Summary (Decisions) of the Full Council meeting of Blaenavon Town Council held on **Wednesday the 22nd of July 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 23rd of September 2026.**

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.

Visitors: P.C. T. 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.

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

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.

<u>Resolved:</u> Minutes accepted as a true and accurate record.

14. <u>To discuss and make any relevant determinations concerning World Heritage Site communications.</u>

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including the Heritage News newsletter, Visit Blaenavon website and email newsletter, had all ceased or become outdated.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.

<u>Resolved:</u> To support the proposed World Heritage Site communications campaign.

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

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.

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]

Recording confirmed as restarted by the Chief Officer at 19.53 hrs

Meeting ended 19:53 hrs