



18th July 2022

Dear Councillor.

Pursuant to the requirements of **Section 47 of the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021**, you are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the Full Council which will be held on a hybrid basis in the Council Chamber at **101, High Street, Blaenavon** and remotely on **Wednesday the 27th of July 2022 commencing at 6:30pm** for the purpose of transacting the business shown in the agenda set below.

Should you wish to attend the meeting remotely, you should contact the Chief Officer to the Council to request a remote invitation.

Members of the public have the right to ask questions at Council meetings and to speak in Welsh or English, provided that at least three working days' notice in writing of the question has been provided to the Chief Officer.

Agenda

1. To receive any questions from the public.
2. To receive and accept apologies.
3. **Declarations of Interest:** Members are invited to declare any interests they may have in any items on the agenda.
4. **Mayor's Announcements:** To receive the Mayor's announcements.
5. **Council Meeting:** To confirm the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on the 22nd of June 2022.
6. **Chief Officer's Update:** To receive the Chief Officer's update.
7. To receive Cllr updates regarding recent attendance at outside bodies committee meetings.
8. To discuss and make a determination regarding the allocation of two Cllrs to make up the selection panel for the recruitment of the Community Wellbeing Development Officer.
9. To discuss and make a determination regarding a suitable date and location for the next Town Council litter picking event.

10. To discuss and make a determination regarding the consultation letter received from Torfaen Community Safety Department relating to a Public Spaces Protection Order for Broad Street, Blaenavon.
11. To receive an update from Cllr Marc Harris regarding the project proposal at Unity Fields Blaenavon.
12. To receive an update from Cllr Alan Jones regarding the landlord's consent status relating to the Unity Bench project.
13. To receive an update regarding the Community Brew Project (**Participatory Budget**) from Cllr Marc Harris.
14. To receive an update from Cllr Liam Cowles regarding the Town twinning opportunity relating to Hrastnik Slovenia and make a determination regarding the next steps.
15. To receive a TCBC update from Cllr Liam Cowles.
16. To discuss potential Town Council projects for allocation into the Project Action Plan 2022/23. Relevant updates or new projects as notified.
17. To receive, discuss and make a determination regarding planning applications.
 - **SPRI/22/P/0445/HH**
 - **TBRA/22/P/0399/HH**
 - **MMCA/22/P/0471/HH**
18. To receive, discuss and make a determination regarding donation requests.
 - Torfaen Male Choir.
 - Louise Harnett – Blaenavon Blues.
 - Audrey Woodrow.
19. To receive, discuss and make any relevant determinations concerning items relating to correspondence.
 - Parish Consultation Planning Appeal letter - reference **22/APPEAL/08/REF**
20. Other Matters (**At the discretion of the Chairman**)

Yours Faithfully.



Kevin Warren
Chief Officer.
Blaenavon Town Council.



Summary (Notes) of the Full Council meeting of Blaenavon Town Council held on **Wednesday the 27th of July 2022 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 28th of September 2022**.

In attendance:

Councillor A. Jones (In the Chair)

Councillors in attendance: G. James, M. Wheeler, J. Hunt, L. Cowles, L. Evans, T. Porter, N. Goddard, A. Beavan, I. Parfitt, N. Matthews.

Officers: Kevin Warren (Chief Officer), Kerry Jones (Assistant Chief Officer).

The Full Council meeting was opened at 6:30pm by the Mayor Councillor Alan Jones who welcomed everyone and expressed thanks for attendance.

1.To receive any questions from the public.

None received.

2.To receive and accept apologies.

Cllr Harris – Work Commitment.

It was proposed by Cllr Cowles and seconded by Cllr James that the apology be accepted. All members in agreement.

Resolved: Apology accepted.

3.Declarations of Interest:

None received.

5. Council Meetings: To confirm the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on the 22nd of June 2022.

The minutes were read for accuracy with one amendment raised. Point nine on the agenda should read UNESCO. Chief Officer to make correction.

This was proposed by Cllr Hunt and seconded by Cllr James. Minutes be accepted.

Resolved: Minutes approved as a true and accurate record.

