BLAENAVON TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 23RD of SEPTEMBER 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, T. Porter (On Line) J. Hunt, B. Ford, T. Gardener, L. Evans.

Youth Representatives: Boyd Paynter (On Line) Daniel Morse.

Officers: Kevin Warren (Chief Officer, CO)

Visitors: Jessica Mahoney (Community Safety TCBC) & CSO Rob Canpbell (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**.

None received.

3. **Declarations of Interest**

None declared.

4.To welcome and receive an introduction from recently elected members to Blaenavon Town Council.

The mayor stated that on behalf of the Blaenavon Town Council, she wanted to extend a warm welcome to the two newly elected members and congratulate them on earning the trust and confidence of the residents they now represent.

The mayor explained that public service is both a privilege and a responsibility and that each Cllr comes to this council with different experiences, perspectives and priorities, but we are united by a common purpose, to serve the people of Blaenavon and to act in the best interests of our community.

As members of this council, we are guided by the values of integrity, respect, accountability, openness and leadership and by the members' code of conduct that underpins local government in Wales.

These principles require us to treat one another with courtesy, to respect the role of our officers, to listen to different views and to conduct our business in a manner that maintains the confidence of the public we serve.

The mayor reiterated that healthy debate is an important part of democracy and robust discussion helps us make better decisions.

However, we achieve the most when we work constructively together, recognising that while we may not always agree, we make a commitment to the wellbeing and future success of our town..

I look forward to working with our new members and wish them every success in their role.

Your election marks the beginning of an important chapter of service to the community, and I hope you'll find your time on this council both rewarding and fulfilling.

The mayor requested if the two new Cllrs would like to introduce themselves to members.

Cllr Ford introduced himself and stated that he has lived in Blaenavon all his life, a family man, two children and was honoured to be sat at this table right now. Didn't have much more to say as most of the Cllrs knew him.

Cllr Gardener explained that he has lived in Blaenavon for the past 18 years, he has two children and is a project manager.

Blaenavon is a great town. He was sceptical when he first moved to Blaenavon, however, it's grown on him over the years. Cllr Gardener explained that his children are about to move out and he's had discussions with his wife on whether to downsize and move.

They have decided to stay and use this as an opportunity to give something back and do something positive for the town.

Resolved: Members noted the comments.

5.To receive an update from Jessica Mahoney (Anti-Social Behaviour Reduction Coordinator Torfaen County Borough Council.)

The mayor welcomed Jessica Mahoney and CSO Rob Cambell to the meeting.

Jessica explained that this was more of an introduction and just wanted to introduce herself to everyone and where she can help and offer any support. Jessica explained that she works closely with CSO Campbell and are often out and about across the Town.

CSO Campbell explained that there had been an increase in Anti-Social behaviour (ASB) during the past year and a policing plan had been put in place to manage this.

Current figures show that there has now been a 34% reduction for crime and a 64% reduction for ASB compared to this time last year.

A series of questions were raised from members and officers which included concerns regarding a potentially homeless man who had been sleeping in the churchyard. Also, the volume of ASB contracts that had been issued.

It was explained that observations would be conducted regarding the homeless male person and an overview was provided regarding the referral process and interventions for ASB and other related matters which included both youth and adults.

A question was raised in relation to the interaction involving the Youth Offending Service and local schools. An explanation was provided which involved a multi-agency approach to identify and manage offences and offenders.

A question was also raised in relation to the volume of Section 115 meetings that are held during a month. Jessica explained that this varied each month depending on offenders and offences aligned to multi agency referrals.

A question was raised concerning a motorcyclist who is active within the Town and was described as a stunt rider. CSO Campbell was aware of the individual and explained that measures are in place to deal with these offences.

A question was raised regarding concerns from the community particularly the mobility impaired, regarding the persistent occupation of parking spaces at locations within the Town by one individual who owns several vehicles, as an example, opposite the Co-op store and pharmacy. Were there any interventions in place to deal with this?

CSO Campbell explained that he was aware of the individual and work was being conducted with trading standards. An explanation was provided regarding highway offences that would be dealt with by DVLA and that the situation was being monitored.

It was pointed out that between January and July 2026 data taken from the Gwent Police website showed that there were 141 cases of reported ASB offences within Blaenavon. In terms of these cases, how many involve repeat individuals and repeat location.

CSO Campbell explained how the calls received at the control room are graded and in terms of ASB this was a wide variety of incidents which generate a wide variety of actions.

