



**BLAENAVON TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 27th NOVEMBER 2019 AT 6.30 PM AT THE
COUNCIL CHAMBER, 101 HIGH ST, BLAENAVON.**

In attendance:

Councillor: Jac Denley-Jones (In the Chair)

Councillors in attendance: A. Jones, G. Davies, N. Horler, J. Huybs, S. Bright, L. Evans, G. McCann, A. Parry, L. Cowles.

Officers: Mr K. Warren (Clerk to the Council), Rebecca Smith (Healthy Blaenavon Officer), Lyndsey Harris (Administrator)

Visitors: Mr Stuart Evans, Mrs Janet Jones, Mrs Labessa Warren (Pontypool Rotary)

The meeting of the full council was opened at 6:30pm by the Chairman Councillor Jac Denley-Jones who welcomed everyone to the meeting and expressed thanks for attendance.

1. To receive any questions from the public.

There were no questions.

2. Apologies:

Cllr. P. Roberts

3. Declarations of interest

None

4. Receive Presentations from Co-option Candidates for the role of Blaenavon Town Councillor.

Five candidates applied for the position of Councillor. In attendance were, Mr. Terence Gardner, Mrs. Emma Harvey, Miss. Felicity Burgess-Young and Miss. Rebecca Harris, the

fifth candidate Mr. Tristan Griffin was absent, his application was shown via the projector screen.

A timed five minute presentation to the Council then commenced by each candidate in turn. Once they had made their presentation the candidates left the Chambers.

5. To make a determination and ratify the appointment of a Co-opted Blaenavon Town Councillor.

Once the presentations had been completed, Councillors proceeded to vote for their preferred candidate.

Votes were cast and Mrs. Emma Harvey received 10 votes.

It was confirmed that Mrs. Emma Harvey was to be appointed Councillor.

The Clerk was instructed to inform Mrs. Emma Harvey of her successful appointment and to thank the four candidates for their applications and to inform them of the results of the vote.

Cllr. Samantha Bright asked if it would be possible to send out letters of thanks to those who attended.

Resolved: Confirmed that Mrs. Emma Harvey will be appointed as a Blaenavon Town Councillor. Clerk to organise the necessary paperwork.

6. Chairman's Announcements

The Chair informed members of her attendance at the following:

- Presented a cheque to Men's Sheds at Big Pit.
- Attended the official opening of 'Casting Precious Memories' shop in the town.
- Future Risks Workshop with Kevin & Rebecca.
- Presented a cheque to Blaenavon Blues FC and was also a judge in the poster competition.
- Opening of the Garden of Remembrance.
- Camera Club Exhibition at the Blaenavon Heritage Centre.
- Remembrance Day Concert at Blaenavon Workmen's Hall
- Laid a wreath for the Blaenavon Town Council at the Remembrance Day Service.
- Presented a cheque to Abersychan School for their Breakfast Club initiative.
- Presented a cheque to Fairfield Utd AFC.
- Blessing of the Crib/Christmas light switch on at Bethlehem Chapel.

Resolved: Members noted the update.

7. To sign as a correct record the Full Council minutes held on the 23rd October 2019

The minutes from the last Full Council meeting held on the 23rd October 2019 were read for accuracy. Cllr. Liam Cowles noted that one item outlined a declaration of interest for Blaenavon Blues was Cllr. Gareth Davies and this should have been Cllr. Gareth McCann. This amendment was noted, minutes will be amended accordingly.

The minutes were proposed by Cllr Alan Jones and seconded by Cllr Alan Parry as a true and accurate record.

Resolved: Minutes accepted as a true record.

8. Receive an update from Rebecca Smith – Healthy Blaenavon Officer

Rebecca Smith gave members an overview of her work since the last meeting which included:

- Attendance at the Resource Centre as part of the Integrated Wellbeing Network. Relaunching the resource centre as a Hub for the community. Rebecca hopes to spend at least one day a month at the Resource Centre to inform, guide and signpost people to their particular needs and wants.
- The Hwb – attending the Mental Health Project every 3 weeks
- Little Voices, BHVC School – attend twice a month
- Mind Craft & a Cuppa – regular people attending, hoping to market this to a wider audience.