8. To discuss and make a determination regarding the allocation of two Cllrs to make up the selection panel for the recruitment of the Community Wellbeing Development Officer.

A discussion took place amongst members regarding the panel members. The three agreed members are:

- Cllr Alan Jones
- Cllr Georgian James
- Cllr Mike Wheeler (**Reserve**)

It was proposed by Cllr Jones and seconded by Cllr Evans that the two members make up the selection panel, with one reserve Cllr. All members in agreement.

Resolved: Three members chosen for the selection panel for the recruitment of the Community Wellbeing Development Officer.

9. To discuss and make a determination regarding a suitable date and location for the next Town Council litter picking event.

A discussion took place amongst members, it was agreed that the next litter picking event will take place at Garn Yr Erw and Garn Lakes areas on Monday the 12th of September 2022 at approximately 4pm (to be confirmed).

There will be a letter-drop in the area, arranged by Cllrs Goddard and Beavan. Cllr James is to contact The Whistle Inn with regards to refreshments.

This was proposed by Cllr Cowles and seconded by Cllr James. All members in agreement.

Resolved. Litter pick to take place on the 12th of September 2022 at Garn Yr Erw and Garn Lakes areas

10. To discuss and make a determination regarding the consultation letter received from Torfaen Community Safety Department relating to a Public Spaces Protection Order for Broad Street, Blaenavon.

An in-depth discussion took place amongst members, it was agreed to support the Public Spaces Protection Order. This was proposed by Cllr Cowles and seconded by Cllr Evans. All members in agreement.

A further discussion took place amongst members regarding antisocial behaviour and policing within the town.

It was proposed by Cllr Hunt and seconded by Cllr Evans that a representative from the Shared Resource Service (SRS) attend a Town Council meeting to provide members with an update.

All members in agreement.

Cllr Jones addressed members as to whether an invite should be sent to Gwent Police for attendance at the September 2022 Full Council meeting. This was proposed by Cllr Cowles and seconded by Cllr Matthews.

All members in agreement.

Resolved: Chief Officer to inform Torfaen Community Safety Department of Town Council decision to support the restrictions. Chief Officer to invite SRS to attend a Town Council meeting and to invite Gwent Police to attend the Full Council meeting in September 2022.

14. To receive an update from Cllr Liam Cowles regarding the Town twinning opportunity relating to Hrastnik Slovenia and make a determination regarding the next steps.

Cllr Cowles updated members with the progress of the project to date.

Lord Michael German, who sits on all Parliamentary Group to Slovenia contacted Cllr Cowles last year during his term as Mayor, with regard to a twinning project with the town of Hrastnik, in central Slovenia.

Lord German lives locally and thought of Blaenavon as there are several similarities between the towns. Both are of a comparable size, and Hrastnik is a mining village.

A remote meeting was set-up with Cllr Cowles, the Mayor of Hrastnik, Marko Funkl and representatives of the twinning team. Marko is open to a formal twinning or a more relaxed approach with Blaenavon.

He has researched grants that would be available to both towns post twinning with opportunities should the twinning go ahead.

Cllr Cowles suggested that Marko and the twinning team remotely attend October's Full Council meeting.

This was proposed by Cllr James and seconded by Cllr Hunt. All members in agreement.

Resolved: Cllr Cowles to facilitate a remote meeting for the twinning team for October 2022 Full Council meeting.

15. To receive a TCBC update from Cllr Liam Cowles.

Cllr Cowles provided members with an update regarding his role as County Borough Councillor.

Place Making Plans and the Shared Prosperity Fund have passed through Cabinet.

Cllr Cowles agrees that Town Councils were consulted late in the process and that it felt rushed, he will make this point to TCBC.

Cllr Cowles met with ward colleagues, Mark Paniers and Dermot McCrystal to discuss funding and the regeneration of Blaenavon tennis courts. Cllrs Cowles updated members regarding his TCBC appointments.

