



14th February 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 February 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 presentations from co-option candidates for the role of Blaenavon Town Councillor.
5. To make a determination and ratify the appointment of a co-opted Blaenavon Town Councillor.
6. To receive an update from Dave Leech (TCBC) regarding the Ken Jones statue.
7. **Mayor's Announcements:** To receive the Mayor's announcements.
8. **Council Meeting:** To confirm the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on the 25th of January 2023.
9. **Chief Officer's Update:** To receive the Chief Officer's update.
10. To receive Cllr updates regarding recent attendance at outside bodies committee meetings.

11. To receive an update from Sophie Johnson - Community Development and Wellbeing Officer (**February 2023**)
12. To receive an update and clarification regarding the Town Council's submission requirements for the World Heritage Periodic Review 2023 (**Cllr Evans**)
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 any relevant determinations relating to the Town Council's community engagement opportunities for 2023/24 (**Cllr Beavan**)
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.
 - **Sophie Johnson (CWDO)** – Heritage Easter Trail Project.
16. To receive, discuss and make a determination regarding planning applications.
 - **SCUL/23/P/0041/HH**
 - **TBRA/23/P/0072/HH**
 - **TBRA/23/P/0077/HH**
17. To receive, discuss and make a determination regarding donation requests.
 - Des Waite – Blaenavon Concert Band
18. To receive, discuss and make any relevant determinations concerning items relating to correspondence.
 - Letter from Pontypool Pigeon Club.
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 22nd of February 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 22nd of March 2023**.

In attendance:

Councillor G. James (In the Chair)

Councillors in attendance: J. Hunt, L. Cowles, A. Beavan, I. Parfitt, N. Matthews, L. Evans.

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

Visitors: David Leech - TCBC

Members of public: David Williams, Sandra Keen.

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

1.To receive any questions from the public.

None received.

2.To receive and accept apologies.

- Cllr Harris - Work commitment.
- Cllr Jones - Unwell / Hospital.
- Cllr Wheeler - Unwell

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

All members in agreement.

Resolved: Apologies accepted.

3.Declarations of Interest: None declared.

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

Having received the presentations from the co-option candidates, members voted on their preferred candidate.

At the conclusion of the voting process the preferred candidate was Mrs Sandra Keen.

It was proposed by Cllr Hunt and seconded by Cllr Beavan to ratify the appointment of Sandra Keen as a Blaenavon Town Councillor.

Resolved: Sandra Keen appointed as a Blaenavon Town Councillor.

6. To receive an update from Dave Leech (TCBC) regarding the Ken Jones statue.

Mr Leech provided members with an update relating to TCBC's perspective and outlined that issues have been ongoing since the vandalism of the statue over twelve months ago.

Initially barriers had been erected but unfortunately problems continued therefore TCBC made the decision to remove the statue for repair.

It was further explained that discussions have taken place between TCBC and the Town Council to relocate the statue to the World Heritage Centre. Mr Leech expressed concerns relating to the statue not fitting in with the industrial heritage theme and not mirroring the story expressed at the World Heritage Centre.

Issues with regards to ownership was discussed. Mr Leech confirmed that the Ken Jones Group ceased to exist after the statue was erected. A letter had been submitted to Blaenavon Town Council for a decision to be taken in relation to ownership, however there is no evidence that a determination was made.

There is no signed documentation and no evidence that either TCBC or Blaenavon Town Council own the statue.

Mr Leech explained that TCBC have funding to relocate the statue on the proviso that Blaenavon Town Council assume ownership. TCBC cannot take ownership of the statue.

Members raised a series of questions:

Did Blaenavon Town Council ever take ownership as there is no resolution recorded and no written proof?

The Chief Officer confirmed there is no evidence of this from the Ken Jones Committee. A letter requesting that the Town Council assume ownership and responsibility for the statue was sent from the Chairman of the Ken Jones Committee and submitted to the Clerk of Blaenavon Town Council at that time.

This was entered into correspondence but not signed. There is no written agreement or resolution from the Town Council.

To date, who insures the statue? Will it be feasible for the Town Council to insure it at the Heritage Centre?

The Chief Officer confirmed that having come into post in 2017 he had a conversation with Kate Fitzgerald, TCBC having no prior knowledge of the arrangements for the statue.

