



20th June 2023

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 28th of June 2023 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.

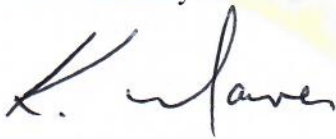
Members of the public have the right to ask questions at Council meetings and to speak in Welsh or English, provided that at least three working days' notice in writing of the question has been provided to the Chief Officer.

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. To receive an update from Ashleigh Taylor (**Treasurer of the World Heritage Group**) relating to the cancelled World Heritage Day 2023.
5. To receive a presentation and update from Caroline Genever - Jones (**TCBC Elections and Business Manager**) regarding the forthcoming Community Review.
6. **Mayor's Announcements:** To receive the mayor's announcements.
7. **Council Meeting:** To confirm the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on the 24th of May 2023.
8. **Chief Officer's Update:** To receive the Chief Officer's update.
9. To receive Cllr updates regarding recent attendance at outside bodies committee meetings.
10. To receive an update from Sophie Johnson - Community Development and Wellbeing Officer (**June 2023**)

11. To receive and make any relevant determinations regarding an update from the Community Review Working Group.
12. To discuss and make a determination for the appointment of a Councillor representative to the Torfaen Canal Task and Finish Working group.
13. To discuss and make a determination for the appointment of three Councillor representatives to the newly established Healthy Blaenavon Strategic Partnership.
14. To receive an update and make any relevant determinations regarding the planned Bronwen Lewis concert on the 8th of September 2023.
15. To receive an update and make any relevant determinations regarding the proposed Country and Western Community Fayre planned for the 12th of August 2023.
16. To receive an update and make any relevant determinations regarding the Rec Rock Summer School organised for August 2023.
17. To discuss and make any relevant determinations with regard to organising a Mayor's Civic event for 2023.
18. To discuss and make a determination regarding potential Town Council projects for allocation into the Project Action Plan 2023/24. Relevant updates or new projects as notified.
19. To receive, discuss and make a determination regarding planning applications.
 - **SCUL/23/P/0239/HH**
20. To receive, discuss and make a determination regarding donation requests.
 - Teresa Powell.
 - Sue Driscoll – Bethlehem Chapel.
21. To receive, discuss and make any relevant determinations concerning items relating to correspondence.
 - E-mail and consultation letter received from Clarke Telecom Ltd dated the 2nd of June 2023.
22. 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 28th of June 2023 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 26th of July 2023**.

In attendance:

Councillors: Cllr. N. Matthews (In the Chair) A. Beavan, S. Keen, M. Wheeler, I. Parfitt, L. Cowles, T. Porter, G. James (online).

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

Visitors: Caroline Genever-Jones (Elections Business Manager, TCBC), Ashleigh Taylor (Treasurer of the World Heritage Group)

Members of public: Gareth Davies.

The Full Council meeting was opened at 6:30pm by Mayor Cllr Nathan Matthews 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 M. Harris - Work commitment.
- Cllr L. Evans – Work commitment.
- Cllr J. Hunt - Meeting.
- Cllr A. Jones – Family commitment.

It was proposed by Cllr Beavan and seconded by Cllr Parfitt that the apologies be accepted.

All members in agreement.

Resolved: Apologies accepted.

3. Declarations of Interest

None declared.

7. Council Meeting: To confirm the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on the 24th of May 2023.

The minutes were read for accuracy with no amendments.

It was proposed by Cllr Cowles and seconded by Cllr Keen that the minutes be accepted.

All members in agreement.

Resolved: Minutes approved as a true and accurate record.

12. To discuss and make a determination for the appointment of a Councillor representative to the Torfaen Canal Task and Finish Working group.

Torfaen Strategy has set up a Task and Finish Working Group to support partnership working. The group is made up of members from Cwmbran, Pontypool and Blaenavon Town and Community Councils along with nine members of TCBC.

To date they have held one meeting. Blaenavon Town Council needs to appoint a representative to join the committee.

A discussion took place amongst members.

It was proposed by Cllr Parfitt that Cllr Keen is nominated as the Town Council representative on the group. This was seconded by Cllr Beavan

All members in agreement.

Resolved: Cllr Keen appointed as the Town Council representative for the Canal Task and Finish Working Group.

13. To discuss and make a determination for the appointment of three Councillor representatives to the newly established Healthy Blaenavon Strategic Partnership.

This is a new partnership consistent with objectives of the Integrated Wellbeing Network and Torfaen Community Wellbeing Strategies.

Terms of Reference are being drafted by Emma Davis-McIntosh (Health Board) and David Leech (TCBC) Blaenavon Town Council should lead, host and chair meetings.

There will be representation from the following partners namely Gwent Police, Bron Afon, TCBC and the Health Board. This will be a good forum to discuss the health of the Town in the broadest sense.

