



14th March 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 22nd of March 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 discuss and make any relevant determinations regarding a decision by Blaenavon Workmen's Hall Ltd, not to facilitate the use of Blaenavon Workmen's Hall for the delivery of a community event by Blaenavon Town Council in celebration of the forthcoming King's Coronation.
5. To receive an update from Councillor Joanne Gauden (**TCBC Executive Member for Economy, Skills & Regeneration.**) regarding formal feedback from the UK Government's Levelling Up Department on the failed bid submission for Blaenavon House, together with a viewpoint in relation to the Ken Jones statue.
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 22nd of February 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 (**March 2023**)
11. To receive an update regarding the Community Brew Project (Participatory Budget) from Cllr Marc Harris and ratify the project submissions authorised by the project steering group.
12. To discuss and make any relevant determinations regarding the revised contract for the proposed Bronwen Lewis concert at the Workmen's Hall in September 2023.
13. To discuss and make any relevant determinations relating to potential options to commemorate the King's Coronation on the 6th of May 2023.
14. 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.
15. To receive, discuss and make a determination regarding planning applications.
 - **TBRA/23/P/0089/FUL**
 - **SCUL/23/P/0130/HH**
 - **MMCA/23/P/0079/FUL**
 - **MMCA/23/P/0083/TCA**
16. To receive, discuss and make a determination regarding donation requests.
 - Jolene Beddis - Blaenavon Netball Club.
 - Helen Morgan - Ty-Hafan Children's Hospice.
 - Leighton Williams – Forgeside Rugby Club
17. To receive, discuss and make any relevant determinations concerning items relating to correspondence.
18. 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 22nd of March 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 April 2023**.

In attendance:

Councillors: Cllr. Jones (In the Chair) L. Cowles, A. Beavan, N. Matthews, L. Evans, S. Keen, M. Harris, M. Wheeler.

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

Visitors: Cllr Joanne Gauden – TCBC, Representatives of Forgeside RFC Community Garden, Dale Clint, Leighton Williams & Geraint Reynolds.

Members of public: None

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 Porter - Work commitment.
- Cllr James - Unwell.
- Cllr Hunt - Attending two-day conference.
- Cllr Parfitt – Holiday.

It was proposed by Cllr Cowles and seconded by Cllr Wheeler that the apologies be accepted.

All members in agreement.

Resolved: Apologies accepted.

3. Declarations of Interest

- Cllr Cowles - items 13 & 16 - Personal Interest.

4. To discuss and make any relevant determinations regarding a decision by Blaenavon Workmen's Hall Ltd, not to facilitate the use of Blaenavon Workmen's Hall for the delivery of a community event by Blaenavon Town Council in celebration of the forthcoming King's Coronation.

Members had been forwarded correspondence from the Chair of the Workmen's Hall Board, Sharon Ford ahead of the meeting.

A lengthy discussion took place amongst members regarding the correspondence received.

The Chief Officer explained to members that both he and the Assistant Chief Officer Kerry Jones had held discussions with Mr Terry Gardner, (WMH board member) for a proposed Coronation event in the Hall on the 6th of May 2023.

The Assistant Chief Officer explained that she had further follow up conversations with Mr Gardner who confirmed that the Hall was currently closed, no bookings were being taken for events, therefor he could not foresee any issues with the date being available.

Following on from this, a working group was set up by the Town Council to facilitate the proposed event, this comprised of both Cllrs and officers and an initial meeting had taken place.

Members were informed that the Assistant Chief Officer recontacted Mr Gardner on the 13th of March 2023 in order to change the event date to the 7th of May 2023 and was informed by Mr Gardner that there was now pre planned maintenance at the Hall on that day.

The Chief Officer spoke with Mr Gardner and Cllr Hunt, also a board member for the Hall on the 13th of March 2023 who confirmed that they knew nothing of the planned maintenance.

The Chief Officer was informed that there was a board meeting being held on the 15th of March 2023 and the Council would receive an update the following day.

On the 16th of May 2023 several members of the Town Council met with Mr Gardner who explained that the Workmen's Hall Board discussed the proposed coronation event and voted on whether to support the event. The outcome was 3 - 1 against holding the event.

Cllrs expressed their disappointment that the Workmen's Hall Board will not be supporting the Town Council and residents of Blaenavon to celebrate the King's Coronation, a once in a lifetime event.

The Mayor Cllr Jones added that there were significant issues with the management of the Hall and questioned how many members are currently on the Board? It was confirmed as five.

Further discussions took place amongst members, and it was commented upon how two board members were not aware of the planned maintenance scheduled for the 7th of May 2023 and questioned whether decisions were being made outside of board meetings.