The agreement was that the Town Council would arrange for the statue to be inspected annually for insurance purposes and forwarded to TCBC. The Town Council do not insure the statue.

The Chief Officer explained that he had not held discussions as yet with the Town Council's insurance company and is awaiting photographs and a full report regarding the repair. If the statue cannot be insured, then the Town Council cannot take ownership.

Can the Town Council obtain legal advice on who owns the statue as a result of the Ken Jones Committee being disbanded?

The Chief Officer confirmed that advice could be sought, however the insurance company will require a valuation inspection to establish if the statue can be insured. If it cannot, then Blaenavon Town Council cannot take ownership.

Mr Leech added if the insurance company refuse to value before the statue is sited then TCBC cannot site. Blaenavon Town Council must firstly agree ownership.

Members discussed documentation from 2014 which was of a very poor standard with poor project management. There is no evidence of any legal documentation between Blaenavon Town Council, TCBC and the Ken Jones Committee. Minutes were extremely poor, and no determinations have been recorded.

Cllr James proposed that Cllr Jo Gauden, TCBC is invited to the next Town Council meeting. This was seconded by Cllr Cowles.

All members in agreement.

Cllr James thanked Mr Leech for his attendance and update.

Resolved: Members noted the update. Chief Officer to invite Cllr Jo Gauden to the next Town Council meeting.

8. Council Meeting: To confirm the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on the 25th of January 2023.

The minutes were read for accuracy with no amendments.

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

All members in agreement.

Resolved: Minutes approved as a true and accurate record.

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

The Chief Officer updated members that nothing had been received from One Voice Wales and decisions as to whether to celebrate the Coronation were to be made by each individual organisation.

Members commenced a discussion and agreed that the occasion should be commemorated.

A further discussion took place between officers and members, and it was decided to establish a task and finish working group consisting of members and officers to project manage a coronation event.

Cllrs Hunt, Beavan, James and Matthews offered to be part of the working group. The first meeting will take place on Thursday the 2nd of March 2023 at 5pm in Chamber.

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

All members in agreement.

Resolved: Task and finish group established for the delivery of a Coronation Event.

14. To discuss and make any relevant determinations relating to the Town Council's community engagement opportunities for 2023/24 (Cllr Beavan)

Cllr Beavan discussed and outlined to members a series of ideas and options of how Cllrs could engage with residents on all levels, including those digitally excluded to ascertain what residents want from the Town Council and to receive feedback.

It was alluded to that the Community Wellbeing Day, planned for Saturday March 4th at the Heritage Centre would be an excellent opportunity to engage with residents and promote the Town Council and obtain feedback from those attending.

Cllr Beavan proposed to facilitate community events for members to engage with residents. This was seconded by Cllr Hunt.

All members in agreement.

Resolved: Community Events to be used as a platform to engage with residents.

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

Easter Heritage Trail

The proposed project was submitted to members for their perusal ahead of the meeting.

Sophie Johnson presented the project to members for discussion and subsequent determination.

It was explained that a digital trail through the town, scanning QR codes at each destination which would show images and clues with a heritage theme. This would then lead on to the next QR code and clue.

At each destination a digital egg is collected, once all the eggs are collected a certificate will be awarded which can be shown to claim an Easter egg prize from the Council offices.

The destinations will be places and buildings of historical importance within the town, focusing on Broad Street.

A brief discussion took place amongst members.

It was proposed by Cllr Cowles and seconded by Cllr Parfitt to support the project.

All members in agreement.

Resolved: Project authorised.

16. 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:** Insertion of 3 x conservation type Velux roof windows on rear elevation; and window to side elevation in conjunction with proposed loft conversion.
- **LOCATION:** High View, King Street, Blaenavon.

Resolved: No objections from members.

- **DEVELOPMENT PROPOSED:** Replace all existing timber windows with timeless Flush UPVC in golden oak wood grain finish.
- **LOCATION:** The Lodge, The Park, Blaenavon.

A member raised concerns as the address is within Blaenavon conservation area and therefore believed that traditional materials needed to be used.

A discussion took place amongst members Cllr to raise concerns with TCBC planning department via the planning portal on behalf of Blaenavon Town Council.

All members in agreement.