A discussion took place amongst members.

It was proposed by Cllr Cowles that the three members to represent Blaenavon Town Council are Cllr Matthews, Beavan and Hunt. This was seconded by Cllr Parfitt.

All members in agreement.

Resolved: Cllrs Matthews, Beavan and Hunt appointed as the Town Council representatives for the Healthy Blaenavon Strategic Partnership.

15. To receive an update and make any relevant determinations regarding the proposed Country and Western Community Fayre planned for the 12th of August 2023.

The Assistant Chief Officer Kerry Jones provided members with an update and explained the difficulties in securing street food traders and children's entertainment.

G.W. Crafters had been contacted, unfortunately, they are unable to secure any food stalls for the day. It was further explained that Kerry and Sophie have contacted several traders and entertainment providers with little success. Follow up calls and emails have been sent and are awaiting replies.

Quotations for supplying whiskey barrels and hay bales to use as props on the day have been received. A booking has been made with a balloon artist for the event.

Kerry provided members with an estimate of costs for the event to date. This included balloon artist, hay bales, barrels, disco, band, A1 Jump and bounce inflatables and rodeo ride. This to date has totalled £2090.00.

The Chief Officer reminded members that a budget of £3k for the Heritage Day event had been agreed and budgeted for. Due to the event not taking place this has not been used.

Members discussed at length the event details.

Cllr Wheeler proposed a budget of £3k for the event. This was seconded by Cllr Beavan.

All members in agreement.

A further discussion took place amongst members, this included letters to all traders and licensees in Blaenavon.

Cllr Cowles proposed that the wording within the letter should make clear that stalls are available on a first come first serve basis, dependant on what goods are to be provided / sold.

This was seconded by Cllr Beavan.

All members in agreement.

Cllrs Wheeler and Keen will deliver the letters to traders early next week by hand. It will also be posted to the Town Council Facebook page.

The next working group meeting will be held in Council chamber on the 3rd of July 2023 at 5.15pm.

Resolved: A budget of £3k was agreed by members for the Country and Western Fayre. Chief Officer to clarify wording within the letter to traders and licensees.

16. To receive an update and make any relevant determinations regarding the Rec Rock Summer School organised for August 2023.

The Chief Officer provided members with an overview and update regarding the Rec Rock event.

It was explained that this is the third year the Town Council has organised the Rec Rock summer school. The first year it was held in Bethlehem Chapel, last year it was held in the Workmen's Hall. The room rate this year for the Hall is £50 per hour for the auditorium.

As requested by members the Chief Officer has contacted the Hall, namely Sharon Ford to request a reduction of the hourly rate. Other venues have also been contacted as per instructions from members.

The Constitutional Club room rate is £20 per hour and has been provisionally booked for the Rec Rock summer school dates.

There has been a non-decision from Sharon Ford regarding a discount rate. Sharon suggested using the Dennis Puddle room at £15 per hour to reduce costs and to use the main auditorium for the final day.

Members had a lengthy discussion around room hire costs and the potential use of single or both venues. A discussion also ensued relating to value for money principles and the need for the opinion from Dan of Rec Rock who will be running the classes.

The event is due to take place in August and needs to be advertised accordingly.

It was proposed by Cllr Cowles that the decision be deferred until July 12th at the next Town Council Finance meeting after seeking an opinion from Dan. This was seconded by Cllr Porter.

All members in agreement.

Resolved: Chief Officer to liaise with Dan of Rec Rock regarding room suitability.

17. To discuss and make any relevant determinations with regard to organising a Mayor's Civic event for 2023.

Members discussed the possibilities of holding a joint Mayor's Civic evening and Civic Award Ceremony within Blaenavon.

Cllr Beavan proposed a provisional date of the 30th of September 2023. This was seconded by Cllr Wheeler.

All members in agreement.

Resolved: Provisional date of the 30th of September 2023 agreed for the Mayor's Civic evening and Civic Award Ceremony.

18. To discuss and make a determination regarding potential Town Council projects for allocation into the Project Action Plan 2023/24. Relevant updates or new projects as notified.

None received.

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

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

- **DEVELOPMENT PROPOSED**: New out building.
- **LOCATION**: 130 Capel Newydd, Blaenavon, Torfaen

Resolved. No objections from members.

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

The Chief Officer had forwarded to members two donation requests ahead of the meeting namely.

- Teresa Powell

A discussion took place amongst members regarding the donation request which was a request for £200 to purchase boxing boots for her son Kai Powell.

Cllr Wheeler suggested that the Mic Morris Trust could also be contacted for a donation. Their next meeting is the 19th of July 2023.

It was proposed by Cllr Beavan and seconded by Cllr Keen that the request be supported with a £200 award.