Gaps/Challenges

- Wellbeing assets - Identified gaps for activities during the mornings.
- Identified a lack of Art & Craft groups within the town – Inside Out Cymru/Aneurin Bevan Health Board have provisions to fund projects, Rebecca will look into applying for funding a potential Art/Craft project within the Resource Centre.

- V&A visit with the Intergenerational Group which was attended by some of the Youth Ambassadors, a family from Blaenavon and some ladies who are regular attendees of the Intergenerational Group. Rebecca remarked how it was a very positive and inspiring day for all who attended.

New Projects

Social Media Presence

- Created a 'Healthy Blaenavon' Twitter account @HealthyBlaenavon and this month hopes to set up an Instagram account as a result of feedback from the younger people.

State of Mind Project

- 18 young people who have engaged, very positive engagement with the younger people within the community from a variety of backgrounds.

Family Engagement Project

- Commencing January Partnership Meeting; The first part of the funding has been provided of £2,500, the project will commence in conjunction with Torfaen Play and Sports Development Wales. The project will be set up as a Well-being Club that would run from the Active Living Centre. Further meetings and discussions are to be made regarding setting up this project, if it does prove to be successful, additional funding will be sought to ensure this can continue to develop it over the next couple of years.

Music Project

- The music project has started and the first few workshops have been really successful, several members attended from Blaenavon, and further afield namely Cwmbran & Trevechin. The members have been invited to attend the Lantern Parade at the Wales Millennium Centre.

Adult Learning

- Trial a pilot project – Introduction to Teacher Assistant learning, which will be run from the Town Council Chambers commencing in January 2020 for 8 weeks.
- Potential future learning projects could be English & Maths.

Funding Applications

- Comic Relief – correspondence has been received regarding the venue for the course that was submitted, positive that the application is being considered.
- Food for Life – Small Food Grant, £150 confirmed, invitations for the Come Dine with Me at the Hwb were handed out to Councillors.
- An application is going to be submitted to Food for Life for £10,000 to fund a much larger project to include the intergenerational group.
- Millennium Centre kindly donated £300 to pay for the bus to take the children from the Music Project to the Lantern Parade in Cardiff.

Projects projected total is £48,300.

Resolved: Members noted the update.

Budgeting

Members were asked to consider providing Rebecca with a budget for £3000 for Healthy Blaenavon Projects as part of the 2020/21 budget so that she is able to run smaller projects within the community.

Cllr. Denley-Jones thanks Rebecca for all her hard work over the past four months. Which was also echoed by all members.

Cllr. Huybs then asked the Clerk when the Council need to decide on the budget to support Rebecca's request? The Clerk informed members that he is currently working on the draft 2020/21 budget for presentation at January 2020 Finance meeting and the decision can be made at that meeting.

Resolved: Members noted the update.

9. Clerk's Update.

Mr Warren provided the following updates:

- Item 19 in the previous minutes Cheques have been raised and presented to Blaenavon Blues, Fairfield United AFC, Girls Under 13's and Abersychan School Breakfast Club.
- Item 20, the Clerk informed members he had spoken to the Chair of the Mic Morris Trust – Tom Huish and he informed the Clerk that there were four meetings a year and as a Trustee the Council would form part of that group and to act as an outside body on the Committee and would make decisions as part of that group. The Clerk asks members to nominate a person to represent the Council as part of the group. Cllr.

Cllr. Denley-Jones proposes Cllr. Jackie Huybs, Cllr. Liam Cowles seconded the proposal.

Resolved: Cllr Jackie Huybs appointed as the Blaenavon Town Council Representative.

