



BLAENAVON TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL FULL MEETING
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 22nd of JULY 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) N. Matthews, M. Wheeler, S. Maslen, J. Davies, T Griffin, J. Hunt.

Absent: T. Porter, C. Walters, D. Morse.

Youth Representatives: B. Paynter.

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

Visitors: P.C. Doolan - Gwent Police.

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.

- Cllrs Evans and Cowles

It was proposed by Cllr Lewis and seconded by Cllr Wheeler that the apologies be accepted.
All members in agreement.

Resolved: Apologies accepted.

3. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Hunt – Personal- Agenda item 24.

4.To receive an update from Gwent Police.

PC Tom Doolan the Ward Manager for Blaenavon provided members with a brief update regarding local statistics.

PC Doolan explained that for June 2026 there had been a reduction in Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) incidents namely 66.7%. It was explained that youth injunctions were in place and this has helped.

An update was provided in relation to Off Road bike operations which covered a large area. Some patrols were plain clothes, but it was proving difficult because officers were not authorised to pursue due to safety reasons.

Members requested an update on the wild fires, and it was explained that this was still an ongoing incident. Members also queried the use of green lanes relating to off road bikes. It was confirmed that green lanes are in use.

The Chief Officer asked PC Doolan to clarify the ASB statistics in terms of reduction figures, number of offences and reported incidents.

PC Doolan explained that he was not able to provide exact figures, but there was a reduction of 12 calls for May and June which equated to 67%.

PC Doolan was asked to provide an update regarding drug offences in Blaenavon. It was explained that it is not dissimilar to offences across Torfaen. Two drug warrants had been executed in Blaenavon during the last month. The main issue was cocaine and cannabis.

PC Doolan was asked about the parking issues in the Town. It was explained that this was a TCBC matter but if the matter could be reported to Police via 101 for highway matters.

PC Doolan was asked about ASB preventative measures. It was explained that when a referral is made there is intervention and education to support the offender.

If there is a second offence / referral, this is dealt with at the police station, reported to the Youth Offending Team, potential ASB injunction and Court appearance.

Boyd Paynter referenced more preventative work. It was explained that this is achieved with PCSO, youth club, school and meet and greet workshops.

PC Doolan was thanked for his update by the Chairperson and he left the meeting.

Resolved: Gwent Police update noted by members.

5. To receive a TCBC update from Ward Councillors.

Due to Cllr Cowles being on holiday. An update had been forwarded to members ahead of the meeting for reference.

This was noted by members.

Resolved: TCBC update from Cllr Cowles noted by members.

6. Mayor's Announcements: To receive the mayor's announcements.

Cllr Lewis provided members with an update relating to the recent Town Council coach trip to Tenby. This was another well supported event. A raffle prize was donated by Mrs Joy Merrifield which was noted and appreciated by members.

Cllr Lewis added that in her capacity as Mayor, she opened the start of the Mic Morris 10k race on the 12th of July 2026.

Resolved: Members noted the update.

7. Council Meetings: To confirm the minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on the 24th of June 2026.

Minutes were read for accuracy with no amendments.

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

All members in agreement.

Resolved: Minutes accepted as a true and accurate record.

8. Chief Officer's Update: July 2026.

The Chief Officer explained that he had no updates in relation to completed resolutions from the June 2026 FCM.

It was explained to members that since the last meeting the Chief Officer's focus has been completing the triennial audit which will be delivered to Audit Wales at the conclusion of the notice of elector's rights period which is between the 6th and 31st of July.

Therefore he will be delivering the required information to Audit Wales Cardiff office on the 4th of August 2026.

The Chief Officer further explained that prior to the submission, he will be briefing the Mayor and Deputy on the bundles being delivered and was happy for any member to view the submission before the 4th of August if required.

Also, since the last meeting, the Chief Officer has held briefing sessions with the mayor discussing Council operational and financial matters and operational meetings with his fellow officers relating to future planning and current projects in particular the summer event at Broad street Car park on the 5th of September.

This will be discussed further at agenda item 13.

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 Wheeler informed members that he attended the Blaenavon Male Voice Choir concert together with Cllr Davies on the 28/6/26 at the Workmen's Hall.

On the 7/7/26 together with Cllrs Maslen and Matthews he participated in the planting of the flower boxes on the roundabout at Cwmavon Road.

On the 8/7/26 he attended the Mic Morris committee meeting whereby funds were agreed to support an athlete from Forgeside.

On the 12/7/26 he performed the role of a steward at the start of the Mic Morris 10k run in Blaenavon, also on the 12/7/26 he attended the investiture of Mother Rosemary Hill at St Peter's Church.

Cllr Matthews informed members that on the 26/6/26 he attended and chaired the Blaenavon WHS Partnership Exploring & Enjoying BIL Working Group.

Discussions took place regarding destination planning and events programming with partners. This will be discussed further at agenda item 14.

