



BLAENAVON TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 25th June 2025 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. L. Evans (In the Chair) L. Cowles, N. Matthews, M. Wheeler, A. Beavan, J. Davies, A. Lewis, T. Griffin, T. Porter, S. Maslen.

Absent - Cllr Hunt

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

Visitors: Simon & Lynne-Michelle Sayle (Citizen Aid UK) J. Jones (Cllr, TCBC)

Members of public: None.

The Full Council meeting was opened at 6:30pm by Mayor Cllr Lewis Evans 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 Parfitt

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

Resolved - Apologies accepted.

3. Declarations of Interest

- Cllr Lewis – Personal – item 21

4. To receive a presentation from Simon Sayle (Citizen Aid Uk) regarding 'Stop Bleed Kit' opportunities in Blaenavon.

The presentation was circulated to all members prior to the meeting and displayed on screen.

Mr Sayle provided a detailed overview of the contents and purpose of bleed boxes, grab bags, and the associated training plans.

He asked for assistance in identifying locations for the boxes within Blaenavon and key individuals and organisations who would benefit from receiving training.

Approval was also sought to apply for funding through the Blaenavon Community Grants scheme for a bleed box, grab bag and training.

Cllr Evans thanked Mr Sayle for his presentation and invited him to write to the Town Council regarding an application for a Community Grant.

Resolved: Members noted the update.

5. To receive a TCBC update from Ward Councillors.

Cllr Janet Jones provided the following update:

Apologies were given on behalf of Cllr Horler.

Cllr Jones informed members about missed waste collections across Torfaen during the week, with the issue expected to be resolved in the next few days.

She raised ongoing concerns about Keepers Pond with Cllr Anthony Hunt during the TCBC Full Council meeting. Cllr Hunt agreed to raise these issues with Monmouthshire County Council (MCC).

Additional concerns were also raised at the Steering Committee meeting. Officers from MCC will be taking the matter to their own council meeting.

Gwent Police and the Fire Service have increased patrols in the area, also the Commoners are currently creating additional fire breaks.

At the recent carers meeting, Alvin Nicholls reported difficulties contacting Gwent Police regarding issues with off-road vehicles, due to various absences. It was suggested that a coordinator would be beneficial which could be funded by all parties.

Finally, Cllr Jones reported that several members of the community had raised concerns about parking enforcement. The leader confirmed that the enforcement scheme is currently under review.

Cllr Cowles provided the following update:

The Annual Report of the Ethics and Standards Committee.

The committee reported three complaints under the local resolution protocol, two related to social media posts and one to comments made during a public meeting. None required further action. No complaints were referred by the Ombudsman during the year.

The committee continues to monitor member attendance at meetings and training, noting generally good attendance at full council, but inconsistencies in some committees.

Improvements to attendance reporting were welcomed, and concerns have been raised with group leaders.

Thirty-one dispensations were approved, mostly relating to Members' Small Scheme Donations.

An update was received from RWE regarding the Abertillery Wind Farm application.

Following a request for additional information from Planning and Environment Decisions Wales (PEDW), a second public consultation will take place in July and August. Hearings are expected in the autumn, with a report likely in November.

Veronika Brannovic, Local Nature Partnership Coordinator, provided details of the "Resilient Blaenafon" project.

The proposal involves creating a new wetland area in Blaenavon to help manage water flow, reduce flooding, enhance biodiversity, and potentially include a micro-hydropower installation.

The project is being supported by Welsh Government, Natural Resources Wales, and the Heritage Lottery Fund. Updates to follow.

Lastly, the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority will hold their AGM this Friday. Chair Aled Edwards is stepping down due to ill health, and the only nomination to succeed him is Cllr Gareth Radcliffe who is the current Deputy Chair and a member of Powys County Council.

Resolved: Members noted the updates.

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

The Mayor, Cllr Evans provided the following update.