It was raised that this was a missed opportunity for the Hall to generate much need revenue and how the Town Council could support the Hall moving forward. Options for alternative venues were also discussed.

Cllr Joanne Gauden added that TCBC are assisting the Workmen's Hall with the support of Torfaen Voluntary Alliance (TVA) who are trying to identify their needs and devise a plan to support the Hall.

Cllr Gauden stated that she was extremely disappointed to hear that the Hall will not be used for this event.

A further discussion took place amongst members, and it was proposed that the Chief Officer is tasked to write to Sharon Ford the Chairman of Blaenavon Workmen's Hall Board to request:

- A copy of the Workmen's Hall Board minutes relating to the meeting held on the 15th of March 2023 when the decision was made not to hold the proposed Town Council Coronation event.
- A response as to why two board members had no knowledge of the pre-planned maintenance scheduled for the 7th of May 2023

This was proposed by Cllr Cowles and seconded by Cllr Harris.

All members in agreement.

Resolved: Chief Officer to write Sharon Ford the Chair of Board for Blaenavon Workmen's Hall and request the information requested by members.

7. Council Meeting: To confirm the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on the 22nd of February 2023.

The minutes were read for accuracy with no amendments.

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

All members in agreement.

Resolved: Minutes approved as a true and accurate record.

11. To receive an update regarding the Community Brew Project (Participatory Budget) from Cllr Marc Harris and ratify the project submissions authorised by the project steering group.

Cllr Harris provided members with an update following a meeting of the project steering group where the new project submissions were discussed. The successful submissions that met the project criteria were confirmed as follows.

- The Pantry - Awarded £5k.
- Forgeside RFC Community Garden - Awarded £5k.
- Blaenavon Blues AFC - Awarded £5k.
- Bethlehem Chapel - Awarded £5k (in principle).

Cllr Harris explained to members that during the steering group meeting a discussion took place with regards to the low number of ratings for Bethlehem Chapel's submitted project idea.

It was agreed that due to the age group, lack of I T skills and ability to use an online platform to rate projects the group would be disadvantaged in rating the project.

It was strongly felt that the project idea submitted would address loneliness and isolation and would be well attended. A request for further information is to be obtained from Sue Driscoll (Bethlehem Chapel).

Providing that the steering group are happy with the information and data on prospective attendees the award would be authorised.

Cllr Harris expressed thanks to all Town Council officers for their continued help and support and explained to members that whilst on times it had been challenging as project lead, it was also incredibly positive for the town, with numerous groups throughout Blaenavon being supported by the Community Brew initiative.

Overall, a total of nineteen project ideas had been submitted with fifteen meeting the criteria and being awarded a total sum of **£67,186.00**.

It was proposed by Cllr Evans and seconded by Cllr Beavan to ratify three payments of £5k and one payment of £5k in principle pending the information from Bethlehem Chapel

All members were in agreement.

Resolved: All submissions ratified. Chief Officer to facilitate the transactions to the successful recipients.

12. To discuss and make any relevant determinations regarding the revised contract for the proposed Bronwen Lewis concert at the Workmen's Hall in September 2023.

Members were reminded that following the determination made during February 2023 Full Council meeting, the Chief Officer explained that Sharon Ford, Chair of Blaenavon

Workmen's Hall Board had confirmed in writing that the Hall is available, and they can facilitate the Bronwen Lewis concert on the 8th of September 2023.

The Chief Officer requested confirmation from members that they are happy to continue with the concert and for the contract to be signed?

A discussion took place amongst members regarding their concerns.

It was agreed by members that now there is a contract in place with the Workmen's Hall to facilitate the event for the agreed date, then the Town Council would be covered if the Hall failed to do so.

It was proposed by Cllr Cowles to continue with the Bronwen Lewis concert and to sign the contract, this was seconded by Cllr Harris.

All members in agreement.

Resolved: Contract for Bronwen Lewis concert on the 8th of September 2023 at Blaenavon Workmen's Hall to be signed.

13. To discuss and make any relevant determinations relating to potential options to commemorate the King's Coronation on the 6th of May 2023.

Members were provided an update by Cllr Matthews with the agreed plans made during the task and finish group meetings in February 2023. This included organising competitions within the town, best dressed business, best decorated street, and a competition for Blaenavon Heritage Primary School children.

It was also agreed to purchase lamp post decorations, a coronation flag for the cenotaph and bunting for Broad Street. Considerations were discussed relating to alternative locations with partnership working being a key option. It was agreed to continue with the street decorations and competitions.

The Chief Officer informed members that Town Council officers had discussed alternative ideas for celebrating the King's Coronation.