Appointed Committees:

- Cross-cutting Resources & Business & Scrutiny Committee
- Education Overview & Scrutiny Committee – given the recent extremely poor Estyn inspection for Torfaen, Cllr Cowles will be working with Dermot McCrystal and Cllr Richard Clarke to scrutinise the report to improve education in Torfaen.
- General Licensing Committee
- Prosperous Communities Overview & Scrutiny Committee
- Appointments Committee
- Council Overview & Scrutiny Committee – meetings start in September

Outside Bodies

- Blaenavon Workmen's Hall
- Brecon Beacons National Park
- Torfaen Museum Trust

During the month Cllr Cowles has assisted residents with several issues via the Street Scene Team and will provide a further update at the November 2022 Full Council meeting.

A discussion took place amongst members for clarity involving the role of Dave Leech, Communities Officer. It was commented that there is confusion in terms of what the role is achieving.

It was suggested that Cllr Cowles invite Dave Leech to attend quarterly Town Council meetings to address members.

A further discussion took place, and it has been requested that the Chief Officer invites Cllr Janet Jones and Cllr Nick Horler to attend full council meetings in September and October 2022 to update members.

This was proposed by Cllr Jones and seconded by Cllr Evans. All members in agreement.

Resolved: Chief officer to invite Cllrs Jones and Horler to the September and October 2022 Full Council meetings. Cllr Cowles to invite Dave Leech to Town Council meetings, quarterly. Members noted the update.

16. To discuss potential Town Council projects for allocation into the Project Action Plan 2022/23. Relevant updates or new projects as notified.

- Cllr Beavan - Aesthetic Improvements of Open Public Spaces

Cllr Beavan provided members with a brief overview of the project which included De-weeding, litter picking and sweeping of five open public spaces in various locations throughout Blaenavon. These being.

- **Prince Street**
- **Bethlehem Court**
- **Lion Street**
- **Market Street / Ivor Gardens**
- **Middle Coed Cae Road**

The purpose of this project is to improve the appearance of a number of open public spaces by de-weeding, litter picking and sweeping.

The intention is to complete the aesthetic improvements at all locations, but this will be dependent on both the weather and also any time restrictions experienced by those participating in this project due to personal or work commitments.

If approval is given, the areas will be prioritised based on factors such as the current condition of these spaces and also where the outcome will provide maximum impact for the town.

Cllr Jones pointed out that consent would be required from TCBC to conduct this project. Cllr Beavan to forward the project to Cllrs Cowles and Jones.

Cllrs Cowles and Jones to make enquiries with TCBC

Resolved: Members noted the update. Cllrs Cowles and Jones to make enquiries with TCBC.

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

The Chief Officer had forwarded planning applications to members ahead of the meeting and presented these as follows.

- **DEVELOPMENT PROPOSED:** Loft conversion with dormer & garage.
- **LOCATION:** 2 Park Gardens, Blaenavon

Resolved. No objections from members.

- **DEVELOPMENT PROPOSED:** Increase height of stone wall to side of property.
- **LOCATION:** Cedar Cottage, Varteg Road, Blaenavon.

Resolved. No objections from members.

- **DEVELOPMENT PROPOSED:** Two storey rear extension.

- **LOCATION**: Conifers, Cwmavon Road, Blaenavon.

Resolved. No objections from members.

- **DEVELOPMENT PROPOSED**: Hard standing and two outbuildings.
- **LOCATION**: Monterey, Capel Newydd Road, Blaenavon.

Resolved. No objections from members.

18. To receive, discuss and make a determination regarding donation requests.

The Chief Officer forwarded the donation requests to members prior to the meeting for their perusal. There were three requests.

- **Torfaen Male Choir** – Funding contribution for the choir.

Members discussed the request at length and decided that as there were no Blaenavon residents being members of the choir at this time a determination was made not to award funding.

This was proposed by Cllr Cowles and seconded by Cllr Wheeler not to approve the request.

All members in agreement.

Resolved: Members declined donation request. Chief Officer to inform Torfaen Male Choir.

- **Louise Harnett – Blaenavon Blues** – Funding contribution to provide under fourteen's with football kits and equipment.

A discussion took place amongst members regarding the request.

It was proposed by Cllr Jones and seconded by Cllr Cowles that the request be supported with a £250 awarded. All members in agreement.

