



**BLAENAVON TOWN COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL FULL MEETING**  
**HELD ON WEDNESDAY 24<sup>th</sup> of JUNE 2026 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:** A. Lewis (Chair) L. Cowles, N. Matthews, M. Wheeler, S. Maslen, J. Davies, T Griffin, J. Hunt.

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

**Visitors:** None present.

**Members of public:** None present.

The Full Council meeting was opened at 6:30pm by 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 Porter
- Cllr Evans
- Youth Representatives: D. Morse, B. Paynter
- Father C. Walters

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

All members in agreement.

**Resolved:** Apologies accepted.

**3. Declarations of Interest**

None declared.

**4. To receive a TCBC update from Ward Councillors.**

Cllr Cowles attended the Torfaen County Borough Council Full Council meeting held on the 9<sup>th</sup> of June 2026.

The Annual Report of the Ethics and Standards Committee was presented. Members noted that one complaint had been received during the year, which was resolved at Stage One, and that no complaints had been referred to the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales.

An update was provided on 'The Light We Carry' public arts project, which proposes a series of murals across town centres in Torfaen and Blaenau Gwent. It was noted that Botanic Possessions is involved in the project and is currently discussing the development of a mural.

There may also be opportunities for the Town Council to become involved in additional mural projects within Blaenavon.

The Chief Officer advised that a meeting had been arranged with Simon Rushdon for the following week to discuss the project further.

An update was also provided on a potential funding opportunity being explored by Torfaen County Borough Council in relation to the future use of the former Arthur Jenkins Care Home. Further updates will be provided as information becomes available.

**Resolved:** Members noted the update.

**5. Mayor's Announcements: To receive the mayor's announcements.**

Cllr Lewis attended a service and flag raising ceremony at the Cenotaph to mark Armed Forces week.

**Resolved:** Members noted the update.

**6. Council Meetings: To confirm the minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on the 27<sup>th</sup> of May 2026.**

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.

**7. Council Meeting: To confirm the minutes of the Annual Meeting held on the 6th of May 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 Officer's Update: June 2026.**

On the 13/6/26, the Chief Officer attended the Family Quiz night together with fellow officers at the Con Club.

This was a really positive and well attended event and credit must be given to both Youth Representatives for organising and comparing the quiz. Feedback on the night was really positive

On the 16/6/26 at the Council chambers, representatives from Audit Wales and One Voice Wales attended to conduct a Good Practice Exchange (Audit Wales) Podcast.

This was to showcase the role of Youth Representatives within Town and Community Councils and Blaenavon was selected.

Boyd and Dan were interviewed as part of the podcast, and the completed version will be available in July 2026.

A Town Council FB post was published last week regarding this. So again well done to both youth reps for their contributions to the Good Practice Exchange series of events.

Also, since the last meeting, I've held briefing sessions with the mayor discussing Council operational and financial matters and operational meetings with my 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 Matthews, along with Cllr Evans, attended the World Heritage Steering Group Committee meeting. Discussions took place regarding World Heritage Day, which will be considered further under Agenda Item 13.

An update was provided on the report undertaken into the viability of saving Blaenavon House. Recommendations and proposed next steps are expected in due course, with a further update to follow.

Discussions also took place regarding the Keeper's Pond parking charges. It was noted that there had been some confusion arising from media reports; however, the charges remain on a voluntary donation basis.

It was highlighted that remedial works are required at the pond, and partners were requested to share communications regarding this when available from Bannau Brycheiniog National Park.

An update was provided on the Torfaen Destination Management Plan, which is being developed jointly with Blaenau Gwent.

A working group meeting had taken place, and a stakeholder consultation is planned, with the Town Council expected to be involved. Cllr Matthews has requested a further update at the Exploring and Enjoying BIL Group meeting.

The Town Centre mural project was discussed, with emphasis placed on ensuring that any proposed projects are sympathetic to the conservation area.

A Town Centre Boost initiative is also being planned, with activities and potential investment opportunities being explored to enhance the town centre. No decisions have yet been made regarding locations, with further details to follow.

**Resolved:** Members noted the update.

**10. Community Development and Wellbeing Officer's update: June 2026.**

The Community Wellbeing Development Officer's report for June 2026 was forwarded to all members prior to the meeting.

The CWD Officer provided members with an overview of the report.

There were no questions from members.

**Resolved:** Members noted the update.

**11. To receive an update from Blaenavon Town Council's Youth Representatives.**

Deferred to July 2026 Full Council Meeting

**Resolved:** Members noted the update.

**12. To receive an update from Fr Dr Chris Walters (Chaplain to Blaenavon Town Council)**

Deferred to July 2026 Full Council Meeting

**Resolved:** Members noted the update.

**13. To receive, discuss and make any relevant determinations regarding an update from the Events Working Group relating to Blaenavon World Heritage Day.**

Cllr Matthews updated Members following a meeting between members of the Events Working Group, Officers and Rebecca Hartley (TCBC).

Members were advised that the Council's concerns regarding the proposed event had been raised with Rebecca Hartley, including the limited timescale, the lack of confirmation of funding from Torfaen County Borough Council (TCBC), and the feasibility of organising a parade within the available time.

Following the meeting, Rebecca Hartley circulated a report confirming that a parade would not be essential and that a smaller-scale event utilising Broad Street and the Broad Street and Market Street car parks would be acceptable.