There are repeat offenders and repeat locations which are managed via a problem-oriented policing plan and meetings are held to manage the offences. As stated there has been a reduction of 64% in reported ASB offences.

A question was askes relating to the multi-agency panel and if any young people sat on the panel.

It was explained that there wouldn't be any young people present in the meeting just because other pupils may be discussed under a banner of confidentiality.

Jessica and Rob were thanked for their attendance and updates.

Resolved: Members noted the updates.

6.To receive a TCBC update from Ward Councillors

Cllr Liam Cowles (TCBC) provided members with the following update.

Fees payable to the returning Officer and Staff – Local Elections - 2027

Full Council on 15th September considered the above. Assuming that all wards are contested at both County and Community Council level, it is anticipated that the total cost for the administration and delivery of the 2027 local government elections will be £350,000, of which, the estimated staffing costs will be in the region of £75,000.

The costs of operating the election will be funded by the Council's reserve set up specifically for this purpose and further supported through appropriate charges to relevant Community Councils will be made where applicable. So that is essentially the cost of running the election for 18 contested wards at TCBC.

Update to Political Balance

Councillor Catherine Bonera has resigned from the Independent Group and has subsequently joined the Torfaen Independent Group. This has resulted in a change to the Council's political balance.

That makes the political balance of the council Labour 28 members, The Independent Group 4 members, Torfaen Independent Group 4 members, Reform UK 4 members.

However, the Torfaen Independent Group decided not to force a reshuffle of committee membership as a result of Cllr Bonera's defection from the IG to the TIG and committee membership will remain the same until May's local election.

Upcoming Scrutiny Committee Topics

Adults and Communities

HALO

How effectively is HALO performing against the terms and conditions of the contract, and what improvements could be made to the service to better meet the needs and requirements of citizens?

CROSS CUTTING RESOURCES & BUSINESS

INITIAL REVENUE ESTIMATES 2027/8

To provide the Cross-Cutting Resources and Business Overview and Scrutiny Committee the opportunity to review and comment upon the initial 2026/27 draft estimates

ECONOMY & ENVIRONMENT

STRATEGIC REGENERATION

How effectively are the Council and its partners managing the delivery of strategic regeneration programmes to ensure they achieve intended economic, social and place-making outcomes, while controlling risks, maximising external funding opportunities, and securing value for money?

CHILDREN & FAMILIES

PLACEMENT SUFFICIENCY

How is the Council assuring itself that it is meeting its statutory duty to secure sufficient, appropriate accommodation for LAC both now and in the future, and what are the key risks and mitigation measures in place to address current sufficiency gaps and forthcoming legislative requirements

EDUCATION

Additional Learning Needs (ALN) INCLUSIVE PRACTICE

How will the Teaching and Learning Strategy drive a culture of high-quality inclusive practice across all schools, ensuring that the needs of learners with ALN are met effectively while improving outcomes for every learner?

Blue Recycling Bag Issues

Unfortunately, due to shipping delays caused by global events, TCBC are currently unable to provide replacement blue recycling bags. Communications will be issued shortly to advise residents as follows:

If you don't have a blue bag, please place your cardboard out separately in a black box. If you don't have a black box, smaller cardboard can be secured inside a larger cardboard box where possible.

To help our collection crews, please ensure any cardboard bundles are no larger than a red or blue recycling bag so they can fit safely into collection vehicles.

Real Time Passenger Information Installation - Blaenavon Ward

Cllr Cowles received correspondence that Real Time Passenger Information (RTPI) displays will shortly be installed at the High Street Bus Stop. The proposed installation date is the 29th of September.

The installation of RTPI will provide passengers with accurate, up-to-date information, including live service departure times. This will help to reduce uncertainty when waiting for services, improve the overall passenger experience and increase confidence in public transport.

The Light We Carry Mural Trail

Two community-led murals are planned for Blaenavon - one on the side of a new florist business and another for the Castle Hotel.

The Light We Carry Trail is part of the Towns Together programme, with council teams, local businesses, community groups and members of the public working together to improve the visual appearance of town centres.

Constituency Issues

Cllr Cowles had numerous issues raised with him over the last month or so, including a few specific ASB issues and issues raised about Torfaen home seekers and housing needs, but members will understand he couldn't go into the specifics about these.

Welcome to newly elected Cllrs

Cllr Cowles passed on his congratulations to Cllrs Ford and Gardener on their election last week. He looks forward to working with them and, as always if they or any other members have any TCBC issues raised with them, please don't hesitate to drop him an email about it.