Resolved. Cllr to raise concerns with TCBC planning department via the planning portal on behalf of Blaenavon Town Council

- **DEVELOPMENT PROPOSED:** Garage conversion (replace garage door with bifold) and create parking space at rear lower ground floor replace patio doors with garage door.
- **LOCATION:** The Foresters, Llanover Road, Blaenavon.

Resolved. No objections from members.

- **DEVELOPMENT PROPOSED:** Change of use of land currently owned by TCBC between owners' property and domestic garage to residential use and to extend garage onto this land.
- **LOCATION:** 4 Prospect Place, Blaenavon.

Resolved. No objections from members.

It was proposed by Cllr Beavan 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.

17. 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 request namely.

- Concert Band – Mr Des Waite.

A previous request had been denied by members as it was a request for fees.

The Chief Officer explained that he spent some time going through the donation request form and explaining the information required with Mr Waite.

A discussion took place amongst members regarding the donation request for £250 relating to energy costs.

It was proposed by Cllr Cowles to defer the request and to request a copy of the Concert Band's bank statement. This was seconded by Cllr Beavan.

All members in agreement.

Resolved: Donation not supported. Chief Officer to write to Mr Waite requesting a copy of the bank statement.

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

Letter from Pontypool Pigeon Club.

The Chief Officer explained to members that he had received a letter from Pontypool Pigeon Club thanking Blaenavon Town Council for their generous donation of £250 and inviting all members to the pigeon club.

The Chief Officer to confirm a time and date for the visit with Mr Millard and forward to members to confirm their attendance.

Resolved. Chief Officer to confirm time and date for visit. Members noted the update.

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

The Chief Officer provided members with an update with regards to the Bronwen Lewis concert planned for the 8th of September 2023.

It was explained that a contract has been issued by her agent and once signed the Town Council will be liable for fees of £4200. As members are aware there have been issues with volunteer numbers at the Workmen's Hall, forcing the cinema to close and bookings being put on hold. This is obviously very concerning.

The Town Council representative for the board at the Workmen's Hall, Cllr Hunt informed members of a meeting that had been held today. The Town Council booking was discussed and confirmed that there was not a problem for this date.

A further discussion took place and Cllr Cowles informed members that TCBC had provided an update, stating that TCBC were offering support to the Workmen's Hall by way of providing a premises manager and volunteers through TVA. This is yet to be put in place.

Cllr Cowles proposed that the Chief Officer contact the Chair of the board to request an assurance in writing that the event will take place on the agreed date.

This was seconded by Cllr Parfitt.

All members in agreement.

Resolved. Chief Officer to request written confirmation from the Workmen's Hall

Cllr Evans informed members that a reporter from the South Wales Argus had emailed him requesting a comment relating to recent reports about antisocial behaviour in Blaenavon.

A discussion took place amongst members, and it was agreed that the response would be that a joint statement will be released by Blaenavon Town Council and Gwent Police.

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

All members in agreement.

Resolved. Cllr Evans to respond to the Argus on behalf of Blaenavon Town Council

Meeting ended at 20.15 hrs.





**BLAENAVON TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 22nd of February 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.

Councillors in attendance:

Councillor G. James (In the Chair)

J. Hunt, L. Cowles, A. Beavan, I. Parfitt, N. Matthews, L. Evans.

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

Visitors: David Leech - TCBC

Members of public: David Williams, Sandra Keen.

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

1. To receive any questions from the public.

None received.

2. To receive and accept apologies.

- Cllr Harris - Work commitment.
- Cllr Jones - Unwell / Hospital.
- Cllr Wheeler – Unwell

It was proposed by Cllr Cowles 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 presentations from co-option candidates for the role of Blaenavon Town Councillor.

Members received co-option presentations from Mr David Williams and Mrs Sandra Keen.

The first presentation was from Mr David Williams, followed by Mrs Sandra Keen. The Chairman thanked both candidates for their presentations individually.

Resolved: Candidates were thanked by members for their co-option presentations

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

Having received the presentations from the co-option candidates, members voted on their preferred candidate.

At the conclusion of the voting process the preferred candidate was Mrs Sandra Keen.

It was proposed by Cllr Hunt and seconded by Cllr Beavan to ratify the appointment of Sandra Keen as a Blaenavon Town Councillor.

Resolved: Sandra Keen appointed as a Blaenavon Town Councillor.