- On Monday 23rd June, attended the flag raising ceremony at the Cenotaph to mark Armed Forces Day.
- Attended the World Heritage Steering Group meeting, this will be discussed further at agenda item 9.

7. Council Meetings: To confirm the minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on the 28th of May 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.

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

The Chief Officer provided members with the following update:

Item 17 within the minutes. The Chief Officer has completed the Terms of Reference (ToR) for the Town Council Chaplain. This will be discussed further at agenda item 12.

Item 20 within the minutes as per the instructions from members. The Chief Officer has written to Tim Monkton, TCBC. A response has been received and will be discussed at agenda item 21.

Item 23 within the minutes as per the instructions from members. The letter received from the Slovenian Ambassador was shared to social media and has received a positive response.

On the 18/06/25 together with Cllr Cowles, the Chief Officer delivered a presentation at the Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA) Conference in Llandudno.

The presentation was shared to all members and posted on social media. Cllr Cowles added that the video had been well received although he noted that more time was needed for debate following the presentation.

On the 19/06/2025 together with the Community Wellbeing Development Officer met with Aimi Morris, TVA to discuss the Community Transport Project.

Although two initial engagement events had taken place, the project experienced delays due to staffing issues at TVA. These issues have now been resolved, and new dates have been set to relaunch the project.

This will include the establishment of both a Project Steering Group and an Operational Group. Further updates will follow.

The Community Wellbeing Development Officer also confirmed that TVA will be attending the Befriending Film Club with her to help renew community engagement.

Additionally, she has been contacted by two individuals interested in volunteering as drivers.

The current focus is on increasing community involvement and recruiting Community Trustees.

On the 20/06/25 together with Cllrs, the Chief Officer attended the Community Review Working Group meeting at the Council chambers. This will be discussed further at agenda item 22.

The Street Trading Permit has been renewed and a copy forwarded to Ashleigh Taylor ahead of the World Heritage Day 2025.

Forty-two hanging baskets have been erected across the town and will be photographed and posted to social media and also the Town Council website.

Also, since the last meeting the Chief Officer has held weekly briefing sessions with the former Mayor, current Mayor and deputy mayor discussing Council operational and financial matters, together with operational meetings with 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 Wheeler attended two online World Heritage Day Team meetings in June. On the 11th of June he attended the Mic Morris Trust meeting, funds were allocated to several youths.

The run will be started by the Mayor, Cllr Evans with over a thousand entrants. Finally, Cllr Wheeler attended the Community Review Working Group on 20th June.

Cllr Davies attended One Voice Wales online Cllr training sessions.

Cllr Evans attended One Voice Wales online Cllr training. He also attended the Blaenavon World Heritage Site Partnership Steering Group meeting. Minutes will be forwarded to all members; any questions can be emailed to Cllr Evans for a response.

Cllr Evans noted that due to the proposed wind farm, UNESCO has requested an update on the management plan, including all working groups.

Cllr Lewis attended One Voice Wales online Cllr training.

Resolved: Members noted the updates.

10. To receive an update from Sophie Johnson - Community Development and Wellbeing Officer (June 2025).

The Community Wellbeing Development Officer's report for June 2025 was forwarded to all members prior to the meeting.

The CWD Officer provided the following updates since her last report:

Befriending Film Club: Scheduled for this Friday with TVA in attendance as previously mentioned.

Mums and Daughters Fitness: A grant application has been submitted to the Welsh Water Community Fund. The outcome is expected by mid-July.

Outdoor Cinema Event: A new advertising campaign has been launched on social media. Five hundred free tickets have been booked by Blaenavon residents. Ticket sales to non-residents have also increased.

VJ Day Event – 16th August: Members are asked to contact Sophie with their availability to assist with the event, including set-up on Friday 15th August, take-down, and community engagement throughout the day. The Pashy Pops have confirmed their attendance.

ASB Awareness Week: Taking place next week. The Torfaen Antisocial Behaviour Reduction Officer has organised an event at BALC from 3:00pm to 5:30pm on Monday 1st July, in partnership with organisations including Bron Afon, Gwent Police, and Community Connectors.