The mayor confirmed that in relation to recycling bags and boxes, there a plenty in storage at the Heritage Centre if any resident required them.

Cllr Davies queried the comms team at TCBC, how do they get the information that they share? There's not a lot of sharing of what this Town Council or other Councils are delivering. Should information just be sent to TCBC for them to view.

A brief discussion took place, and it was agreed that if the Council needed to share information then this can be forwarded via the officers to TCBC.

Cllr Hunt raised a question relating to the Blaenavon medical centre in that the lift had been out of action for 4 weeks and they were waiting for a part to be delivered.

A brief discussion took place which highlighted there was a delay on parts as they are imported, but Cllr Cowles offered to make some enquiries regarding this issue.

Resolved: Members noted the update.

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

Cllr Lewis provided members with an update and outlined that since the last meeting in July 2026 she has attended the following events.

On the 6th of August, together with fellow Cllrs and Sophie, she attended the summer play camp at Blaenavon Heritage School and spoke with several of the play service volunteers and the children who were in attendance.

As members know, the Town Council contributes £11,600 annually to this event, which really supports the community. A key factor is that our investment has enabled local children and families to access safe, inclusive and enriching play opportunities throughout the summer holidays.

It has also created volunteering, training and employment opportunities that strengthen the wider community. There will be an impact report made available in the next few days which will demonstrate the depth and breadth of what our investment in partnership with Torfaen Place Service has achieved in 2026.

On the 13th of August, Cllr Lewis attended the Council's 4th coach trip of the year to Barry Island. This was extremely popular in that two 55-seater buses we used for this event. Cllr Lewis has gained the feedback from the public which was excellent. This is a great value for money project to support our community during the school summer holidays.

On the 18th of September, together with Cllr Matthews and the Chief Officer, Cllr Lewis attended the Blaenavon WHS partnership exploring and enjoying BIL Working Group chaired by Cllr Matthews.

The decisions from this meeting will be fed back into the next WHS Steering Group meeting.

On Wednesday last week, Cllr Lewis represented the Town Council at the funeral of former Blaenavon Town Councillor Pauline Whitcombe.

8. Council Meetings: To confirm the minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on the 22nd of July 2026.

Minutes were read for accuracy with no amendments.

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

All members in agreement.

Resolved: Minutes accepted as a true and accurate record.

9. Chief Officer's Update: September 2026.

The Chief Officer informed members that he had no updates in relation to completed resolutions from the July 2026 FCM.

It was reiterated that since the last meeting the Chief Officer's focus has been completing the triennial audit at the conclusion of the notice of electors' rights period which was between the 6th and 31st of July 2026.

The Chief Officer confirmed to members that he delivered the triennial requirements to Audit Wales's Cardiff office on the 5th of August 2026.

On the 5th of September 2026 together with fellow Cllrs and Officers, the Chief Officer attended the Town Council's Summer Event at Broad St Car Park.

The event was a huge success with record numbers in attendance. The feedback has also been extremely positive which has been captured via our social media and website, and this is as a result of the good work by Boyd Paynter the Council's resident film maker.

On the 18th of September 2026, together with Cllrs Matthews and Lewis the Chief Officer attended the Blaenavon WHS Partnership Exploring & Enjoying BIL Working Group which was chaired by Cllr Matthews who will provide a further update at agenda item 10.

The Chief Officer continued and informed members that preparations are now underway for the delivery of the following events namely

The Remembrance Parade 2026. The Chief Officer outlined to members that he has now confirmed the road closure orders and traffic management plans for the 8/11/26.

The Event planning together with the risk assessments will be submitted to the Event Safety Advisory Group next week. The Remembrance Parade programme will also be sent for printing in early October.

The Chief Officer also confirmed that he has received notification via the Deputy Clerk to the Lord-Lieutenant for Gwent and has confirmed the attendance of the DLL. The Chief Officer has also been contacted by Nick Thomas - Symonds's office who have confirmed his attendance.

The Town Council's Civic Event at Blaenavon Rugby Club on the 13/11/26 has all been confirmed with entertainment and the buffet all booked. Invites will be sent out by Sophie and Kerry in early October.

The Xmas Light switch on event is also progressing well. The Chief Officer will be submitting the event plan, risk assessments, temporary event notices together with the necessary licence agreements next week.