Sophie Johnson has met with Tyrone from the Heritage Centre and discussed an option for the Town Council to support the Coronation event being held on Monday the 8th of May 2023 at the Heritage Centre.

Tyrone was in favour of working in partnership with the Town Council. It was suggested that the Town Council could provide funding for a balloon artist, face painter and music at the event.

The Chief Officer explained to members that he had spoken with Leighton Williams from Forgeside RFC Community Garden to discuss partnership working and invited them to the Council meeting to discuss potential options with the Town Council.

Mr Williams explained to members that they were planning to hold an event at their grounds in Forgeside on Sunday the 7th of May 2023 to celebrate the first anniversary of the Community Garden and the King's Coronation.

The event will be similar to the opening day event last year which was a tremendous success.

Mr Williams explained that there will be a craft market, music, food, and bar with tables set out on the field creating a street party feel.

Members asked if this would be open to all residents and would there be a time schedule for the day.

Mr Williams confirmed that it is an open event and approximate times would be 11am start and finish by early evening to allow time for cleaning up after the event.

The Chief Officer explained that the Town Council have set up a working group for planning a Coronation event and offered help and support prior to, and on the day of the event.

It was suggested that a meeting be arranged to discuss how the Town Council and Forgeside RFC Community Garden can collaborate on the event.

It was proposed by Cllr Matthews and seconded by Cllr Cowles to work in partnership with Blaenavon World Heritage Centre and Forgeside RFC Community Garden on celebration events for the King's Coronation.

All members in agreement.

It was also agreed that a partnership meeting is arranged for Wednesday the 29th of March 2023 at 5.00pm at Council Chamber.

Resolved: Partnership working agreed by members.

14. 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.

15. 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:** Proposed change of use from part residential and bed and breakfast, to sole residential.
- **LOCATION:** 1 Oakfield Terrace, Varteg Road, Blaenavon.

Resolved. No objections from members.

- **DEVELOPMENT PROPOSED:** Two storey side extension.
- **LOCATION:** 79 Elgam Avenue, Blaenavon, Pontypool.

Resolved. No objections from members.

- **DEVELOPMENT PROPOSED:** Proposed rear metal external staircase and access door opening (Resubmission of planning permission 14/P/00236)
- **LOCATION:** Castle Hotel, 94 Broad Street, Blaenavon.

Resolved. No objections from members.

- **DEVELOPMENT PROPOSED:** Tree works including branch removal to T1; stem removal to T2; pollard T3, T6, T7 and T10; fell T4; pollard and reduce T5; ivy band and herbicide to T8; ivy band to T9 and G1 (8no. Willows, 1no. Alder and 1no. Rowan)
- **LOCATION:** Blaenavon Ironworks, North Street, Blaenavon.

Resolved. No objections from members.

It was proposed by Cllr Harris and seconded by Cllr Evans that all planning applications are noted, and any actions implemented.

All members in agreement.

Resolved. All planning applications are noted, and any actions implemented.

16. To receive, discuss and make a determination regarding donation request.

The Chief Officer forwarded the donation request to members prior to the meeting for their perusal.

Members discussed the donation requests namely.

- **Jolene Beddis - Blaenavon Netball Club**

The completed grant application form was sent to members together with the relevant bank statement

The request is to support the purchase of new kit for the netball club.

A discussion took place amongst members regarding the donation request.

It was proposed by Cllr Wheeler and seconded by Cllr Beavan that the request be supported with a £250 award.

All members in agreement.

Resolved: Members approved the donation request of £250. Chief Officer to facilitate the transaction and update the Netball Club.

- **Helen Morgan – Ty Hafan Children’s Hospice.**

An E-mail sent to members with a link to the Charity’s work.

A discussion took place amongst members regarding the donation request.

It was proposed by Cllr Cowles and seconded by Cllr Keen that the request be supported with a £250 award.

All members in agreement.

Resolved: Members approved the donation request of £250. Chief Officer to facilitate the transaction and update Ty Hafan Children’s Hospice.

- **Leighton Williams – Forgeside Rugby Club**

The completed grant application form was sent to members together with the relevant bank statement

The request is to support the purchase of a Community notice board.

A discussion took place amongst members regarding the donation request and cost of the notice board.

The Chief Officer confirmed that an attachment was supplied with the application showing the cost of the board to be £474. A further discussion took place amongst members.

It was proposed by Cllr Harris and seconded by Cllr Evans that the request be supported with a £250 award.

All members in agreement.

Resolved: Members approved the donation request of £250. Chief Officer to facilitate the transaction and update Forgeside Rugby Club.

