



18th July 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 26th of July 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.

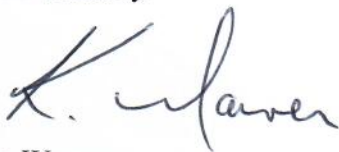
Members of the public have the right to ask questions at Council meetings and to speak in Welsh or English, provided that at least three working days' notice in writing of the question has been provided to the Chief Officer.

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 a policing update from Sgt Craig Ellis (**Gwent Police**)
5. **Mayor's Announcements:** To receive the mayor's announcements.
6. **Council Meeting:** To confirm the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on the 28th of June 2023.
7. **Chief Officer's Update:** To receive the Chief Officer's update.
8. To receive Cllr updates regarding recent attendance at outside bodies committee meetings, together with any relevant community / partnership engagement.
9. To receive an update from Sophie Johnson - Community Development and Wellbeing Officer (**July 2023**)
10. To make a determination regarding the final submission to TCBC relating to the Town and Community Council Community Review 2023.

11. To discuss and make any relevant determinations in relation to the Christmas Light / Carol Service event 2023, in particular date, event location and siting of the Town Council crib.
12. To receive an update and make any relevant determinations regarding the 80th D - Day celebrations 2024.
13. To receive an update and make any relevant determinations regarding the proposed Country and Western Community Fayre planned for the 12th of August 2023.
14. To discuss and make any relevant determinations with regard to the 50th anniversary of the inception of Blaenavon Town Council in 2024.
15. 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.
 - Cwmavon Road roundabout flower pot project - **Cllr Parfitt**.
16. To receive, discuss and make a determination regarding planning applications.
 - **SCUL/23/P/0366/HH**
 - **SCUL/23/P/0400/HH**
 - **JJON/23/P/0324/VAR**
17. To receive, discuss and make a determination regarding donation requests.
18. To receive, discuss and make any relevant determinations concerning items relating to correspondence.
19. 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 26th of July 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 27th of September 2023**.

In attendance:

Councillors: Cllr. N. Matthews (In the Chair) A. Beavan, S. Keen, M. Wheeler, I. Parfitt, L. Evans, A. Jones, J. Hunt, T. Porter (online).

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

Visitors: None

Members of public: None

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 – Childcare.
- Cllr L. Cowles – Holiday.
- Cllr G. James – Childcare.

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

All members in agreement.

Resolved: Apologies accepted.

3. Declarations of Interest

None declared.

4. To receive a policing update from Sgt Craig Ellis (Gwent Police)

Sgt Ellis failed to attend the meeting and it was explained that the Chief Officer had not received any apologies. A discussion took place amongst members, and it was noted that this is the second occasion that Sgt Ellis had failed to attend at a council meeting.

Cllrs requested that the Chief Officer makes contact with Sgt Ellis to request an explanation for his lack of attendance.

This was proposed by Cllr Hunt and seconded by Cllr Keen.

All members in agreement.

Resolved: Chief officer to write to Sgt Ellis for an explanation.

6. Council Meeting: To confirm the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on the 28th of June 2023.

The minutes were read for accuracy with no amendments being offered.

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

All members in agreement.

Resolved: Minutes approved as a true and accurate record.

8. To receive Cllr updates regarding recent attendance at outside bodies committee meetings, together with any relevant community / partnership engagement.

Cllr Matthews informed members that he attended the Gwent Valleys Area Committee meeting on the 4th of July 2023. An update was received on the work of the wellbeing future generations. A further update was received on the work being delivered by other Community Councils.

On the 6th of July 2023, Cllr Matthews explained that together with Cllrs Hunt and Cowles he attended the Healthy Blaenavon Strategy meeting. During the meeting the terms of reference for the group were agreed.

It was confirmed that discussions within the meeting should be driven by the community and not by the partners around the table. It was also agreed that the Town Council's newsletter would be an excellent way to communicate this message.

On the 11th of July 2023 Cllr Matthews attended the Blaenavon World Heritage Partnership board meeting. The submissions to the Department of Cultural Media and Sport were agreed.

