



Summary (Decisions) of the Full Council meeting of Blaenavon Town Council held on **Wednesday the 22nd of April 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 27th of May 2026**.

In attendance:

Councillors: L. Evans (Chair) L. Cowles, N. Matthews, M. Wheeler, S. Maslen, I. Parfitt, J. Davies, T Griffin, A. Lewis.

Absent: Cllrs T. Porter, J. Hunt.

Youth Representatives: Boyd Paynter & Daniel Morse

Officers: Kevin Warren (Chief Officer, CO), Kerry Jones (Assistant Chief Officer, ACO), Sophie Johnson (Community Wellbeing Development Officer, CWDO).

Visitors: Neighbourhood Policing Sergeant, Kyle Tayler, Gwent Police.

Ward Member, Cllr Janet Jones, TCBC.

Members of public: None present.

The Full Council meeting was opened at 6:30pm by Mayor Cllr 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 Beavan

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

All members in agreement.

Resolved: Apologies accepted.

3. Declarations of Interest

- Cllr Cowles – item 20 – personal.
- Cllr Parfitt – item 20 – personal.

7. Council Meetings: To confirm the minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on the 25th of March 2026.

Minutes were read for accuracy with no amendments.

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

All members in agreement.

Resolved: Minutes accepted as a true and accurate record.

8. Chief Officers Update – April 2026.

Item 8 within the minutes. The Chief Officer sought confirmation from Members, in line with their previous instructions, to send a follow-up email to the Secretary of the County Association RBL, noting that two months have now passed since the Chairman's passing.

It was proposed by Cllr Wheeler and seconded by Cllr Lewis that a follow-up email be sent.

All members in agreement.

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

13. To discuss and make any relevant determinations relating to the One Voice Wales Civility and Respect Pledge 2026.

The Civility and Respect pledge was forwarded to members ahead of the meeting for them to consider.

A discussion took place amongst members.

It was proposed by Cllr Matthews and seconded by Cllr Cowles to sign up to the civility and respect pledge.

All members in agreement

Resolved: Mayor, Cllr Lewis to sign the Civility and Respect Pledge on behalf of Blaenavon Town Council.

15. To discuss and make any relevant determinations regarding to a potential Mayor's Civic Ceremony and Grant Funding Awards Evening.

Members discussed the possibility of holding a combined Mayor's Civic Ceremony and Grant Fund Awards Evening.

Potential venues and dates were considered. It was noted that the Heritage Centre had been approached as a possible venue for an evening gathering following a ceremony; however, it is unavailable for evening use due to staffing constraints.

Further discussions took place around potential venues.

It was proposed by Cllr Cowles and seconded by Cllr Wheeler that decisions regarding the Mayor's Civic Ceremony and Grant Fund Awards Evening be deferred until after the appointment of the mayor for 2026/27 at the Annual Meeting in May 2026.

Resolved: Mayor's Civic Ceremony and Grant Fund Awards Evening be discussed after the appointment of the mayor for 2026/27 at the Annual Meeting in May 2026.

16. To review, discuss and make any relevant determinations relating to Council appointments to committees and working groups.

A list of all Council appointments to committees and working groups was circulated to members in advance of the meeting.

It was noted that the Tourism Working Group had not scheduled any meetings, and that attendance at some working group and committee meetings had been poor.

Members discussed these matters.

It was proposed by Cllr Cowles and seconded by Cllr Lewis that the Tourism and Events Working Groups be combined.

All members in agreement.

Resolved: Tourism and Events Working Groups be combined and known as the Event Working Group.

Further discussion took place regarding Cllrs appointments to the Event Working Group. It was proposed by Cllr Griffin and seconded by Cllr Cowles that the existing membership remain unchanged.

All Members in agreement.

Resolved: That the Cllr appointments to the Event Working Group comprise of Cllrs Matthews, Hunt, Wheeler, Lewis and Beavan, together with the Community Wellbeing Development Officer.

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.

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

- **Cllr Davies – Blaenavon Litter Picking Day.**

Cllr Davies provided Members with an update on the proposed litter-picking project, aimed at covering large areas of Blaenavon within a single coordinated day.

Members were advised that a central hub at BALC would be utilised to provide refreshments and distribute litter-picking equipment on the day. (Date to be confirmed)

A meeting had been held with Bron Afon to discuss partnership working and the potential provision of skips for resident use.

It was noted that evidence gathered from the town-wide litter pick would be used to identify litter “hotspot” areas, enabling skips to be strategically located where they are most needed.

To ensure appropriate use, Cllrs, officers and Bron Afon staff would oversee the skips on a rota basis.

Members discussed the project and associated costs. Concerns were raised regarding the potential for prohibited waste, misuse by businesses, and inappropriate use by residents.

The Community Wellbeing Development Officer (CWDO) advised that Bron Afon had previously delivered similar projects within Torfaen without issue. It was emphasised that effective rota management of the skips would be essential to ensure proper use.

It was proposed by Cllr Cowles and seconded by Cllr Wheeler that the project be supported, subject to the skips being appropriately managed.

Cllr Griffin abstained from the vote.

Resolved: Litter-picking day project supported, subject to appropriate management arrangements being in place.

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

Four planning applications was forwarded to members prior to the meeting.

- Variation of Condition/revision of design to water vessel - Pithead Baths, Big Pit Blaenavon.
- Installation of overhead crane - Winding House, Big Pit Blaenavon.
- Installation of ASHP's to serve Pithead Baths, Big Pit Blaenavon.
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Resolved: No objections from members.

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

The Chief Officer forwarded two items of correspondence to all members prior to the meeting.

- **Blaenavon Blues AFC – Matthew Cox**

Blaenavon Blues provided an update regarding their third annual football festival, scheduled to take place on 30th May. Previous events have been well attended and successful, and the organisers are aiming to deliver a larger event this year.

The club has requested financial support to assist with delivery of the festival; all participating children receive a medal. Members were asked to consider whether the Town Council would support the event again this year.

- **Forgeside RFC – Luke Jenkins**

A request was received from Forgeside RFC seeking financial support towards a past players' reunion event scheduled for 11th July 2026. The event aims to celebrate the club's history, reconnect former players, and strengthen community links.

Members were asked to consider a contribution towards the event.

Members considered both requests alongside the budget allocated for grant awards, the potential of a future Grant Awards Evening, and the importance of maintaining a fair and transparent application process.

Members agreed that the grant application form should be published on the Town Council website as soon as practicable, with applications to be considered at the May 2026 Finance Meeting.

It was proposed by Cllr Cowles and seconded by Cllr Griffin that both organisations be contacted and advised of the grant application process and invited to submit applications for consideration.

Should applications be successful, any awards may be issued in advance of a future Grant Awards Evening.

All members in agreement.

Resolved: Grant application form to be published at the earliest opportunity; both organisations be invited to apply through the formal process; and that any successful awards may be paid prior to a Grant Awards Evening.

Meeting ended at 20:14hrs.