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

None received.

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

The Chief Officer requested permission from the Mayor to present two matters before members which he explained were time sensitive.

This was authorised.

The Chief Officer informed members that Cllr James had been unwell with a hospital admittance.

Cllr Jones proposed to send a get-well bouquet of flowers to Cllr James. This was seconded by Cllr Wheeler.

All members in agreement.

Resolved. Chief Officer to arrange delivery of flowers.

The Chief Officer explained to members that he had been informed by Cyril Turner from the Blaenavon Branch of the Royal British Legion (RBL) that Alf Morgan is unwell and had been admitted to hospital.

Alf works tirelessly maintaining the Cenotaph gardens and flowerbeds to the front of the Town Council Office.

It was proposed by Cllr Cowles to send a get-well card to Alf. This was seconded by Cllr Jones.

All members in agreement.

Resolved. Chief Officer to send a card to Mr Morgan.

Meeting ended at 19.48 hrs.



**BLAENAVON TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 22nd of March 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. Jones (In the Chair) L. Cowles, A. Beavan, N. Matthews, L. Evans, S. Keen, M. Harris, M. Wheeler.

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

Visitors: Cllr Joanne Gauden – TCBC, Representatives of Forgeside RFC Community Garden, Dale Clint, Leighton Williams & Geraint Reynolds.

Members of public: None

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 Porter - Work commitment.
- Cllr James - Unwell.
- Cllr Hunt - Attending two-day conference.
- Cllr Parfitt – Holiday.

It was proposed by Cllr Cowles and seconded by Cllr Wheeler that the apologies be accepted.

All members in agreement.

Resolved: Apologies accepted.

3. Declarations of Interest

- Cllr Cowles - items 13 & 16 - Personal Interest.

4. To discuss and make any relevant determinations regarding a decision by Blaenavon Workmen's Hall Ltd, not to facilitate the use of Blaenavon Workmen's Hall for the delivery of a community event by Blaenavon Town Council in celebration of the forthcoming King's Coronation.

Members had been forwarded correspondence from the Chair of the Workmen's Hall Board, Sharon Ford ahead of the meeting.

A lengthy discussion took place amongst members regarding the correspondence received.

The Chief Officer explained to members that both he and the Assistant Chief Officer Kerry Jones had held discussions with Mr Terry Gardner, (WMH board member) for a proposed Coronation event in the Hall on the 6th of May 2023.

The Assistant Chief Officer explained that she had further follow up conversations with Mr Gardner who confirmed that the Hall was currently closed, no bookings were being taken for events, therefore he could not foresee any issues with the date being available.

Following on from this, a working group was set up by the Town Council to facilitate the proposed event, this comprised of both Cllrs and officers and an initial meeting had taken place.

Members were informed that the Assistant Chief Officer recontacted Mr Gardner on the 13th of March 2023 in order to change the event date to the 7th of May 2023 and was informed by Mr Gardner that there was now pre planned maintenance at the Hall on that day.

The Chief Officer spoke with Mr Gardner and Cllr Hunt, also a board member for the Hall on the 13th of March 2023 who confirmed that they knew nothing of the planned maintenance.

The Chief Officer was informed that there was a board meeting being held on the 15th of March 2023 and the Council would receive an update the following day.

On the 16th of May 2023 several members of the Town Council met with Mr Gardner who explained that the Workmen's Hall Board discussed the proposed coronation event and voted on whether to support the event. The outcome was 3 - 1 against holding the event.

Cllrs expressed their disappointment that the Workmen's Hall Board will not be supporting the Town Council and residents of Blaenavon to celebrate the King's Coronation, a once in a lifetime event.

The Mayor Cllr Jones added that there were significant issues with the management of the Hall and questioned how many members are currently on the Board? It was confirmed as five.

Further discussions took place amongst members, and it was commented upon how two board members were not aware of the planned maintenance scheduled for the 7th of May 2023 and questioned whether decisions were being made outside of board meetings.

It was raised that this was a missed opportunity for the Hall to generate much need revenue and how the Town Council could support the Hall moving forward. Options for alternative venues were also discussed.

Cllr Gauden added that TCBC are assisting the Workmen's Hall with the support of Torfaen Voluntary Alliance (TVA) who are trying to identify their needs and devise a plan to support the Hall.

Cllr Gauden stated that she was extremely disappointed to hear that the Hall will not be used for this event.

