



BLAENAVON TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 23rd of OCTOBER 2024 AT 6.30 PM.

Pursuant to the requirements of Section 47 of the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021, the meeting was held on a hybrid basis in the Council Chamber at 101, High Street Blaenavon and remotely.

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.

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

Visitors: Andy Parfitt-Jones & Mark Parfitt-Jones – Little Oakes Retreat

Members of public: None present.

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

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 Evans.

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

All members in agreement.

Resolved: Apologies accepted.

3. Declarations of Interest

- Cllr Hunt – Items 19 & 23 - Personal
- Cllr Parfitt – Item 18 – Personal

4. To receive a presentation from Mr Andy Parfitt - Jones regarding a proposed wellbeing initiative in Blaenavon.

Members received a presentation by Andy and Mark Parfitt-Jones regarding their proposed wellbeing business called The Retreat. The project, which is subject to obtaining the necessary planning permissions, will be based at their home, Little Oaks, situated at Llanover Road.

The planned facility aims to offer eco-friendly, sustainable accommodation along with features such as a pool, sauna, workshops, together with health and wellbeing sessions and therapists. Andy and Mark emphasised their commitment to sustainability and eco-conscious practices in the development.

They are working with Business Wales and are currently in discussions with Torfaen County Borough Council (TCBC), who have arranged a site visit. During the presentation, members viewed a short video outlining the project's vision.

Members raised questions about various aspects of the project, including accessibility for all, anticipated opening dates, and the sustainability measures being implemented.

Cllr Hunt shared insights on deforestation, which he will forward to Andy and Mark for consideration. The pair also expressed their support for collaborating with local providers, suppliers, and businesses to ensure the project benefits the wider community.

Members were invited to visit Little Oaks, either individually or as part of a group, and were encouraged to contact Andy and Mark directly to arrange visits.

Members thanked both Andy and Mark for their informative presentation.

Resolved: Members noted the update.

5. To receive a TCBC update from Ward Councillors.

Cllr Cowles provided members with the following update:

Education Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 10th October 2024

Capital Maintenance Programme:

- Increased funding allocated for school maintenance over the next five years, supported by Welsh Government grants.
- Regular updates and progress monitored via the Council's Project Management Office.

- Voluntary Aided schools access separate funding through Dioceses.

Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme:

- Focus on school buildings' condition, suitability, and sufficiency, with annual inspections and risk assessments conducted.
- Maintenance priorities determined through a risk-based scoring system.
- Maintenance plans shared with schools and accessible via the RAMIS compliance system.

Full Council Meeting – 22nd October 2024:

Governance and Audit Committee Annual Report:

- Confirmed sound governance, internal control, and risk management systems.

Torfaen Local Development Plan Annual Monitoring Report 2024:

- Statutory annual submission to Welsh Government reviewed.

2023-24 Annual Self-Assessment and Well-Being Report:

- Reviewed Council performance, aligned with Well-being and Future Generations Act 2015 and Local Government and Elections Act 2021.
- Highlights future priorities and organisational changes.

Approval of the Council's Statement of Gambling Principles:

- Revised principles approved following consultation, retaining the case-by-case approach for casino applications.

Family Absence Policy for Elected Members:

- Clarified entitlements for maternity, new-born, adoption, and parental absences.

Petition Scheme Changes:

- Petitions require 100 signatures but may be accepted with fewer if strong local support is evident.

Ken Jones Unveiling Ceremony:

- Cllr Cowles attended at the World Heritage Centre alongside Terry Cobner, John Perkins, and MP Nick Thomas-Symonds.

There were no questions.

Apologies from Ward Cllrs Horler and Jones were shown to members via the projector screen.

Resolved: Members noted the update.

6. Mayor's Announcements: To receive the mayor's announcements.

The mayor provided members with a summary of events and functions attended during the last month.