The Xmas lights were delivered last Monday, and the Xmas tree has been ordered. All of the entertainment, event vendors, staging and Blaenavon Santa have also been booked.

The requirements for the recent Blaenavon West by election have now been completed and the Chief Officer is awaiting the election cost invoice to be forwarded from TCBC which should be in the next few weeks.

The Chief Officer concluded and explained that since the last meeting, he's 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.

There were no questions for the Chief Officer.

Resolved: Members noted the update.

10. To receive Cllr updates regarding recent attendance at outside bodies committee meetings, together with any relevant community / partnership engagement.

Cllr Matthews informed members that he had two updates.

Cllr Matthews attended the WHS steering group meeting along with Cllr Evans on the 8th of September 2026.

The meeting was very much dominated by the recent mountain fires. Around 700 acres of the Heather Moorland had been destroyed. Peat has been burnt and destroyed, exposing rock. Fire breaks have been put in place on the landscape.

There are significant concerns regarding recovery, which will take a long time. It looks like it will be about 15 to 20 years for the heather to be fully restored.

As Cllr Matthews referred to previously, a special recovery group has been established with representatives from key organisations to work with the farmers and stakeholders to ensure that their recovery is appropriately managed.

Also from a partnership perspective, there's also concern regarding the fuel load, which is the base of the bracken, and also access to various parts of the landscape in the event of fire. So the steering group, as well as this recovery group, will be looking at contingency plans for the future.

There is also an update in relation to Blaenavon House, and this is the structural engineers report, which will be submitted to TCBC in the near future in relation to that building.

As members know, it is currently in a precarious state, so this is a matter of urgency.

Also, there's a project being submitted for Pwll Du Tunnel, which is to expose and present parts of the southern portal and to do research into how that can be done. This was work done in 2011 and 2012 under the Forgotten Landscape scheme.

But unfortunately, there's been a lot of overgrowth there and neglect and vandalism on the site. So surveys were to be conducted with the intention of doing some remedial work on that site. £50,000 has already been allocated for the project for the preparatory work, which must be spent by March 2027.

There's discussion around the appointment of a World Heritage site ranger. This is a proposal that's currently being put to TCBC to consider, but it's possible that partners will be invited to contribute money towards the cost of maintaining that role over a two-year period.

So it could be that there may be a request made to this council in due course to make a contribution to that proposal.

In terms of the working groups, it was noted that Ashleigh Taylor has stepped down as chair of the Blaenavon Learning and Engagement Network, which leaves that group without a chair.

The exploring and enjoying BIL group is chaired by Cllr Matthews.

Also, there's the caring for BIL group which is chaired by Will Davies of CADW. One thing Cllr Matthews has noticed is that Cllr Hunt, our representative on the this, doesn't appear to be receiving invites to it.

Cllr Matthews will contact Will Davies to ensure that Cllr Hunt is invited to those meetings in the future.

Cllr Matthews provided members with an update in relation to the exploring and enjoying BIL group which met on the 18th of September, which Cllr Matthews chaired.

Attendance and participation at this group is something of a concern. At the meeting, only Blaenavon Town Council and Torfaen Council were represented.

In previous meetings, there have been representation from the National Museum of Wales, Cadw, Brecon Beacons National Park Authority, Blaenavon Community Museum and Monmouthshire Borough Council, so this meeting was pretty thin on the ground.

So in reference to some of the earlier meetings last year, it was very difficult to get partners attending, but because it's a partnership, there needs to be representation from across the partnership to ensure that everyone has their say and everyone is able to participate.

Subsequently, this matter is going to be referred back to the steering group by Rebecca Hartley.

In terms of the output from this group, the World Heritage Site leaflet is going to be reviewed and updated by early 2027. This will provide updates in relation partners' various attractions to make sure that the details are up to date, particularly in respect to pricing and opening hours.

This will also be an opportunity to refresh the leaflets. This is the leaflet that visitors receive on arriving at Blaenavon. It looks at the World Heritage site overall as well as looking at all the different attractions and trying to encourage exploration around all various sites in the area.

The other update is in relation to Heritage News, as members will be aware from previous meetings, Blaenavon Town Council will be taking over the writing of articles for and coordinating the contributions for Heritage News.

This is the World Heritage Site newsletter which will be distributed to every house within the boundaries of the World Heritage Site, which also includes Llainfoist and Govilon.

There's currently an invitation out to partners to contribute articles and the deadline for that is the 30th of September 2026. So we do hope for a variety of partners to give articles in relation to good news that's taking place in Blaenavon, but also other events.

