**BLAENAVON TOWN COUNCIL**
**MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL FINANCE MEETING**
**HELD ON WEDNESDAY 14th of OCTOBER 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 in attendance: J. Davies (Chair), S. Maslen, N. Matthews, M. Wheeler L. Evans, L. Cowles, B. Ford, T. Gardener, A. Lewis, J. Hunt

Absent: None

Youth Representatives: B. Paynter

Officers: K. Warren (Chief Officer, CO), S. Johnson (Community Wellbeing Development Officer, CWDO)

Visitors: Mr Mal Edgson – Citizens Advice, Rebecca Osmond – Shining Stars Photography

Members of public: None present.

The finance meeting was opened at 6:30pm by the Deputy Mayor Councillor Davies 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

**Resolved:** Members noted the apologies.

**3. Declarations of Interest.**

Cllr Davies – Personal Interest – Agenda items 4 and 15.

**Resolved:** Members noted the declarations.

**4. To receive a presentation from Mr Mal Edgson (Chief Executive Officer - Citizens Advice Torfaen)**

Mr Edgson outlined the services Citizens Advice provides to Blaenavon residents and the most common issues on which residents seek advice.

He expressed an interest in working in partnership with the council to secure a new venue for drop-in services in Blaenavon.

A discussion look place amongst members.

Mr Edgson was thanked for his presentation and left the meeting.

**Resolved:** Members noted the update.

**5. To receive a presentation from Rebecca Osmond (Shining Stars Photography) regarding a collaboration project relating to Legacy Photography Sessions.**

Rebecca provided an overview to members regarding the Legacy Photography Sessions including a presentation relating to previous photography sessions.

Rebecca explained that a council contribution of £50 per family would enable up to ten families with loved ones living with terminal illnesses to receive free photography sessions.

A discussion took place between Rebecca and members.

Rebecca was thanked for her presentation and left the meeting.

**Resolved:** Members noted the presentation.

**6. To discuss and make any relevant determinations regarding a collaboration project relating to Legacy Photography Sessions as presented by Rebecca Osmond (Shining Stars Photography)**

Following Rebecca's presentation, members discussed the proposed project in detail.

Concerns were raised about funding a business venture and whether this would be fair to other businesses in the town.

It was proposed by Cllr Gardener and seconded by Cllr Matthews to not support the project.

Cllr Evans not in agreement and requested more information.

All other members in agreement.

**Resolved:** Project not supported.

**7. Council Meetings: To confirm the minutes of the Council Finance Meeting held on the 9th of September 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 approved as a true and accurate record.

**8. Responsible Finance Officer's Update: To receive and consider the September 2026 financial updates.**

Mr Warren (RFO) forwarded to members the September 2026 financial reports electronically in advance of the meeting which detailed the following areas:

- Income and Expenditure
- Credit Card Payments
- Bacs Payments
- Cash Book Transactions
- Bank Reconciliation
- Project Expenditure
- Budget
- VAT
- Petty Cash

Mr Warren presented to members each of the above areas of finance for September 2026 and highlighted any relevant information.

Members were invited to ask any questions in relation to the information presented.

Members were happy with the presentation.

It was proposed by Cllr Wheeler and seconded by Cllr Lewis that the financial report for September 2026 be accepted.

All members in agreement.

**Resolved:** Financial update for September 2026 accepted by members.

**9. Christmas Lights Installation 2026: To receive a report regarding the provision of Christmas Lights installation services for 2026 and make any relevant determinations regarding;**

**(a) The temporary suspension of the relevant procurement provisions of the Financial Regulations under Regulation 18.2 in respect of the 2026 Christmas Lights installation revised quotation.**

**(b) Subject to the above resolution, to consider a quotation for the installation of the 2026 Christmas Light displays.**

**(a)** The Chief Officer had previously forwarded to members a report regarding the Christmas Lights installation together with a quote from Centregreat Ltd.

It was proposed by Cllr Cowles and seconded by Cllr Maslen to temporarily suspend the relevant procurement provisions of the Financial Regulations under Regulation 18.2 in respect of the 2026 Christmas Lights installation revised quotation.

All members in agreement.

**Resolved:** Financial Regulations temporarily suspended.

**(b)** A discussion to place amongst members regarding the report presented to members by the Chief Officer and a quotation from Centregreat Ltd for the installation of the Xmas Lights for 2026

It was proposed by Cllr Davies and seconded by Cllr Hunt to accept the quotation from Centregreat Ltd to install the Christmas Lights 2026.

All members in agreement.