Cllr Matthews opposed the donation request.

All other members in agreement.

Resolved. Members approved the donation request of £200. Chief Officer to facilitate the transaction and update Teresa Powell.

- Sue Driscoll - Bethlehem Chapel

A discussion took place amongst members regarding the donation request which was a request for £250 to purchase supplies for food share.

It was proposed by Cllr James and seconded by Cllr Cowles that the request be supported with a £250 award on this occasion. It was stipulating that Bethlehem Chapel will not be able to reapply for a donation to purchase food in the future.

All members in agreement.

Resolved. Members approved the donation request of £250. Chief Officer to facilitate the transaction and update Sue Driscoll.

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

- **E-mail and consultation letter received from Clarke Telecom Ltd dated the 2nd of June 2023.**

The Chief Officer forwarded to all members the email for their perusal. This is email is for information purposes only.

Resolved: Members noted email.

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

The Chief Officer requested permission from the Chairman to present a matter before members which he explained was time sensitive. This was authorised by the Chairman.

The Chief Officer informed members that a determination needed to be made in relation to a letter received from Jane Saunders the manager at the Arthur Jenkins Care Home to support their summer fete being held on the 15th of July 2023 by way of donation or raffle prize.

A discussion took place amongst members, and it was proposed by Cllr Cowles that two tickets for the Bronwen Lewis concert could be given as a raffle prize. This was seconded by Cllr Parfitt.

All members in agreement.

Resolved: Two concert tickets to be delivered to the Arthur Jenkins Care Home as a raffle prize for their forthcoming fete.

Meeting ended at 20.03 hrs.



BLAENAVON TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 28th of June 2023 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: Cllr. N. Matthews (In the Chair) A. Beavan, S. Keen, M. Wheeler, I. Parfitt, L. Cowles, T. Porter, G. James (online).

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

Visitors: Caroline Genever-Jones (Elections Business Manager, TCBC), Ashleigh Taylor (Treasurer of the World Heritage Group)

Members of public: Gareth Davies.

The Full Council meeting was opened at 6:30pm by the Mayor Cllr Nathan Matthews 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 M. Harris - Work commitment.
- Cllr L. Evans - Work commitment.
- Cllr J. Hunt - Meeting.
- Cllr A. Jones - Family commitment.

It was proposed by Cllr Beavan and seconded by Cllr Parfitt that the apologies be accepted.

All members in agreement.

Resolved: Apologies accepted.

3. Declarations of Interest

None declared.

4. To receive an update from Ashleigh Taylor (Treasurer of the World Heritage Group) relating to the cancelled World Heritage Day 2023.

Ashleigh thanked members for the invite to provide an update and expressed that she was disappointed the event was not taking place this year.

Ashleigh explained that the group had worked extremely hard last year to provide an event in the Town and that the main issue was in recruiting volunteers.

Moving forward, Ashleigh would like the World Heritage Day to continue and believes that funding would be achievable for the event. Support for the day was good with local schools, Big Pit, the Ironworks and the Hwb all onboard as well as members of the World Heritage Site Partnership.

Ashleigh informed members that she is the only remaining committee member within the group and stressed that a chairperson is needed to provide leadership and coordination. The group must have four members to be quorate. The World Heritage Group has an open bank account with a balance of £180.

Cllr Matthews added that it was important for World Heritage Day to continue in some form as it is particularly good for the town's economy and residents. A discussion will take place (agenda item 15) for a summer event this year, potentially this could form a pilot for future events.

The Town Council would be interested in considering supporting any future event as Cwmbran and Pontypool Community Councils support their events.

Ashleigh was supportive of this and had recommended to the steering group committee that an organisation takes the lead and have volunteer support for any future event.

Ashleigh was thanked for attending and updating members.

Resolved: Members noted update.

5. To receive a presentation and update from Caroline Genever - Jones (TCBC Elections and Business Manager) regarding the forthcoming Community Review.

Caroline provided members with the following update.

The Community Review is currently ongoing, consultation is live, and the first stage consultation will end on the 30th of August 2023.

The terms of reference and forms for submission have been forwarded to the Chief Officer for members to respond. Members of the public can respond to the online consultation.

It was explained that from September 2023, the task and finish group will meet to deal with responses and form the first stage recommendations. The final report will be submitted to the Boundary Commission for Wales who will make the final decision if the recommendations are accepted.

Caroline stressed the need to think about communities and what changes if any are needed. She recommended that as a council and individuals to send a response to the community review.

Cllrs raised the following questions:

- Why was the deadline set as 30th August 2023 knowing that Town and Community Councils will be in recess then?

Caroline explained that this is down to workload.

- Who are the group members?