Resolved: Donation of £250 authorised. Chief Officer to facilitate the transaction and update Louise Harnett.

- **Audrey Woodrow** – Funding contribution for the installation costs of a community defibrillator outside her premises in Garn - yr - erw.

An in-depth discussion took place amongst members. It was decided that further information was required on fitting costs. Assistant Chief Officer to contact Mrs Woodrow and request information.

It was proposed by Cllr Evans and seconded by Cllr Hunt not to approve the request at this time. All members in agreement.

Resolved: Members declined donation request. Assistant Chief Officer to inform Mrs Woodrow and request further information.

19. To receive, discuss and make any relevant determinations concerning items relating to correspondence.

- **Parish Consultation Planning Appeal letter - reference 22/APPEAL/08/REF**

The Chief Officer forwarded to members the planning application appeal letter for **Broomfield Cottage, Middle Coed Cae, Road Blaenavon** prior to the meeting for information purpose; no determination is required.

Resolved. Members noted the content of the appeal letter.

20. Other Matters (At the discretion of the Chairman)

The Chief Officer requested permission from the Chairman to inform members regarding an urgent request received from Blaenavon Town Band to release part funds from their Community Brew award of £5k.

The Chairman granted permission.

The Chief Officer explained that the band submitted a community brew project which had been approved by the steering group and ratified by members to purchase musical instruments for the creation of a youth band in September 2022.

The request from the band is for members to consider and make a determination to release part funding from the initial tranche so that instruments can be purchased for September.

The Chief Officer explained that he has spoken with Mr Paul Miles (Band Chairman) and £2k would be sufficient for the project to commence.

Currently there is £2,458 remaining in the Community Brew fund from the first tranche of monies.

A discussion took place amongst members.

It was proposed by Cllr Jones and seconded by Cllr Hunt to release £2k to Blaenavon Town Band. All members in agreement.

Resolved: Payment of £2k authorised. Chief Officer to facilitate the transaction and update Mr Paul Miles.



**BLAENAVON TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 27th July 2022 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:

Councillor A. Jones (In the Chair)

Councillors in attendance: G. James, M. Wheeler, J. Hunt, L. Cowles, L. Evans, T. Porter, N. Goddard, A. Beavan, I. Parfitt, N. Matthews.

Officers: Kevin Warren (Chief Officer), Kerry Jones (Assistant Chief Officer).

The Full Council meeting was opened at 6:30pm by the Mayor Councillor Alan Jones who welcomed everyone and expressed thanks for attendance.

1.To receive any questions from the public.

None received.

2.To receive and accept apologies.

Cllr Harris – Work Commitment.

It was proposed by Cllr Cowles and seconded by Cllr James that the apology be accepted. All members in agreement.

Resolved: Apology accepted.

3.Declarations of Interest:

None received.

4. Mayor's Announcements

The Mayor Cllr Jones provided members with a summary of events and functions attended during the last month and welcomed Cllrs Beavan, Parfitt, and Matthews to their first full council meeting.

- 1st July 2022 – Attended a meeting at the ironworks to view damage caused by vandals and contacted TCBC to clear the area.
- 5th July 2022 – Attended a meeting to discuss Torfaen shared prosperity funding.
- 10th July 2022 – Attended and opened the Mic Morris road race.
- 12th July 2022 – Attended the One Voice Wales Gwent Valley’s area committee meeting.
- 14th July 2022 – In company with the Chief Officer made a presentation to the Victoria Village Women’s Institute regarding the work of the Town Council.
- 20th July 2022 – In company with the Chief Officer attended a meeting with Emma Davies – Macintosh.
- 23rd July 2022 – Attended Blaenavon Male Voice Choir concert.
- Cllr Jones explained that he has had regular meetings with the Chief Officer and Assistant Chief Officer during the month.

Cllr Jones also thanked the following officers and councillors.

- Cllr Wheeler for standing in for the Mayor at the freedom of the borough parade in Pontypool on the 23rd of July 2022.
- The Chief Officer and Assistant Chief Officer for managing the Cook stars and Recrock events.
- Cllrs Parfitt and Beavan for the work they have done at the roundabout in Blaenavon and St Peter’s Church graveyard.

