



16th January 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 25th of January 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

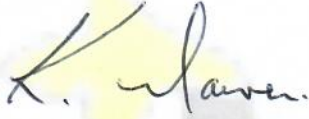
1. To receive any questions from the public.
2. To receive and accept apologies.
3. **Declarations of Interest:** Members are invited to declare any interests they may have in any items on the agenda.
4. To receive a presentation from Craig Williams and Mike Collins (**TCBC Highways Department**) regarding the Welsh Government's place criteria relating to default speed limits.
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 23rd of November 2022.
7. To receive and note the Council Tax Base figure for Blaenavon 2023, together with the precept timeline requirements for submission to TCBC.
8. To ratify the Town Council Budget and Precept for 2023/24
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 (**December 2022 & January 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 a determination to appoint a Councillor representative onto the Townscape Heritage Project Committee.
14. To discuss and make a determination regarding the appointment of a fourth Councillor signatory for the Town Council's Bank Account.
15. To note the audit opinion from Audit Wales for 2021/22 and formally approve the Annual Return.
16. 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)** - Community Wellbeing Day.
 - **Sophie Johnson (CWDO)** - Cookstars Cookery Sessions.
 - **Sophie Johnson (CWDO)** - Community Swimming Sessions.
17. To receive, discuss and make a determination regarding planning applications.
 - **SPRI/22/P/0793/FUL**
 - **SCUL/22/P/0821/HH**
 - **SCUL/22/P/0848/HH**
 - **SPRI/22/P/0852/TCA**
18. To receive, discuss and make a determination regarding donation requests.
 - Steve Evans - Pontypool Pigeon Club.
 - Des Waite - Blaenavon Concert Band.
19. To receive, discuss and make any relevant determinations concerning items relating to correspondence.
 - E-mail from Matthew Cox - Blaenavon Blues AFC.
 - Letter – Blaenavon Camera Club.
20. Other Matters (**At the discretion of the Chairman**)

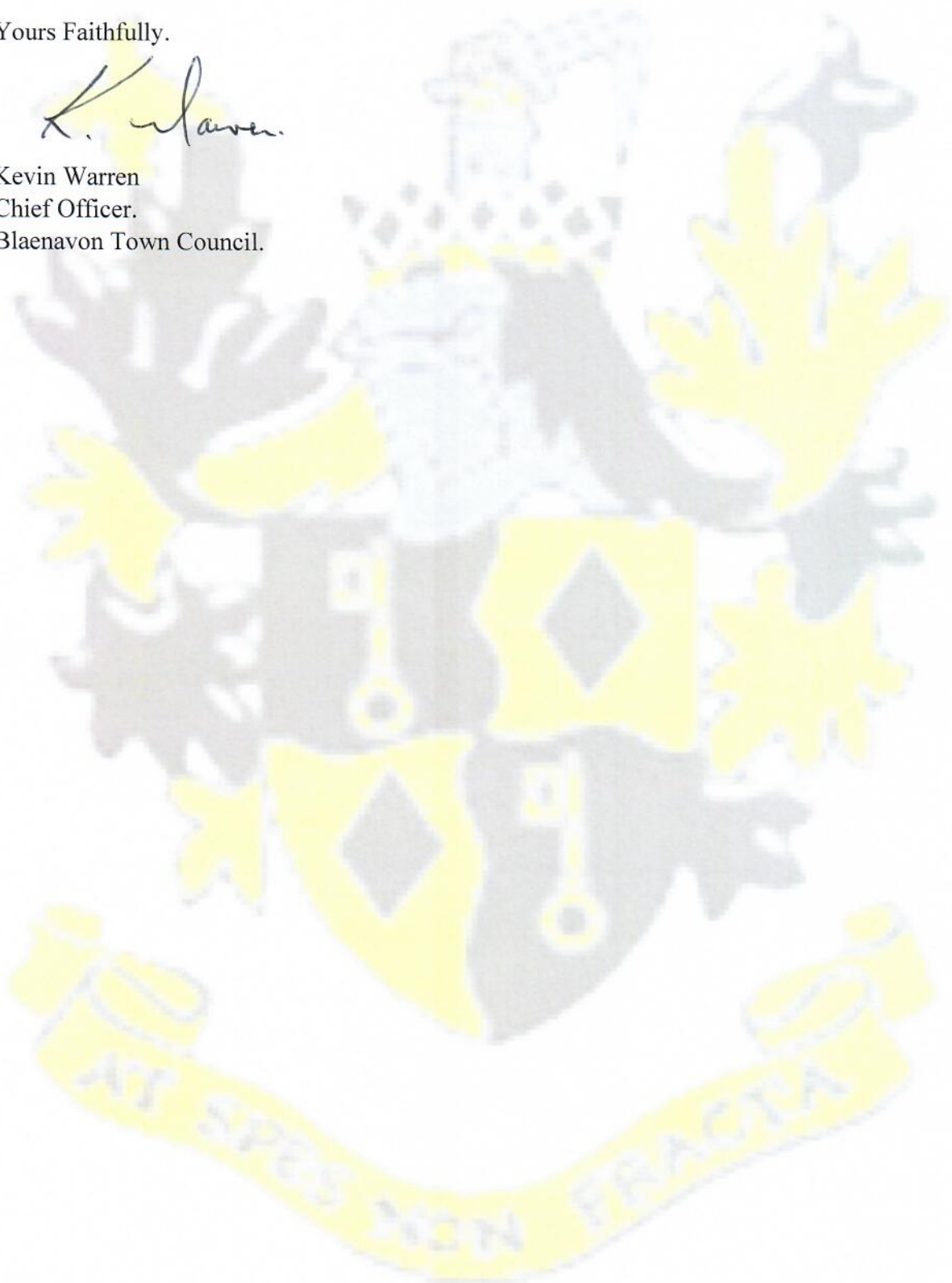
By virtue of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the press and the public be excluded from the remainder of the meeting on the basis that disclosure thereof would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