Caroline explained that there are no dual hatters, therefore no one on a Community Council could be part of the task and finish group as it is a conflict of interest. This was decided by the Monitoring Officer.

Members of the group are Cllr Nathan Yule (Chair), Cllr Elizabeth Haynes, Cllr Lucy Williams, Cllr Alan Slade, Cllr Fiona Cross, Cllr Steven Evans. A full list will be sent to the Chief Officer.

- Are there any specific members for Blaenavon?

Cllrs Janet Jones and Nick Horler.

Cllr Matthews thanked Caroline for her attendance and assured her Blaenavon Town Council will be submitting a response.

Resolved: Members noted the update.

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

The mayor provided members with a summary of events and functions attended during the last month.

4th June 2023 - Along with the Assistant Chief Officer, Cllrs Beavan, Wheeler, and members of the public, took part in a community litter pick at the Gilchrist Thomas Industrial Estate.

7th June 2023 - Alongside officers and Cllrs Beavan, Harris and Keen, attended a meeting of the Summer Event Working Group.

8th June 2023 - Chaired the inaugural meeting of the Healthy Blaenavon Strategic Partnership.

9th June 2023 - Along with the Chief Officer, met with Angela Lewis of the Blaenavon over 50s Forum to discuss ways in which the Town Council could work more closely with the forum and to help ensure that the voices of that demographic are heard.

9th June 2023 – Along with the Chief Officer, met with David Leech (Strategic Director for Communities, TCBC), Rebecca Hartley (Team Leader Place Based Projects, TCBC) and Bethan McPherson (Head of Communities and Renewal, TCBC), to discuss potential regeneration initiatives in Blaenavon Town Centre.

19th June 2023 - Alongside members of the Blaenavon Branch of the Royal British Legion, officers, and members, raised the flag for Armed Forces Day and laid a wreath at the cenotaph on behalf of Blaenavon Town Council.

19th June 2023 - Met with Walter Waygood to discuss his upcoming exhibition at the Blaenavon Workmen's Hall.

21st June 2023 - Along with the Chief Officer, met with Inspector Lee Stachow, Gwent Police's newly appointed Torfaen Geographical Inspector to discuss residents' concerns regarding local policing and ways in which communication and collaboration between Gwent Police and Blaenavon Town Council could be further developed.

23rd June 2023 - Along with Cllr Alan Jones, attended the Blaenavon Blues presentation at Blaenavon RFC and presented awards to the third team.

27th June 2023 - Along with the Chief Officer, Cllrs Hunt, and Wheeler, attended a meeting of the Community Review Working Group.

Cllr Matthews explained that he has had regular meetings with the Chief Officer, Assistant Chief Officer, Community Wellbeing Development Officer, and Cllrs throughout the month.

Resolved: Members noted the update.

7. Council Meeting: To confirm the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on the 24th of May 2023.

The minutes were read for accuracy with no amendments. It was proposed by Cllr Cowles and seconded by Cllr Keen that the minutes be accepted.

All members in agreement.

Resolved: Minutes approved as a true and accurate record.

8. Chief Officer's Update: To receive the Chief Officer's update.

The Chief Officer provided members with the following update.

Item 13 within the minutes as per the instructions from members. An invite was sent to Ashleigh Taylor (World Heritage Group) to attend a Full Council meeting and update members regarding the cancelled World Heritage Day. Ashleigh has attended tonight's meeting.

In relation to Tyrone Trace, the Chief Officer was not able to meet with him due to leave and other work commitments.

Item 17 within the minutes as per the instructions from members the Chief Officer has completed the Welsh Government's survey on twinning.

Item 21 within the minutes as per the instructions from members. On the 25th of May 2023, the Chief Officer informed Leanne Jones of the Council's decision and received the following update via email.

'Kevin, thank you for this, I will need to speak to my head teacher and get back to you asap.'

There have been no further updates received.

On the 25th of May 2023 the Chief Officer attended a meeting with Dave Leech at the Civic Centre Pontypool. These are regular monthly meetings between officers to discuss strategic operational matters and report back to our relevant members relating to Blaenavon.

The Chief Officer has fully briefed the mayor regarding these discussions during their weekly operational briefings.

The letter to TCBC regarding the Ken Jones statue has been delivered. The Chief Officer displayed this to members via the projector screen.

On the 1st of June 2023, the Chief Officer attended a One Voice Wales training course covering devolution of services. This was an excellent input in terms of community asset transfer and urged all members to undertake this valuable input to assist the Council moving forward.

On the 7th of June 2023, the Chief Officer attended a meeting in the council chambers with members of the working group relating to the planned country and western community fayre planned for the 12th of August 2023. A detailed set of discussions took place and ongoing work has been completed.

A fuller update will be delivered at item 15 within the agenda.