6. To receive an update from Dave Leech (TCBC) regarding the Ken Jones statue.

Mr Leech provided members with an update relating to TCBC's perspective and outlined that issues have been ongoing since the vandalism of the statue over twelve months ago.

Initially barriers had been erected but unfortunately problems continued therefore TCBC made the decision to remove the statue for repair.

It was further explained that discussions have taken place between TCBC and the Town Council to relocate the statue to the World Heritage Centre. Mr Leech expressed concerns relating to the statue not fitting in with the industrial heritage theme and not mirroring the story expressed at the World Heritage Centre.

Issues with regards to ownership was discussed. Mr Leech confirmed that the Ken Jones Group ceased to exist after the statue was erected. A letter had been submitted to Blaenavon Town Council for a decision to be taken in relation to ownership, however there is no evidence that a determination was made.

There is no signed documentation and no evidence that either TCBC or Blaenavon Town Council own the statue.

Mr Leech explained that TCBC have funding to relocate the statue on the proviso that Blaenavon Town Council assume ownership. TCBC cannot take ownership of the statue. Members raised a series of questions:

Did Blaenavon Town Council ever take ownership as there is no resolution recorded and no written proof.

The Chief Officer confirmed there is no evidence of this from the Ken Jones Committee. A letter requesting that the Town Council assume ownership and responsibility for the statue was sent from the Chairman of the Ken Jones Committee and submitted to the Clerk of Blaenavon Town Council at that time.

This was entered into correspondence but not signed. There is no written agreement or resolution from the Town Council.

To date, who insures the statue? Will it be feasible for the Town Council to insure it at the Heritage Centre?

The Chief Officer confirmed that having come into post in 2017 he had a conversation with Kate Fitzgerald, TCBC having no prior knowledge of the arrangements for the statue.

The agreement was that the Town Council would arrange for the statue to be inspected annually for insurance purposes and forwarded to TCBC. The Town Council do not insure the statue.

The Chief Officer explained that he had not held discussions as yet with the Town Council's insurance company and is awaiting photographs and a full report regarding the repair. If the statue cannot be insured, then the Town Council cannot take ownership.

Can the Town Council obtain legal advice on who owns the statue as a result of the Ken Jones Committee being disbanded?

The Chief Officer confirmed that advice could be sought, however the insurance company will require a valuation inspection to establish if the statue can be insured. If it cannot, then Blaenavon Town Council cannot take ownership.

Mr Leech added if the insurance company refuse to value before the statue is sited then TCBC cannot site. Blaenavon Town Council must firstly agree ownership.

Members discussed documentation from 2014 which was of a very poor standard with poor project management. There is no evidence of any legal documentation between Blaenavon Town Council, TCBC and the Ken Jones Committee. Minutes were extremely poor, and no determinations have been recorded.

Cllr James proposed that Cllr Jo Gauden, TCBC is invited to the next Town Council meeting. This was seconded by Cllr Cowles.

All members in agreement.

Cllr James thanked Mr Leech for his attendance and update.

Resolved: Members noted the update. Chief Officer to invite Cllr Jo Gauden to the next Town Council meeting.

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

The Chairman explained that due to the absence of Cllr Jones, the Mayor's update would be presented at the next Full Council meeting.

8. Council Meeting: To confirm the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on the 25th of January 2023.

The minutes were read for accuracy with no amendments.

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

All members in agreement.

Resolved: Minutes approved as a true and accurate record.

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

Mr Warren provided the following update for members.

Item 8 within the minutes as per the instructions from members. The Chief Officer explained to members that he has written to TCBC and confirmed the Council's ratification of the precept requirement for 2023/24

Item 13 within the minutes as per the instructions from members. The Chief Officer explained to members that he has written to Mair Sheen the project co-ordinator for the Townscape Heritage Project and confirmed that Cllr Hunt will be the Council's representative.

Item 18 within the minutes as per the instructions from members. The Chief Officer explained to members that he has written to the following people and organisations confirming the Council's award of £250 regarding their donation requests.

- David Millard – Pontypool Pigeon Club

The transaction of monies was completed on the 26th of January 2023 as per the presented financial update for January 2023 which member have already viewed.

The Chief Officer held a meeting with Mr Des Waite from the Blaenavon Concert Band and explained the reasons the Council didn't support their request for financial assistance and provided him with the donation application form which has now been completed and listed at agenda item 17 for consideration.