Cllr Hunt informed members that he had recently attended a consultation meeting held by TCBC regarding traffic calming measures outside the former Arthur Jenkins nursing home. The consultation included dropped kerbs and speed humps.

In terms of any identified concerns, there was none for residents in the area. The introduction of these would ease the flow of traffic.

Cllr Hunt also attended the Torfaen Museum Trust whereby their strategic plan was discussed.

Cllr Davies informed members that she also attended the Blaenavon Male Voice Choir concert together with Cllr Wheeler on the 28/6/26 at the Workmen's Hall.

Resolved: Members noted the updates.

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

The Community Wellbeing Development Officer's report for July 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.

Boyd Paynter presented to members a slideshow relating to the Instagram update.

Boyd also explained that the Audit Wales / One Voice Wales podcast that Dan Morse and Boyd took part in has now been made available via You Tube and it was very good.

Boyd provided a brief overview of the recent family quiz night held at the Con Club in Jube was a great event. Boyd thanked Cllrs Wheeler and Maslen for attending but reiterated that more Cllrs should attend these events.

Boyd then provided an update in relation to meet the team summaries. This was proving very difficult due to the lack of response to his requests for information.

Boyd presented to members via the projector screen the responses that he had received from Cllrs Wheeler and Cowles which is what is required. This information needs to be circulated within the community. A one-week deadline for the information from the outstanding Cllrs has been put in place.

Boyd also provided an overview on future projects namely Quiz Night 2 which will be around the end of October to coincide with Halloween. At present confirmation from the Con Club is pending together with Munchies Pizza.

Boyd concluded with a brief summary in relation to the setting up and running of a mock election at local schools.

Resolved: Members noted the update and thanked Boyd for his excellent contribution.

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

Deferred until September 2026

13. To receive, discuss and make any relevant determinations regarding an update relating to the Community Summer Event.

The ACO and CWDO provided members with a n overview of the event planning to date which included the following.

- Confirmed attractions and entertainment.
- Food and drink vendors.
- Event licences.
- Site plan.
- Closure of Lion Street car park to ease congestion within the Town.
- Setting up and closure plans.
- Estimated cost of event to date £5,530

A draft event poster was shared with members via the projector screen for reference.

Members noted the update and thanked the officers for the event planning.

Resolved: Members noted the update.

14. To discuss and make any relevant determinations concerning World Heritage Site communications.

Cllr Matthews provided members with an update regarding discussions at the Exploring and Enjoying BIL Committee meeting on improving World Heritage Site communications.

It was noted that previous communication channels, including the Heritage News newsletter, Visit Blaenavon website and email newsletter, had all ceased or become outdated.

TCBC has offered to fully fund the production, design, distribution and Welsh translation of a new 12-page newsletter. Blaenavon Town Council would coordinate, edit and submit content from partners, with Cllr Matthews offering to support officers.

A second phase would involve assisting with updates to the Visit Blaenavon website in partnership with the Heritage Centre.

Members recognised the opportunity to improve communication with residents and promote tourism using existing TCBC resources with no additional costs to the council.

It was proposed by Cllr Matthews and seconded by Cllr Hunt to support the World Heritage Site communications campaign.

All members in agreement.

Resolved: To support the proposed World Heritage Site communications campaign.

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

Cllr Matthews updated Members on the progress of the Pints & Pitheads Heritage and Tourism Project.

A quotation for an e-trail exceeded the agreed project budget. Members were advised that potential grant funding could be explored to support this option, while an alternative of producing printed leaflets with QR codes linking to the Town Council's website would be a more cost-effective solution and potentially within budget.

Members discussed both options, including cost, accessibility, and local Wi-Fi and mobile signal coverage.

It was proposed by Cllr Griffin and seconded by Cllr Maslen that Cllr Matthews explore the printed leaflet and QR code option.

Amendment

It was proposed by Cllr Davies and seconded by Cllr Hunt that Cllr Matthews explore both the printed leaflet with QR code option and potential grant funding for the e-trail, and report back to Members.

A vote took place amongst Members with five votes in favour.

Amendment stands.

Resolved: Cllr Matthews to explore both the printed leaflet with QR code option and potential grant funding for the e-trail, and report back to Members.

16. To receive an update and make any relevant determinations relating to grant applications.

Grant Applications 2026 (Second Round)

All grant application requests were forwarded to members prior to the meeting.

Members discussed all applications received, namely:

- **Sight Cymru**

It was proposed by Cllr Griffin not to support the request. This was seconded by Cllr Wheeler.

All members in agreement.

Resolved: Grant application not supported.

- **Cat and Crow**

It was proposed by Cllr Davies not to support the request and to explore potential partnership working opportunities on a future project. This was seconded by Cllr Griffin.

All members in agreement.

Resolved: Grant application not supported.

