



Summary (Decisions) of the Full Council meeting of Blaenavon Town Council held on **Wednesday the 25<sup>th</sup> of September 2024 at 6:30 pm** on a hybrid basis in the council chamber at **101 High Street Blaenavon** and remotely in accordance with the **Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021**

The full minutes of the meeting are subject to confirmation at the Full Council meeting to be held on **Wednesday the 23<sup>rd</sup> of October 2024**.

**In attendance:**

**Councillors:** Cllr. N. Matthews (In the Chair) L. Cowles, T. Porter, M. Wheeler, S. Templeton, S. Keen, L. Evans, A. Lewis, A. Beavan, J. Hunt,

Officers: Kevin Warren (Chief Officer), Kerry Jones (Assistant Chief Officer)

Visitors: None present.

Members of public: None present.

The Full Council meeting was opened at 6:30pm by Mayor Cllr Nathan Matthews who welcomed everyone and expressed thanks for attendance.

Cllr Matthews paid tribute to the late Graham Walby, former Councillor and Mayor of Blaenavon. Councillors Wheeler and Cowles attended the funeral on September 10, 2024, to represent the council.

**1. To receive any questions from the public.**

None received.

**2. To receive and accept apologies.**

The Chief Officer informed the chairperson that the following apologies had been received.

- Cllr Jones
- Cllr Parfitt

It was proposed by Cllr Hunt and seconded by Cllr Wheeler that the apologies be accepted.

All members in agreement.

**Resolved** - Apologies accepted.

### **3. Declarations of Interest**

- Cllr Hunt – Item 18 - Prejudicial
- Cllr Wheeler – Item 18 - Personal
- Cllr Cowles –Item 18 - Prejudicial
- Cllr Evans – Item 18 - Personal
- Cllr Beavan – Item 18 - Personal

### **6. Council Meetings: To confirm the minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on the 24<sup>th</sup> of July 2024.**

Minutes were read for accuracy with no amendments.

It was proposed by Cllr Wheeler and seconded by Cllr Templeton that the minutes be accepted.

All members in agreement.

**Resolved:** Minutes accepted.

### **8. To receive Cllr updates regarding recent attendance at outside bodies committee meetings, together with any relevant community / partnership engagement.**

Cllr Matthews informed members that he had received a message from Sharon Ford, Chair of Blaenavon Workmen’s Hall Board, regarding their previous meeting.

It was agreed that quarterly meetings between the Town Council and the Workmen’s Hall would be held to improve communication and working relationships.

It was proposed by Cllr Matthews that Cllr Wheeler also attend the meetings. This was seconded by Cllr Templeton.

All members in agreement.

**Resolved:** Quarterly meetings to be facilitated between Blaenavon Town Council and Blaenavon Workmen’s Hall Board.

### **10. To receive, discuss and make any relevant determinations relating to Blaenavon Town Council signing up to the recent Wales Statement of Solidarity and Togetherness. (Cllr Hunt)**

Cllr Hunt informed members that following the recent disturbance and civic unrest in Stockport there has been widespread acts of racism and Islamophobia.

A **Wales Statement of Solidarity and Togetherness** has been initiated by Climate Cymru, with several organisations across Wales endorsing it.



Cllr Hunt has encouraged organisations to support the initiative, with signatures being actively sought from Torfaen Voluntary Alliance, Torfaen Access Forum and the Museum Trust agreeing to sign the statement.

Cllr Hunt proposed that Blaenavon Town Council sign the statement, this was seconded by Cllr Matthews.

All members in agreement.

**Resolved:** Blaenavon Town Council to sign the Wales Statement of Solidarity and Togetherness.

**14. To discuss and make a determination regarding potential Town Council projects for allocation into the Project Action Plan 2024/25. Relevant updates or new projects as notified.**

None received.

**16. To receive, discuss and make a determination regarding donation requests.**

The Chief Officer forwarded two donation requests to members prior to the meeting for their perusal.

Members discussed the donation requests, namely:

- **Dawn West – Blaenavon Town Band – Competition trip.**

It was proposed by Cllr Beavan to support the request. This was seconded by Cllr Hunt.

All members in agreement.

**Resolved** – Application authorised.

- **Anne Cousins - Piping Hot – Purchase equipment.**

It was proposed by Cllr Cowles to support the request. This was seconded by Cllr Keen.

All members in agreement.

**Resolved** - Application authorised.

Cllr Matthews proposed to adhere to the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960. This was seconded by Cllr Hunt.

All members in agreement.

**Resolved** - Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 was adhered to.

**By virtue of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the press and the public be excluded from the remainder of the meeting on the basis that disclosure thereof would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.**

The recording of the meeting was confirmed as stopped at 19.38 hrs by the Chief Officer.

Cllr Matthews altered the running order of the agenda to allow Cllrs Hunt and Cowles to participate in the meeting before they needed to leave due to their declared prejudicial interest.

