



12th September 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 27th of September 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.

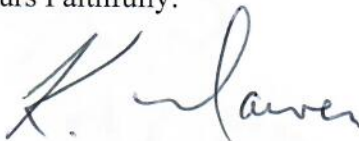
Members of the public have the right to ask questions at Council meetings and to speak in Welsh or English, provided that at least three working days' notice in writing of the question has been provided to the Chief Officer.

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 Julian Davenne (**Play Service Manager - TCBC**) regarding the Play Service provision delivered in Blaenavon 2023
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 26th of July 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 (**September 2023**)
10. To note and make any relevant determinations regarding a letter received from TCBC relating to the Ken Jones statue.

11. To receive an update and make any relevant determinations in relation to the Christmas Light / Carol Service event 2023.
12. To discuss and evaluate the recent Bronwen Lewis concert held at the Workmen's Hall on the 8th of September 2023.
13. To receive an update and make any relevant determinations regarding the Town Council Civic Awards 2023
14. To receive, discuss and make any relevant determinations regarding the 2022/23 VAT reclaim.
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.
16. To receive, discuss and make a determination regarding planning applications.
 - SCUL/23/P/0390/HH
 - MMCA/23/P/0392/FUL
 - SPRI/23/P/0517/FUL
 - TBRA/23/P/0478/VAR
 - MMCA/23/P/0456/VAR
 - TBRA/23/P/0363/OUT
 - MMCA/23/P/0490/FUL
17. To receive, discuss and make a determination regarding donation requests.
 - Cerebral Palsy Cymru
 - Friends of the Green - Blaenavon.
 - SSAFA - The Armed Forces Charity
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. MIOl. FCMI.
Chief Officer & RFO
Blaenavon Town Council



Summary (Notes) of the Full Council meeting of Blaenavon Town Council held on **Wednesday the 27th of September 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 25th of October 2023**.

In attendance:

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

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

Visitors: Julian Davenne, Play Service Manager, TCBC.

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 Jones – Holiday.
- Cllr G. James – Childcare.

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

All members in agreement.

Resolved: Apologies accepted.

3. Declarations of Interest

None declared.

6. Council Meeting: To confirm the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on the 26th of July 2023.

The minutes were read for accuracy with no amendments.

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.

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

Members were provided with the following update.

Summer projects and events delivered.

- Community swimming sessions - both sessions fully booked with 75 attendees.
- Animals' Interactive wellbeing session - fully booked with 30 attendees.
- Cook Stars sessions - fully booked with 40 attendees over the four sessions.
- Skateboarding sessions - no booking required. A consistent number of attendees, averaging 8/10 per session over the four sessions.
- Paddle boarding sessions - total of 23 over the four sessions with a great mix of ages taking part.
- Rec Rock - 6 young people took part and really enjoyed the project. The sessions were originally fully booked with 12 young people. Rec Rock received a lot of cancellations due to some of the attendees feeling unable to take part for personal reasons.

In partnership with TCBC CELT+ team, the 8-week yoga and mindfulness programme began at the beginning of September 2023. There has been a very positive response to these sessions from residents of various ages.

Alongside fellow officers and councillors Sophie helped plan and deliver the Country and Western Fayre held in August 2023.

Sophie also attended meetings with Healthy Blaenavon partners regarding a new 'Good Neighbour' initiative and promoted this within the community.

Sophie attended meetings with Walter Waygood regarding his work with the Heritage Youth Ambassadors, exhibition, and book, and attended the launch event at the Workmen's Hall.

Attended various meetings with Torfaen Sports Development Officers regarding sessions the town council currently run in partnership with them. This includes Family Club, Mums and Daughters, Teen Gym, and both Over 60s Exercise classes.

The sessions that paused over the summer holidays have now restarted with numbers increasing.

Sophie has corresponded with Torfaen Play regarding updates on the summer wellbeing camp at BHVC school and attended the school with Councillors.

In partnership with TCBC Multiply Team and Garnsychan Partnership plans have been made for a five week 'Cooking on a Budget' course at The Pantry, Blaenavon using the recipe book that the Town Council produced last year. Sessions are due to start on Friday 6th October 2023.

Sophie attended Connecting Torfaen Learning and Development event alongside various other Torfaen wide organisations to discuss partnership working within the community.

Met with Big Pit to discuss the Intergenerational Group and Dementia Group plans for the next academic year.

Created the 2023 year so far document which details the projects, events and work undertaken by the Council. This has been shared via social media and on posters throughout the town.

Attended meetings with Early Years/Flying Start team to discuss provision and support for families in Blaenavon and ways of working together to promote and deliver these.

Attended meetings with the new TCBC Community Capacity Builder for Blaenavon to discuss ways the Town Council can support their role and work together on upcoming projects within the community. An energy saving event is being held in the Workmen's Hall on the 3rd of October 3.30pm - 5.30pm where various free energy saving items will be on offer.

Attended meetings with newly appointed Wellbeing Officer for TVA regarding the activities in Blaenavon and how they can support going forward.

Met with the Supporting Activities Co Ordinator at Arthur Jenkins care home to discuss ideas for activities for residents.