21. To discuss and make any determinations regarding the casual vacancy for a Blaenavon Town Councillor.

Yours Faithfully.



Kevin Warren
Chief Officer.
Blaenavon Town Council.





Summary (Notes) of the Full Council meeting of Blaenavon Town Council held on **Wednesday the 25th of January 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 February 2023**.

In attendance:

Councillor G. James (In the Chair)

Councillors in attendance: M. Wheeler, J. Hunt, L. Cowles, A. Beavan, I. Parfitt, N. Matthews, T. Porter, M. Harris.

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

Visitors: Craig Williams, TCBC, Highways Department.

Members of public: None.

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 Evans – Work commitment.
- Cllr Jones – Unwell / Hospital.

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:

- Cllr Matthews – Item 13 on the agenda – **Personal interest**

- Cllr Hunt – item 14 on the agenda – **Personal interest**
- Cllr Porter – item 19 on the agenda – **Personal interest**

6. Council Meeting: To confirm the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on the 23rd of November 2022.

The minutes were read for accuracy with no amendments.

It was proposed by Cllr Cowles and seconded by Cllr Harris that the minutes be accepted. All members in agreement.

Resolved: Minutes approved as a true and accurate record.

7.To receive and note the Council Tax Base figure for Blaenavon 2023, together with the precept timeline requirements for submission to TCBC.

The Chief Officer forwarded the information to members prior to the meeting.

The Council Tax Base figure has been set at 1,953 for Blaenavon.

Resolved. Members noted the update.

8.To ratify the Town Council Budget and Precept for 2023/24

The proposed budget for 2023/2024 was considered at the Town Council Finance meeting on the 11th of January 2023.

Members accepted the draft budget for 2023/24 with an agreement for the precept to remain unchanged at £185k.

It was proposed by Cllr Beavan and seconded by Cllr Cowles to formally ratify the draft budget for 2023/24.

All members in agreement.

Resolved: Budget for 2023/24 ratified and precept to remain unchanged at £185k

13. To discuss and make a determination to appoint a Councillor representative onto the Townscape Heritage Project Committee.