On the 8th of June 2023 together with the mayor and heads of service from the NHS, adult care, Blaenavon surgery, Bronafon, TCBC, Gwent Police, the Chief Officer attended a

meeting in the council chambers relating to the newly created Healthy Blaenavon Strategic Partnership.

The mayor will provide a fuller update at item 13 within the agenda.

On the 9th of June 2023 together with the mayor, Sophie, Dave Leech, Rebecca Hartley, and Bethan Macpherson (TCBC) the Chief Officer attended a meeting in the council chambers relating to the Blaenavon Town Centre Rentals Project.

This meeting was arranged as a result of the discussions held with Dave Leech on the 25th of May 2023. The meeting looked at tourism and rental opportunities for the Town centre. Options are still being considered and a fuller update will be presented to members when available.

On the 13th of June 2023, the Chief Officer attended an online World Heritage Site steering group meeting.

On the 14th of June 2023, the Chief Officer together with Cllr Jones represented the Council and attended the funeral of Ruth Tucker the former Clerk at Pontypool Community Council. It was a lovely service and a fitting tribute to Ruth who served as clerk for thirty-seven years.

On the 21st of June 2023 together with the mayor the Chief Officer held a meeting in the Council chambers with the newly appointed Geographical Inspector for Torfaen namely Inspector Lee Stachow.

It was an extremely positive meeting whereby an agreement was reached for regular updates to be provided to members. This will be completed by at least Sgt rank on a quarterly basis. Sgt Ellis will be attending the Full Council meeting in July 2023.

On the 22nd of June 2023, the Chief Officer attended the second strategic meeting with Dave Leech at the civic centre. The discussion covered the meeting held on the 9th of June 2023 regarding the rental project together with the letter they have now received regarding the Council's decision relating to the Ken Jones statue.

On the 27th of June 2023, the Chief Officer attended a reconvened meeting of the Community Review working group in the council chamber together with the mayor, Cllr Wheeler, and Cllr Hunt.

Further discussions took place regarding the Town Council's planned response to the community review terms of reference. The mayor will give a further update at item 11 within the agenda.

On the 19th of June 2023, the Chief Officer received further directions from Audit Wales regarding the triennial full audit. These have been discussed with the mayor and outlined the volume of work that is required to submit the documentation by the 1st of August 2023.

Requirements relating to the Notice for Electors rights have been completed, and these are displayed on our notice board and website.

The Audit is now the priority for the Chief Officer for the forthcoming weeks.

In relation to the Community Day planned for the 12th of August 2023, the necessary documentation and required licences as per the summary update to members last week has now been completed.

The sign off, covering the street trading licence will be completed by the 17th of July 2023. No other licences are required.

Since the last meeting, the Chief Officer has held weekly briefing sessions with the mayor discussing Council operational and financial matters. Operational meetings with fellow officers relating to future planning and current projects have also taken place.

Resolved: Members noted the update.

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

Cllr Matthews informed members that he had received an update from Cllr Hunt explaining that in his role as an appointed Cllr on the Torfaen Museum Trust, he had assisted with the recruitment of an assistant curator which resulted in a successful appointment.

Resolved: Members noted the update.

10. To receive an update from Sophie Johnson - Community Development and Wellbeing Officer (May 2023).

Sophie provided the following update to members.

The photography workshop with Walter Waygood and World Heritage Youth Ambassadors has now ended. The young people have shown a huge amount of interest and enthusiasm and have produced some great work which Walter has been sharing and promoting on social media.

They have looked at historical buildings and landmarks throughout and have honed the skills required to enable them to capture the heritage of the town. These pieces will all form part of Walter's upcoming exhibition at the Workmen's Hall in July 2023.

Sophie explained that she attended BHVC school's Health and Wellbeing after school club where over fifty bean plants provided by Robert Evans were planted. These have thrived and the children will be entering some of these into the horticultural show, sharing with other pupils and taking some home.

The new Over 60's dance exercise provision which has been organised on a four-week trial basis at the Constitutional Club is concluding this week. There were high numbers consistently over the first three weeks.

Sports Development have confirmed these will continue to run until the end of August 2023 and re-assess accordingly. Based on feedback of the venue from attendees Sophie will enquire if the Workmen's Hall will be available going forward.

Sophie is currently heavily involved with the Little Voices group at BHVC. Sophie and the pupils are working on a film to inform the community on how to keep happy, healthy, and well in Blaenavon. This involves filming at various locations in the town where activities / groups take place and recording interviews with attendees.

This film will then be shown on the screens in the Resource Centre, Heritage Centre, schools' website, and social media etc. This is a good opportunity to spread the word of what is taking place in town, with all the council's projects being featured.

Sophie explained that she regularly attends Family Club and Mums and Daughters fitness class, which are delivered by Sports Development and funded via the Council's Street Games project. Both sessions continue to have good attendance.