The report also advised that funding of up to £11,000 would be a one-off contribution, subject to the approval of the Leader, Cllr Anthony Hunt of TCBC, and that the event should celebrate the 25th anniversary of Blaenavon's World Heritage status while engaging local businesses and community groups.

The Events Working Group met to consider proposals for the event.

The Chief Officer reported that an email had been received from Cllr Anthony Hunt (displayed on screen) requesting a meeting to discuss the World Heritage Day celebrations, with proposed dates of 2<sup>nd</sup> of July and 15<sup>th</sup> of July 2026.

Following a telephone conversation with Cllr Hunt's Personal Assistant, the Chief Officer was advised that no decision had yet been made regarding the funding.

Members discussed the ongoing uncertainty surrounding the funding, noting that the matter had been ongoing since March 2026, and expressed concerns regarding the practicality of organising an event at such short notice without confirmation of funding.

Members also considered the option of delivering a Town Council summer event using performers and attractions that had already been provisionally booked.

Cllr Cowles offered to contact Cllr Hunt directly to seek clarification regarding the purpose of the proposed meeting.

This was proposed by Cllr Matthews and seconded by Cllr Hunt.

All members in agreement.

**Resolved:** Cllr Cowles to contact Cllr Hunt and report the outcome to the Chief Officer.

Further discussion took place amongst members.

It was proposed by Cllr Matthews and seconded by Cllr Wheeler that delegated authority be granted to Officers to make provisional bookings for attractions and entertainment, subject to the availability of funding from TCBC.

Should no funding be awarded, this would be capped at £10,000.

All members in agreement.

**Resolved:** Delegated authority be granted to Officers to make provisional bookings for attractions and entertainment, subject to confirmation of TCBC funding, capped at £10,000 should funding from TCBC not be received.

**14. To receive an update and make any relevant determinations relating to recent projects involving Blaenavon Heritage School.**

The CWDO provided members with an update of recent projects and outcomes with the school.

Originally the school were on board and keen to take part in the Ecco quiz which was held earlier in the month, alongside Pontypool and Cwmbran schools and Town and Community Councils.

Unfortunately, the school pulled out one week before the competition. The reason given was that they were unable to collate a team of six pupils for the event.

Similarly, the school pulled out of the Eisteddfod the day before the event. The reason given was due to staff illness and being unable to provide cover.

A discussion took place amongst members.

It was proposed by Cllr Matthews to ask Cllr Porter, as school Governor to consult with school and enquire as to why they had not participated. This was seconded by Cllr Hunt.

**Amendment**

Cllr Davies proposed for an in person meeting with the Head Teacher, Cllr, and Officer to be arranged to discuss any issues. This was seconded by Cllr Cowles.

A vote took place.

Five members voted in favour.

Amendment stands.

**Resolved:** An in person meeting with the Head Teacher, Cllr, and Officer to be arranged to discuss.

**15. To receive, discuss and make any relevant determinations regarding an update relating to the Blaenavon Heritage and Tourism Walking Tour.**

Cllr Matthews provided Members with an update on the 'Pints & Pitheads' Heritage and Tourism project.

Members were advised that a meeting had taken place with an e-trail provider to explore a range of options, including incorporating the tour into an existing trail platform, developing a bespoke app (which would incur ongoing annual costs), and producing printed leaflets featuring QR codes and links to the Town Council's website.

Further options are currently being explored, and a further update will be provided in due course.

It was proposed by Cllr Hunt and seconded by Cllr Griffin that Cllr Matthews continue to progress the project and provide updates to Members as they become available.

All members in agreement.

**Resolved:** Cllr Matthews continue to progress the project and provide updates to Members as available.

**16. 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 CWDO forwarded three potential projects to all members prior to the meeting.

- **Amended Bike Workshop**

The amended Bike Workshop project was forwarded to all members prior to the meeting.

A brief discussion took place amongst members regarding fully funding the project.

It was proposed by Cllr Matthews and seconded by Cllr Griffin to support and fully fund the project.

All members in agreement.

**Resolved:** Bike Workshop project supported.

- **Flowers and Fizz**

A brief discussion took place amongst members.

It was proposed by Cllr Griffin and seconded by Cllr Maslen not to support the Flower and Fizz project.

All members in agreement.

**Resolved:** Flower and Fizz project not supported.

- **Barry Island Coach Trip**

A brief discussion took place amongst members.

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

All members in agreement.

**Resolved:** Barry Island coach trip project supported.

A further discussion took place amongst members.

It was proposed by Cllr Griffin and seconded by Cllr Hunt that delegated authority be granted to Officers to make further bookings for a second coach or second trip.

All members in agreement.

**Resolved:** Delegated authority be granted to Officers to make further bookings for a second coach or second trip.

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

None received.

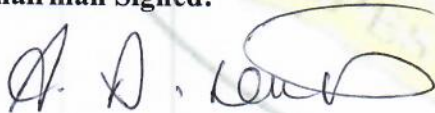
**18. To receive, discuss and make any relevant determinations concerning items relating to Correspondence.**

Two letters of resignation had been received by the Chief Officer from Cllrs Beavan and Parfitt. Positions will be advertised.

**Resolved:** Members noted the update.

Meeting ended 19:54 hrs

**Chairman Signed:**



**Date: 22/7/2026.**