The Chief Officer explained to members that ex Cllr Goddard was the appointed representative for the Town Council and a new appointed member was required.

Cllr Hunt offered to be the appointed member for the Town Council.

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

All members in agreement.

Resolved: Cllr Hunt to represent the Town Council on the Townscape Heritage Project Committee.

14. To discuss and make a determination regarding the appointment of a fourth Councillor signatory for the Town Council's Bank Account.

The Chief Officer explained to members that ex Cllr Goddard was an appointed signatory for the Town Council bank account which required four signatories as per standing orders.

A discussion took place amongst members regarding the appointment of a fourth signatory.

It was proposed by Cllr Cowles and seconded by Cllr Harris that Cllr Parfitt be the fourth signatory.

All members in agreement.

Resolved: Cllr Parfitt appointed as fourth signatory for the Town Council Bank Account.

15. To note the audit opinion from Audit Wales for 2021/22 and formally approve the Annual Return.

The Chief Officer explained to members that the Annual Return for 2021/22 had been signed by the Mayor on behalf of the Council and himself in his role as the Responsible Finance Officer and submitted to Audit Wales.

The Chief Officer explained further and informed members that the conclusion of audit was now complete, and the audit opinion received was unqualified, with no recommendations highlighted by Audit Wales.

It was proposed by Cllr Hunt and seconded by Cllr Beavan to note the audit opinion from Audit Wales and formally approve the 2021/22 Annual Return.

All members in agreement.

Resolved. Annual Return 2021/22 formally approved by members.

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

A series of proposed projects were submitted to members by Sophie Johnson for their perusal ahead of the meeting.

Sophie presented the following projects to members for discussion and subsequent determinations.

- **Community Wellbeing Day.**
- **Cookstars Cookery Sessions.**
- **Community Swimming Sessions.**

Community Wellbeing Day.

To bring the community together and hold a Community Well Being Day on Saturday 4th of March 2023 from 11am-4pm at the World Heritage Centre.

It is planned to gather several community organisations to offer help and support to residents, whether that be health & well-being, financial, housing, cost of living crisis etc

to ensure residents are aware of all that is available to them in Blaenavon.

Local community groups will also be invited to attend and promote their activities.

The Town Council will also be providing a fun, family element to the day with story and craft sessions in the library, face painting, a magician, fitness and mindfulness sessions and a voucher to use in the café for lunch to those who attend.

The Council could also use the day as an opportunity to distribute recipe books, cost of living crisis leaflets, information on what the Council provides and to gain invaluable feedback from the community through conversations and engagement.

A brief discussion took place amongst members.

It was proposed by Cllr Matthews and seconded by Cllr Wheeler to support the project.

All members in agreement.

Resolved: Project authorised.

Cook Stars Cookery Sessions.

To provide two family cookery sessions with Cook Stars during February 2023 half term.

During these sessions families will be shown how to prepare and cook certain dishes which they are then able to take home to enjoy together.

Families are also given a recipe card to enable them to make the dish again in the future. All ingredients and equipment are provided.

These sessions were extremely popular and well received with residents who took part last year.

A brief discussion took place amongst members.

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

All members in agreement.

Resolved: Project authorised.

Community Swimming Sessions.

To provide a free-swimming session at Pontypool Active Living Centre and free transport on a trial basis during February 2023 half term in partnership with Torfaen Leisure Trust.

This would be open to all residents, to encourage families to be active together, but also to offer an activity which older residents can participate in.

Swimming is not only beneficial to physical health, but also mental health and can be enjoyed by all ages and abilities.

Through engagement activities with residents, it has been highlighted that the loss of the pool in Blaenavon is still deeply felt and that the cost and lack of transport is also a barrier for many.

Dependant on the uptake and feedback the Council would look to continue these sessions throughout the year with the possibility of teen inflatables sessions, senior sessions, and family inflatables session.

Torfaen Leisure Trust are keen to be involved and have offered the exclusive pool hire in February for free.