- 1 October 2024 – Along with the Chief Officer, Cllrs Wheeler and Cowles, attended a meeting with Stephen Vickers, CEO of TCBC and David Leech, Strategic Director: Adult and Communities, to discuss the draft Community Council Charter and how stronger collaboration between the two tiers of local government can be achieved.
- 5 October 2024 – Attended, via video conferencing, the APPI-TICCIH Heritage and Mining Cultural Landscape International Conference at Huelva, Spain, and delivered a presentation on the Blaenavon Industrial Landscape and how World Heritage Site status and changing perceptions of industrial heritage in Blaenavon and can be applied to socio-economic regeneration.
- 6 October 2024 – Along with other local representatives, attended the memorial dedication service at Woodland Road, Croesyceiliog, at the invitation of Croesyceiliog & Llanyrafon Community Council.
- 11 October 2024 – presided over the Blaenavon Civic Awards at the Blaenavon Workmen's Hall and had the pleasure to present 20 awards to individuals and groups that make a positive impact in our community.
- 15 October 2024 – deputised for Cllr Evans and attended the Blaenavon World Heritage Site Steering Group Meeting.
- 15 October 2024 – Along with the Chief Officer, attended the One Voice Wales Gwent Valleys Area Committee meeting.
- 16 October 2024 – Along with Cllrs Keen, Wheeler, Hunt and Templeton, as well as the officers, attended the One Voice Wales National Conference in Builth Wells.
- 19 October 2024 – attended the Blaenavon Camera Club Open Day at King Street Baptist Chapel.

Resolved: Members noted the update.

7. Council Meetings: To confirm the minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on the 25th of September 2024.

Minutes were read for accuracy with no amendments.

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

All members in agreement.

Resolved: Minutes accepted.

8. Chief Officer's Update: To receive the Chief Officer's update.

The Chief Officer (CO) provided members with the following update:

Item 16 within the minutes as per the instructions from members. On the 26/9/24 transacted the £250 grants to Blaenavon Town Band and Piping Hot Cwmbran. Confirmation has been received from both organisations thanking the Town Council for their generous support.

Since the last Full Council meeting, and as per the determination made by members at the July 2024 Full Council meeting, a formal complaint has been submitted to Torfaen County Borough Council regarding Blaenavon Workmen's Hall Ltd in relation to their refusal to host a community charity concert in partnership with Shining Stars Music Academy. Members will be updated when a response is received.

On the 1/10/24 attended an online seminar organised by One Voice Wales to discuss the consultation relating the Senedd inquiry regarding the role governance and accountability of the Town and Community Council Sector.

Also, on the 1/10/24, together with the mayor and deputy mayor held a meeting within the council chambers with Stephen Vickers CEO TCBC and Dave Leech TCBC regarding concerns with the content of the draft Torfaen Charter and other matters.

This was a positive meeting with an agreed understanding of what the Town Council are delivering within Blaenavon aligned to the charter.

On the 2/10/24 held a teams meeting with Kate Williams TCBC regarding a request for funding for a CCTV camera to be installed at Bethlehem Court. Ward members Horler and Jones had been involved in the discussions. It was explained that it would be beneficial if the ward members attend a Town Council meeting to discuss potential proposals to assist members in making a determination aligned to cost. There has been no response to date.

On the 8/10/24 attended a Local Council partnership follow up meeting at the Civic centre with Dave Leech TCBC and other Clerks from across Torfaen to discuss the draft charter. The Town Council's position was relayed relating to the content of the charter which will be re drafted with identified changes. Once the new version has been received, it will be an agenda item for members to further consider.

On the 11/10/24 attend the Civic Event held at Blaenavon Workmen's Hall which was an excellent evening and well attended.

On the 15/10/24 together with the mayor, attended the One Voice Wales Gwent Valleys area committee meeting. Again, this was poorly attended, and feedback has been provided to OVW regarding the value of this platform moving forward.

On the 16/10/24 together with the mayor, deputy mayor, Cllrs Keen, Hunt, Templeton and the Assistant Chief Officer attended the One Voice Wales conference at Builth Wells. Blaenavon was selected and invited with three other Councils to showcase our services being delivered. There was considerable interest in the work of the Council.

