unable to attend this meeting.

The members reported back to the Council about the Charter between the local Town and Community Councils and Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council. Members were informed that although Nantyglo and Blaina Town Council were in a position to sign this document, Tredegar Town Council was not and so would have to wait until such time before signing the Charter.

Councillor D Hillman spoke about the recent programme on road maintenance and was disappointed that Nantyglo and Blaina was not mentioned. Councillor Hillman queried whether Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council employs a Highways Inspector or was it up to individuals to report potholes etc. It was confirmed that an Inspector was in place and that the Borough encourages its residents to report potholes and other complaints via the app. Councillor Hillman added that potholes were being sealed than repaired completely due to the temperature.

Councillor C Hillman informed members of the traffic/parking inspectors explaining that there were two employees covering both Blaenau Gwent and Caerphilly boroughs. It was noted that these inspectors work Monday to Friday between 08.00-16.00 and would work evenings if necessary. Councillor Hillman informed members that the administration for this was provided by Caerphilly Borough Council and that the target areas initially would be schools and town centres.

Councillor D Hillman informed members that in respect of planning issues, members were entitled to attend Planning Committee meetings but were not being invited. He informed members that there were standing items on the agenda for local Town Council planning issues. **Resolved** that the Town Clerk investigate this issue with the Planning Department at Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council.

Resolved to note the information received.

15. Confidential Information:

The following item(s) may contain information that is of a confidential or personal nature and is therefore exclusive to Members of the Town Council only (Public Bodies Admission to Meetings Act 1960).