Going forward, dependant on their grant funding, they would provide all participants under the age of 17 and over 60 free of charge with the Council paying a reduced rate on those attending in between those ages.

A brief discussion took place amongst members.

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

All members in agreement.

Resolved: Project authorised

17. 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:** Alterations to shop front – new external access.
- **LOCATION:** 6 Commercial Street, Blaenavon.

Resolved. No objections from members.

- **DEVELOPMENT PROPOSED:** First floor extension.
- **LOCATION:** 1 Clapham Terrace, Forgeside, Blaenavon.

Resolved. No objections from members.

- **DEVELOPMENT PROPOSED:** Erection of two storey side & rear extension.
- **LOCATION:** 1 Lower Glan Torfaen Terrace, Forgeside, Blaenavon.

Resolved. No objections from members.

- **DEVELOPMENT PROPOSED:** Reduction of storm damage to tree.
- **LOCATION:** 19a, Ivor Gardens, Blaenavon.

Resolved. No objections from members.

18. To receive, discuss and make a determination regarding donation requests (2)

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

- **Steve Evans - Pontypool Pigeon Club.**

A discussion took place amongst members regarding the donation request which was a request for financial assistance of £250.

It was proposed by Cllr Cowles 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 Pontypool Pigeon Club.

- **Des Waite - Blaenavon Concert Band.**

The Chief Officer updated members that the agreement had been made with Blaenavon Town Band for playing at the Remembrance Day Parade and also the Christmas lights switch on event and not the Concert Band.

A discussion took place amongst members. It was decided that this was a fee for past events and not a donation request. It was suggested that Mr Waite should submit a new request for funding and not a fee for attendance. Donation request refused.

All members in agreement.

Resolved: Donation not supported. Chief Officer to write to Mr Waite.

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

- **Email from Matthew Cox, Blaenavon Blues AFC.**

The Chief Officer forwarded the email from Mr Cox to members prior to the meeting for their perusal.

The Chief Officer was contacted by Mr Cox who had explained that during a recent spell of cold weather the club's shower system had been damaged beyond repair and had requested financial support from the Town Council.

The Chief Officer enquired about the club's building insurance cover, there does not seem to be a policy in place.

Crowd funding was suggested, this has been set up. To date the amount raised is £415.00 only 6% of the funding required to meet the target of £3,300.

Members discussed at length the request for financial assistance.

It was agreed by all members that if a donation award be given under these circumstances, it would set a precedent for other clubs and groups for donation requests for maintenance / repair works.

It was noted that little effort had been made by the club to fundraise themselves. Donation refused based on the following:

- The Town Council do not have the funds to support the set target of £3,300.
- It will set a precedent for other clubs and groups to make a request to the Town Council for repair works.

All members agreed.

Resolved. Donation not supported. Chief Officer to inform Matthew Cox.

- **Letter from Blaenavon Camera Club.**

A letter thanking Blaenavon Town Council for their generous donation was received from Blaenavon Camera Club. The donation of £250 is being used for guest speakers.

Resolved. Members noted the update.

Meeting ended at 20.25 hrs.



**BLAENAVON TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 25th of January 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:

Councillor G. James (In the Chair)

Councillors in attendance: M. Wheeler, J. Hunt, L. Cowles, A. Beavan, I. Parfitt, N. Matthews, T. Porter, M. Harris.

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

Visitors: Craig Williams, TCBC, Highways Department.

Members of public: None.

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 Evans – Work commitment
- Cllr Jones – Unwell / Hospital

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:

- Cllr Matthews – Item 13 on the agenda – **Personal interest**

- Cllr Hunt – item 14 on the agenda – **Personal interest**
- Cllr Porter – item 19 on the agenda – **Personal interest**

4. To receive a presentation from Craig Williams and Mike Collins (TCBC Highways Department) regarding the Welsh Government’s place criteria relating to default speed limits.

Mr Craig Williams presented members an overview of the Welsh Government’s place criteria relating to default speed limits. Members were sent a road plan map and information of Welsh Government plans prior to the meeting for their perusal. This was presented via the projector screen.

