



Summary (Decisions) of the Full Council meeting of Blaenavon Town Council held on **Wednesday the 28th of January 2026 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 25th of February 2026**.

In attendance:

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

Youth Representatives: Boyd Paynter & Daniel Morse

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

Visitors: None present.

Members of public: None present.

The Full Council meeting was opened at 6:30pm by Deputy Mayor Cllr Lewis 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 Beavan.
- Cllr Evans.
- Father C. Walters.

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 declared.

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

Minutes were read for accuracy with no amendments.

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

All members in agreement.

Resolved: Minutes accepted as a true and accurate record.

7. Chief Officer's Update: To receive the Chief Officer's update. (Full update will be recorded within the minutes).

Agenda Item 22 within the November 2025 minutes.

In accordance with Members' instructions, a letter was sent to the Secretary of the County Association of the Royal British Legion (RBL) on the 26th of November 2025.

A confirmation email was received on the 1st of December 2025, acknowledging receipt of the letter and advising that it had been forwarded to the Chairman of the County Association RBL.

No further update has been received to date.

The Chief Officer requested further direction from Members.

It was proposed by Cllr Griffin and seconded by Cllr Maslen that a follow-up email be sent. Any response or outcome will be reported in the February 2026 Full Council meeting.

All members in agreement.

Resolved: Chief Officer to send a follow-up email to the County Association RBL.

11. To ratify the Town Council Budget and Precept for 2026/27.

The proposed budget and precept for 2026/2027 was completed and put forward as a recommendation by the Budget Setting Working Group consisting of the Mayor Cllr Lewis Evans and five other Councillors.

The recommendation was discussed extensively at the January 2026 Finance meeting and was unanimously approved that the recommendations be ratified at the January 2026 Full Council meeting.

It was proposed by Cllr Lewis and seconded by Cllr Wheeler to ratify the budget and precept for 2026/27 as per the unanimous determination made at the January 2026 Finance Meeting.

There was one Cllr abstention. All other members in agreement.

Resolved: Budget and Precept for 2026/27 formally ratified.

12. To discuss and make any relevant determinations concerning the draft Annual Report 2024-25.

A draft copy of the annual report 2024/25 had been forwarded to members prior to the meeting.

Cllr Matthews gave an overview of the report and its content which is a statutory requirement to produce and publish each year.

Cllr Cowles proposed to accept the annual report 2024/25. This was seconded by Cllr Hunt.

All members in agreement.

Resolved: Annual Report 2024/25 approved.

13. To approve the Abergavenny and Blaenavon Tourism Clustering Charter.

Several meetings have taken place between Abergavenny Town Council and Blaenavon Town Council over recent months.

Abergavenny Town Council has expressed a strong commitment to working in partnership with Blaenavon Town Council and has formally signed and approved the Charter.

It was proposed by Cllr Matthews and seconded by Cllr Griffin to approve the Abergavenny and Blaenavon Tourism Clustering Charter.

All members in agreement.

Resolved: The Abergavenny and Blaenavon Tourism Clustering Charter approved.

16. To discuss and make any relevant determinations concerning the UK Government's UK Town of Culture 2028 competition.

Information relating to the competition had been circulated to all members prior to the meeting.

Cllr Matthews provided an overview of the UK Town of Culture 2028 competition, outlining eligibility, criteria and the various stages involved.

Cllr Matthews had created a consultation questionnaire to gather community feedback, which would be made available in both hard copy and digital formats.

Members were advised that, due to the scale and ambition of the programme, a strong partnership approach would be essential.

A meeting had taken place with Rebecca Hartley (TCBC) to discuss the opportunity, and consultation would also be required with key partners within the town.

Members were informed that the winning town would receive £3 million, with two runners-up each receiving £250,000.

A detailed discussion then took place amongst members.

It was proposed by Cllr Matthews and seconded by Cllr Griffin that an Expression of Interest be submitted.

All members in agreement.

Resolved: Expression of Interest to be submitted to the UK Government's UK Town of Culture 2028 competition.

18. To discuss and make a determination regarding potential Town Council projects for allocation into the Project Action Plan 2026/27. Relevant updates or new projects as notified.

None received.

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

Six planning applications were forwarded to members ahead of the meeting. It was noted that some timescales had passed.

- Single story extension. 4 Ton Mawr Road Blaenavon.
- Conversion of three number flats to six number flats. 23 Broad Street Blaenavon.
- New heating system. Big Pit Mining Museum Blaenavon.
- Painted advertisements front and side elevation. 71 -72 Broad Street Blaenavon.
- Felling of tree. Day Nursery Park Street Blaenavon.
- Raising canopy of tree. Bethlehem Chapel Blaenavon.

A discussion took place amongst members. There were no objections.

Resolved: No objections from members

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

- Message received from Cerys Whitcombe Jenkins

The Chief Officer forwarded the message to all members ahead of the meeting.

The message enquired about the criteria for dedicating memorial benches to former Town Councillors.

Reference was made to the service of the late former Councillor Brian Whitcombe and whether there were any plans to recognise his contribution in a similar way.

Members discussed its content in detail.

It was proposed by Cllr Matthews and seconded by Cllr Cowles that the Council explore initiatives to commemorate and honour former members of the council. Cerys Whitcombe Jenkins be contacted and updated.

All members in agreement.

Resolved: Initiatives to commemorate and honour former members of the council to be investigated.

- Message received from Sarah Clark.

The Chief Officer forwarded the message to all members ahead of the meeting.

The message provided details of a raffle being organised to raise funds for a resident of Blaenavon, recently diagnosed with Stage 4 Glioblastoma, to support their treatment and assist their family which included a request for donations.

Members noted: Under the Town Council Financial Regulations, the Council cannot provide a grant or donation, though individuals may contribute if they wish.

Members discussed its content in detail.

It was proposed by Cllr Parfitt and seconded by Cllr Griffin that Sarah Clark be contacted to explain the Regulations and to confirm that individual Councillors are aware of the JustGiving donation page and may contribute personally or donate a prize if they wish.

All members in agreement.

Resolved: Sarah Clark to be contacted and updated.

Meeting ended at 20:01hrs.