Resolved: Members noted the update.

5. Council Meetings: To confirm the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on the 22nd of June 2022.

The minutes were read for accuracy with one amendment raised. Point nine on the agenda should read UNESCO. Chief Officer to make correction.

This was proposed by Cllr Hunt and seconded by Cllr James. Minutes be accepted.

Resolved: Minutes approved as a true and accurate record.

6. Chief Officer’s Update.

Mr Warren provided the following update for members:

Item 16 within the minutes regarding last month's donation requests and as per the Council's instructions.

The Chief Officer explained that he had written to Torfaen Museum explaining the rationale regarding the decision not to award financial support and received an email from Caitlin Gingell noting the Council's decision.

On the 8th of July 2022 together with the Mayor the Chief Officer attended a virtual meeting to receive a Town and Community Council briefing regarding the Torfaen Shared Prosperity Funding Overview and engagement.

The Chief Officer commented that strategically in his opinion, the project is overly complicated and disjointed with no clear defined objectives to deliver the prosperity outcomes linked to local Councils. The Chief Officer was aware that some Cllrs attended and requested their views.

A brief overview was provided to members by Cllrs Hunt, Jones, Matthews, and Evans commenting that the consultation with Councils was too late which also included funding requests. Overall, the process had been poorly managed with no references made to disability.

On the 8th of July 2022 the Chief Officer delivered an induction session to the newly elected Cllrs namely Parfitt, Beavan and Matthews and hoped the input was useful providing a brief overview of Council governance and accountability.

On the 12th of July 2022 the Chief Officer attended the Gwent Valleys Area Committee meeting together with the Mayor and Cllr Cowles. During the meeting a presentation was received from the CEO at OVW namely Lyn Cadwallader who gave an update on the Towns partnership initiative.

The Town Council was selected to submit evidence to the Welsh Government for this project based on our work during the past three years.

Mr Cadwallader provided evidence to members regarding the Town Council's work, and this had been highlighted as best practice and an example of an exemplar Council .

Cllr Jones and Cowles reiterated the summary provided by the Chief Officer.

The Chief Officer explained that on the 14th of July 2022 together with the Mayor he attended Victoria Village Hall and gave a presentation to the Women's Institute covering the role and responsibilities of a Town Council and what had been delivered locally during the past three years.

There were around forty members in attendance and what was interesting was that around half of those present were Blaenavon residents. The input was well received, and they were impressed with our work to date.

On the 20th of July 2022 together with the Mayor the Chief Officer attended a meeting in the Council chamber with Emma Davies Macintosh from the Integrated Wellbeing Network to discuss plans for the future in terms of partnership working as the lead partner feeding into the IWN.

It was agreed that because we now have a new council, it would be beneficial to deliver a short 2 hour workshop on how the IWN and the Council support each other as lead partners covering the Blaenavon network.

A date has been pencilled in for the week commencing the 19th of September 2022 held in the chamber. It will be a joint presentation by the Chief Officer and Emma with input from Cllrs. Confirmation of the date will be provided in due course.

The Chief Officer explained that it would be essential for all members to join the workshop and provide an input into it in order to drive the future partnership working criteria.

The Chief Officer commented that the job advert for the Community Wellbeing Development Officer went live on the 14th of July 2022 and the response from potential candidates has been extremely positive with over ten enquiries to date.

It was explained to members that the Chief Officer had held four separate teams meetings with individual candidates, one face to face meeting and a telephone consultation.

The Chief Officer explained that he was expecting more applications prior to the closing date which is the 5th of August 2022.

The shortlisting process will take place also on the 5th of August 2022 with the interview date being the 15th of August 2022 for a potential start date being mid-September.

Currently three applications had been received.

The Chief Officer outlined that in terms of project work and as Councillors are aware, the Cook stars sessions commenced last Monday at the Workmen's Hall, and the remaining five sessions are now fully booked.

The Chief Officer thanked Kerry for arranging and organising this project and explained that the Town Council were badly let down by Blaenavon Rugby Club in terms of the venue.