A further discussion took place amongst members, and it was proposed that the Chief Officer is tasked to write to Sharon Ford the Chairman of Blaenavon Workmen's Hall Board to request:

- A copy of the Workmen's Hall Board minutes relating to the meeting held on the 15th of March 2023 when the decision was made not to hold the proposed Town Council Coronation event.
- A response as to why two board members had no knowledge of the pre-planned maintenance scheduled for the 7th of May 2023

This was proposed by Cllr Cowles and seconded by Cllr Harris.

All members in agreement.

Resolved: Chief Officer to write Sharon Ford the Chair of Board for Blaenavon Workmen's Hall and request the information requested by members.

5. To receive an update from Councillor Joanne Gauden (TCBC Executive Member for Economy, Skills & Regeneration.) regarding formal feedback from the UK Government's Levelling Up Department on the failed bid submission for Blaenavon House, together with a viewpoint in relation to the Ken Jones statue

The Mayor thanked Cllr Gauden for attending the meeting. Cllr Gauden provided members with an overview relating to the feedback and application process for the Levelling Up initiative.

There were initially two rounds for the application process with two bids being submitted during round two these being

- Blaenavon House
- Pontypool Bid

Cllr Gauden explained that the Pontypool bid was successful. The feedback received in relation to the Blaenavon bid was that it was a strong bid. Further information was requested from the developer covering match funding, potential footfall and how the project would benefit the Town.

Cllr Gauden stated that the bids received by the UK Government exceeded the value of the funds that were made available. Out of the twenty two Councils in Wales, eleven were successful.

Due to the high number of bids being received, a cap was placed on the funding structure which resulted in only one bid per local authority being allowed. It was also explained that there will be a round three for funding, but this is yet to be announced.

There will be new guidelines published to inform what bids could or could not be submitted.

Members stated that when the new criteria are received for the submission of the new bid, then more consultation was needed from the Town Council and other partners to shape the bid, as last time, no other options were offered other than Blaenavon House.

Cllr Gauden agreed stating this would obviously depend on the criteria.

Cllr Gauden then updated members in relation to the Ken Jones statue and explained that TCBC had removed the statue to get it repaired and to re-site it at the World Heritage Centre with the Town Council adopting the statue subject to insurance.

The Mayor explained that this had been dragging on for a long time with numerous meetings taking place.

The Chief Officer explained to Cllr Gauden that members have received a full briefing regarding the history of the Ken Jones project and have also received an update from Dave Leech TCBC.

The Chief Officer outlined the sequence of events regarding the statue from 2014 and explained that a group called the Ken Jones Art Group was established. At this time, the Town Council played no role in the project and only received updates on the project.

The statue was erected in 2014 and subsequently the Ken Jones group was disestablished. To date, there has never been a determination made by the Town Council to take ownership of the statue.

The Chief Officer explained that when he came into post, he was instructed by TCBC that the Town Council were responsible for having the statue structurally inspected annually and a report forwarded to TCBC for insurance purposes.

The statue was damaged in 2021 and a report was submitted to TCBC to get it repaired. At this point, the question of ownership was raised.

Cllr Gauden explained that TCBC would need to site the statue and that the Town Council would need to obtain a valuation for insurance purposes and a decision would need to be made regarding ownership.

A detailed discussion took place amongst members regarding the siting of the statue and a determination being established relating to ownership.

It was raised by members that if no one owns the statue, who would the Town Council be taking ownership from?

The Chief Officer advised that the Ken Jones group had been disbanded but could they still be responsible for the statue's ownership? Cllr Gauden stated that she would need to seek legal advice from TCBC.

The Chief Officer asked the Mayor Cllr Jones if he was aware of any agenda / minutes where decisions had been documented. Cllr Jones stated that he could not remember any.

The Chief Officer reiterated that documentation / record keeping at that time 2014 was extremely poor but there was nothing recorded to establish ownership by Blaenavon Town Council.

Cllr Jones requested that Cllr Gauden makes enquiries with TCBC and report back to the Chief Officer. Cllr Gauden was thanked for her update and attendance and then left the meeting.

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

The Mayor Cllr Jones forwarded members an update regarding attendance at recent events for their perusal.

Members were happy with the update and there were no questions.

Resolved: Members noted the update.

7. Council Meeting: To confirm the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on the 22nd of February 2023.

The minutes were read for accuracy with no amendments.

It was proposed by Cllr Cowles and seconded by Cllr Evans 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 the following update for members.

Item 6 within the minutes as per the instructions from members, the Chief Officer had written to Cllr Jo Gauden at TCBC requesting her attendance at the Full Council meeting on the 22nd of March 2023.

Item 17 within the minutes as per the instructions from members the Chief Officer explained that he has made several attempts to contact Mr Waite to request a copy of the Concert Band's bank statement without any success.

