



Summary (Decisions) of the Full Council meeting of Blaenavon Town Council held on **Wednesday the 26<sup>th</sup> of February 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 26<sup>th</sup> of March 2025**.

**In attendance:**

**Councillors:** Cllr. N. Matthews (In the Chair) L. Cowles, M. Wheeler, S. Templeton, I. Parfitt, A. Lewis, J. Hunt.

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

**Visitors:** Zed Rodgers and Jen Davies (co-option candidates).

**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 altered the running order of the agenda so that agenda item 4 followed agenda item 6 for continuity.

**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 Beavan
- Cllr Porter

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 Matthews – Personal – items 5 & 6
- Cllr Hunt – Prejudicial – item 6. Personal – item 19
- Cllr Cowles – Personal – item 19

### **5. To receive presentations from co-option candidates for the role of Blaenavon Town Councillor.**

Members received co-option presentations from Mr Zed Rodgers and Mrs Jen Davies.

The first presentation was from Mr Zed Rodgers, followed by Mrs Jen Davies. The Chairman thanked both candidates for their presentations individually.

**Resolved:** Members noted both co-option presentations.

### **6. To make a determination and ratify the appointment of a co-opted Blaenavon Town Councillor.**

Cllr Hunt left the meeting at 18.47 hrs.

Members discussed the presentations from both candidates and agreed that each demonstrated strong qualities and different skills that could benefit the role of town councillor.

A vote was held, resulting in a tie with three votes each. The mayor exercised the casting vote. Jen Davies was selected as the successful candidate.

It was proposed by Cllr Matthews and seconded by Cllr Cowles to ratify the appointment of Jen Davies as a Blaenavon Town Councillor.

All members in agreement.

**Resolved:** Jen Davies appointed as a Blaenavon Town Councillor.

### **8. Council Meetings: To confirm the minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on the 21st of January 2025.**

Minutes were read for accuracy with no amendments.

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

All members in agreement.

**Resolved:** Minutes accepted as a true and accurate record.

### **13. To appoint a Councillor representative to sit as a minor authority school governor at Ysgol Bryn Onnen Primary School (Four-year term)**

Cllr Matthews explained to members that former Cllr Keen was the appointed Cllr representative at Ysgol Bryn Onnen.

Cllr Matthews asked if any member was interested in becoming the Town Council representative.

No volunteers came forward during the meeting.

Cllr Matthews proposed deferring the decision to the March 2025 Full Council Meeting. This was seconded by Cllr Cowles.

All members in agreement.

**Resolved:** Appointment of minor authority school governor to Ysgol Bryn Onnen deferred to March 2025 Full Council Meeting.

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

Cllr Matthews explained to members that former Cllr Keen was an appointed signatory for the Town Council bank account.

Cllr Templeton volunteered to be the appointed fourth signatory.

It was proposed by Cllr Cowles and seconded by Cllr Matthews that Cllr Templeton be the fourth signatory.

All members in agreement.

**Resolved:** Cllr Templeton appointed as fourth signatory for the Town Council Bank Account.

**16. To discuss and make any relevant determinations regarding quotations received relating to the implementation of a new Blaenavon Town Council website**

Both website quotations were forwarded to members prior to the meeting.

The Chief Officer provided an overview of the quotations, outlining the proposals, content and costing including the annual hosting fees.

Members discussed both quotations and the requirements of the town council website.

It was proposed by Cllr Cowles to instruct The Media Agency to update the Town Council website. This was seconded by Cllr Hunt.

All members in agreement.

**Resolved:** The Chief Officer to instruct The Media Agency to commence website design.

**17. To discuss and make any relevant determinations regarding a letter of consultation received from TCBC, relating to consolidation order 2019 which incorporate amendments 11-14 (various roads speed limits).**

Torfaen County Borough Council (TCBC) intends to introduce an Order under Section 84 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 to amend speed limits in Blaenavon.

The proposed changes include:

- Reducing the speed limit from the National Speed Limit, 60mph to 40mph on a section of the B4246, Varteg Road, up to its junction with Forgeside.
- Reducing to 40mph limit from the Forgeside junction, Varteg Road along the B4246, Abergavenny Road, to a point north of its junction with Rifle Street.
- Increasing the speed limit from 20mph to 30mph on a section of the B4246, Abergavenny Road, from Rifle Street to King Street.
- Increasing the speed limit from 20mph to 30mph on Estate Road, including the entire length of the Gilchrist Industrial Estate.

Members discussed the potential impact of these changes on motorists and pedestrians, with particular concern for pavement conditions, accessibility, and crossing points near the Ironworks.

Cllr Hunt proposed supporting the reduction from 60mph to 40mph on the B4246 (Varteg Road and Abergavenny Road) but opposing the increase from 20mph to 30mph between Rifle Street and King Street. This was seconded by Cllr Templeton.

Members voted with five votes in favour, one against, and one abstention.

Cllr Matthews proposed retaining the 20mph speed limit near the Ironworks, including the Ironworks car park and the junction of North Street into Estate Road, while supporting the 30mph limit in the Gilchrist Thomas Industrial Estate and the remainder of Estate Road.

This was seconded by Cllr Wheeler.

All members in agreement.

**Resolved:** Chief Officer to submit the objections and proposals to TCBC by 5<sup>th</sup> March 2025

**18. 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.**

The proposed project form was forwarded to members prior to the meeting.

**Wonder Cinema & Heritage Railway Event.**

Building on the success of last year's outdoor cinema event at Blaenavon Ironworks, it is planned to host another event in collaboration with Wonder Cinema and Blaenavon Heritage Railway on July 28th and 29th, 2025.

A meeting between Blaenavon Heritage Railway, Wonder Cinema, and the Town Council took place and was incredibly positive. The Railway are keen to work in partnership with the Town Council, with potential opportunity for a future Halloween event later in the year.

Blaenavon residents can purchase tickets at a special discounted rate of £5.00 each. These resident-only tickets will be available for purchase first, ahead of the general ticket sale.

Trains will run in the afternoons, and the tearoom will be open to support the event.

It was proposed by Cllr Cowles and seconded by Cllr Wheeler to authorise the project.

All members in agreement.

**Resolved:** Wonder Cinema & Heritage Railway Event authorised.

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

The planning applications were forwarded to members ahead of the meeting, which presented as follows.

- **DEVELOPMENT PROPOSED:** Variation to planning application. To retain modular building.
- **LOCATION:** Big Pit, Blaenavon
  
- **DEVELOPMENT PROPOSED:** 2 storey extension
- **LOCATION:** 8 Upper Coed Cae, Blaenavon
  
- **DEVELOPMENT PROPOSED:** Installation of 2 x heat source pumps
- **LOCATION:** Big Pit, Blaenavon

**Resolved:** No objections from members.

#### **20. To receive, discuss and make a determination regarding grant application requests.**

None received.

**Resolved:** Members noted update.

Meeting ended at 19.47 hrs