The CWD Officer will be attending to promote the work of the Town Council, and members are welcome to join.

Resolved: Members noted the update.

11. To receive an update from the Youth Representative Interview Panel and ratify the appointment of two Youth Representatives to Blaenavon Town Council.

The Assistant Chief Officer (ACO) provided members with an overview of the application, interview, and decision-making process for the appointments of Youth Representative.

The interview panel unanimously agreed on their preferred candidates: Daniel Morse and Boyd Paynter.

The ACO requested that members formally ratify the appointments and adopt the Youth Representative Policy which had been forwarded to all members prior to the meeting.

It was proposed by Cllr Cowles and seconded by Cllr Wheeler to ratify the appointments of Daniel Morse and Boyd Paynter as Blaenavon Town Council Youth Representatives and to adopt the Youth Representative Policy.

All members in agreement.

Resolved: Daniel Morse and Boyd Paynter were appointed as Youth Representatives, and the Youth Representative Policy was adopted.

In accordance with the Youth Representative Policy, the ACO nominated Cllr Beavan and herself to act as mentors to the newly appointed Youth Representatives.

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

All members in agreement.

Resolved: Cllr Beavan and the Assistant Chief Officer were appointed as mentors to the Youth Representatives.

12. To Receive and ratify the terms of reference for the appointment of a Town Council Chaplain.

The terms of reference were forwarded to all members prior to the meeting.

Father Chris Walters had accepted the position as Town Council Chaplin.

It was proposed by Cllr Beavan and seconded by Cllr Maslen to adopt the terms of reference for the Town Council Chaplain.

A discussion took place amongst members regarding the appointment of Father Walters.

It was proposed by Cllr Beavan and seconded by Cllr Davies that Father Walters is the appointed Chaplain for Blaenavon Town Council.

Cllr Griffin voted against appointing Father Walters as Town Council Chaplain.

Cllr Griffin proposed an amendment that there should be a selection process for the role of Chaplain. There was no seconder for Cllr Griffin's amendment.

The original proposal stood.

All other members in agreement.

Resolved: Father Chris Walters appointed as the Chaplain for Blaenavon Town Council.

13. To discuss and make a determination to appoint a Councillor Representative to the One Voice Wales Local Councils Forum.

Cllr Evans nominated himself to be the appointed council representative. This was proposed by Cllr Cowles and seconded by Cllr Beavan.

All members in agreement.

Resolved: Cllr Evans to be appointed to the OneVoice Wales Local Councils Forum.

14. To receive, discuss and make any relevant determinations regarding Blaenavon Town Council's draft Democratic Health Strategy 2025/27.

The draft Democratic Health Strategy was forwarded to all members prior to the meeting and displayed on screen.

Cllr Matthews provided members with an overview.

It was proposed by Cllr Lewis and seconded by Cllr Cowles to accept and ratify the Democratic Health Strategy 2025/27.

All members in agreement.

Resolved: The Democratic Health Strategy 2025/27 was adopted.

15. To discuss and make any relevant determinations regarding the public use of Blaenavon Resource Centre.

Cllr Davies provided members with an update regarding the use of the Resource Centre in Blaenavon.

A discussion took place amongst members.

It was proposed by Cllr Beavan that enquiries are made to ascertain ownership of the building, what organisations currently operate from the building. This was seconded by Cllr Lewis.

All members in agreement.

Resolved: That the Chief Officer writes to the Facility Manager on behalf of Blaenavon Town Council to enquire ownership of the building and who currently operates from the building.

16. To discuss and make any relevant determinations regarding the appearance of the gardens at the Arthur Jenkins Nursing Home.

Cllr Davies updated members on the poor condition of the gardens at Arthur Jenkins Nursing Home, noting the lack of signage, general maintenance, and the site's deteriorating appearance, which is becoming an eyesore in the community.