The Chief Officer added that he has now been informed that Mr Waite's wife passed away last week and has now spoken to his son Ian and explained the request from members. Ian Waite confirmed he will provide a copy of the bank statement at a convenient time.

Item 18 within the minutes as per the instructions from members, the Chief Officer has spoken with David Millard who is more than happy for members to attend the club and the Chief officer has tenuously offered the first week of April and potentially Friday the 7th around midday.

Item 19 within the minutes as per the instructions from members, the Chief Officer confirmed that he has written to Sharon Ford, Chairman of Blaenavon Workmen's Hall Board on the 23rd of February 2023 requesting confirmation that the Hall will be available for the Bronwen Lewis Concert on the 8th of September 2023.

As members were aware, a response was received on the 24th of March 2023 confirming the Hall's availability and that of the booking.

On the 4th of March 2023 together with Council colleagues the Chief Officer attended the Council's Community Wellbeing Day at the Heritage Centre. This was a brilliant event as will be confirmed by colleagues who attended. The Chief Officer outlined that Sophie will be providing a brief update regarding this at Item 10 on the agenda.

On the 5th of March 2023 in company with the Assistant Chief Officer, Cllrs Beavan, Cowles, and Matthews together with a cohort of willing residents the Chief Officer attended a litter pick in and around the vicinity of Elgam Green. This was another excellent litter pick with around thirty six bags of litter collected.

A big round of applause to Cllr Beavan who provided all attendees with an extremely useful geographical map with litter picking zones marked within it.

The Chief Officer explained that he has now completed the section 6.1 requirements for the World Heritage Periodic Review and forwarded these to members for their perusal.

This was an overly complicated and cumbersome piece of work which he is sure other organisations found equally demanding based on the information required covering the past

five years. The lack of clear direction was a contributory factor in the time it has taken to complete this task.

Since the last meeting, the Chief Officer has held weekly briefing meetings with the Mayor discussing Council operational and financial matters and also operational meetings with his fellow officers relating to future planning and current projects.

Resolved: Members noted the update.

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

Cllr Wheeler informed members that he attended a meeting at Torfaen Community Transport on the 2nd of March 2023 and provided a brief overview.

Revenue was constant with a recent grant of £9,800 being received to support the transport of patients to Velindre hospital. A request had been made by a board member for defibrillators to be installed within each bus. This request was being considered by management.

Also, charges for scooter and wheelchair hire have increased by £1 a day due to energy price increases.

Cllr Wheeler informed members that he attended a policing update in company with Cllr Matthews on the 14th of March 2023 at the Workmen's Hall. It was reported that crime and ASB in Blaenavon was down compared to last year and well below other parts of Torfaen.

Resolved: Members noted the update.

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

Sophie provided the following update to members.

- Swimming session in February 2023 was a great success with forty nine attendees. Feedback from all involved and the community afterwards was hugely positive with everyone who took part wanting the sessions to continue. Sophie has now arranged for another session during Easter half term which is fully booked.
- Alongside Heads 4 Arts Sophie has now completed the Heritage Easter Trail & begun to advertise. The trail will take place between 1st and 16th of April 2023 with participants collecting an egg and certificate from the Council offices once complete.
- Issues with the future of the coach at the over sixty's Exercise Group is now resolved. Ross will continue to run sessions and Sports Development have begun a recruitment process for new coaches.

- Community Well Being Day took place on Saturday the 4th of March 2023. This was a fantastic turn out from the community with over five hundred visiting the World Heritage Centre on the day. This was a great opportunity for the Council in terms of community engagement, which is something Cllr Bevan has been keen to work on. Huge thank you to everyone involved.
- Have recently held talks with the mental health charity Tidy Butt to potentially work in partnership with them and other Community and Town Councils to provide well-being and mental health workshops for pupils in years ten & eleven in local secondary schools. Plus, other work around this within the town.
- Photography workshop was postponed due to severe weather. There are some issues over re arranging due to current staffing levels at The Hwb.
- Further talks with Sports Development regarding providing 11-16 gym sessions at the Active Living Centre and skateboarding sessions throughout half term. Some issues with securing a gym booking.
- Supporting Hafan Cymru with their weekly coffee and chat group at the resource centre. This may be something that the Council look to work in partnership with to provided longevity and include more of the community buy in.
- Cook Stars sessions over the Easter holidays are fully booked with a waiting list in place.
- Torfaen Play will be running their Play and Well Being Camps which the Council have funded through Easter holidays.
- Took part in the presentation of the Broad Street Tapestry to residents at Arthur Jenkins Care Home, alongside a group of children from Blaenavon Primary, as a memory tool.