This is a real good opportunity for every house in Blaenavon to see what's going on in the town from across all the different partnerships and attractions.

The back page will include all the Christmas events in the town, which is really useful for residents, particularly those who are digitally excluded.

As Cllr Cowles mentioned, the Torfaen Towns together project is underway, the mural at Botanic Possessions is due to be painted shortly, and there are also plans for a mural to be put on to the Castle Hotel.

There will also be an action day in Blaenavon, which is expected to take place on a Saturday in November, but the dates and times will be confirmed. This will involve residents, volunteer groups and businesses who will be encouraged to participate in a town centre clean up.

There's currently a survey on the TCBC website which people are encouraged to complete to identify the priority areas for clean up in the town. One of the key outputs for this is to be legacy and community buy-in.

Blaenavon Town Council in recent years, have done a lot in terms of litter picking and we did discuss doing a community litter pick day potentially next year.

This could be an opportunity for the Council to participate in this event to try and recruit volunteers, so we can get more interest in the heritage pickers group that the Town Council have set up and be able to maintain progress.

If people are interested in looking after the town centre, it makes sense that because the council are a litter picking hub, the Council would be able to let people know that the equipment's available for them at the Council offices and that we do a monthly litter pick.

So, this is very useful if members are able to participate in this when it is advertised.

Cllr Matthews at this point completed his update.

A question was raised in relation to the fire recovery aligned to longitudinal opportunities, and the chance to monitor its recovery could be really inclusive, with potential to engage with schools.

Cllr Matthews outlined there was no detail in relation to schools but agreed that they should be involved and potentially that's something that the town council could do locally which would be to encourage the education about the landscape, how it's changing, and how it's recovering.

Young people could then observe the changes and the positives that are happening, but also as part of a wider education programme, learn about how to conduct themselves in and around the landscape and be responsible especially during the summer months.

There is no update regarding the causes of the current mountain fire, but responsible behaviour is always very important and good education should be encouraged.

Cllr Evans commented on the update from Cllr Mattews which was comprehensive and outlined that the information received within the steering group relating to wildfires could take up most of the council meeting.

Cllr Evans explained that he has the minutes from previous meeting which he will send to the Chief Officer for dissemination to members. In relation to the fire recovery plan, the feedback received was predominantly from the Commoners' Association.

Natural Resources Wales did not give feedback, probably because they are awaiting a formal report before they can report. There were concerns about increased water runoff, obviously with the vegetation gone, there are concerns regarding the slurry running off the mountain.

In relation to Blaenavon House, Nathan mentioned this, there's some protected trees within the grounds. They now think they've got a way in to facilitate crane entry to complete the work. Unfortunately, there has been no communication from the owner who is being contacted.

Cllr Evans thanked Cllr Matthews for the work he has been doing with the WHS groups and alluded to the fact that 20 years ago TCBC had allocated several officers to manage the running of World Heritage.

This is now the responsibility of an officer who is only part time and is being redeployed to other projects with the work being picked up by Blaenavon Cllrs and volunteers.

Cllr Matthews reiterated on that point and referenced the World Heritage Site Management Review which is meant to be completed by September. All that is required in terms of the Department for Cultural Media and Support is to ensure the plan is regularly updated.

As Rebecca Hartley did note that she has been redeployed to other activities, and it means that she's hoping to get it done by Christmas. It has been delayed because of that.

Resolved: Members noted the updates.

11. Community Development and Wellbeing Officer's update: September 2026

The Chief officer explained that this will be deferred until October 2026,

Resolved: Report deferred until October 2026

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

Boyd Paynter commenced the update and informed members regarding the data relating Instagram. During the past 30 days, the Instagram site had 1,400 views, in the last 60 days the total profile views is 2,600.

Since the last update, that's a 23% increase. So it's looking really well in terms of engagement and the amount of people coming on to the page. The total followers for the page is at 109.

Over the past 30 days, the net follower increase has been 23 new people following our account, which is by far the highest since we've started the Instagram page in such a short time. The majority of that came from the summer celebration event where Boyd interviewed people to follow the account and that was really successful.

Boyd also provided members with data that had been generated from the filming he had conducted at the BMX bike workshop during the summer. This generated a positive response, and the reels are extremely popular.

Boyd then provided members with an update regarding the cost of the buffet for the forthcoming quiz night and that Munchies will be keeping the cost the same as the summer quiz night even though costs have increased.