Sophie had organised a group of residents to attend the Torfaen Adult Learning's Well Being Fayre at end of May 2023. Thirty residents attended by coach which was funded by Torfaen Adult Learning. The event included pottery making, cookery sessions, woodwork, arts, and crafts, plus lots of organisations for the residents to talk to about employment, volunteering, training, and financial worries.

During that week, Sophie held the Animals Interactive session with lunch for families. This was very well attended and well received within the community. Another session is taking place on Monday the 24th of July 2023.

A community swimming session took place during half term with seventy residents taking part. Forty travelled on the coach provided. This is an even bigger attendance than the last session. There are another two sessions planned for Friday the 28th of July and Friday the 25th of August 2023. The pool sessions are being provided free of charge to the council from Torfaen Leisure Trust.

The first skateboarding session during half term was well attended and well received. There are four more sessions over the summer holidays namely the 27th of July and the 4th, 11th, and 18th of August 2023. Sports Development is jointly funding these.

The Teen gym sessions have been running for six weeks with an average of 10 / 12 young people taking part each week. The response from the community has been positive and the young people are enjoying them.

Sophie explained that she has been successful in the first stage of applications for Bronafon's Pitch for Pounds grant scheme to help fund this project going forward. Sophie will deliver a presentation to their board next week and has applied for the maximum grant of £1000.

Working in partnership with the Celt + Health and Wellbeing team, Sophie has arranged wellbeing taster days over a three-week trial period. These include a buggy fit walking group, yoga classes and mindfulness sessions, all of which are held at Blaenavon RFC on a Thursday.

The sessions started last week with a mixed response. This is likely due to a lack of time to promote the event. Sophie attended lots of local groups this week to promote these sessions as residents have been requesting these types of activities for some time. Sophie is currently in talks with the CELT+ team regarding working on cooking on a budget cookery session for the community using the recipe books created by the Town Council.

Paddleboard sessions are all confirmed with Black Crow Paddle boarding, these will take place on the 27th of July 2023 and the 9th, 17th, 24th and 31st of August 2023, weather permitting. All bookings will be through Sophie as with all other activities.

Since discussions in the last finance meeting regarding the cost of hiring the Workmen's Hall for the summer Rec Rock sessions, Sophie has contacted Sharon Ford from the Hall to request a reduced hourly rate for the auditorium. Sharon has replied to say that the Board had some discussions about implementing a reduced rate for Blaenavon community groups who may be struggling financially but would benefit from using the Hall.

They are currently looking at the policy relating to this and will keep Sophie informed with the result of these discussions. Sophie stressed the importance of having an answer in preparation for this meeting and the response was that they cannot give an affirmative answer to this request for a discount.

They do not wish to lose the group from the Hall as they fully support the ethos of the Rec Rock projects, as their discussions are not yet concluded and the details of their policy not fully formed, they are unable to say yes at this stage.

They are currently taking advice from external bodies with more experience of tiered pricing for community groups depending on need and linked to social impact, and when they have reflected and created their policy, they will respond. In the meantime, they have suggested the sessions are held in the Dennis Puddle room as this space is only £15 per hour and the auditorium could be booked for the performative elements of the sessions.

This would significantly reduce the hire cost from £1500 to £625. Sophie has contacted Dan from Rec Rock to check that this arrangement would be suitable for the sessions.

Sophie explained that she is in talks with the Integrated Wellbeing Network regarding organising an information event at the Resource Centre on the 20th of July 2023 between 3pm-5pm, focused on early years provision available in Blaenavon.

The event will be attended by relevant organisations and have craft activities for entertainment. This will be another terrific opportunity to engage with residents and promote the council and its services to the community.

Sophie explained that she has been working alongside Kerry and Kevin in organising the community event on the 12th of August 2023. They are sourcing various food providers, entertainment, decorations, activities. They are also speaking with Sports Development, Torfaen Play, Torfaen CELT+ team and Changing Gears.

The poster for the next litter pick has been created and shared on social media, which will be held on Sunday the 9th of July 2023. Sophie has met with TCBCs litter and fly tipping prevention officer Oliver James, who will be attending and promoting the litter pick.

The Tidy Butt mental health workshop for year ten pupils in St Albans school is taking place on Friday the 14th of July 2023. Sophie is awaiting details on timings. Councillors will be invited to attend for a short part of the day to gain an understanding of the workshops and the impact on the students.

The workshop for Abersychan school has been postponed until the new academic year in September due to no dates being suitable for the school. This means that the year ten pupils who would be taking part will then be in year eleven.

Based on feedback from the community, Sophie is in talks with National Museum Wales looking into a potential visit to St Fagan's in August 2023. This will gain an insight into Welsh Heritage and to take part in their Coed Lan high ropes activity course.

