



Summary (Decisions) of the Finance Meeting of Blaenavon Town Council held on **Wednesday the 11th 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 Council Finance Meeting to be held on Wednesday the **9th of October 2024**.

In attendance:

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

Officers: Kevin Warren (Chief Officer), Kerry Jones (Assistant Chief Officer) Sophie Johnson (C.W.D Officer).

Visitors: None present.

Members of public: None present.

The finance meeting was opened at 6:30pm by the Deputy Mayor Councillor Wheeler 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 apology had been received.

- Cllr Jones

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

All members in agreement.

Resolved - Apologies accepted.

3. Declarations of Interest.

- Cllr Lewis – Personal – 11
- Cllr Parfitt – Personal – Item 8
- Cllr Beavan – Personal – Item 8

5. Council Meetings: To confirm the minutes of the Council Finance Meeting held on the 10th of July 2024.

Minutes were read for accuracy with one amendment.

Cllr Hunt (Agenda item 11) clarified that no board member had been informed of a new date for the next Board meeting at that time.

It was proposed by Cllr Cowles and seconded by Cllr Keen that the minutes be accepted with the above one amendment.

All members in agreement.

Resolved: Minutes approved as a true and accurate record.

6. Responsible Finance Officer's Update: To receive and consider the July and August 2024 financial updates.

Mr Warren (RFO) forwarded to members the July and August 2024 financial reports electronically in advance of the meeting which detailed the following areas:

- Income and Expenditure
- Credit Card Payments
- Cheque Payments
- Bacs Payments
- Cash Book Transactions
- Bank Reconciliation
- Project Expenditure
- Budget
- VAT
- Bank Statements
- Petty Cash

Mr Warren presented to members each of the above areas of finance for July and August 2024 and highlighted any relevant information.

Mr Warren informed members that the reports had been produced using the new AdvantEdge finance system and gave an overview of each report presented.

Members discussed the new financial system, reports, and documentation required each month.

It was proposed by Cllr Cowles and seconded by Cllr Templeton that full information and reports including the Budget Heading document be sent electronically in advance of meetings

to all members, thus giving members time to read the reports and raise any questions at finance meetings.

All members in agreement

Members were happy with the presentation.

It was proposed by Cllr Beavan and seconded by Cllr Keen that the financial report for July and August 2024 be accepted.

All members in agreement.

Resolved: Financial update for July and August 2024 accepted by members.

8. To receive, discuss and make any relevant determinations relating to a draft letter addressed to the Board of Directors at Hafod Group regarding the proposed closure of the Arthur Jenkins Nursing Home in Blaenavon.

The letter was sent to all members electronically prior to the meeting.

Members had a detailed discussion which included the content of the letter, recent inspection report, viability of transfer to new care providers, and the short three-month period of notice.

Cllr Cowles stressed that this is not a decision that was made by TCBC, but the care providers themselves. He added that he had attended a meeting with Cllrs Janet Jones, Nick Horler and David Daniels to discuss the issue.

During this meeting, Cllr Cowles requested that Cllr Daniels keep him updated and provide a detailed summary of the meeting, which he intends to share with all members and officers.

It was proposed by Cllr Cowles and seconded by Cllr Parfitt that the letter addressed to the Board of Directors at Hafod Group regarding the proposed closure of the Arthur Jenkins Nursing Home in Blaenavon be sent and that Lyn Neagle MS, Nick Thomas Symonds MP, Anthony Hunt (TCBC) and David Daniels (TCBC) be copied into the email.

All members in agreement.

The Chief Officer asked if the letter should be released to the local press office and shared via social media.

A discussion took place amongst members who agreed for the release of the letter to the local press offices and for the letter to be uploaded to the Town Council website with a link from Facebook.

Resolved: Letter to be sent and placed on the Town Council website

10. To receive an update and make any relevant determinations relating to the Teen Gym sessions delivered at Blaenavon Active Living Centre.

The attendance figures were forwarded to members electronically in advance of the meeting. Between week commencing April 8th to the end of school term 19th July 2024 there have been 10 sessions in total.

A discussion took place amongst members with regards to the low attendance. Seven of the ten sessions were not attended by any participants.

It was proposed by Cllr Parfitt and seconded by Cllr Cowles that due to low attendance the teen gym sessions will no longer be supported.

All members in agreement.

Resolved: Due to low participation, the Teen Gym sessions will not continue.

11. To discuss and make any relevant determinations relating to the donation of a Town Council defibrillator to Blaenavon World Heritage Centre.

Cllr Lewis updated members on the urgent need for a defibrillator at the World Heritage Centre. She explained that Cllrs Janet Jones and Nick Horler had been trying to source one for several months without success.

Recently, a visitor collapsed at the centre and required a defibrillator, which had to be retrieved from the Co-op, further emphasising the need for the centre to have its own device.

Cllr Lewis suggested that a defibrillator owned by the Town Council could be allocated to the Centre.

Members had a brief discussion.

It was proposed by Cllr Parfitt and seconded by Cllr Keen that the Town Council defibrillator be located within the World Heritage Centre with an accompanying notice/plaque stating it was donated by Blaenavon Town Council.

All members in agreement.

Resolved: Town Council defibrillator be located within the World Heritage Centre.

12. To discuss and make any relevant determinations relating to the Town Council civic and award event evening at the Workmen's Hall on 11th October 2024.

A detailed discussion took place amongst members regarding the upcoming event evening. It was suggested that the event could serve as an opportunity for community engagement and gathering feedback from attendees through a brief questionnaire. Additionally, it was proposed that donations could be collected for the mayor's charity.

Further discussions focused on the guest list, which should include dignitaries, community groups, Chairs of local Town and Community Councils, schools, and sports clubs, among others. The costs of the event and potential entertainment options were also discussed.

It was proposed by Cllr Evans and seconded by Cllr Cowles that the event take place at the Workmen's Hall on the 11th of October 2024 and that invites should be sent including dignitaries, community groups, schools and sports clubs.

All members in agreement.

Resolved: Invites to be sent to attendees.

13. To receive an update and make any relevant determinations regarding grant funding applications.

Sophie Johnson informed members that she had explored several grant funding options. Unfortunately, many of the grants available are not open to Town and Community Councils.

The most suitable option identified is the National Lottery. Sophie has met with a National Lottery representative to discuss potential opportunities.

She explained that the monthly Befriending Film Club could be used for a grant application, as it meets the criteria and has supporting evidence. Alternatively, a new project could be submitted, depending on the decision of members.

A discussion took place amongst members. It was agreed that the upcoming Strategy Day would be an ideal opportunity to further discuss options.

A meeting to be arranged following the Strategy Day with the Grant Funding working group and Sophie. This was proposed by Cllr Matthews and seconded by Cllr Evans.

All members in agreement.

Resolved: Grant funding opportunities to be discussed at Strategy Day. Working group to set meeting date following the Strategy Day.

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.

Meeting ended at 20.02 hrs.