All members unanimously endorsed the findings of the periodic review undertaken by the Blaenavon Partnership. A discussion took place regarding the forthcoming review of the World Heritage Site Management Plan. It was recommended to review the existing plan and not complete a full rewrite.

The Blaenavon Youth Ambassadors also gave a presentation which was very well received.

Cllr Hunt updated members that he had attended a series of Torfaen Museum Trust meetings over the last six months. Recently he was involved in the recruitment of an outreach officer.

Cllr Keen explained to members that she attended a walkabout around the Ty Fry Estate organised by Bronafon Housing. This visit was arranged to look at unkempt houses, gardens, and footpaths in that location.

As a result of the visit, it was decided that Bronafon write to all residents regarding the findings of the visit. To date, there has been no further update regarding the letters that had been sent.

Cllr Keen also informed members that together with Cllr Beavan they attended a Gwent Police operational briefing at Pontypool Police Station. They found this to be very interesting and would like the opportunity to attend again in the future.

Cllr Hunt expressed concern that the Town Council having been asked to appoint a Cllr to the Torfaen Canal Trust, which were now disbanding, there was no opportunity to influence the development of the canal network.

Cllr Keen clarified that having been appointed, she had been invited to a meeting which was then postponed. A further email was received which stated that the meeting would be the final meeting for the group. Therefore, she had not had the opportunity to partake in any discussions.

It was proposed by Cllr Hunt that Torfaen Canal Trust are informed of the Town Councils discontent with the matter and missed opportunity to discuss accessibility issues. This was seconded by Cllr Keen.

All members in agreement.

Cllr Parfitt updated members that together with Cllr Wheeler they attended the Workmen's Hall several times during the previous week to assist Walter Waygood erect his artwork for his upcoming exhibition.

Resolved: Members noted the updates. Chief Officer to write to Torfaen Canal Trust on behalf of Blaenavon Town Council.

10. To make a determination regarding the final submission to TCBC relating to the Town and Community Council Community Review 2023.

Cllr Matthews explained that the final draft of the Community review had been submitted for consideration to all members with minor amendments as previously agreed in the July 2023 finance meeting.

Cllr Matthews proposed that the Chief Officer submits the agreed document to TCBC on behalf of Blaenavon Town Council. This was seconded by Cllr Hunt.

All members in agreement.

Resolved: Agreed 2023 Community Review documentation to be submitted to TCBC.

11. To discuss and make any relevant determinations in relation to the Christmas Lights / Carol Service event 2023, in particular date, event location and siting of the Town Council crib.

The Chief Officer updated members that in previous years the event had been held at Bethlehem Court. Last year the event was potentially split into two parts. It is believed that the Churches Working Together group would like to hold their own event relating to the blessing of the crib.

It was highlighted that there is potential to hold a family event in Market Street car park as the Town Council is now in possession of a street trading licence that covers the car park.

The crib could be sited adjacent to the Christmas tree in Market Street. The event could include, stalls, food vendors, carol service, and live music all facilitated in the car park. If the Churches Working Together group want to organise an event to bless the crib this could still be facilitated.

Cllrs discussed the event at length, including location, works being carried out at the Market Tavern and 24 Broad Street. The council representative for the Churches Working Together group clarified that no updates had been received since last year from the group.

It was proposed by Cllr Jones to site the crib with the Christmas tree at Market Street and hold the event at Market Street car park. This was seconded by Cllr Wheeler.

All members in agreement.

Resolved: Crib to be sited with the Christmas tree at Market Street. Christmas lights switch on event to be held in Market Street car park.

A further discussion took place amongst members in relation to setting a date for the event.

Cllr Hunt suggested consulting with the Churches Working Together group around the Christmas lights switch on event and relocation of the crib and not to impose the changes.

It was clarified that the crib is the property of Blaenavon Town Council and that the Churches Working Together Group could still hold their own event to bless the crib if so wished.