Boyd then further commented on the success of the Council's summer event which he attended and how the filming of visitors captured a different type of Council engagement which proved to very positive.

Boyd then explained that the reels from the event were placed on the Council's Facebook page and Instagram.

The Council's Facebook page received 11,600 views incorporating all six reels and the Instagram page was 910 views incorporating three reels.

Boyd then provided an update relating the 'meet the team' post involving Cllrs. Part 1 has been published which features Angela, Liam, John and Tom.

That post received 217 views, and it's been really great to see the reactions from that.

It's been positive, no negativity at all, and is a great way for the councillors then to connect with the community just via social media.

Part 2 will feature Jen, Nathan, Sylvia and Mike and will be published shortly.

Dan Morse then provided members with an update regarding the forthcoming Quiz Night, which covered prizes for the event and donations from businesses and the community.

The questions for the quiz have virtually been completed and just finalising the Halloween type questions. It is looking to be another good event, and it was requested that there is attendance at this event by Cllrs.

The Chief Officer thanked Boyd and Dan on behalf of the Town Council for their hard work and commitment in supporting the Council and to keep this going.

It was confirmed that the quiz night is scheduled for the 24th of October 2026.

Resolved: Members noted the updates.

13. To discuss and make any relevant determinations concerning World Heritage Day

Cllr Matthews provided members with a detailed overview in relation to previous World Heritage Day events and the current position.

Options were provided to members relating to the planning of future events and what role the Town Council would adopt in order to deliver an event if it were in fact required.

A key option was to consult with the community and obtain their views to determine whether the Town Council would consider organising an event in 2027.

A detailed discussion took place amongst members regarding World Heritage Day and the options available.

It was proposed by Cllr Matthews and seconded by Cllr Davies to proceed with a public consultation process in relation to implementing a World Heritage Day for 2027

All members in agreement.

Resolved: The Town Council to proceed with a public consultation process in relation to implementing a World Heritage Day for 2027

14.To discuss and make any relevant determinations relating to the Fire Service and Farmers' 'Community Thank You Event' being held on the 4th of October 2026

The Mayor Cllr Lewis provided members with an overview of a proposed 'Thank You' event for firefighters and farmers in in partnership with Abergavenny Town Council to be held on the 4th of October 2026 at Goytree Glamping Site near Abergavenny.

It was explained that the role of both Abergavenny and Blaenavon Town Councils would be to potentially assist with the organising and funding the transport from Abergavenny to the event.

A poster relating to the event was place on the projector screen for reference.

A discussion took place amongst members who were in support of recognition for the farmers and firefighters relating to the recent wild fires.

It was proposed by Cllr Hunt and seconded by Cllr Gardener for BTC to support the event.

All members in agreement.

Resolved: Town Council to support the 'Community Thank You' Event on the 4th of October 2026.

15. 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 Mayor Cllr Lewis provided members with an overview of a proposed Town Council coach trip to Stratford upon Avon on the 29th of November 2026.

An overview on costing was provided namely using Phil Anslow Coaches who would provide a 70-seater bus for £850. The tickets would cost £13 per person which is a 50% discount on normal bus company charges.

A discussion took place amongst members, and it was proposed by Cllr Wheeler and seconded by Cllr Cowles to support the project.

All members in agreement

Resolved: Town Council coach trip to Stratford on the 29th of November 2026 supported.

Cllr Matthews provided members with a brief update on the pints and pit heads project and outlined that together with the Chief Officer he has arranged a meeting with Gwent Archives on the 9th of October 2026 to discuss partnership working in relation to that grant application which is currently in development.

Resolved: Members noted the update.

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

The mayor informed members that the Chief Officer had forwarded five planning applications to members since the last meeting.

A brief discussion took place regarding the applications. Cllr Cowles stated that there was no point in going back through each application one by one, because the deadline on all of them has now passed and was a complete waste of everyone's time.

Cllr Cowles proposed to acknowledge that the deadline has passed on these and we just note the applications,

This was seconded by Cllr Griffin.

All members in agreement.

Resolved: Planning applications noted. No objections.

17.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 Lewis proposed to adhere to the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960. This was seconded by Cllr Evans.

All members in agreement.

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

Youth representatives B. Paynter and Daniel Morse left the meeting.

18. To receive and approve the Local Government Services Pay Agreement 2026/27.

[redacted]

Meeting ended 20:02 hrs

Chairman Signed: A. D Kenu **Date: 28/10/2026.**