Members who attended the conference celebrating the 20th anniversary of One Voice Wales and 50 years of Town and Community Councils commended the event and was an excellent day. Accessibility issues were raised, and Cllr Hunt will email his concerns to the Chief Officer, who will forward them to the organisers at One Voice Wales.

On the 18/10/24 the Chief Officer completed the consultation on behalf of the Town Council for the Senedd inquiry and has been notified that this has been received. Also received was OVW's response to the consultation and this has been forwarded to members for their perusal with a view to utilising this at the next Town Council strategy day early in the new year.

On the 23/10/24 the Chief Officer held a meeting with Claire Dullea area manager for communities at Bronafon Housing. Partnership working opportunities was discussed aligned to place based services and how both organisations can identify focused service delivery against relevant community needs.

Also, since the last meeting, the Chief Officer has held weekly briefing sessions with the mayor and deputy mayor discussing Council operational and financial matters and also operational meetings with his fellow officers relating to future planning and current projects.

Resolved: Members noted the update.

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

Cllr Matthews provided the following updates:

World Heritage Site Steering Group meeting.

The Steering Group discussed interim arrangements for managing the Blaenavon World Heritage Site Partnership during the Co-ordinator's long-term absence, with Ashleigh Taylor temporarily chairing.

A deputy co-ordinator role was discussed, as was the current state of resourcing towards the World Heritage Site from within the partner organisations.

Plans for the site's 25th anniversary celebrations in 2025 were updated. A lantern parade will replace a postponed fundraising ball, and a "World Heritage 25" event series will include a

three-day World Heritage Weekend (27–29 June) and a celebration in November or December 2025. Funding and potential Town Council involvement were discussed.

Events related to the World Heritage Site's Outstanding Universal Value are eligible for inclusion in the anniversary celebrations. The Blaenavon World Heritage Day Committee is seeking funding to support these events, it had been suggested that the Town Council support or deliver events as part of the celebrations. This would, of course, be subject to budgeting, a project proposal, and approval by members.

The final evaluation of the Blaenavon Townscape Heritage Programme, prepared by Chris Jones Regeneration, is nearing publication and will be shared with stakeholders soon. All community engagement activities under the scheme are complete, and work on the Market Tavern is expected to finish by the end of the year.

RWE has submitted a planning application for the Abertillery Wind Farm to Planning and Environment Decisions Wales (PEDW). The project proposes up to six turbines, each up to 200m tall, between Abertillery and Abersychan, visible from the Blaenavon World Heritage Site.

PEDW will review and validate the application, a process expected to take six months. Once validated, planning documents will be published online, followed by a five-week consultation period for statutory consultees and public input. The final decision will be made by Welsh Ministers based on PEDW's recommendation.

A discussion covered updates on the Blaenavon World Heritage Site Working Groups. The Learning and Community Engagement group, chaired by Ashleigh Taylor, is temporarily meeting jointly with the Blaenavon World Heritage Day Committee. The caring for the Blaenavon Industrial Landscape group, which looks at the historic and natural environment, recently held its first meeting under a new chairman.

For the next Steering Group meeting, Cllr Matthews requested an agenda item to address the condition of the former Beeches Nursing Home (Ty Mawr/Blaenavon House). It was also agreed that future meetings would be conducted on a hybrid basis to boost partner participation.

Cllr Hunt raised concerns about the group's name, noting that it does not include the word "environment," which he felt was significant. Cllr Matthews clarified that the group is called *Caring for the Blaenavon Industrial Landscape*.

Cllr Hunt also asked who the representative from Blaenavon Town Council is and whether an invitation had been received. The Chief Officer confirmed that no invitation had been received. Cllr Matthews stated he would follow up with Tim Monkton to address the issue.

One Voice Wales Gwent Valleys Area Committee meeting.

At the One Voice Wales Gwent Valleys Area Committee meeting, Chief Superintendent Dr Carl Williams presented an update on Gwent Police's structure and crime trends in the Torfaen area.

Discussions also covered the Senedd Inquiry into the role, governance, and accountability of the community and town council sector.

One Voice Wales National Conference.