Mr Williams explained the proposed plans to reduce the speed limits on restricted roads throughout Blaenavon which is expected to be introduced in Autumn 2023. It was further explained that this is a Welsh Government policy that will be introduced across Wales.

The main objective of the plan is to improve safety, encourage active travel, getting people to walk, cycle and use public transport and making Welsh streets safer and healthier.

Mr Williams discussed at length with members and alluded to all roads within Blaenavon whilst indicating potential changes and explained that TCBC had carried out robust reviews of the road systems. It can be assumed that following the changes, roads with street lighting and no road speed limit signs will be 20mph. This will be the new default speed.

Members raised a series of questions:

- Will there be an additional spend for enforcement or traffic calming measures?

Mr Williams informed members that there would only be signs at present. There are no changes to highway layouts. If the Town Council feel that further measures are required, they can contact the Highways Department, and this will be taken on board.

- What is Go Safe’s involvement and how will this be enforced?

Mr Williams explained that both Gwent Police and Go Safe have been involved from the start. There are currently no additional resources available.

Should there be any critical concerns for a length of road, then issues can be raised with the Highways Department. Any community concerns will be considered, and they will then carry out further assessments. Speeds and any collisions will be considered following a speed survey.

- Would there be the addition of new signs, as currently there does not appear to be many, therefore how would the public be aware of the correct speed?

Mr Williams explained that there would be a public campaign and this information would be shared to partners for further dissemination. There are no plans for additional signage.

- Could the addition of the ‘smiling face’ signs as used on Cwmavon Road be used within the Blaenavon area?

These have had a good impact on driving in these areas. The Town Council could approach the Highways department and ask for them in Blaenavon.

- Has Llanover Road, beyond the cattle grid, been given consideration to lower the speed from the national speed limit?

It was explained that this road is well used by walkers, pedestrians, and joggers with no pavements. Mr Williams informed members that there are no plans to change the speed limit within this proposal.

The Chairman thanked Mr Williams for his attendance and the informative update. All members in agreement.

Resolved: Members noted the update.

5. 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.

6. Council Meeting: To confirm the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on the 23rd of November 2022.

The minutes were read for accuracy with no amendments.

It was proposed by Cllr Cowles and seconded by Cllr Harris that the minutes be accepted. All members in agreement.

Resolved: Minutes approved as a true and accurate record.

7. To receive and note the Council Tax Base figure for Blaenavon 2023, together with the precept timeline requirements for submission to TCBC.

The Chief Officer forwarded the information to members prior to the meeting.

The Council Tax Base figure has been set at 1,953 for Blaenavon.

Resolved. Members noted the update.

8. To ratify the Town Council Budget and Precept for 2023/24

The proposed budget for 2023/2024 was considered at the Town Council finance meeting on 11th January 2023.

Members accepted the draft budget for 2023/24 with an agreement for the precept to remain unchanged at £185k.

It was proposed by Cllr Beavan and seconded by Cllr Cowles to formally ratify the draft budget for 2023/24.

All members in agreement.

Resolved: Budget for 2023/24 ratified and precept to remain unchanged at £185k

9. Chief Officer's Update:

Mr Warren provided the following update for members:

Item 9 within the minutes as per the instructions from members a letter to Terry Gardener on behalf of the Town Council had been delivered thanking him for his support at recent Town Council events.

Item 11 within the minutes as per the instructions from members, the new building lease agreement has been signed on behalf of the Council and forwarded to Dan Morris at TCBC for them to complete.

It has been requested that the completed document is sent back to the Town Council for our records.

Item 14 within the minutes as per the instructions from members the following people and organisations have been written to confirming the Council's award of £250 regarding their donation requests.

- Sandra Keen
- Llantarnam Grange
- Blaenavon Camera Club

The transaction of monies was completed on the 28th and 30th of November 2022 as per the presented financial update for November 2022 which members have already viewed.