Sophie has made regular visits to the school. The Little Voices group have now resumed after the summer holidays, which support the children's learning and wellbeing.

Sophie continues to attend various groups and activities to engage with and support residents.

The pumpkin competition, swimming sessions and Cook Star session for October & November have all been arranged and will be launched in the next few days. Sophie has assisted with the planning for the Christmas lights switch on and craft fayre both taking place in November 2023.

Sophie has recently attended a meeting at Victory Church, a discussion took place regarding contributions for this year's Harvest Festival.

As members are aware, Victory Church manage the Eastern Valley Foodbank and a consideration would be for the Town Council to supply a food hamper to support the festival. The estimated cost of the hamper would be between £40 - £50.

Sophie requested if members would consider making a determination to support supplying a food hamper for the church as part of the Harvest Festival which will support the foodbank provision.

Members had a brief discussion.

It was proposed by Cllr Beavan and seconded by Cllr Keen that a food hamper to the value of £50 be donated to support Victory Church Eastern Valley Foodbank Harvest festival.

All members in agreement.

Resolved: Sophie Johnson to purchase items to the value of £50 for inclusion into a food hamper.

10. To note and make any relevant determinations regarding a letter received from TCBC relating to the Ken Jones statue.

Members made a determination in April 2023 not to take ownership or responsibility of the Ken Jones statue.

The Chief Officer wrote to TCBC in May 2023 to inform them of the council's decision not to take ownership or responsibility of the statue based on the information available at that time.

A response from Cllr Joanne Gauden, TCBC was received some five months later on 26th September 2023, which has been forwarded to Cllrs for their perusal.

The determination made by members in April cannot be changed for six months, therefore October 2023 by the six-month rule under Local Government Act 1972.

Members had a lengthy discussion with regards to the ownership and responsibility of the statue and the content of the letter from Cllr Gauden.

Cllr Matthews proposed that the content of the letter received from Cllr Gauden be noted and no further action be taken at present. This was seconded by Cllr Cowles.

All members in agreement.

Resolved: No further action regarding the Ken Jones statue at present.

12. To discuss and evaluate the recent Bronwen Lewis concert held at the Workmen's Hall on the 8th of September 2023.

The concert was a successful event with over 200 tickets sold. Feedback received has been very positive.

Payment of £3030.00 has been received into the Town Council bank account from Ticket Source.

Cllr Beavan proposed that a letter of thanks be sent to the volunteers at the Workmen's Hall. This was seconded by Cllr Keen.

All members in agreement.

Resolved: Chief Officer to send a letter of thanks to the Workmen's Hall on behalf of Blaenavon Town council.

13. To receive an update and make any relevant determinations regarding the Town Council Civic Awards 2023.

Public nomination forms will be advertised on the Town Council website and Facebook page this week, for the following two weeks.

As previously agreed, members will need to decide on a corporate nomination. Cllr Matthews suggested a maximum of three nominations from members. This was proposed by Cllr Beavan and seconded by Cllr Parfitt.

All members in agreement.

The corporate nominations can be discussed collectively in the October 2023 finance meeting along with the nominations from members of the public.

A provisional date of Friday the 3rd of November 2023 for the Mayor's Civic function and Civic Awards ceremony has been made with Blaenavon Constitutional Club. This was proposed by Cllr Beavan and seconded by Cllr Keen.

All members in agreement.

Resolved: Maximum number of three corporate nominations set. The 3rd of November 2023 agreed by members for a joint Mayor's Civic function and Civic Award Ceremony.

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.

None received.

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.

NB for note only by members as consultation date had expired.

- **DEVELOPMENT PROPOSED:** Side extension.
- **LOCATION:** Coed Cae Road, Blaenavon, Torfaen

Resolved. No objections from members.

- **DEVELOPMENT PROPOSED:** Temporary modular building.
- **LOCATION:** Big Pit, Blaenavon, Torfaen.

Resolved. No objections from members.

- **DEVELOPMENT PROPOSED:** Change of use to out building.
- **LOCATION:** Heol Y Nant House, Forgeside, Blaenavon.

Resolved. No objections from members.

- **DEVELOPMENT PROPOSED:** Additional single-story extension.
- **LOCATION:** Middle Coed Cae Road, Blaenavon.

Resolved. No objections from members.

- **DEVELOPMENT PROPOSED:** Amend internal layout, external staircase.
- **LOCATION:** Trem Y Mynydd, Blaenavon.

Resolved. No objections from members.

- **DEVELOPMENT PROPOSED:** Residential development.
- **LOCATION:** Land North of Llanover Road, Blaenavon.

Resolved. No objections from members.

- **DEVELOPMENT PROPOSED:** Proposed change of use from Bank to Post Office/shop, single storey extension and external alterations.
- **LOCATION:** Broad Street, Blaenavon.

Resolved. No objections from members.

A further planning application had been submitted as it was not listed on the agenda it cannot be discussed during the meeting. Members are encouraged to view the application and contact the Chief Officer if there are any concerns.