The One Voice Wales National Conference celebrated 50 years of Town and Community Councils in Wales and 20 years of One Voice Wales. Blaenavon Town Council was among four councils chosen to showcase initiatives and good practices through an exhibition.

Speakers included Jane Bryant MS, Adrian Crompton (Auditor General for Wales), and Michelle Morris (Public Services Ombudsman for Wales), with presentations on the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act and addresses by representatives from One Voice Wales and the Welsh Local Government Association.

Cllr Hunt actively participated, raising pertinent questions throughout the event.

Key themes included good corporate and financial governance, professionalism, and the role of town and community councils as the first tier of local government. The Working Group on the Democratic Health of Town and Community Councils is expected to release its report in the autumn.

Resolved: Members noted the update.

Cllr Wheeler provided the following update:

World Heritage Day Committee Meeting

The meeting, held at Big Pit, was poorly attended, with only five out of 27 members present. During the meeting, Cllr Wheeler made it clear that Blaenavon Town Council has not yet agreed on a donation amount and requested that Ashleigh Taylor attend a future Council meeting to discuss the matter.

A follow-up meeting is scheduled for October 2024 which Cllr Wheeler will attend. He has also sent the meeting minutes to all Cllrs.

Additionally, Cllr Wheeler was asked whether Blaenavon Town Council had nominated any Youth Councillors, to which he confirmed they had not. He reiterated the request for Ashleigh Taylor to attend a future meeting to discuss this matter further.

Resolved: Members noted the update.

Cllr Templeton provided the following update:

RBL Meeting.

The meeting, held on 14th October at the Workmen's Hall, addressed concerns about the omission of the Last Post at the D-Day 80 event. Cllr Templeton explained that the event had adhered to the protocol set by the King's Pageant Master.

Further concerns were raised regarding the upcoming Remembrance service. Cllr Templeton reassured Royal British Legion (RBL) members and encouraged collaboration with Blaenavon Town Council.

Cllr Templeton also attended the One Voice Wales National Conference in Builth Wells, which he described as an excellent day.

On the 21st of October 2024, Cllr Templeton participated in the Veterans' Support Hub at the Cons Club, where an Energy Advisor delivered an informative talk. The advisor mentioned that home visits can be arranged for individuals over 65 years old, Cllr Templeton has the details to facilitate these visits.

Resolved: Members noted the update.

10. To receive an update from Sophie Johnson - Community Development and Wellbeing Officer (October 2024)

No update was provided by the Community Development and Wellbeing Officer as she is currently on medical leave.

Resolved: Noted by members.

11. To receive, discuss and approve the audit opinion and conclusion of audit received from Audit Wales for the financial year 2023/24.

The Chief Officer provided members with an overview of the audit opinion 2023/24 received from Audit Wales. This had been sent to members ahead of the meeting. This was presented via the projector screen.

It was explained that the audit opinion received from Audit Wales was unqualified with no recommendations relating to the Town Council's Financial Management / Governance.

It was proposed by Cllr Matthews and seconded by Cllr Hunt to approve the audit opinion for 2023/24.

All members in agreement.

Resolved: Audit opinion 2023/24 noted and approved by members.

12. To review and discuss the Town Council Civic Event and Awards Evening 2024.

Members discussed the event describing it as a truly impressive and memorable evening, with over 140 attendees and exceptional feedback.

It was great to see such a wonderful turnout from the public, local groups and organisations. Twenty awards were presented to individuals and groups that make a positive impact in our community, and feedback forms are currently being collated.

Cllr Matthews expressed his sincere thanks to the Chief Officer and Assistant Chief Officer for their exceptional efforts in organising the event. He also extended appreciation to Enchanting Hearts Ltd, Walter Waygood, and the volunteers at the Workmen's Hall for their support.

Members commented that they had also received glowing feedback, with many praising the evening as a great success. It was suggested that the Civic Award night be held every two years.

Special congratulations were also given to Cllr Matthews for his excellent role in overseeing the award presentations, which he managed flawlessly. Overall, it was a wonderful and uplifting evening.

Resolved: Members noted the update.

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

The TCBC Community Review Task & Finish Group met on 17th September 2024, following a pause due to recent general elections. TCBC's Community Review consultation responses were reviewed to develop final recommendations.