The children were able to view the tapestry and listen to the sound bites contained within the tapestry from local residents memories of the shops and their experiences in Broad Street over the years.

The children also helped the residents with this and listened to their memories. A fantastic intergenerational event which benefited both the children and elderly residents.

Resolved: Members noted the update.

11.To receive an update regarding the Community Brew Project (Participatory Budget) from Cllr Marc Harris and ratify the project submissions authorised by the project steering group.

Cllr Harris provided members with an update following a meeting of the project steering group where the new project submissions were discussed. The successful submissions that met the project criteria were confirmed as follows.

- The Pantry - Awarded £5k.
- Forgeside RFC Community Garden - Awarded £5k.
- Blaenavon Blues AFC - Awarded £5k.
- Bethlehem Chapel - Awarded £5k (in principle).

Cllr Harris explained to members that during the steering group meeting a discussion took place with regards to the low number of ratings for Bethlehem Chapel's submitted project idea.

It was agreed that due to the age group, lack of I T skills and ability to use an online platform to rate projects the group would be disadvantaged in rating the project.

It was strongly felt that the project idea submitted would address loneliness and isolation and would be well attended. A request for further information is to be obtained from Sue Driscoll (Bethlehem Chapel).

Providing that the steering group are happy with the information and data on prospective attendees the award would be authorised.

Cllr Harris expressed thanks to all Town Council officers for their continued help and support and explained to members that whilst on times it had been challenging as project lead, it was also incredibly positive for the town, with numerous groups throughout Blaenavon being supported by the Community Brew initiative.

Overall, a total of nineteen project ideas had been submitted with fifteen meeting the criteria and being awarded a total sum of **£67,186.00**.

It was proposed by Cllr Evans and seconded by Cllr Beavan to ratify three payments of £5k and one payment of £5k in principle pending the information from Bethlehem Chapel

All members were in agreement.

Resolved: All submissions ratified. Chief Officer to facilitate the transactions to the successful recipients.

12. To discuss and make any relevant determinations regarding the revised contract for the proposed Bronwen Lewis concert at the Workmen's Hall in September 2023.

Members were reminded that following the determination made during the February 2023 Full Council meeting, the Chief Officer explained that Sharon Ford, Chair of Blaenavon

Workmen's Hall Board had confirmed in writing that the Hall is available, and they can facilitate the Bronwen Lewis concert on the 8th of September 2023.

The Chief Officer requested confirmation from members that they are happy to continue with the concert and for the contract to be signed?

A discussion took place amongst members regarding their concerns.

It was agreed by members that now there is a contract in place with the Workmen's Hall to facilitate the event for the agreed date, then the Town Council would be covered if the Hall failed to do so.

It was proposed by Cllr Cowles to continue with the Bronwen Lewis concert and to sign the contract, this was seconded by Cllr Harris.

All members in agreement.

Resolved: Contract for Bronwen Lewis concert on the 8th of September 2023 at Blaenavon Workmen's Hall to be signed.

13. To discuss and make any relevant determinations relating to potential options to commemorate the King's Coronation on the 6th of May 2023.

Members were provided an update by Cllr Matthews with the agreed plans made during the task and finish group meetings in February 2023. This included organising competitions within the town, best dressed business, best decorated street, and a competition for Blaenavon Heritage Primary School children.

It was also agreed to purchase lamp post decorations, a coronation flag for the cenotaph and bunting for Broad Street. Considerations were discussed relating to alternative locations with partnership working being a key option. It was agreed to continue with the street decorations and competitions.

The Chief Officer informed members that Town Council officers had discussed alternative ideas for celebrating the King's Coronation.

Sophie Johnson has met with Tyrone from the Heritage Centre and discussed an option for the Town Council to support the Coronation event being held on Monday the 8th of May 2023 at the Heritage Centre.

Tyrone was in favour of working in partnership with the Town Council. It was suggested that the Town Council could provide funding for a balloon artist, face painter and music at the event.

The Chief Officer explained to members that he had spoken with Leighton Williams from Forgeside RFC Community Garden to discuss partnership working and invited them to the Council meeting to discuss potential options with the Town Council.

Mr Williams explained to members that they were planning to hold an event at their grounds in Forgeside on Sunday the 7th of May 2023 to celebrate the first anniversary of the Community Garden and the King's Coronation.

The event will be similar to the opening day event last year which was a tremendous success.

Mr Williams explained that there will be a craft market, music, food, and bar with tables set out on the field creating a street party feel.

Members asked if this would be open to all residents and would there be a time schedule for the day.

Mr Williams confirmed that it is an open event and approximate times would be 11am start and finish by early evening to allow time for cleaning up after the event.