Cllr Jones proposed that the event take place on Friday the 24th of November 2023. This was seconded by Cllr Keen.

Cllr Hunt abstained. All other members in agreement.

Resolved: Christmas lights switch on event to take place on Friday the 24th of November 2023.

12. To receive an update and make any relevant determinations regarding the 80th D - Day celebrations 2024.

Blaenavon Town Council have received notification from the Pageant Master that local communities throughout the UK are encouraged to light beacons on the 6th of June 2024 at 8.15pm in tribute to those who fought or died in the D Day operation.

The Chief Officer explained that a meeting has been arranged with TCBC for September 2023 to discuss how Town and Community Councils across Torfaen can facilitate their events. An update would be provided by the Chief officer to members following the meeting.

A discussion took place amongst members regarding potential locations, and it was suggested that the Iron Works could be used as a venue for the event.

Prohibitions to holding an evening event at the Iron Works were discussed, it was suggested that CADW be contacted at an early stage so that other venues could be considered if needed.

Cllr Matthews proposed that Blaenavon Town Council participate in the commemoration of the D Day celebrations in June 2024. This was seconded by Cllr Jones.

All members in agreement.

Resolved: Blaenavon Town Council to participate in the D Day commemoration celebrations June 2024.

14. To discuss and make any relevant determinations with regard to the 50th anniversary of the inception of Blaenavon Town Council in 2024.

Cllr Matthews explained to members that in March 2024, Blaenavon Town Council would be 50 years old. Members were asked if they wanted to mark the 50th anniversary of Blaenavon Town Council. A discussion took place, and a number of options and ideas were debated.

It was proposed by Cllr Matthews that the 50th anniversary of Blaenavon Town Council is commemorated with details being confirmed at a later date. This was seconded by Cllr Beavan.

All members in agreement.

Resolved: Blaenavon Town Council to commemorate its 50th anniversary.

15. 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.

- Cwmavon Road roundabout flowerpot project - Cllr Parfitt.

Cllr Parfitt provided members with a brief overview regarding the project and confirmed that the flowerpots had been replanted. Compost and plants had been supplied for the sum of £56 by Abergavenny Garden Centre who had been very supportive.

Photographs will be forwarded and shared on social media platforms.

Cllr Jones proposed a retrospective approval of the project. This was seconded by Cllr Hunt.

All members in agreement.

Resolved: Project approved.

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

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

- **DEVELOPMENT PROPOSED:** Alterations & extension to ground & first floor levels.
- **LOCATION:** 20 Lower Garn Terrace, Garn Yr Erw, Blaenavon, Torfaen

Resolved. No objections from members.

- **DEVELOPMENT PROPOSED:** Extension of roof & existing outbuilding.
- **LOCATION:** New Road Barn, Blaenavon, Torfaen.

Resolved. No objections from members.

- **DEVELOPMENT PROPOSED:** Removal of conditions 5, 6, 7 & 8 - Highways and drainage. Associated access.
- **LOCATION:** Stables, Llanover Road, Blaenavon, Torfaen.

Resolved. No objections from members.

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

None received.

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

None received.

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

None discussed.

Meeting ended at 19:30 hrs.





BLAENAVON TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 26th of July 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. Evans, A. Jones, J. Hunt, T. Porter (online).

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

Visitors: None

Members of public: None

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 – Childcare.
- Cllr L. Cowles – Holiday.
- Cllr G. James – Childcare.

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

All members in agreement.

Resolved: Apologies accepted.

3. Declarations of Interest

None declared.

4. To receive a policing update from Sgt Craig Ellis (Gwent Police)

Sgt Ellis failed to attend the meeting and it was explained that the Chief Officer had not received any apologies. A discussion took place amongst members, and it was noted that this is the second occasion that Sgt Ellis had failed to attend at a council meeting.

Cllrs requested that the Chief Officer makes contact with Sgt Ellis to request an explanation for his lack of attendance.

This was proposed by Cllr Hunt and seconded by Cllr Keen.

All members in agreement.

