



Summary (Decisions) of the Finance Meeting of Blaenavon Town Council held on **Wednesday the 9th of July 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 Council Finance Meeting to be held on Wednesday the **10th of September 2025**.

In attendance:

Councillors in attendance: A. Lewis (In the Chair), L. Evans, N. Matthews, A Beavan, T. Griffin, M. Wheeler, S. Maslen, J. Davies

Cllr Porter – Absent

Youth Representatives: Boyd Paynter, Daniel Morse.

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

Visitors: None present

Members of public: Mr William McDougall

The finance meeting was opened at 6:30pm by the Deputy Mayor Councillor Lewis who welcomed everyone and expressed thanks for attendance.

1. To receive any questions from the public.

The Chief Officer had received a e-mail from Mr McDougall on the 24th of June 2025 regarding the volume and size of vehicles using Cwmavon Road, and whether the Town Council could take any action on the matter.

The Chief Officer read out the question on behalf of Mr McDougall.

Cllr Lewis explained that the matters raised fall outside the Town Council's statutory responsibilities, which rest with the Highways Department at Torfaen County Borough Council (TCBC) and Gwent Police.

However, she noted that the Town Council could offer support by forwarding Mr McDougall's concerns to the relevant authorities and requesting a written response on his behalf.

Mr McDougall agreed to this course of action and was satisfied with the response provided.

Resolved: The Chief Officer to write to Gwent Police and the Highways Department at TCBC on behalf of Mr McDougall.

2. To receive and accept apologies.

The Chief Officer informed the chairperson that the following apologies had been received.

- Cllr Cowles
- Cllr Parfitt
- Cllr Hunt

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

All members in agreement.

Resolved: Apologies accepted.

3. Declarations of Interest.

None declared.

4. Council Meetings: To confirm the minutes of the Council Finance Meeting held on the 11th of June 2025.

Minutes were read for accuracy with no amendments.

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

All members in agreement.

Resolved: Minutes approved as a true and accurate record.

5. Responsible Finance Officer's Update: To receive and consider the June 2025 financial update.

Mr Warren (RFO) forwarded to members the June 2025 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 (Bank Statement 185)
- Project Expenditure
- Budget
- VAT
- Petty Cash

Mr Warren presented to members each of the above areas of finance for June 2025 and highlighted any relevant information.

Members were invited to ask any questions in relation to the information presented.

Members were happy with the presentation.

It was proposed by Cllr Beavan and seconded by Cllr Maslen that the financial report for May 2025 be accepted.

Resolved: Financial update for June 2025 accepted by members.

6. To discuss and make any relevant determinations regarding the implementation of a working group to explore event opportunities at Garn Lakes Blaenavon.

Cllr Griffin gave members an overview and proposed establishing a working group to explore the feasibility of organising an event at Garn Lakes in 2026/27. He suggested the group could engage with individuals who have previous experience and involvement in past events at the site, helping to determine whether the idea is achievable.

Members discussed the idea, highlighting key considerations such as the suitability of the location, logistical arrangements, risk factors, and the potential for partnership working.

Cllr Matthews noted that previous events at Garn Lakes had been organised by TCBC with the support of external funding or grants and were traditionally held the day after World Heritage Day. He also suggested that Kate Blewitt from TCBC, who had previously managed the event, may be able to provide valuable insight.

Following further discussion, it was agreed that the working group would comprise of three Cllrs and one officer, with a view to reporting back at November Full Council meeting.

Cllrs Griffin, Davies, and Wheeler volunteered to join the group, along with the CWD Officer.

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

All members in agreement.

Resolved: Working group established, namely Cllrs Griffin, Davies, Wheeler and the CWD Officer.

7. To discuss and make any relevant determinations relating to the Town Council's litter picking arrangements for July 2025.

The Assistant Chief Officer (ACO) gave members an overview of the opportunity to become a registered Keep Wales Tidy (KWT) Litter Hub.

Officers had been approached by Thom Board, Environmental Project Officer at TCBC and a KWT volunteer, who explained that registration would allow the Council to access a wider network, as well as receive free litter-picking equipment and promotional materials.

Community members would be able to collect the equipment from the Town Council office during opening hours and carry out litter picks at their convenience.

Officers would be required to complete a simple online form recording who took part, when, and the amount of litter collected.

Following a brief discussion, it was proposed by Cllr Beavan and seconded by Cllr Davies that the Town Council becomes a registered KWT Litter Hub.

Resolved: The Town Council to register as a KWT Litter Hub.

8. 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.

The proposed projects were forwarded to all members prior to the meeting and shown on screen.

The Chief Officer provided a brief overview of the projects as the CWD Officer was on leave.

- **Youth Activity Day**

To be held at Broad Street carpark during August 2025.

Various sporting activities including skateboarding, BMX biking, boxing and climbing wall sessions provided by a range of partners including Torfaen Sports Development and Monmouthshire County Council.

Members had a brief discussion.

It was proposed by Cllr Evans and seconded by Cllr Beavan to support the project.

All members in agreement

Resolved: Project authorised.

- **St Fagan's Heritage and Activity Visit**

A visit to St Fagans National Museum of History and Coed Llan High Ropes was proposed for August 2025.

Members had a brief discussion, during which the Youth Representatives noted that both planned activities were largely sports-focused and asked whether a wider variety of activities could be considered.

They also highlighted that last year's trip to St Fagans was fully booked with a number of residents unable to attend and queried whether capacity could be increased to meet demand.

The Chief Officer explained that bookings are taken on a first come, first served basis and are limited by the seating capacity of a single coach. He added that hiring a second coach would significantly increase costs, and the Council must ensure value for money in all its decisions.

It was proposed by Cllr Wheeler and seconded by Cllr Griffin to support the project.

Resolved: Project authorised.

Cllr Lewis proposed to adhere to the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960.

This was seconded by Cllr Evans.

All members in agreement.

Resolved: The Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 was adhered to.

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.

The recording was confirmed as stopped by the Chief Officer at 19.02 hrs

Both Youth Representatives left the meeting.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

The Chief Officer confirmed the recording as restarted at 19:56 hrs

Meeting ended at 19.57 hrs.