TCBC has requested that members and officers meet with the Task & Finish Group to discuss the survey responses and recommendations. The proposed dates being between the 30th October and the 5th November 2024.

Members discussed the outcome of the review and noted that only forty survey responses were received representing less than 1% of the electorate.

Members noted a wide range of opinions, some of which were clearly outside the scope of the community review terms of reference.

The low response rate raised concerns about basing electoral reform on such limited input. Additionally, members noted that the consultation was conducted exclusively online, which may have excluded parts of the community.

Cllrs Matthews, Hunt, Templeton, Wheeler, and Cowles expressed interest in attending the proposed meeting to discuss the outcome of the review, with a preferred date of the 5th of November 2024.

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

All members in agreement.

Resolved: Cllrs Matthews, Hunt, Templeton, Wheeler, and Cowles to attend the proposed meeting on 5th November 2024. Chief Officer to inform TCBC.

14. To receive, discuss and make any relevant determinations relating to the recent update from Hafod Group and TCBC regarding the proposed closure of the Arthur Jenkins nursing home.

Councillor Cowles shared with members via the Chief Officer an update from Hafod Care and TCBC relating to the Arthur Jenkins Care home ahead of the meeting.

Cllr Cowles updated members that Hafod Care has declined to extend its services beyond the 5th of December 2024. As a result, residents will need to be relocated from the care home, and this process has resumed.

Another healthcare provider has shown interest in taking over from Hafod Care but will need to register with the Care Inspectorate Wales, which is a lengthy procedure.

Should this provider register successfully, they may be able to assume Hafod's 99-year lease with TCBC, transferring it from Hafod to the new provider.

Cllr Cowles proposed that Cllr Daniels from TCBC attend the next full council meeting to provide members with a more detailed update, this was seconded by Cllr Matthews.

All members in agreement.

Resolved: Cllrs Daniels to be invited to November 2024 Full Council Meeting.

15. To appoint a Councillor representative to the Local Council's Partnership Committee.

The Chief Officer explained to members that Cllrs Jones and Templeton are the appointed representatives on the Local Partnership Committee. However, due to Cllr Jones's absence, another 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 Wheeler that Cllr Hunt be the Town Council representative.

All members in agreement.

Resolved: Cllrs Hunt to be the appointed representative to the Local Council partnership Committee.

16. To appoint a Councillor as a signatory to Blaenavon Town Council's bank account and online banking authorisations.

The Chief Officer explained that currently with Cllr Jones absent, there is a need for a fourth banking signatory.

Cllr Keen expressed an interest in becoming a signatory.

It was proposed by Cllr Matthews and seconded by Cllr Beavan that Cllr Keen becomes a bank signatory for the Town Council.

All members in agreement.

Resolved: Cllr Keen to be a appointed bank signatory for 2024/25.

17. To receive an update in relation to the feasibility of a proposed artwork mural for Blaenavon. (Cllr Parfitt)

Several potential sites within the town have been identified for a mural, particularly The Castle Hotel and Blaenavon Constitutional Club. These locations situated side by side in the town centre, offer a large area perfect for a unique and inspiring mural.

The Assistant Chief Officer has reached out to two street artists, both of whom are interested in the project but have significant waiting times. Contact details have been kept for when the project can move forward, pending the necessary planning and consent.

The Chief Officer has met with Stephen Bull from The Castle Hotel, who is very eager to get involved. Outline planning approval will be required, as the hotel is within the Conservation Area., although Rebecca Hartley from TCBC previously expressed support for such a project.

The Chief Officer needs to arrange a meeting with Marie Catt from the Constitutional Club, although the building is not owned by them regarding landlords consent.

Cllrs suggested to involve the Hwb and local schools to turn this into a true community project. The project will be discussed during the budget setting and plans will be made for early next year.

Resolved: Members noted the update.

18. To receive an update and make any relevant determinations regarding the Town Council's Xmas Lights Event on the 22nd of November 2024.