The summer rock school being delivered by Recrock will also be commencing the following week starting on the 2nd of August 2022 covering a six day period. It was explained that the project is almost fully booked, and this is being held also at the Workmen's Hall.

The summer dance sessions will also be commencing next week being delivered by Cllr James at the Con club covering six sessions. This has now been advertised and is now on the Town Council's Facebook page.

The Wales golf family project will be commencing on the 2nd of August 2022 covering five weeks and will be delivered at Bryn Meadows Golf Club between 2pm and 3pm.

The sessions are fully booked, and the Town Council have arranged the transport to and from the venue using Jenson Transport.

Resolved: Members noted the update.

7. To receive Cllr updates regarding recent attendance at outside bodies committee meetings

Cllr Cowles commented that he had attended the recently held One Voice Wales Gwent Valley's area committee meeting.

Resolved: Members noted the update.

8. To discuss and make a determination regarding the allocation of two Cllrs to make up the selection panel for the recruitment of the Community Wellbeing Development Officer.

A discussion took place amongst members regarding the panel members. The three agreed members are:

- Cllr Alan Jones
- Cllr Georgian James
- Cllr Mike Wheeler (**Reserve**)

It was proposed by Cllr Jones and seconded by Cllr Evans that the two members make up the selection panel, with one reserve Cllr. All members in agreement.

Resolved: Three members chosen for the selection panel for the recruitment of the Community Wellbeing Development Officer.

9. To discuss and make a determination regarding a suitable date and location for the next Town Council litter picking event.

A discussion took place amongst members, it was agreed that the next litter picking event will take place at Garn Yr Erw and Garn Lakes areas on Monday the 12th of September 2022 at approximately 4pm (to be confirmed).

There will be a letter-drop in the area, arranged by Cllrs Goddard and Beavan. Cllr James is to contact The Whistle Inn with regards to refreshments.

This was proposed by Cllr Cowles and seconded by Cllr James. All members in agreement.

Resolved. Litter pick to take place on the 12th of September 2022 at Garn Yr Erw and Garn Lakes areas

10. To discuss and make a determination regarding the consultation letter received from Torfaen Community Safety Department relating to a Public Spaces Protection Order for Broad Street, Blaenavon.

An in-depth discussion took place amongst members, it was agreed to support the Public Spaces Protection Order. This was proposed by Cllr Cowles and seconded by Cllr Evans. All members in agreement.

A further discussion took place amongst members regarding antisocial behaviour and policing within the town.

It was proposed by Cllr Hunt and seconded by Cllr Evans that a representative from the Shared Resource Service (SRS) attend a Town Council meeting to provide members with an update.

All members in agreement.

Cllr Jones addressed members as to whether an invite should be sent to Gwent Police for attendance at the September 2022 Full Council meeting. This was proposed by Cllr Cowles and seconded by Cllr Matthews.

All members in agreement.

Resolved: Chief Officer to inform Torfaen Community Safety Department of Town Council decision to support the restrictions. Chief Officer to invite SRS to attend a Town Council meeting and to invite Gwent Police to attend the Full Council meeting in September 2022.

11. To receive an update from Cllr Marc Harris regarding the project proposal at Unity Fields Blaenavon.

Cllr Harris was not present at the meeting, so no update was made available.

12. To receive an update from Cllr Alan Jones regarding the landlord's consent status relating to the Unity Bench project.

Cllr Jones explained to members that he was still in discussion with TCBC, and this should be received within the next few weeks.

Resolved: Members noted the update.

13. To receive an update regarding the Community Brew Project (Participatory Budget) from Cllr Marc Harris.

Cllr Harris was not present, but the Chief Officer updated members that the evaluation report regarding the project had been submitted to Mr Lyndon Puddy at TCBC over four weeks ago.

The Chief Officer explained that he has spoken with Emma Davies McIntosh today and explained the Council's concerns regarding the delay as a result of groups waiting for an update regarding funding.

The Chief Officer outlined that he has now received confirmation from Mr Puddy late this afternoon that the second tranche of funding has now been authorised.

