



Summary (Decisions) of the Full Council meeting of Blaenavon Town Council held on **Wednesday the 24th of June 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 22nd of July 2026**.

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.

6. Council Meetings: To confirm the minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on the 27th 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.

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 carparks 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 2nd of July and 15th 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.

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

All members in agreement.

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.

Meeting ended 19:54 hrs