The Chief Officer informed members that all necessary documentation has been completed and submitted to TCBC. Arrangements for the Christmas lights have been finalised.

Stall holders, the stage, and entertainment have all been confirmed with the Assistant Chief Officer apart from Blaenavon Town Band.

On the night of the event, Cllrs will be needed to assist with decorating using temporary Christmas lights, managing crowd control, and helping with the clean-up.

Resolved: Members noted update.

19. To receive an update and make any relevant determinations regarding the Town council's Xmas Market at the Workmen's Hall on the 16th of November 2024.

The Assistant Chief Officer provided an update on the event preparations. Over 40 stalls have confirmed attendance through GW Crafters. Activities, including arts and crafts, face painting, and the hire of Santa's Grotto and Santa himself, have also been confirmed.

There were initial challenges arranging tables from the Horticultural Society due to access and return schedules. However, after contacting the school directly, this issue appears to be resolved. A response is still awaited regarding confirmation of access days and times for the Workmen's Hall.

The only remaining arrangements are finalising the selection boxes and organising the Christmas film.

Cllrs were reminded that an email requesting availability to help on the day had been sent with few replies. It was requested to update the Assistant Chief Officer regarding availability so that a rota could be generated.

Resolved: Members noted the update

20. 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.

- **Flower Box Project - Cllr Parfitt**

Cllr Parfitt provided members with a brief overview of the project. This will include a general clean-up of the roundabout and refilling of planters to include spring bulbs and winter flowers. Abergavenny Garden Centre continue to be very supportive.

Photographs will be forwarded and shared on social media.

Cllr Hunt proposed to support the project. This was seconded by Cllr Keen.

All members in agreement.

Resolved: Project approved.

21. To receive, discuss and make a determination regarding planning applications.

The Chief Officer forwarded the planning application to members ahead of the meeting.

- **Development Proposed:** Felling of tree for construction of accessible pedestrian path.
- **Location:** Flower Park Blaenavon

Cllr Hunt raised concerns about the timing of tree felling in relation to bird nesting/wildlife.

Members discussed that a survey had likely been conducted by a professional, knowledgeable about nesting seasons and the timing of felling.

Cllr Hunt proposed that there be no objection, provided that an appropriate expert had been consulted. This was seconded by Cllr. Beavan.

Cllr Hunt to lease with the Chief Officer.

All members in agreement.

Resolved: Condition of approval noted by members and to be submitted to TCBC Planning.

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

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

Members discussed the donation requests, namely:

- **Emma Livings – Twinkle Toes Dance School.**

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

All members in agreement.

Resolved – Application authorised.

- **Matthew Cox – Blaenavon Blues AFC**

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

All members in agreement.

Resolved - Application authorised.

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

The Chief Officer explained that two items of correspondence had been received.

- **Mrs Joy Merrifield**

A thank-you card was received from Joy Merrifield, expressing her gratitude for the Town Council's Civic Award she had received for her commitment to Blaenavon.

She expressed how proud and grateful she felt and congratulated the Council on a wonderful event.

- **Email received from Wendy Horler dated the 13th of October 2024.**

Cllr Matthews together with the Chief Officer received an email from Wendy Horler with regards to the award received by Blaenavon Community Museum and Blaenavon Community and the Workmen's Hall volunteers were combined.

This was forwarded to all members ahead of the meeting along with Cllr Matthew's response.

Resolved: Members noted the email.

Emergency time sensitive item as authorised by the Mayor Cllr Matthews.

Cllr Hunt informed members about the felling of the Sycamore Gap tree in September 2023.

Since then, the tree has shown promising regrowth. Saplings from seeds collected by the National Park are being distributed nationwide to communities who present a case for receiving a "Sapling of Hope."

Cllr Hunt is a member of two groups who are applying for a sapling for Blaenavon and requested the Council's support for this in principle. He noted how this aligns with the town's motto, "Hope is not broken."

Cllr Matthews proposed to support the initiative. This was seconded by Cllr Keen.

All members in agreement.

Resolved: Initiative supported.

Meeting ended: 20.01 hours

Signed Chairman:



Date: 27/11/24.