Item 19 within the minutes as per the instructions from members. The Chief Officer explained to members that he has written to Matthew Cox from Blaenavon Blues and explained the reasons why the Council were not able to support the request for financial assistance and has received no response.

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

Resolved: Members noted the update.

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

None attended.

Resolved: Members noted the update.

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

Sophie Johnson (CDWO) provided members with an overview of the work and engagements that had been completed during February 2023. This included the following.

- It was explained to members that weekly groups are continuing to take place with high attendance.
- Two VocalEyes drop in sessions had been arranged but only one member of the public turned up.
- Meeting completed with Heads4Arts regarding the Easter trail project.
- Attended the Blaenavon Heritage School with Cllr Cowles and recorded a podcast regarding Town Council roles and also Cllr Cowles' TCBC role.
- Members were informed that the Intergeneration Group has recommenced at the Workmen's Hall.
- Preparation work is ongoing regarding the Community Wellbeing Day.
- Torfaen Play sessions are fully booked for the February half term with further planned sessions for the summer.
- Cookstars project for half term is also fully booked.
- The swimming project is a success with fifty eight people booked to attend.
- Have consulted with Torfaen Sports Development regarding the use of BMX, Skateboarding, and teenage / young person gym sessions.

- Have consulted with Hafan Cymru for wellbeing walks from pregnancy, new mums including babies and toddlers.
- Have visited Forgeside Rugby Club community garden with The Chief Officer and Assistant Chief Officer and discussed future partnership working.

Resolved: Members noted the update.

12. To receive an update and clarification regarding the Town Council's submission requirements for the World Heritage Periodic Review 2023 (Cllr Evans)

Cllr Evans provided members with an overview regarding the Town Council's submission requirements having attended recent World Heritage meetings.

- Review conducted every ten years for the Heritage Status.
- Specific questions were presented for each World Heritage Partner.
- Little understanding presented relating to what was required.

Cllr Evans had requested from Rebecca Hartley (TCBC) the completed forms to be forwarded to himself in order for the Town Council to jointly complete.

Meeting days and times for workshops at the Civic centre were not suitable for attendees who had work commitments. Cllr Evans also explained that the volume of money and time provided by Blaenavon Town Council to the Heritage status is astronomical.

Cllrs Evans concluded that once he had received documentation from Rebecca Hartley then he would share with members and request that she attends a Town Council meeting.

A discussion took place amongst members, and it was agreed to await documentation from Rebecca Hartley to Cllr Evans

Resolved: Members noted the update from Cllr Evans

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

The Chief Officer updated members that nothing had been received from One Voice Wales and decisions as to whether to celebrate the Coronation were to be made by each individual organisation.

Members commenced a discussion and agreed that the occasion should be commemorated.

A further discussion took place between officers and members, and it was decided to establish a task and finish working group consisting of members and officers to project manage a coronation event.

Cllrs Hunt, Beavan, James and Matthews offered to be part of the working group. The first meeting will take place on Thursday the 2nd of March 2023 at 5pm in Chamber.

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

All members in agreement.

Resolved: Task and finish group established for the delivery of a Coronation Event.

14. To discuss and make any relevant determinations relating to the Town Council's community engagement opportunities for 2023/24 (Cllr Beavan)

Cllr Beavan discussed and outlined to members a series of ideas and options of how Cllrs could engage with residents on all levels, including those digitally excluded to ascertain what residents want from the Town Council and to receive feedback.

It was alluded to that the Community Wellbeing Day, planned for Saturday March 4th at the Heritage Centre would be an excellent opportunity to engage with residents and promote the Town Council and obtain feedback from those attending.

Cllr Beavan proposed to facilitate community events for members to engage with residents. This was seconded by Cllr Hunt.

All members in agreement.

Resolved: Community Events to be used as a platform to engage with residents.

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

Easter Heritage Trail

The proposed project was submitted to members for their perusal ahead of the meeting.

Sophie Johnson presented the project to members for discussion and subsequent determination.

It was explained that a digital trail through the town, scanning QR codes at each destination which would show images and clues with a heritage theme. This would then lead on to the next QR code and clue.

At each destination, a digital egg is collected, once all the eggs are collected a certificate will be awarded which can be shown to claim an Easter egg prize from the Council offices.