**Resolved:** To accept the quotation from Centregreat Ltd to install the Christmas Lights 2026.

**10. To receive an update and make any relevant determinations relating to Heritage News.**

Cllr Matthews reported that TCBC had initially withdrawn its funding and participation in Heritage News due to spending cuts.

He explained that this decision had since been reversed and the project would proceed. Partners had also responded positively to requests for content.

Cllr Cowles informed members that he was seeking to establish who within TCBC had been responsible for the original decision to withdraw funding from the agreed project.

A discussion took place amongst members.

Cllr Evans commented that TCBC had once again made it difficult for the Town Council to organise activities.

**Resolved:** Members noted the update

**11. To receive an update and make any relevant determination concerning the World Heritage Day consultation.**

Cllr Matthews outlined a proposed community consultation on the future of World Heritage Day and presented a draft questionnaire to members.

He explained that the questionnaire would be available on the council's website and social media pages, with paper copies available locally and at the upcoming Civic Event.

Consultation responses should be considered before the budget-setting process begins.

A discussion took place amongst members who were happy with the consultation.

**Resolved:** Members noted the update.

**12. To receive an update regarding a meeting held with Gwent Archives on the 9th of October 2026.**

Cllr Matthews outlined the meeting he had attended with the Chief Officer and Gwent Archives to discuss the Pints and Pitheads project.

Gwent Archives expressed a keen interest in participating in the project and supporting any grant funding applications.

They also expressed an interest in collaborating more broadly with the council in the future.

**Resolved:** Members noted the update.

**13. To receive, discuss and make any relevant determinations relating to the Food and Fun Summer Camp 2026.**

The Chief Officer had forwarded an impact report to members ahead of the meeting regarding the 2026 Food and Fun Summer Camp, delivered in partnership with Torfaen Play Service at Blaenavon Heritage School.

A discussion took place amongst members regarding the success and community benefits delivered as a result of the initiative.

Members expressed a view that it was a worthwhile project for the council to continue funding moving forward.

The Chief Officer explained that the funding for the project may need to be increased during the budget setting process for 2027/28

**Resolved:** Members noted the report.

**14. To discuss and make any relevant determinations relating to the Democracy and Boundary Commission Cymru Draft Annual Remuneration Report 2027-2028.**

The Chief Officer had previously forwarded the draft report to members.

Cllr Davies explained she had reviewed the report and there had been no changes for this council relating to allowances for 2027/28 which remain at £156 for allowances and £52 for consumables

In terms of Borough councillors, there has been a basic salary increase to £21,676 which is an increase of 3%.

A discussion took place among members who noted the contents of the draft report.

**Resolved:** Democracy and Boundary Commission Cymru Draft Annual Remuneration Report 2027-2028 noted by members.

**15. To discuss and make any relevant determination regarding a sponsorship request from Blaenavon Blues AFC relating to their annual fireworks display 2026.**

The Chief Officer had previously forwarded to members details of the sponsorship request received from Blaenavon Blues.

A discussion took place among members.

It was proposed by Cllr Matthews and seconded by Cllr Hunt to donate £250 to the event to mirror previous years.

All members in agreement.

**Resolved:** A donation of £250 to be transacted to Blaenavon Blues for their annual fireworks display 2026.

**16. To discuss and make any relevant determinations regarding potential Town Council projects for allocation into the Project Action Plan 2026/27. Relevant updates of new projects as notified.**

None received.

Meeting ended at 19:36hrs.

**Chairman Signed:** **Date: 11/11/2026.**

# Financial Summary - Cashbook

Summary of receipts and payments between 01/10/26 and 31/10/26 inclusive. This may include transactions with ledger dates outside this period.

Balances at the start of the year

**Ordinary Accounts**

| | |
|---|---|
| Current Account | £68,657.93 |
| Petty Cash | £4.73 |
| Total | £68,662.66 |

| PAYMENTS | Net | Vat | Gross |
|---|---|---|---|
| Council | £14,713.75 | £176.82 | £14,890.57 |
| Total Payments | £14,713.75 | £176.82 | £14,890.57 |

Closing Balances a 31/10/26

**Ordinary Accounts**

| | |
|---|---|
| Current Account | £104,479.10 |
| Petty Cash | £4.73 |
| | £104,483.83 |
| Total | £104,483.83 |

Uncleared and Unpresented effects

Statement Closing Balance 31/10/26

**Ordinary Accounts**

| | |
|---|---|
| Current Account | £104,479.10 |
| Petty Cash | £4.73 |
| Total | £104,483.83 |

Signed

Chair

Clerk / Responsible Financial Officer