This would form part of the family engagement programme funded by the Street Games budget. A project form will be submitted to members with further details.

To conclude, the Monday craft group in partnership with Stori is well attended with a wide variety of community members who really enjoy and appreciate the sessions.

Cinema Club continues to be extremely popular and well received.

Resolved: Members noted the update.

11. To receive and make any relevant determinations regarding an update from the Community Review Working Group.

Cllr Matthews provided members with an update and explained that he together with fellow Cllrs Wheeler, Hunt, and the Chief Officer met on the 27th of June 2023 to discuss and consider a series of options relating to the forthcoming Community Review.

The group have not made any final recommendations at this stage and will meet again prior to the next finance meeting where a full update will be presented to members for consideration and further discussion.

Resolved: Members noted the update.

12. To discuss and make a determination for the appointment of a Councillor representative to the Torfaen Canal Task and Finish Working group.

The Torfaen Strategy has set up a Task and Finish Working Group to support partnership working. The group is made up of members from Cwmbran, Pontypool and Blaenavon Town and Community Councils along with nine members from TCBC.

To date the group have held one meeting. Blaenavon Town Council needs to appoint a representative to join the committee. A discussion took place amongst members.

It was proposed by Cllr Parfitt that Cllr Keen is nominated as the Town Council representative on the group. This was seconded by Cllr Beavan

All members in agreement.

Resolved: Cllr Keen appointed as the Town Council representative for the Canal Task and Finish Working Group.

13. To discuss and make a determination for the appointment of three Councillor representatives to the newly established Healthy Blaenavon Strategic Partnership.

It was explained to members that this is a new partnership consistent with objectives from the Integrated Wellbeing Network and Torfaen Community Wellbeing Strategies.

Terms of Reference are being drafted by Emma Davies-McIntosh (Health Board) and David Leech (TCBC) It is agreed that Blaenavon Town Council should lead, host and chair meetings.

There will be representation from the following partners namely Gwent Police, Bronafon, TCBC and the Health Board. This will be a good forum to discuss the health of the Town in the broadest sense.

A discussion took place amongst members.

It was proposed by Cllr Cowles that the three members to represent Blaenavon Town Council are Cllr Matthews, Beavan and Hunt. This was seconded by Cllr Parfitt.

All members in agreement.

Resolved: Cllrs Matthews, Beavan and Hunt appointed as the Town Council representatives for the Healthy Blaenavon Strategic Partnership.

14. To receive an update and make any relevant determinations regarding the planned Bronwen Lewis concert on the 8th of September 2023.

The Assistant Chief Officer Kerry Jones, provided members with the following update.

All the event details are now finalised. Tickets will be available from the 29th of June 2023 via Ticket Source. Tickets are £15 each plus a booking fee of £1.26 for general admission / unreserved seating. E tickets are available to print at home. The agents RRP is between £24 - £26.

The concert details and ticket link will be shared via social media and posters distributed to various key locations throughout the town. If members choose to attend having purchased tickets, please let Kerry know and she will reserve seats for you and your party in the balcony area if required.

On the 26th of June 2023, Kerry explained to members that she had emailed Sharon Ford to establish confirmation on the seating capacity in the Hall. There has been no response to date.

Terry Gardener has verbally stated the capacity is 320. Until seating capacity is confirmed, ticket sales will be limited to 270. This can be adjusted accordingly.

Resolved: Members noted the update.

15. To receive an update and make any relevant determinations regarding the proposed Country and Western Community Fayre planned for the 12th of August 2023.

The Assistant Chief Officer Kerry Jones provided members with an update and explained the difficulties in securing street food traders and children's entertainment.

G.W. Crafters had been contacted, unfortunately, they are unable to secure any food stalls for the day. It was further explained that Kerry and Sophie have contacted several traders and entertainment providers with little success. Follow up calls and emails have been sent and are awaiting replies.

Quotations for supplying whiskey barrels and hay bales to use as props on the day have been received. A booking has been made with a balloon artist for the event.

Kerry provided members with an estimate of costs for the event to date. This included balloon artist, hay bales, barrels, disco, band, A1 Jump and Bounce inflatables and rodeo ride. This to date has totalled £2090.00.

The Chief Officer reminded members that a budget of £3k for the Heritage Day event had been agreed and budgeted for. Due to the event not taking place this has not been used.

Members discussed at length the event details.

Cllr Wheeler proposed a budget of £3k for the event. This was seconded by Cllr Beavan.

All members in agreement.

A further discussion took place amongst members, this included sending letters to all traders and licensees in Blaenavon.

Cllr Cowles proposed that the wording within the letter should make clear that stalls are available on a first come first serve basis, dependant on what goods are to be provided / sold.