The destinations will be places and buildings of historical importance within the town, focusing on Broad Street.

A brief discussion took place amongst members.

It was proposed by Cllr Cowles and seconded by Cllr Parfitt to support the project.

All members in agreement.

Resolved: Project authorised.

16. 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:** Insertion of 3 x conservation type Velux roof windows on rear elevation; and window to side elevation in conjunction with proposed loft conversion.
- **LOCATION:** High View, King Street, Blaenavon.

Resolved. No objections from members.

- **DEVELOPMENT PROPOSED:** Replace all existing timber windows with timeless Flush UPVC in golden oak wood grain finish.
- **LOCATION:** The Lodge, The Park, Blaenavon.

A member raised concerns as the address is within Blaenavon conservation area and therefore believed that traditional materials needed to be used.

A discussion took place amongst members Cllr to raise concerns with TCBC planning department via the planning portal on behalf of Blaenavon Town Council.

All members in agreement.

Resolved. Cllr to raise concerns with TCBC planning department via the planning portal on behalf of Blaenavon Town Council

- **DEVELOPMENT PROPOSED:** Garage conversion (replace garage door with bifold) and create parking space at rear lower ground floor replace patio doors with garage door.
- **LOCATION:** The Foresters, Llanover Road, Blaenavon.

Resolved. No objections from members.

- **DEVELOPMENT PROPOSED:** Change of use of land currently owned by TCBC between owners' property and domestic garage to residential use and to extend garage onto this land.
- **LOCATION:** 4 Prospect Place, Blaenavon.

Resolved. No objections from members.

It was proposed by Cllr Beavan 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.

17. 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 request namely.

- Concert Band – Mr Des Waite.

A previous request had been denied by members as it was a request for fees.

The Chief Officer explained that he spent some time going through the donation request form and explaining the information required with Mr Waite.

A discussion took place amongst members regarding the donation request for £250 relating to energy costs.

It was proposed by Cllr Cowles to defer the request and to request a copy of the Concert Band's bank statement. This was seconded by Cllr Beavan.

All members in agreement.

Resolved: Donation not supported. Chief Officer to write to Mr Waite requesting a copy of the bank statement.

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

Letter from Pontypool Pigeon Club.

The Chief Officer explained to members that he had received a letter from Pontypool Pigeon Club thanking Blaenavon Town Council for their generous donation of £250 and inviting all members to the pigeon club.

The Chief Officer to confirm a time and date for the visit with Mr Millard and forward to members to confirm their attendance.

Resolved. Chief Officer to confirm time and date for visit. Members noted the update.

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

The Chief Officer provided members with an update with regards to the Bronwen Lewis concert planned for the 8th of September 2023.

It was explained that a contract has been issued by her agent and once signed the Town Council will be liable for fees of £4200.

As members are aware there have been issues with volunteer numbers at the Workmen's Hall, forcing the cinema to close and bookings being put on hold. This is obviously very concerning.

The Town Council representative for the board at the Workmen's Hall, Cllr Hunt informed members of a meeting that had been held today. The Town Council booking was discussed and confirmed that there was not a problem for this date.

A further discussion took place and Cllr Cowles informed members that TCBC had provided an update, stating that TCBC were offering support to the Workmen's Hall by way of providing a premises manager and volunteers through TVA. This is yet to be put in place.

Cllr Cowles proposed that the Chief Officer contact the Chair of the board to request an assurance in writing that the event will take place on the agreed date. This was seconded by Cllr Parfitt.

All members in agreement.

Resolved. Chief Officer to request written confirmation from the Workmen's Hall

Cllr Evans informed members that a reporter from the South Wales Argus had emailed him requesting a comment relating to recent reports about antisocial behaviour in Blaenavon.

A discussion took place amongst members, and it was agreed that the response would be that a joint statement will be released by Blaenavon Town Council and Gwent Police.

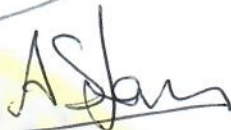
This was proposed by Cllr Beavan and seconded by Cllr Cowles.

All members in agreement.

Resolved. Cllr Evans to respond to the Argus on behalf of Blaenavon Town Council

Meeting ended at 20.15 hrs.

Chairman Signed:



Date: 22/03/23.