Resolved: Chief Officer to write to Sgt Ellis for an explanation.

5. 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.

- 29th June attended devolution of services training with One Voice Wales.
- 4th July attended Gwent Valleys Area Committee with One Voice Wales.
- 5th July attended along with Cllrs Hunt, Wheeler, Chief Officer, and Assistant Chief Officer the One Voice Wales Innovative Practice Conference.
- 6th July chaired the Healthy Blaenavon Strategic Partnership meeting.
- 7th July along with Cllrs, presented boxing boots to Kai Powell.
- 9th July attended with members of the public, Cllrs, and officer's a community litter pick at Coed Cae, Blaenavon.
- 10th July attended the summer event working group meeting.
- 11th July attended Blaenavon World Heritage Site Partnership Board Meeting.
- 16th July opened the Mic Morris 10k Fun Run.

Walter Waygood 'Family of Blaenafon' Exhibition will be taking place on 29th July. Members were encouraged to attend.

Cllr Matthews thanked Cllrs Wheeler and Parfitt for the help and assistance provided to Walter Waygood in preparation for the exhibition.

Cllr Matthews explained that he has had regular meetings with Officer's and Cllrs throughout the month.

Resolved: Members noted the update.

6. Council Meeting: To confirm the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on the 28th of June 2023.

The minutes were read for accuracy with no amendments being offered.

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

All members in agreement.

Resolved: Minutes approved as a true and accurate record.

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

The Chief Officer provided members with the following update.

Item 15 within the minutes as per the instructions from members. The wording on the letter to the Town's traders has been clarified and these were delivered by Cllrs Keen and Wheeler. As members are aware there had only been one response.

Item 16 within the minutes as per the instructions from members. The Chief Officer conferred with Dan from Rec Rock regarding the venue for the music school event and Dan was happy with the Constitutional Club as a suitable venue. This has now been booked and the event has been advertised.

Item 20 within the minutes as per the instructions from members. The Chief Officer transacted the grant payments of £200 to Kai Powell who has since attended the chamber with his mother Teresa Powell in possession of his new boxing boots. Photographs were taken and this has been published via the town council Facebook page.

The Chief Officer also transacted as per members' instructions the grant payment of £250 to Bethlehem Chapel. No update has been received from them.

Item 22 within the minutes as per the instructions from members. Two tickets have now been created for the Bronwen concert as a raffle prize for the Arthur Jenkins summer fete. Jane Saunders has been updated and the event will now be taking place on the 12th of August 2023

On the 5th of July 2023 together with Cllrs Matthews, Hunt, Wheeler, and the Assistant Chief Officer the Chief Officer attended the One Voice Wales innovative practice conference at

Builth Wells. This was an excellent conference, and all members were urged to attend next year's event.

This is an excellent opportunity to experience the outstanding work being delivered within the Town and Community Council sector and to understand how important this is to the community we serve, and how this is heavily supported by the Welsh Government certainly in terms of their current thinking and the future flightpath that is being drawn up.

Since the last Full council meeting the Chief Officer's focus has been directed to the completion of the Triennial Audit for 2022/23.

It was confirmed that this is now complete, and a series of hard copy documents have been hand delivered to Audit Wales's Cardiff Office on the 19th of July 2023 together with electronic submissions to them via a secure online portal.

The Chief Officer explained that he will await further correspondence from Audit Wales and update members accordingly.

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

Cllr Matthews extended his thanks and gratitude for the effort and hard work carried out on the audit.

Cllr Evans asked if any borough Cllrs had attended the One Voice Wales conference.

The Chief Officer confirmed that there were no Torfaen borough Cllrs in attendance. Only two members from Cwmbran Community Council were in attendance and no representation from any other town or community councils in Torfaen.

Resolved: Members noted the update.

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

Cllr Matthews informed members that he attended the Gwent Valleys Area Committee meeting on the 4th of July 2023. An update was received on the work of the wellbeing future generations. A further update was received on the work being delivered by other Community Councils.