Since the November 2022 Full Council Meeting a large amount of the Chief Officers time has been centred around the Interim Internal Audit in December 2022, together with the preparation of the 2023/24 budget requirements which members have sighted at the recent January 2023 finance meeting.

On the 10th of January 2023 together with Cllrs Jones, Harris, and Sophie, the Chief Officer met with Emma Davies McIntosh (Health Board) to discuss the planned third stage of the Community Brew participatory budget process.

This was an extremely positive meeting with agreed planning for delivery of the project.

On the 20th of January 2023, the Chief Officer met with Cllr Beavan to discuss some details in relation to Council engagement / surgery opportunities. This will be discussed further as an agenda item in February 2023.

On the 20th of January 2023 the Chief Officer together with Cllr Jones met with Cllrs Anthony Hunt, Fiona Cross, and Dave Leech from TCBC to discuss TCBC's community agenda and how this will align with the Town Council's planned delivery of services for 2023/24.

The Chief Officer explained that the meeting was productive in terms of the wider partnership working between Blaenavon Town Council and TCBC and a request was made for Dave Leech to attend one of the Council meetings in February 2023.

On the 23rd of January 2023 together with Cllr Harris, Kerry, and Sophie the Chief Officer attended a Community Brew steering group meeting together with other partners to discuss the projects that had been submitted for participatory budget funding.

Subsequently the third round of the vocal eyes platform public rating has been launched and this will close on the 28th of February 2023. A further steering group meeting will take place during the first week of March 2023 authorising the payments for Town Council ratification at the March 2023 Full Council meeting.

Cllr Harris added that it was very disappointing with the lack of steering group members who attended the meeting. There are four good projects submitted and hopefully residents will get behind the groups and rate the projects.

The Chief Officer concluded and outlined that since the last meeting he has held weekly briefing meetings with the Mayor discussing Council operational and financial matters.

Resolved: Members noted the update.

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

Cllr Wheeler informed members that he attended the Mic Morris Trust meeting on the 18th of January 2023 and updated members.

Financial information was provided at the meeting. Eight applicants had applied for grants ranging between £200 to £2k each. A total sum awarded totalled £5k. Dates have been set for three further meetings.

Resolved: Members noted the update.

11. To receive an update from Sophie Johnson – Community Development and Wellbeing Officer (December 2022 & January 2023)

Sophie Johnson (CDWO) provided members with an overview of the work and engagements that had been completed during December 2022 & January 2023. This included the following.

- Attended Little Voices Group at BHVC school.
- Promotion and attendance at Garn – Yr - Erw litter pick.
- Meeting with Garnsychan Partnership relating to VocalEyes.
- Various meetings with Building Resilient Communities to discuss projects.
- Attended Mums & Daughters & Family Club.
- Meeting with TVA to discuss their involvement in Blaenavon.
- Various meetings with Townscape Heritage Project officer to discuss the schools visiting the museum and how we can help co-ordinate.
- Arrangements with Torfaen Adult Learning to hold Christmas craft session.
- Attended Well Being Friends coffee afternoon to discuss projects with residents.
- Attended Intergenerational Group Christmas party with Little Voices group.
- Arranged craft bags from Torfaen Play to be distributed to Blaenavon families. Eighty bags were handed out.
- Arrangements & attendance at Christmas cinema event.
- Various meetings with Torfaen Leisure Trust regarding swimming opportunities for residents.
- Meeting with Head4Arts to discuss future projects.
- Meeting with Communities for Work to discuss how to improve engagement with residents.
- Attended Healthy Blaenavon Network meeting.
- Visited The Pantry to discuss cooking on a budget sessions.

- Various meetings with Walter Waygood, The Hwb and Youth Ambassadors to discuss photography project and exhibition.
- Arranged and attended a trip to Zero Waste Torfaen with Eco Council at BHVC school.
- Completed Street Games training sessions on mental health conversations & engaging women and girls in sport.
- Supporting residents referred to myself from GP & Age Connects.

Sophie was thanked by members for the excellent work that has been delivered during the period referred to.