This was seconded by Cllr Beavan.

All members in agreement.

Cllrs Wheeler and Keen will deliver the letters to traders early next week by hand. It will also be posted to the Town Council Facebook page.

The next working group meeting will be held in Council chamber on the 3rd of July 2023 at 5.15pm.

Resolved: A budget of £3k was agreed by members for the Country and Western Fayre.

Chief Officer to clarify wording within the letter to traders and licensees.

16. To receive an update and make any relevant determinations regarding the Rec Rock Summer School organised for August 2023.

The Chief Officer provided members with an overview and update regarding the Rec Rock event.

It was explained that this is the third year the Town Council has organised the Rec Rock summer school. The first year it was held in Bethlehem Chapel, last year it was held in the Workmen's Hall. The room rate this year for the Hall is £50 per hour for the auditorium.

As requested by members the Chief Officer has contacted the Hall, namely Sharon Ford to request a reduction of the hourly rate. Other venues have also been contacted as per instructions from members.

The Constitutional Club room rate is £20 per hour and has been provisionally booked for the Rec Rock summer school dates.

There has been a non-decision from Sharon Ford regarding a discount rate. Sharon suggested using the Dennis Puddle room at £15 per hour to reduce costs and to use the main auditorium for the final day.

Members had a lengthy discussion around room hire costs and the potential use of single or both venues. A discussion also ensued relating to value for money principles and the need for the opinion from Dan of Rec Rock who will be running the classes.

The event is due to take place in August and needs to be advertised accordingly.

It was proposed by Cllr Cowles that the decision be deferred until July 12th at the next Town Council Finance meeting after seeking an opinion from Dan. This was seconded by Cllr Porter.

All members in agreement.

Resolved: Chief Officer to liaise with Dan of Rec Rock regarding room suitability.

17. To discuss and make any relevant determinations with regard to organising a Mayor's Civic event for 2023.

Members discussed the possibilities of holding a joint Mayor's Civic evening and Civic Award Ceremony within Blaenavon.

Cllr Beavan proposed a provisional date of the 30th of September 2023. This was seconded by Cllr Wheeler.

All members in agreement.

Resolved: Provisional date of the 30th of September 2023 agreed for the Mayor's Civic evening and Civic Award Ceremony.

18. To discuss and make a determination regarding potential Town Council projects for allocation into the Project Action Plan 2023/24. Relevant updates or new projects as notified.

None received.

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

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

- **DEVELOPMENT PROPOSED:** New out building.
- **LOCATION:** 130 Capel Newydd, Blaenavon, Torfaen

Resolved. No objections from members.

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

The Chief Officer had forwarded to members two donation requests ahead of the meeting namely.

- Teresa Powell.

A discussion took place amongst members regarding the donation request which was a request for £200 to purchase boxing boots for her son Kai Powell.

Cllr Wheeler suggested that the Mic Morris Trust could also be contacted for a donation. Their next meeting is the 19th of July 2023.

It was proposed by Cllr Beavan and seconded by Cllr Keen that the request be supported with a £200 award.

Cllr Matthews opposed the donation request. All other members in agreement.

Resolved. Members approved the donation request of £200. Chief Officer to facilitate the transaction and update Teresa Powell.

- Sue Driscoll - Bethlehem Chapel.

A discussion took place amongst members regarding the donation request which was a request for £250 to purchase supplies for food share.

It was proposed by Cllr James and seconded by Cllr Cowles that the request be supported with a £250 award on this occasion.

It was stipulating that Bethlehem Chapel will not be able to reapply for a donation to purchase food in the future.

All members in agreement.

Resolved. Members approved the donation request of £250. Chief Officer to facilitate the transaction and update Sue Driscoll.

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

- **E-mail and consultation letter received from Clarke Telecom Ltd dated the 2nd of June 2023.**

The Chief Officer forwarded to all members the email for their perusal. The email is for information purposes only.

Resolved: Members noted the content of the email.

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

The Chief Officer requested permission from the Chairman to present a matter before members which he explained was time sensitive. This was authorised by the Chairman.

The Chief Officer informed members that a determination needed to be made in relation to a letter received from Jane Saunders the manager at the Arthur Jenkins Care Home to support their summer fete being held on the 15th of July 2023 by way of donation or raffle prize.

A discussion took place amongst members, and it was proposed by Cllr Cowles that two tickets for the Bronwen Lewis concert could be given as a raffle prize. This was seconded by Cllr Parfitt.

All members in agreement.

Resolved: Two concert tickets to be delivered to the Arthur Jenkins Care Home as a raffle prize for their forthcoming fete.

Meeting ended at 20.03 hrs.

Signed Chairman:

W. Matthews

Date: 26/07/23.