



Summary (Decisions) of the Full Council meeting of Blaenavon Town Council held on **Wednesday the 27th of November 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 22nd of January 2025**.

In attendance:

Councillors: Cllr. N. Matthews (In the Chair) L. Cowles, M. Wheeler, S. Templeton, S. Keen, I. Parfitt, A. Lewis, A. Beavan, J. Hunt (18.43 hrs), Porter (19.21 hrs).

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.

1. Motion of Condolence for former Councillor Alan Stephen Jones.

Blaenavon Town Council expresses deep sadness at the death of Cllr Alan Stephen Jones and offered sincere condolences to his family. They recognised Cllr Jones's enduring commitment to public service and his contribution to Blaenavon, serving as mayor on three occasions.

Members and officers relayed their condolences in respect of Cllr Alan Jones.

Motion of condolences was proposed by Cllr Matthews and seconded by Cllr Wheeler.

All members in agreement.

Resolved: Condolences approved.

2. To receive any questions from the public.

None received.

3. To receive and accept apologies.

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

- Cllr Evans
- Cllr Porter – will attend late (19.21 hrs)
- Cllr Hunt – will attend late (18.43 hrs)

It was proposed by Cllr Wheeler and seconded by Cllr Keen that the apologies be accepted.
All members in agreement.

Resolved - Apologies accepted.

4. Declarations of Interest

- Cllr Cowles – Items 14 & 18 – Personal.

7. Council Meetings: To confirm the minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on the 23rd of October 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.

13. To receive, discuss and make any relevant determinations relating to the survey responses regarding the TCBC Community Review.

It was explained to members that during a meeting with Cllr Yeowell (TCBC) Chair of the community review task & finish group held on 5th November 2024 at the Civic Centre, Blaenavon Town Council's concerns were raised. Minutes from all task and finish group meetings since 2023 were requested, and these have now been received and shared with all members.

Members discussed the meeting and as a result believed that the community review terms of reference were not followed. The responses submitted by the Town Council in February / March 2024 were neither acknowledged nor addressed.

The lack of recognition or rebuttals has serious implications, particularly with the potential reduction in Cllr numbers, which would increase workloads. There has been no recognition of this issue, which contrasts with the Welsh Government's stance.

Furthermore, there is no set maximum number for Cllrs who are elected to Town and Community Councils. Blaenavon Town Council's achievements, which surpass those of other councils in Torfaen, have also not been acknowledged, raising significant concerns.

Members discussed addressing the deficit issue, including the possibility of involving the Local Government Ombudsman, which the Chief Officer will investigate.

Cllr Matthews proposed that the working group draft a response to be reviewed at the January finance meeting, ahead of the Torfaen Full Council meeting in February 2025. This was seconded by Cllr Wheeler.

All members in agreement.

Resolved: Community Review Working Group to draft a response for the January 2025 Finance meeting.

14. To appoint a Councillor representative to the Blaenavon World Heritage Site Caring for the Blaenavon Industrial Landscape Group.

The Chief Officer explained to members that Cllr Jones was the appointed representative to the Blaenavon World Heritage Site Caring for the Blaenavon Industrial Landscape Group.

However, due to Cllr Jones passing, a new member will need to be appointed.

Cllr Hunt expressed an interest in becoming the representative for the Town Council.

It was proposed by Cllr Matthews and seconded by Cllr Beavan that Cllr Hunt be the Town Council representative.

All members in agreement.

Resolved: Cllrs Hunt to be the appointed representative to the Blaenavon World Heritage Site Caring for the Blaenavon Industrial Landscape Group.

16. To receive, discuss and make a determination regarding grant application requests.

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

Members discussed the donation requests, namely:

- **Hannah Mitchell - Wales Air Ambulance.**

It was proposed by Cllr Beavan to support the request with a £250 donation. This was seconded by Cllr Hunt.

All members in agreement.

Resolved – Application authorised.

- **John Cunningham - Torfaen Community Transport.**

A discussion took place amongst members regarding the availability and frequency of Torfaen Community Transport within Blaenavon.

It was proposed by Cllr Hunt to support the request with a £250 donation. This was seconded by Cllr Wheeler.

The donation was rejected, with two votes in favour and seven against.

Resolved – Application not supported.

- **Louise Jones – Williams - Llantarnam Grange.**

It was proposed by Cllr Cowles to support the request with a £250 donation. This was seconded by Cllr Beavan.

All members in agreement.

Resolved - Application authorised.

17. To receive, discuss and make any relevant determinations concerning items relating to correspondence.

None received.

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 was confirmed as stopped by the Chief Officer at 19.21 hours.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

18. To receive, discuss and make a determination regarding an update from the appointed working group relating to the Assistant Chief Officer role and salary review November 2024

[REDACTED]

Meeting ended at 20:16 hrs