On the 6th of July 2023, Cllr Matthews explained that together with Cllrs Hunt and Cowles he attended the Healthy Blaenavon Strategy meeting. During the meeting, the terms of reference for the group were agreed.

It was confirmed that discussions within the meeting should be driven by the community and not by the partners around the table. It was also agreed that the Town Council's newsletter would be an excellent way to communicate this message.

On the 11th of July 2023 Cllr Matthews attended the Blaenavon World Heritage Partnership board meeting. The submissions to the Department of Cultural Media and Sport were agreed. All members unanimously endorsed the findings of the periodic review undertaken by the Blaenavon Partnership.

A discussion took place regarding the forthcoming review of the World Heritage Site Management Plan. It was recommended to review the existing plan and not complete a full rewrite.

The Blaenavon Youth Ambassadors also gave a presentation which was very well received.

Cllr Hunt updated members that he had attended a series of Torfaen Museum Trust meetings over the last six months. Recently he was involved in the recruitment of an outreach officer.

Cllr Keen explained to members that she attended a walkabout around the Ty Fry Estate organised by Bronafon Housing. This visit was arranged to look at unkempt houses, gardens, and footpaths in that location.

As a result of the visit, it was decided that Bronafon write to all residents regarding the findings of the visit. To date, there has been no further update regarding the letters that had been sent.

Cllr Keen also informed members that together with Cllr Beavan they attended a Gwent Police operational briefing at Pontypool Police Station. They found this to be very interesting and would like the opportunity to attend again in the future.

Cllr Hunt expressed concern that the Town Council having been asked to appoint a Cllr to the Torfaen Canal Trust, which were now disbanding, there was no opportunity to influence the development of the canal network.

Cllr Keen clarified that having been appointed, she had been invited to a meeting which was then postponed. A further email was received which stated that the meeting would be the final meeting for the group. Therefore, she had not had the opportunity to partake in any discussions.

It was proposed by Cllr Hunt that Torfaen Canal Trust are informed of the Town Council's discontent with the matter and missed opportunity to discuss accessibility issues. This was seconded by Cllr Keen.

All members in agreement.

Cllr Parfitt updated members that together with Cllr Wheeler they attended the Workmen's Hall several times during the previous week to assist Walter Waygood erect his artwork for his upcoming exhibition.

Resolved: Chief Officer to write to Torfaen Canal Trust on behalf of Blaenavon Town Council.

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

Sophie provided the following update to members.

After submitting a grant application to Bron Afon Pitch for Pounds scheme, for £1000 towards the Teen Gym sessions, Sophie confirmed the application was successful and have been awarded the £1000 to enable the gym sessions to continue from September 2023

The three-week buggy fit, yoga, and mindfulness session trial with TCBC CELT+ team really picked up over the second and third week. The outcome of this is that the buggy fit will continue indefinitely 10am -11.30am every Thursday at Blaenavon RFC.

The yoga and mindfulness sessions will begin as an 8-week programme starting from September at Blaenavon RFC.

The four-week trial of the additional over sixties exercise class was a success with consistently high numbers each week. Sports Development have decided to continue to fund these sessions which will take place at the Con Club every Friday at 11am. The town council will continue to support with the organisation, promotion, and delivery of these sessions.

Family club, mums and daughters and teen gym sessions have stopped for summer holidays and will re start week commencing the 4th September.

Sophie attended a community safety drop-in session at Resource Centre alongside Melin, Bron Afon, Gwent Police, Community Safety and TCBC. Sadly, no residents attended but this provided a good opportunity to talk to other organisations regarding the town and working together on future projects.

The Tidy Butt well-being day took place at St Albans school on the 14th July. A successful day with fantastic feedback from pupils, teachers, and Tidy Butt. Abersychan school sessions will take place in September / October and councillors will be welcome to attend.

Sophie attended meetings with Walter Waygood regarding his work with the Heritage Youth Ambassadors, exhibition, and book.

