



Summary (Decisions) of the Full Council meeting of Blaenavon Town Council held on **Wednesday the 23rd of April 2025 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 14th of May 2025**.

In attendance:

Councillors: Cllr. N. Matthews (In the Chair) L. Cowles, M. Wheeler, J. Davies, A. Lewis, J. Hunt, T. Griffin, I. Parfitt, T. Porter.

Officers: Kevin Warren (Chief Officer), Kerry Jones (Assistant Chief Officer), Sophie Johnson (CWD Officer).

Visitors: J. Jones, N. Horler (TCBC Cllrs)

Members of public: Olivia Osmond.

The Full Council meeting was opened at 6:30pm by 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 Lewis
- Cllr Beavan

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

None received.

6. Council Meetings: To confirm the minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on the 26th of March 2025.

Minutes were read for accuracy with no amendments.

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

All members in agreement.

Resolved: Minutes accepted as a true and accurate record.

10. To discuss and make any relevant determinations relating to the request for sponsorship regarding Big Pit Apprenticeships.

At the April Finance meeting, Brian Lewis, Head of Site and Mine Manager at Big Pit National Coal Museum, gave a presentation to members regarding sponsorship for the museum's apprenticeship scheme.

A request was made for £2,500 per annum over a three-year period.

A detailed discussion took place amongst members.

It was proposed by Cllr Matthews to support the sponsorship with £2,500 per year for a three-year period. This was seconded by Cllr Griffin.

All members in agreement.

Resolved: Sponsorship supported with £2,500 per year for three years.

13. To discuss and make any relevant determinations regarding the appointment of a Community Youth Representative.

A draft notice outlining the criteria and application process was circulated to all members prior to the meeting and displayed on screen.

Members discussed the selection and interview process.

It was proposed that candidates be interviewed by a panel comprising two Officers and two Councillors, with the panel's recommendations to be presented at the May Full Council meeting. The advertising of the vacancies was also discussed and agreed upon.

Cllr Matthews proposed, and Cllr Parfitt seconded, that the interview panel would consist of Cllrs Hunt and Griffin, along with Officers Johnson and Jones.

All members in agreement

Resolved: The youth representative vacancies to be advertised. Interview panel has been appointed.

15. To discuss and make any relevant determinations in relation to the current position of TCBC's Community Review.

Correspondence had been circulated to all members prior to the meeting and was also displayed on screen. The Chief Officer provided members with an update.

In accordance with members' instructions, the Chief Officer wrote to Cllr Anthony Hunt, Leader of Torfaen County Borough Council, in February 2025. To date, no response has been received.

There has also been no update from Torfaen regarding the on-going community review.

At a meeting held at the Civic Centre, Pontypool attended by Cllrs Matthews, Cowles, and Wheeler, along with the Chief Officer a request was made by the Chief Officer for a copy of the meeting minutes. These have not yet been provided.

Members were asked to consider the ongoing lack of response from Cllr Hunt. Cllr Cowles informed members that he had spoken with Cllr Hunt about the Community Review. Cllr Hunt advised that he had been in discussions with Caroline Geneve-Jones.

Cllr Cowles reported that there appeared to be no concerns regarding the boundaries of the Blaenavon wards, which are expected to remain as East and West. However, there have been ongoing discussions between Cllr Hunt, Caroline Geneve-Jones, and Cllr Yeowell, Chair of the Community Review Committee, concerning a proposal to reduce the number of Blaenavon Town Cllrs from twelve to ten.

Cllr Cowles assured members that Cllr Hunt is seeking to arrange a meeting to discuss the matter further.

A discussion followed, during which members expressed dissatisfaction with the lack of response from the Leader of TCBC and considered possible avenues to escalate the issue.

Cllr Cowles proposed to follow up with Cllr Hunt and report back to members at the May Finance meeting. This was seconded by Cllr Matthews.

All members in agreement.

Resolved: Cllr Cowles to consult with Cllr Hunt and provide an update at May 2025 Finance meeting.

16. To discuss and make any relevant determinations regarding the appointment of a Blaenavon Town Council Chaplain.

The Chief Officer informed members that a number of Town and Community Councils within the sector have appointed Chaplains to provide support and advice on a range of matters.

During a recent conversation with Father Walters, he raised this subject and expressed his willingness to offer his services to the Town Council.

The Chief Officer agreed to present the matter to members for consideration.

Members discussed whether a Chaplain was necessary and, if so, in what capacity. The Chief Officer clarified that the role would be purely supportive and advisory, with no involvement in debate or voting on Council matters.

It was proposed by Cllr Parfitt and seconded by Cllr Hunt that the Chief Officer gather further information and make additional enquiries.

All members in agreement.

Resolved: That the Chief Officer seek further information and make enquiries with SLCC and One Voice Wales.

17. To discuss and make a determination relating to rearranging the annual meeting date for May 2025.

Cllr Matthews proposed that the Annual Meeting be rescheduled to Monday, 12th May 2025, and stated he was willing to remain as Mayor until that date to allow the meeting to proceed.

The proposal was seconded by Cllr Cowles.

Councillor Griffin abstained from voting.

Resolved: The Annual Meeting will be held on Monday, 12th May 2025.

18. To discuss and make a determination regarding potential Town Council projects for allocation into the Project Action Plan 2025/26. Relevant updates or new projects as notified.

None received.

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

None received.

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

Correspondence from TCBC regarding proposed works was forwarded to all members prior to the meeting and displayed on screen.

The proposed works include the installation of a disabled parking bay on Charles Street, Blaenavon, and the introduction of waiting restrictions at four locations: Duke Street, Elgam Avenue, Llanover Road, and Hill Street/Heritage Gardens, Blaenavon.

The document was presented for members' consideration.

Resolved: Members noted the update.

An email from Kat Fox-Madely of TGSB Markets and Events was forwarded to all members prior to the meeting.

The email contained a request for a £2,000 sponsorship contribution to support the Torfaen Pride event.

Members discussed the request in the context of the Town Council's current budget and noted that previous Torfaen Pride events, held over several years, had been funded by Torfaen, with no prior requests made to the Town Council for financial support.

It was proposed by Cllr Wheeler and seconded by Cllr Cowles that the Town Council does not support the funding request due to budget constraints.

Cllr Hunt proposed an amendment to support the event with a lesser amount.

There was no seconder for the amendment.

Cllr Hunt voted against the proposal not to support the event.

All other members in agreement.

Resolved: Torfaen Pride event not supported.

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.

Proposed by Cllr Matthews and seconded by Cllr Hunt.

All members in agreement.

Olivia Osmond left the meeting at 19.57 hrs

Recording confirmed as stopped by the Chief Officer at 19.58 hrs

Cllr Matthews changed the running order of the agenda. Agenda item 21 will follow agenda item 23.

22. To receive and make any relevant determinations relating to potential defamation of Blaenavon Town Councillors.

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23. To note, discuss and make any relevant determinations relating to recent correspondence.

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21. To receive and make any relevant determinations relating to the Chief Officer's appraisal 2024/25

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Recording restarted at 20.22hrs

Meeting ended at 20.22 hrs