- **Energy Scheme** – An email was sent to Steve Shaw informing him of the Councils decision not to progress with this until the bill becomes an act of Parliament.
- **VE Day 75 Celebrations** – The Clerk proposed that members work together with the Blaenavon Branch of the Royal British Legion. A list of dates has been provided during May, June & July 2020. Look for a day within that calendar that suits both the Council & the RBL to celebrate the anniversary.
- **Remembrance Day Commemorations** – The Clerk informed members that he attended the Remembrance Day Concert at Blaenavon Workmen's Hall on Saturday 9th November and the Remembrance Day Service at the Cenotaph on Sunday 10th November 2019. The Clerk informed members that he had received an email following the service from Mr. Jack Hanbury - Tenison (Deputy Lord Lieutenant) to acknowledge the professionalism and dedication made to both services.
- **Healthy Blaenavon** – Following the publication of the article in the SLCC Magazine regarding the then newly appointed Healthy Blaenavon Officer the Clerk had received correspondence from Lyn Cadwallader, Chief Executive of One Voice Wales requesting a meeting to find out more about the role of the Healthy Blaenavon Officer.
The meeting was held on Monday 18th November 2019 at Blaenavon Heritage Centre attended by the Clerk to the Council Mr Kevin Warren, Cllrs Alan Jones and Gareth Davies and Rebecca Smith. Mr Cadwallader was very impressed with the relationship that the Town Council has with the Health Board and the Public Service Board which he remarked was unique for Town Councils. As a result of this meeting Mr Cadwallader is going to write to the First Minister Mark Drakeford to organise a visit to Blaenavon to meet with the Council to see the impact that the role has made in such a short space of time.

- **Partnerships** - The Clerk informed members of a meeting that took place at Pennard Community Council to discuss the work that they are currently doing on Green Infrastructure elements. They are also helping Blaenavon Town Council in supporting us with the launch of the Vocal Eyes project. The Clerk explained how he had discussed with Cllr Huybs the launch and marketing of the project and hope to launch in January 2020.
- On 22nd November 2019 the Clerk met up with Cllr Alan Jones and PC Sarah Brakespear, Ward Officer and Karen Mayo – Community Safety. The Clerk explained that moving forward they will meet on a monthly basis discussing matters of ASB, Crime. We have had a full report and update of these matters. Cllr. Bright asks if minutes are kept of these meetings or notes so that this can be brought to Council. The Clerk explains that Sarah would come to the Council to update them on any issues raised on a quarterly basis. She was meant to be at the meeting, but her shifts meant that she was unable to attend.
- **Intergenerational Christmas Party** - The Clerk shows members the poster for the next Intergenerational Meeting - Christmas Party on Wednesday 4th December 2019 via the projection screen. The Clerk invited members to attend if they are able.
- **Councillor Allowances** – The Clerk informs members that the Bacs payment for the two newly appointed members Cllrs. Liam Cowles and Alan Parry has been completed.
- **Budget 2020/21**– The Clerk informed members that he will now commence work on the draft for the 2020/21 budget which he will bring to the Finance meeting in January 2020.

Resolved: Members noted the update.

10. To receive Councillor updates regarding recent attendance at outside bodies committee meetings.

Cllr. Davies suggested that in future that Councillors provide these to share with all members prior to meetings.

Cllr Denley-Jones informed members that she attended a Governors meeting at Ysgol Bryn Onnen. Cllr Denley-Jones informed members that she is unable to attend Pontypool Museums forthcoming meeting because of duties at the Royal British Legion.

Resolved: Members noted the update.

11. To consider and make a determination, on pro rata payments regarding Councillor allowances for recently elected Town Councillors.

A conversation took place among members regarding what payment allowance would be made for the newly appointed member.

Lewis Evans proposed a payment of £100, Nick Horler seconded the proposal.

Cllr. Bright proposes that we add Cllr Allowances as an agenda item in the 2020 AGM. This is noted by the Clerk.

Resolved: Members noted the update. Clerk to organise payment of £100 to Cllr Emma Harvey.

12. To discuss plans for the Town Council Christmas Market 2019.

- Trading consents and licences have been applied for.
- Agreement has been drawn up between – Blaenavon Town Council & Torfaen County Borough Council and signed.
- 19 stalls confirmed
- Car Parking notices have been displayed and leaflets posted out to residents in Broad Street, King Street and part of Queen Street.
- Events details and notices have been shared on social media
- 8am start
- Snow Dome & Santa’s Grotto, Blaenavon Town Band, Celtic Café & Rebecca Osmond’s Shining Stars Ladies Choir are booked for the event.