**19. To receive, discuss and make any relevant determinations relating to the Town Councillor nominations received for the Blaenavon Civic Awards 2024.**

**Blaenavon Town Council Special Awards**

All members were invited to submit nominations for the Blaenavon Town Council Special Awards for consideration.

Members discussed all the nominations received.

- **Awarded:** Blaenavon World Heritage Day Committee.

This was proposed by Cllr Hunt and seconded by Cllr Porter.

All members in agreement.

**Resolved:** Civic Award authorised for Blaenavon World Heritage Day Committee.

- **Awarded:** Terry Evans.

This was proposed by Cllr Hunt and seconded by Cllr Beavan.

All members in agreement.

**Resolved:** Civic Award authorised for Terry Evans.

- **Awarded:** Joy Merrifield.

This was proposed by Cllr Evans and seconded by Cllr Matthews.

All members in agreement.

**Resolved:** Civic Award authorised for Joy Merrifield.



- **Awarded:** Ashleigh Taylor.

This was proposed by Cllr Evans and seconded by Cllr Hunt.

All members in agreement.

**Resolved:** Civic Award authorised for Ashleigh Taylor.

**18. To receive, discuss and make any relevant determinations relating to the public nominations received for the Blaenavon Civic Awards 2024**

Members of the public were invited to submit nominations for Blaenavon Town Council Civic Awards for consideration.

Members discussed all the nominations received.

- **Awarded:** John Rodger

This was proposed by Cllr Cowles and seconded by Cllr Hunt.

All members in agreement.

**Resolved:** Civic Award authorised for John Rodger.

- **Awarded:** Circulate Recycling Furniture (first award).

This was proposed by Cllr Hunt and seconded by Cllr Wheeler.

All members in agreement.

**Resolved:** Civic Award authorised for Circulate Recycling Furniture.

- **Awarded:** Circulate Recycling Furniture (second award).

This was proposed by Cllr Hunt and seconded by Cllr Templeton.

All members in agreement.

**Resolved:** Civic Award authorised for Circulate Recycling Furniture.

- **Awarded:** Deni Harvey

This was proposed by Cllr Templeton and seconded by Cllr Keen.

All members in agreement.

**Resolved:** Civic Award authorised for Deni Harvey.

- **Awarded:** Blaenavon Table Tennis Club

This was proposed by Cllr Evans and seconded by Cllr Keen.

All members in agreement.

**Resolved:** Civic Award authorised for Blaenavon Table Tennis Club.

- **Awarded:** Darren Pearce.

This was proposed by Cllr Hunt and seconded by Cllr Keen.

All members in agreement.

**Resolved:** Civic Award authorised for Darren Pearce.

Cllrs Cowles and Hunt left the meeting at this point due to their declared prejudicial interest (20.00 hrs)

- **Awarded:** Volunteers of Blaenavon Community Museum & Volunteers of Blaenavon Workmen's Hall.

This was proposed by Cllr Matthews and seconded by Cllr Wheeler.

All members in agreement.

**Resolved:** Civic Award authorised for Volunteers of Blaenavon Community Museum & Volunteers of Blaenavon Workmen's Hall.

- **Awarded:** Blaenavon Heritage Railway.

This was proposed by Cllr Keen and seconded by Cllr Beavan.

All members in agreement.

**Resolved:** Civic Award authorised for Blaenavon Heritage Railway.

- **Awarded:** John Brown & the Priest family (Blaenavon Santa)

This was proposed by Cllr Evans and seconded by Cllr Beavan.

All members in agreement.

**Resolved:** Civic Award authorised for Blaenavon Santa.

- **Awarded:** Forgeside RFC Community Garden.

This was proposed by Cllr Evans and seconded by Cllr Matthews.

All members in agreement.

**Resolved:** Civic Award authorised for Forgeside RFC Community Garden.

- **Awarded:** Bethlehem Chapel

This was proposed by Cllr Lewis and seconded by Cllr Keen.



All members in agreement.

**Resolved:** Civic Award authorised for Bethlehem Chapel.

- **Awarded:** Torfaen Take a Stroll (Mr & Mrs Dowle and Mr & Mrs Phillips)

This was proposed by Cllr Keen and seconded by Cllr Wheeler.

All members in agreement.

**Resolved:** Civic Award authorised for Torfaen Take a Stroll (Mr & Mrs Dowle and Mr & Mrs Phillips)

- **Awarded:** Khyra Payne

This was proposed by Cllr Keen and seconded by Cllr Evans.

All members in agreement.

**Resolved:** Civic Award authorised for Khyra Payne.

- **Awarded:** Kate Balmond

This was proposed by Cllr Matthews and seconded by Cllr Templeton.

All members in agreement.

**Resolved:** Civic Award authorised for Kate Balmond.

- **Awarded:** Leanne Mason

This was proposed by Cllr Evans and seconded by Cllr Templeton.

All members in agreement.

**Resolved:** Civic Award authorised for Leanne Mason.

Recording resumed: 20.20 hours

Meeting ended: 20.21 hours