Members discussed the issue, confirming that the building is owned by TCBC

Cllr Cowles, in his role as ward member, offered to liaise with Cllr Daniels regarding the terms of the contract and report back to members.

Resolved: Members noted the update.

17. To discuss and make a determination regarding the arrangements for the Town Council Civic and Grant Presentation Event 2025.

The Chief Officer informed members that this year all small grant awards will be presented as part of a combined Civic Event and Grant Presentation Event.

A discussion took place amongst members with regards to the event, date, and venue.

The Assistant Chief Officer updated members that a visit had taken place at Forgeside Community Hall to ascertain size and availability.

It was proposed by Cllr Matthews that an event is held during November 2025. This was seconded by Cllr Griffin.

All members in agreement.

Resolved: Town Council Civic and Grant Presentation Event to be held in November 2025.

A further discussion took place amongst members.

It was proposed by Cllr Matthews that the event is held at Blaenavon Workmen's Hall. This was seconded by Cllr Griffin.

Cllr Cowles proposed the event be held at Forgeside Community Hall. This was seconded by Cllr Lewis.

A vote took place amongst members, with five votes for each venue.

The mayor exercised his casting vote in favour of Forgeside Community Hall as the chosen venue.

Resolved: Town Council Civic and Grant Presentation Event to be held in Forgeside Community Hall.

18. To discuss and make a determination regarding the arrangements for the Town Council Xmas Lights switch on event 2025.

The event is expected to follow a similar format to last year which was a great success. Initial enquiries and provisional bookings have been made with the entertainment and food providers used previously.

Members discussed potential dates for the event.

It was proposed by Cllr Cowles and seconded by Cllr Beavan that the Christmas light's switch on event will take place on 28th November 2025.

All members in agreement.

Resolved: Town Council Christmas Lights switch on event to be held on 28th November 2025.

19. 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.

20. 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:** Retention of outbuilding
- **LOCATION:** 17 Lower Garn Terrace, Garn Yr Erw, Blaenavon.

- **DEVELOPMENT PROPOSED:** Single storey extension
- **LOCATION:** Tregarth, The Park Blaenavon.

Resolved: No objections from members Ref: 17 Lower Garn Terrace. Chief Officer to inform TCBC that Tregarth falls within the conservation area.

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

- Letter of thanks from Deputy Lord Lieutenant Anthony Clay.

The Chief Officer forwarded a letter of thanks from Deputy Lord Lieutenant Anthony Clay to all members ahead of the meeting.

In the letter, Mr. Clay expressed his sincere appreciation for the invitation to the VE Day Service held at St Peter's Church on 8th May 2025, noting that he thoroughly enjoyed the service and felt honoured to have been included

- Email response from Tim Monkton.

The Chief Officer forwarded the email to all members ahead of the meeting. Members discussed its content in detail.

It was proposed by Cllr Griffin that Blaenavon Town Council be invited to play a key role in developing the business plan for the World Heritage Centre.

This was seconded by Cllr Beavan.

All members in agreement.

Resolved: Chief Officer to contact Tim Monkton and request that the Town Council be consulted on the World Heritage Centre business plan.

The Chief Officer sought an urgent resolution from the Chair regarding the Personnel and Establishment Committee meeting scheduled for 2nd July 2025.

He explained that both he and several members would be attending the One Voice Wales conference in Builth Wells on that date and would therefore be unable to attend the meeting.

As a result, he requested that the meeting be rescheduled to 16th July 2025.

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

All members in agreement.

Resolved: Personnel and Establishment Committee Meeting re scheduled to the 16th of July 2025

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.

Recording confirmed as stopped by the Chief Officer at 20.03 hrs

22. To discuss and make any relevant determinations regarding an update from the Community Review Working Group.



Recording confirmed as restarted by the Chief Officer at 20.24 hrs.

Meeting ended at 20.24 hrs

Signed Chairman:



Date: 23/7/25.