Sophie arranged, promoted, and managed bookings for all summer activities which include, Cook Stars, Animals Interactive well-being session, swimming, skateboarding, paddleboarding sessions and also Rec Rock music school.

All activities, excluding swimming at end of August are fully booked with waiting lists. The Animals Interactive session took place on Monday the 24th of July with a fantastic turn out and response from the community.

In partnership with the Integrated Wellbeing Network, Sophie helped organise and deliver an information event at the Resource Centre. This focused on early years provision available in Blaenavon.

The event was attended by relevant organisations including, Torfaen Works, Multiply, Torfaen Libraries, NHS Health Board, Torfaen Adult learning. This was well attended by residents and proved to be a great opportunity to engage with residents and promote the council and its services.

Positive feedback has been received from residents regarding the council's provisions in the town.

Sophie explained that she has continued to work alongside Kerry and Kevin in organising the Country and Western Fayre, sourcing various food providers, entertainment, decorations, activities, liaising with Sports Development, Torfaen Play, Torfaen CELT+ team and Changing Gears.

The St Fagan's trip mentioned in last month's meeting is currently on hold due to the volume of work currently being undertaken.

A meeting is planned with Big Pit to discuss the Intergenerational Group and plans for the next academic year.

Discussions are also taking place with various organisations regarding a uniform swap event in Blaenavon.

Film Club continues to be popular and will be taking place this Friday at 10.30am

Resolved: Members noted the update.

10. To make a determination regarding the final submission to TCBC relating to the Town and Community Council Community Review 2023.

Cllr Matthews explained that the final draft of the Community Review had been submitted for consideration to all members with minor amendments as previously agreed in the July 2023 finance meeting.

Cllr Matthews proposed that the Chief Officer submits the agreed document to TCBC on behalf of Blaenavon Town Council. This was seconded by Cllr Hunt.

All members in agreement.

Resolved: Agreed 2023 Community Review documentation to be submitted to TCBC.

11. To discuss and make any relevant determinations in relation to the Christmas Lights / Carol Service event 2023, in particular date, event location and siting of the Town Council crib.

The Chief Officer updated members that in previous years the event had been held at Bethlehem Court. Last year the event was potentially split into two parts. It is believed that the Churches Working Together group would like to hold their own event relating to the blessing of the crib.

It was highlighted that there is potential to hold a family event in Market Street car park as the Town Council is now in possession of a street trading licence that covers the car park.

The crib could be sited adjacent to the Christmas tree in Market Street. The event could include, stalls, food vendors, carol service, and live music all facilitated in the car park. If the Churches Working Together group want to organise an event to bless the crib this could still be facilitated.

Cllrs discussed the event at length, including location, works being carried out at the Market Tavern and 24 Broad Street. Cllr Evans the council representative for the Churches Working Together group clarified that no updates had been received since last year from the group.

It was proposed by Cllr Jones to site the crib with the Christmas tree at Market Street and hold the event at Market Street car park. This was seconded by Cllr Wheeler.

All members in agreement.

Resolved: Crib to be sited with the Christmas tree at Market Street. Christmas lights switch on event to be held in Market Street car park.

A further discussion took place amongst members in relation to setting a date for the event.

Cllr Hunt suggested consulting with the Churches Working Together group around the Christmas lights switch on event and relocation of the crib and not to impose the changes.

It was clarified that the crib is the property of Blaenavon Town Council and that the Churches Working Together Group could still hold their own event to bless the crib if so wished.

Cllr Jones proposed that the event take place on Friday the 24th of November 2023. This was seconded by Cllr Keen.

Cllr Hunt abstained. All other members in agreement.

Resolved: Christmas lights switch on event to take place on Friday the 24th of November 2023.

12. To receive an update and make any relevant determinations regarding the 80th D - Day celebrations 2024.

Blaenavon Town Council have received notification from the Pageant Master that local communities throughout the UK are encouraged to light beacons on the 6th of June 2024 at 8.15pm in tribute to those who fought or died in the D Day operation.