- **Blaenavon Brownies**

It was proposed by Cllr Wheeler that the request be supported through direct payment of the hall hire to Bethlehem Chapel, up to a maximum amount of £432. This was seconded by Cllr Griffin.

All members in agreement.

Resolved: Grant application authorised.

- **Blaenavon Community Voices**

It was proposed by Cllr Matthews to support the request with a grant of £300. This was seconded by Cllr Davies.

All members in agreement.

Resolved: Grant application authorised.

- **Tidy Butt**

It was proposed by Cllr Matthews not to support the request. This was seconded by Cllr Hunt.

All members in agreement.

Resolved: Grant application not supported.

- **Blaenavon Male Voice Choir**

It was proposed by Cllr Davies not to support the request. This was seconded by Cllr Griffin.

Amendment

It was proposed by Cllr Matthews and seconded by Cllr Hunt to support the request with a grant of £240

A vote took place amongst Members with six votes in favour.

Amendment stands.

Resolved: Grant application authorised.

- **Hip Hop 12**

It was proposed by Cllr Griffin not to support the request. This was seconded by Cllr Hunt.

All members in agreement.

Resolved: Grant application not supported.

A remaining balance of **£528** will be carried forward into the 2026/2027 Grants Budget.

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

All members in agreement.

Resolved: The remaining balance of **£528** will be carried forward into the 2026/2027 Grants Budget.

17. To discuss and make any relevant determinations regarding an update relating to the proposed Litter Picking Project.

Cllr Davies explained to Members due to time constraints that she was unable to commit to the project during the school summer holiday period.

Cllr Davies proposed to reschedule the project to align with Keep Wales Tidy Spring Clean Event in 2027. This was seconded by Cllr Hunt.

All members in agreement.

Resolved: Litter pick project postponed to Spring 2027.

18. To discuss and make any relevant determinations regarding the Heritage Pickers monthly update.

Members discussed the need for a Cllr project lead for the Heritage Pickers monthly litter picking sessions.

Cllr Davies proposed herself to be the project lead. This was seconded by Cllr Matthews.

All members in agreement.

Resolved: Cllr Davies to be project lead for Blaenavon Heritage Litter Pickers.

19. To appoint a Councillor signatory to Bank Account for cheques and online banking authorisations.

Cllr Davies proposed herself to be a signatory for banking authorisations. This was seconded by Cllr Griffin.

All members in agreement.

Resolved: Cllr Davies appointed as signatory for 2026/27.

20. To appoint a Councillor for membership of the Personnel and Establishment Committee.

Cllr Davies proposed herself to be a member of the Personnel and Establishment Committee. This was seconded by Cllr Griffin.

All members in agreement.

Resolved: Cllr Davies appointed as a member of the Personnel and Establishment Committee for 2026/27.

21. To appoint a Councillor for membership of the Events Working Group.

Cllr Griffin proposed himself to be a member of the Events Working Group. This was seconded by Cllr Wheeler.

All members in agreement.

Resolved: Cllr Griffin appointed as a member of the Events Working Group for 2026/27.

22. To appoint two Councillors for membership of the Blaenavon World Heritage Site Exploring & Enjoying the Blaenavon Industrial Landscape Group.

Cllr Matthews proposed Cllr Hunt to be a member of the Blaenavon World Heritage Site Exploring & Enjoying the Blaenavon Industrial Landscape Group. This was seconded by Cllr Griffin.

All members in agreement.

Cllr Lewis proposed herself to be a member of the Blaenavon World Heritage Site Exploring & Enjoying the Blaenavon Industrial Landscape Group. This was seconded by Cllr Griffin.

All members in agreement.

Resolved: Cllrs Hunt and Lewis appointed as members of the Blaenavon World Heritage Site Exploring & Enjoying the Blaenavon Industrial Landscape Group for 2026/27.

23. 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 one potential project to all members prior to the meeting.

- **Family Quiz Night**

A brief discussion took place amongst members regarding the project.

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

All members in agreement.

Resolved: Family Quiz project supported.

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

Two planning applications had been forwarded to members ahead of the meeting namely,

- CPULLE/26/P/0266/VAR – Big Pit Waiting Room.
- SPRI/26/P/0294/NMA – Big Pit Container Work.

Members noted the planning applications with no objections recorded.

Resolved: Members noted the planning applications with no objections.

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

None received.

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.

Cllr Griffin proposed to adhere to the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960. This was seconded by Cllr Hunt.

All members in agreement.

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

The CWD Officer and Youth representative left the meeting at 19.50 hrs

The recording was confirmed as stopped by the Chief Officer at 19.50 hrs

26. To receive and discuss a recommendation from the Personnel and Establishment Committee relating to a request from staff relating to a change to contract.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Recording confirmed as restarted by the Chief Officer at 19.53 hrs

Meeting ended 19:53 hrs

Chairman Signed:

A-D Lewis

Date: 23/9/2026.