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 was not present at the meeting. Members discussed what was required from Blaenavon Town Council as it was felt that there was no clear direction of what the Council needed to do.

Members needed a clear overview from Cllr Evans relating to the Town Council's obligations.

Members agreed for the Chief Officer to contact Rebecca Hartley the coordinator for TCBC for clarification as to what the requirements are from the Town Council and update members.

Resolved: Members noted the update

13. To discuss and make a determination to appoint a Councillor representative onto the Townscape Heritage Project Committee.

The Chief Officer explained to members that ex Cllr Goddard was the appointed representative for the Town Council and a new appointed member was required.

Cllr Hunt offered to be the appointed member for the Town Council.

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

All members in agreement.

Resolved: Cllr Hunt to represent the Town Council on the Townscape Heritage Project Committee.

14. To discuss and make a determination regarding the appointment of a fourth Councillor signatory for the Town Council's Bank Account.

The Chief Officer explained to members that ex Cllr Goddard was an appointed signatory for the Town Council bank account which required four signatories as per standing orders.

A discussion took place amongst members regarding the appointment of a fourth signatory.

It was proposed by Cllr Cowles and seconded by Cllr Harris that Cllr Parfitt be the fourth signatory.

All members in agreement.

Resolved: Cllr Parfitt appointed as fourth signatory for the Town Council Bank Account

15. To note the audit opinion from Audit Wales for 2021/22 and formally approve the Annual Return.

The Chief Officer explained to members that the Annual Return for 2021/22 had been signed by the Mayor on behalf of the Council and himself in his role as the Responsible Finance Officer and submitted to Audit Wales.

The Chief Officer explained further and informed members that the conclusion of audit was now complete, and the audit opinion received was unqualified, with no recommendations highlighted by Audit Wales.

It was proposed by Cllr Hunt and seconded by Cllr Beavan to note the audit opinion from Audit Wales and formally approve the 2021/22 Annual Return.

All members in agreement.

Resolved. Annual Return 2021/22 formally approved by members.

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

A series of proposed projects were submitted to members by Sophie Johnson for their perusal ahead of the meeting.

Sophie presented the following projects to members for discussion and subsequent determinations.

- **Community Wellbeing Day.**
- **Cookstars Cookery Sessions.**
- **Community Swimming Sessions.**

Community Wellbeing Day.

To bring the community together and hold a Community Well Being Day on Saturday 4th of March 2023 from 11am-4pm at the World Heritage Centre.

It is planned to gather several community organisations to offer help and support to residents, whether that be health & well-being, financial, housing, cost of living crisis etc to ensure residents are aware of all that is available to them in Blaenavon.

Local community groups will also be invited to attend and promote their activities.

The Town Council will also be providing a fun, family element to the day with story and craft sessions in the library, face painting, a magician, fitness and mindfulness sessions and a voucher to use in the café for lunch to those who attend.

The Council could also use the day as an opportunity to distribute recipe books, cost of living crisis leaflets, information on what the Council provides and to gain invaluable feedback from the community through conversations and engagement.

A brief discussion took place amongst members.

It was proposed by Cllr Matthews and seconded by Cllr Wheeler to support the project.

All members in agreement.

Resolved: Project authorised.

Cook Stars Cookery Sessions.

To provide two family cookery sessions with Cook Stars during February 2023 half term.

During these sessions families will be shown how to prepare and cook certain dishes which they are then able to take home to enjoy together.

Families are also given a recipe card to enable them to make the dish again in the future. All ingredients and equipment are provided.

These sessions were extremely popular and well received with residents who took part last year.

A brief discussion took place amongst members.

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

All members in agreement.

Resolved: Project authorised.

Community Swimming Sessions.

To provide a free-swimming session at Pontypool Active Living Centre and free transport on a trial basis during February 2023 half term in partnership with Torfaen Leisure Trust.

This would be open to all residents, to encourage families to be active together, but also to offer an activity which older residents can participate in.

Swimming is not only beneficial to physical health, but also mental health and can be enjoyed by all ages and abilities.