The Chief Officer explained that the Town Council have set up a working group for planning a Coronation event and offered help and support prior to, and on the day of the event.

It was suggested that a meeting be arranged to discuss how the Town Council and Forgeside RFC Community Garden can collaborate on the event.

It was proposed by Cllr Matthews and seconded by Cllr Cowles to work in partnership with Blaenavon World Heritage Centre and Forgeside RFC Community Garden on celebration events for the King's Coronation.

All members in agreement.

It was also agreed that a partnership meeting is arranged for Wednesday the 29th of March 2023 at 5.00pm at Council Chamber.

Resolved: Partnership working agreed by members.

14. 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.

15. 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:** Proposed change of use from part residential and bed and breakfast, to sole residential.
- **LOCATION:** 1 Oakfield Terrace, Varteg Road, Blaenavon.

Resolved. No objections from members.

- **DEVELOPMENT PROPOSED:** Two storey side extension.
- **LOCATION:** 79 Elgam Avenue, Blaenavon, Pontypool.

Resolved. No objections from members.

- **DEVELOPMENT PROPOSED:** Proposed rear metal external staircase and access door opening (Resubmission of planning permission 14/P/00236)
- **LOCATION:** Castle Hotel, 94 Broad Street, Blaenavon.

Resolved. No objections from members.

- **DEVELOPMENT PROPOSED:** Tree works including branch removal to T1; stem removal to T2; pollard T3, T6, T7 and T10; fell T4; pollard and reduce T5; ivy band and herbicide to T8; ivy band to T9 and G1 (8no. Willows, 1no. Alder and 1no. Rowan)
- **LOCATION:** Blaenavon Ironworks, North Street, Blaenavon.

Resolved. No objections from members.

It was proposed by Cllr Harris and seconded by Cllr Evans that all planning applications are noted, and any actions implemented.

All members in agreement.

Resolved. All planning applications are noted, and any actions implemented.

16. To receive, discuss and make a determination regarding donation request.

The Chief Officer forwarded the donation request to members prior to the meeting for their perusal.

Members discussed the donation requests namely.

- **Jolene Beddis - Blaenavon Netball Club**

The completed grant application form was sent to members together with the relevant bank statement

The request is to support the purchase of new kit for the netball club.

A discussion took place amongst members regarding the donation request.

It was proposed by Cllr Wheeler and seconded by Cllr Beavan that the request be supported with a £250 award.

All members in agreement.

Resolved: Members approved the donation request of £250. Chief Officer to facilitate the transaction and update the Netball Club.

- **Helen Morgan – Ty Hafan Children’s Hospice.**

An E-mail sent to members with a link to the Charity’s work.

A discussion took place amongst members regarding the donation request.

It was proposed by Cllr Cowles and seconded by Cllr Keen that the request be supported with a £250 award.

All members in agreement.

Resolved: Members approved the donation request of £250. Chief Officer to facilitate the transaction and update Ty Hafan Children’s Hospice.

- **Leighton Williams – Forgeside Rugby Club**

The completed grant application form was sent to members together with the relevant bank statement

The request is to support the purchase of a Community notice board.

A discussion took place amongst members regarding the donation request and cost of the notice board.

The Chief Officer confirmed that an attachment was supplied with the application showing the cost of the board to be £474. A further discussion took place amongst members.

It was proposed by Cllr Harris and seconded by Cllr Evans that the request be supported with a £250 award.

All members in agreement.

Resolved: Members approved the donation request of £250. Chief Officer to facilitate the transaction and update Forgeside Rugby Club.

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

- None received.

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

The Chief Officer requested permission from the Mayor to present two matters before members which he explained were time sensitive.

This was authorised.

The Chief Officer informed members that Cllr James had been unwell with a hospital admittance.

Cllr Jones proposed to send a get-well bouquet of flowers to Cllr James. This was seconded by Cllr Wheeler.

All members in agreement.

Resolved. Chief Officer to arrange delivery of flowers.

The Chief Officer explained to members that he had been informed by Cyril Turner from the Blaenavon Branch of the Royal British Legion (RBL) that Alf Morgan is unwell and had been admitted to hospital.

Alf works tirelessly maintaining the Cenotaph gardens and flowerbeds to the front of the Town Council Office.

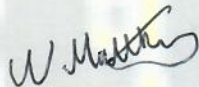
It was proposed by Cllr Cowles to send a get-well card to Alf. This was seconded by Cllr Jones.

All members in agreement.

Resolved. Chief Officer to send a card to Mr Morgan.

Meeting ended at 19.48 hrs.

Signed Chairman:



Date:26/4/23.