The Chief Officer further explained to members that the evaluation report submitted was in his view over and above what was required and that he was concerned that what was required moving forward was potentially bureaucratic.

A brief discussion regarding criteria for the evaluation was held by members and it was pointed out that further discussions will be taking place with TCBC regarding project evaluation.

Resolved: Members noted the update.

14. To receive an update from Cllr Liam Cowles regarding the Town twinning opportunity relating to Hrastnik Slovenia and make a determination regarding the next steps.

Cllr Cowles updated members with the progress of the project to date.

Lord Michael German, who sits on all Parliamentary Group to Slovenia contacted Cllr Cowles last year during his term as Mayor, with regard to a twinning project with the town of Hrastnik, in central Slovenia.

Lord German lives locally and thought of Blaenavon as there are several similarities between the towns. Both are of a comparable size, and Hrastnik is a mining village.

A remote meeting was set-up with Cllr Cowles, the Mayor of Hrastnik, Marko Funkl and representatives of the twinning team. Marko is open to a formal twinning or a more relaxed approach with Blaenavon.

He has researched grants that would be available to both towns post twinning with opportunities should the twinning go ahead.

Cllr Cowles suggested that Marko and the twinning team remotely attend October's Full Council meeting.

This was proposed by Cllr James and seconded by Cllr Hunt. All members in agreement.

Resolved: Cllr Cowles to facilitate a remote meeting for the twinning team for October 2022 Full Council meeting.

15. To receive a TCBC update from Cllr Liam Cowles.

Cllr Cowles provided members with an update regarding his role as County Borough Councillor.

Place Making Plans and the Shared Prosperity Fund have passed through Cabinet.

Cllr Cowles agrees that Town Councils were consulted late in the process and that it felt rushed, he will make this point to TCBC.

Cllr Cowles met with ward colleagues, Mark Paniers and Dermot McCrystal to discuss funding and the regeneration of Blaenavon tennis courts. Cllrs Cowles updated members regarding his TCBC appointments.

Appointed Committees:

- Cross-cutting Resources & Business & Scrutiny Committee
- Education Overview & Scrutiny Committee – given the recent extremely poor Estyn inspection for Torfaen, Cllr Cowles will be working with Dermot McCrystal and Cllr Richard Clarke to scrutinise the report to improve education in Torfaen.
- General Licensing Committee
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- Brecon Beacons National Park
- Torfaen Museum Trust

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A discussion took place amongst members for clarity involving the role of Dave Leech, Communities Officer. It was commented that there is confusion in terms of what the role is achieving.

It was suggested that Cllr Cowles invite Dave Leech to attend quarterly Town Council meetings to address members.

A further discussion took place, and it has been requested that the Chief Officer invites Cllr Janet Jones and Cllr Nick Horler to attend full council meetings in September and October 2022 to update members.

This was proposed by Cllr Jones and seconded by Cllr Evans. All members in agreement.

Resolved: Chief officer to invite Cllrs Jones and Horler to the September and October 2022 Full Council meetings. Cllr Cowles to invite Dave Leech to Town Council meetings, quarterly. Members noted the update.

16. To discuss potential Town Council projects for allocation into the Project Action Plan 2022/23. Relevant updates or new projects as notified.

- **Cllr Beavan - Aesthetic Improvements of Open Public Spaces**

Cllr Beavan provided members with a brief overview of the project which included de-weeding, litter picking and sweeping of five open public spaces in various locations throughout Blaenavon. These being.

- **Prince Street**
- **Bethlehem Court**
- **Lion Street**
- **Market Street / Ivor Gardens**
- **Middle Coed Cae Road**

The purpose of this project is to improve the appearance of a number of open public spaces by de-weeding, litter picking and sweeping.

The intention is to complete the aesthetic improvements at all locations, but this will be dependent on both the weather and also any time restrictions experienced by those participating in this project due to personal or work commitments.

If approval is given, the areas will be prioritised based on factors such as the current condition of these spaces and also where the outcome will provide maximum impact for the town.

Cllr Jones pointed out that consent would be required from TCBC to conduct this project. Cllr Beavan to forward the project to Cllrs Cowles and Jones.