Resolved: Members noted the update.

13. To discuss potential Town Council Projects for allocation into the Project Action Plan 2019/20. Relevant updates or new projects as notified.

Christmas Shop Window Competition

Cllr Denley-Jones updated members of the Christmas Shop Window Competition, herself and Cllr. Nick Horler did a poster drop to all the shops within the town. Members were asked who would like to do judge the competition. Cllr. Parry and Cllr. Bright nominated themselves to judge the competition.

Resolved: Members noted the update. Judging of the competition to take place on 9th December, 2019.

14. Planning.

The following planning applications were received from TCBC planning department since the last full council meeting in October 2019.

The Clerk has distributed all applications to members for their observations prior to the November 2019 full council meeting.

- PROPOSAL: Remove epicormic growth/basal growth and deadwood from 8 lime trees (tilia cordata).

LOCATION: St Peter's Church, Church Road, Blaenavon

CHAL/19/P/0670/TPO

- PROPOSAL: Single storey side extension and entrance ramp to accommodate funeral home use on ground floor.

LOCATION: Park Street Methodist Church, Park Street, Blaenavon

CHAL/19/P/0689/FUL

- PROPOSAL: Renewal of Planning Permission (14/P/00368) for conversion of Outbuildings to 2 Holiday Cottages.

LOCATION: Allgood Farm, Forgeside Road, Forgeside

SHEN/19/P/0709/VAR

Resolved: No observations

15. Donation Requests – the following donation requests were received since the last Full Council Meeting.

Blaenavon Town Band.

The Clerk displays a letter via the projector screen dated 4th November 2019 from Mr. Paul Miles, Chairman who is asking for a donation of £250 to repair and service instruments.

A discussion took place amongst members.

Cllr. Jackie Huybs proposed £250 be donated, Cllr. Alan Parry seconded the proposal.

Resolved: £250 authorised. Clerk to raise the payment and organise presentation of the cheque.

Victim Support.

The Clerk displays a letter via the projector screen dated 19th November 2019 from Mr Tom Edwards, Contract Manager, asking for a contribution towards essential work in supporting people in the local area who have been affected by crime.

A discussion took place amongst members. Questions were raised as to whether Blaenavon residents would benefit directly from this donation. Members summoned the Clerk to find out this information before a donation can be made.

Cllr. Denley-Jones proposes, Cllr. Alan Jones seconded the proposal.

Resolved: Members noted the update. Clerk to contact Victim Support for more information.

Blaenavon Scout Group.

Cllr. Gareth McCann declares an interest as his son attends the group.

The Clerk displays a letter via the projector screen that was sent on 24th November 2019, from Cara Boddington, Treasurer Blaenavon Scout Group. The group are asking for a donation to continue to help fund camping equipment and materials for DIY projects for the group.

A discussion took place amongst members.

Cllr. Alan Jones proposes £250 be donated, Cllr. Liam Cowles seconded the proposal.

Resolved: £250 authorised. Clerk to raise the payment and organise presentation of the cheque.

Blaenavon Grappling Club.

The Clerk displays an email via the projector screen that was sent on 28th October from Lee Parker of Blaenavon Grappling Club who is asking for a donation towards the club to help with maintenance costs.

A discussion took place amongst members.

Cllr. Gareth McCann proposes £250 be donated, Cllr. Liam Cowles seconded the proposal.

Resolved: £250 authorised. Clerk to raise the payment and organise presentation of the cheque.

16. Correspondence.

Search Point UK

The Clerk informed members that he has received correspondence from a company called Search Point UK who offer an analytics service for websites. The subscription costs £149 a year.

A discussion then took place amongst members.

Cllr. Bright proposed that we don't go ahead with this subscription, Cllr Nick Horler seconded the proposal.

Resolved: Clerk to email the Search Point UK to inform them that the Council are not interested in this subscription.

At 8.03pm the meeting ended.

Chairman Signed:

Date: 22/1/20