Through engagement activities with residents, it has been highlighted that the loss of the pool in Blaenavon is still deeply felt and that the cost and lack of transport is also a barrier for many.

Dependant on the uptake and feedback the Council would look to continue these sessions throughout the year with the possibility of teen inflatables sessions, senior sessions, and family inflatables session.

Torfaen Leisure Trust are keen to be involved and have offered the exclusive pool hire in February for free.

Going forward, dependant on their grant funding, they would provide all participants under the age of 17 and over 60 free of charge with the Council paying a reduced rate on those attending in between those ages.

A brief discussion took place amongst members.

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

All members in agreement.

Resolved: Project authorised

17. 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:** Alterations to shop front – new external access.
- **LOCATION:** 6 Commercial Street, Blaenavon.

Resolved. No objections from members.

- **DEVELOPMENT PROPOSED:** First floor extension.
- **LOCATION:** 1 Clapham Terrace, Forgeside, Blaenavon.

Resolved. No objections from members.

- **DEVELOPMENT PROPOSED:** Erection of two storey side & rear extension.
- **LOCATION:** 1 Lower Glan Torfaen Terrace, Forgeside, Blaenavon.

Resolved. No objections from members.

- **DEVELOPMENT PROPOSED:** Reduction of storm damage to tree.
- **LOCATION:** 19a, Ivor Gardens, Blaenavon.

Resolved. No objections from members.

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

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

- **Steve Evans - Pontypool Pigeon Club.**

A discussion took place amongst members regarding the donation request which was a request for financial assistance of £250.

It was proposed by Cllr Cowles 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 Pontypool Pigeon Club.

- **Mr Waite - Blaenavon Concert Band.**

The Chief Officer updated members that the agreement had been made with Blaenavon Town Band for playing at the Remembrance Day Parade and also the Christmas lights switch on event and not the Concert Band.

A discussion took place amongst members. It was decided that this was a fee for past events and not a donation request. It was suggested that Mr Waite should submit a new request for funding and not a fee for attendance. Donation request refused.

All members in agreement.

Resolved: Donation not supported. Chief Officer to write to Mr Waite.

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

- **Email from Matthew Cox, Blaenavon Blues AFC.**

The Chief Officer forwarded the email from Mr Cox to members prior to the meeting for their perusal.

The Chief Officer was contacted by Mr Cox who had explained that during a recent spell of cold weather the club's shower system had been damaged beyond repair and had requested financial support from the Town Council.

The Chief Officer enquired about the club's building insurance cover, there does not seem to be a policy in place.

Crowd funding was suggested, this has been set up. To date the amount raised is £415.00 only 6% of the funding required to meet the target of £3,300.

Members discussed at length the request for financial assistance.

It was agreed by all members that if a donation award be given under these circumstances, it would set a precedent for other clubs and groups for donation requests for maintenance / repair works.

It was noted that little effort had been made by the club to fundraise themselves. Donation refused based on the following:

- The Town Council do not have the funds to support the set target of £3,300.
- It will set a precedent for other clubs and groups to make a request to the Town Council for repair works.

All members in agreement.

Resolved. Donation not supported. Chief Officer to inform Matthew Cox.

- **Letter from Blaenavon Camera Club.**

A letter thanking Blaenavon Town Council for their generous donation was received from Blaenavon Camera Club. The donation of £250 is being used for guest speakers.

Resolved. Members noted the update.

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

No matters presented.

- **By virtue of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the press and the public be excluded from the remainder of the meeting on the basis that disclosure thereof would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.**

21. To discuss and make any determinations regarding the casual vacancy for a Blaenavon Town Councillor.

Recording was confirmed as stopped by the Assistant Chief Officer.

The Chief Officer provided members with an update in relation to the casual vacancy and explained that the notice of vacancy had been displayed on the Town Council notice board and website on January 3rd, 2023.

[Redacted]

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[Redacted]

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Meeting ended at 20.25 hrs.

Chairman Signed:



Date: 22/02/23.