Cllrs Cowles and Jones to make enquiries with TCBC

Resolved: Members noted the update. Cllrs Cowles and Jones to make enquiries with TCBC.

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

The Chief Officer had forwarded planning applications to members ahead of the meeting and presented these as follows.

- **DEVELOPMENT PROPOSED:** Loft conversion with dormer & garage.
- **LOCATION:** 2 Park Gardens, Blaenavon

Resolved. No objections from members.

- **DEVELOPMENT PROPOSED:** Increase height of stone wall to side of property.
- **LOCATION:** Cedar Cottage, Varteg Road, Blaenavon.

Resolved. No objections from members.

- **DEVELOPMENT PROPOSED:** Two storey rear extension.
- **LOCATION:** Conifers, Cwmavon Road, Blaenavon.

Resolved. No objections from members.

- **DEVELOPMENT PROPOSED:** Hard standing and two outbuildings.
- **LOCATION:** Monterey, Capel Newydd Road, Blaenavon.

Resolved. No objections from members.

18. To receive, discuss and make a determination regarding donation requests.

The Chief Officer forwarded the donation requests to members prior to the meeting for their perusal. There were three requests.

- **Torfaen Male Choir** – Funding contribution for the choir.

Members discussed the request at length and decided that as there were no Blaenavon residents being members of the choir at this time a determination was made not to award funding.

This was proposed by Cllr Cowles and seconded by Cllr Wheeler not to approve the request. All members in agreement.

Resolved: Members declined donation request. Chief Officer to inform Torfaen Male Choir.

- **Louise Harnett – Blaenavon Blues** – Funding contribution to provide under fourteen's with football kits and equipment.

A discussion took place amongst members regarding the request.

It was proposed by Cllr Jones and seconded by Cllr Cowles that the request be supported with a £250 awarded. All members in agreement.

Resolved: Donation of £250 authorised. Chief Officer to facilitate the transaction and update Louise Hartnett.

- **Audrey Woodrow** – Funding contribution for the installation costs of a community defibrillator outside her premises in Garn - yr - erw.

An in-depth discussion took place amongst members. It was decided that further information was required on fitting costs. Assistant Chief Officer to contact Mrs Woodrow and request information.

It was proposed by Cllr Evans and seconded by Cllr Hunt not to approve the request at this time. All members in agreement.

Resolved: Members declined donation request. Assistant Chief Officer to inform Mrs Woodrow and request further information.

19. To receive, discuss and make any relevant determinations concerning items relating to correspondence.

- **Parish Consultation Planning Appeal letter - reference 22/APPEAL/08/REF**

The Chief Officer forwarded to members the planning application appeal letter for **Broomfield Cottage, Middle Coed Cae, Road Blaenavon** prior to the meeting for information purpose; no determination is required.

Resolved. Members noted the content of the appeal letter.

20. Other Matters (At the discretion of the Chairman)

The Chief Officer requested permission from the Chairman to inform members regarding an urgent request received from Blaenavon Town Band to release part funds from their Community Brew award of £5k.

The Chairman granted permission.

The Chief Officer explained that the band submitted a community brew project which had been approved by the steering group and ratified by members to purchase musical instruments for the creation of a youth band in September 2022.

The request from the band is for members to consider and make a determination to release part funding from the initial tranche so that instruments can be purchased for September.

The Chief Officer explained that he has spoken with Mr Paul Miles (Band Chairman) and £2k would be sufficient for the project to commence.

Currently there is £2,458 remaining in the Community Brew fund from the first tranche of monies.

A discussion took place amongst members.

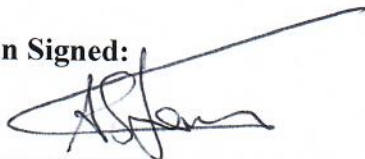
It was proposed by Cllr Jones and seconded by Cllr Hunt to release £2k to Blaenavon Town Band. All members in agreement.

Resolved: Payment of £2k authorised. Chief Officer to facilitate the transaction and update Mr Paul Miles.

The Mayor thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.

At 19:41 the meeting ended.

Chairman Signed:



Date: 28/09/22.