The Chief Officer explained that a meeting has been arranged with TCBC for September 2023 to discuss how Town and Community Councils across Torfaen can facilitate their events. An update would be provided by the Chief officer to members following the meeting.

A discussion took place amongst members regarding potential locations, and it was suggested that the Iron Works could be used as a venue for the event.

Prohibitions to holding an evening event at the Iron Works were discussed, it was suggested that CADW be contacted at an early stage so that other venues could be considered if needed.

Cllr Matthews proposed that Blaenavon Town Council participate in the commemoration of the D Day celebrations in June 2024. This was seconded by Cllr Jones.

All members in agreement.

Resolved: Blaenavon Town Council to participate in the D Day commemoration celebrations June 2024.

13. 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 the following update.

- It is confirmed that mains power is available in Broad Street car park. Chris Langford will check the electricity supply prior to the event.
- Two hundred packets of sweets have been ordered from All Things Sweet, a local Blaenavon company. Stickers with the Town Council logo will be added. These will be given as prizes for the coconut shy and tin can alley games.
- The previously arranged burger van can no longer attend. Kerry has contacted Hugh Morgan who can provide a burger stall for the day. They have confirmed their attendance.
- Continue to contact food vendors for hygiene and insurance certificates.
- Have received confirmation from Ty Poeth Farm that they can supply twenty hay bales which will be delivered and collected on the day.

- Delivery is confirmed of twenty barrels from The Barrel Brothers Abergavenny. They will be delivered at 8.30am on the day and collected soon after 5pm.
- Contacted both bands and updated them regarding the electricity supply.
- Arranged a site meeting with A1 Jump and Bounce to enable them to conduct their risk assessment.
- Contacted Hospice of The Valleys and Not Just Travel who had both expressed an interest in attending the event. It was explained that there had been a poor response to the traders' letters which had resulted in the decision not to have traders' stalls at this event. They were thanked for their support.
- An email will be sent to all Cllrs to ascertain their availability on the day. A rota will be compiled and distributed to all.
- Running balance for the event to date is £3105.00.

Resolved: Members noted the update.

14. To discuss and make any relevant determinations with regard to the 50th anniversary of the inception of Blaenavon Town Council in 2024.

Cllr Matthews explained to members that in March 2024, Blaenavon Town Council would be 50 years old. Members were asked if they wanted to mark the 50th anniversary of Blaenavon Town Council. A discussion took place, and a number of options and ideas were debated.

It was proposed by Cllr Matthews that the 50th anniversary of Blaenavon Town Council is commemorated with details being confirmed at a later date. This was seconded by Cllr Beavan.

All members in agreement.

Resolved: Blaenavon Town Council to commemorate its 50th anniversary.

15. 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.

- Cwmavon Road roundabout flowerpot project - Cllr Parfitt.

Cllr Parfitt provided members with a brief overview regarding the project and confirmed that the flowerpots had been replanted. Compost and plants had been supplied for the sum of £56 by Abergavenny Garden Centre who had been very supportive.

Photographs will be forwarded and shared on social media platforms.

Cllr Jones proposed a retrospective approval of the project. This was seconded by Cllr Hunt.

All members in agreement.

Resolved: Project approved.

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

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

- **DEVELOPMENT PROPOSED:** Alterations & extension to ground & first floor levels.
- **LOCATION:** 20 Lower Garn Terrace, Garn Yr Erw, Blaenavon, Torfaen

Resolved. No objections from members.

- **DEVELOPMENT PROPOSED:** Extension of roof & existing outbuilding.
- **LOCATION:** New Road Barn, Blaenavon, Torfaen.

Resolved. No objections from members.

- **DEVELOPMENT PROPOSED:** Removal of conditions 5, 6, 7 & 8 - Highways and drainage. Associated access.
- **LOCATION:** Stables, Llanover Road, Blaenavon, Torfaen.

Resolved. No objections from members.

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

None received.

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

None received.

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

None discussed.

Meeting ended at 19.30 hrs.

Signed Chairman: *W. Matthews*

Date: 27/9/23.