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

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

Members discussed the donation requests, namely:

- Cerebral Palsy Cymru.
- Friends of the Green - Blaenavon.
- SSAFA - The Armed Forces Charity.

Cerebral Palsy Cymru

A discussion took place amongst members regarding the request for financial assistance. It was decided not to award a donation to the national charity.

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

All members in agreement.

Resolved. Donation not supported.

Friends of the Green - Blaenavon.

Friends of the Green requested financial assistance of £250 from the Town Council to support their Christmas tree board fencing panel art project.

A discussion took place amongst members.

It was proposed by Cllr Beavan and seconded by Cllr Keen to that a donation of £250 be authorised.

All members in agreement.

Resolved. Donation of £250 authorised. Chief Officer to facilitate the transaction.

SSAFA - The Armed Forces Charity

A discussion took place amongst members regarding the request for financial assistance. It was decided not to award a donation to the national charity.

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

All members in agreement.

Resolved. Donation not supported.

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 presented.

Meeting ended at 19.46 hrs.



BLAENAVON TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 27th of SEPTEMBER 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, L. Cowles, I. Parfitt, M. Harris, L. Evans (online), T. Porter (online).

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

Visitors: Julian Davenne, Play Service Manager, TCBC.

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.

- Cllr Jones – Holiday.
- Cllr G. James – Childcare.

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

All members in agreement.

Resolved: Apologies accepted.

3. Declarations of Interest

None declared.

4. To receive a presentation from Julian Davenne (Play Service Manager - TCBC) regarding the Play Service provision delivered in Blaenavon 2023.

Julian thanked Blaenavon Town Council for their support and partnership working, without which the provision provided within Blaenavon would not be possible.

Julian distributed to members the 'End of Summer Report' for Blaenavon and proceeded with an overview. He informed members that recruitment begins in January each year, and this is made up of volunteers and paid staff. All complete a vigorous training programme. There are ten paid workers and twelve volunteers all of whom are from Blaenavon.

The camps are delivered in Blaenavon Heritage School in partnership with Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA) Food and Fun programme.

The camp is now known as 'Food and Fun Camp' A free healthy breakfast and a hot meal are provided daily with positive nutritional food messages. Food and Fun Camp is provided for five – eleven year-old children. There are currently one hundred and twenty eight children registered within Blaenavon, with eighty attending the sessions regularly. The camps are inclusive for all children.

There are seven children within Blaenavon who required additional support or had disabilities. A multi-agency panel identified suitable venues and support requirements to meet the individual needs of the children.

Cllrs who had attended the scheme during the summer informed Julian how well attended, organised and happy the children at the session were and congratulated him and his team on the excellent service provided.

The sessions will also run in October and February 2023 half terms and Easter 2024 although these will be a 'Play and Wellbeing Camp' with no food provided. Attendees will be encouraged to bring a packed lunch.

Play Services will be holding a meeting in October 2023. Julian extended an invite to all Cllrs that wish to attend. Sophie Johnson will forward the invite to members.

Cllr Matthews thanked Julian for a very detailed report. Julian then left the meeting.

Resolved: Members noted the update.

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.

- **28/07/2023** - Inspected the Town Council flower beds located on the roundabouts at the New William Street bypass.

- **29/07/2023** - Attended 'Operation Harley' briefing with Gwent Police at Blaenavon Workmen's Hall.
- **29/07/2023** - Attended and gave a speech at the launch of Walter Waygood's Family of Blaenafon Photographic Exhibition at Blaenavon Workmen's Hall.
- **02/08/2023** - Attended the Summer Event Working Group Meeting to discuss the Blaenavon Country and Western Fayre.
- **03/08/2023** - Attended a meeting with a local business to discuss a communication submitted in respect of trader participation in the Country and Western Fayre.
- **04/08/2023** - Attended a meeting with Angela Lewis of the Blaenavon Over 50s Forum.
- **12/08/2023** - Attended and participated at the Blaenavon Country and Western Fayre.
- **13/08/2023** - Attended the Community Litter Pick at Blaenavon Town Centre.
- **17/08/2023** - Attended the Circulate Summer Fete.
- **17/08/2023** - Attended Rec Rock Performance at the Constitutional Club.
- **02/09/2023** - Attended Blaenavon Horticultural Society Show and presented prizes.
- **05/09/2023** - Accompanied Over 50s Forum on trip to Westminster.
- **07/09/2023** - Attended the Communications Working Group meeting to plan the newsletter and other communication channels.
- **07/09/2023** - Chaired Healthy Blaenavon Strategic Partnership.
- **08/09/2023** - Attended Bronwen Lewis Concert.
- **09/09/2023** - Attended Pontypool and Blaenavon Railway Company 40th Anniversary Gala.

Cllr Matthews also explained that he has had regular meetings with officers 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 26th of July 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 4 within the minutes as per the instructions from members. The Chief Officer has written to Sgt Ellis regarding his nonattendance at the July 2023 FCM. The response received has been forwarded to members for their observations.

Item 8 within the minutes as per the instructions from members. The Chief Officer has written to Alice Rees at Torfaen Canal Trust and requested an explanation regarding the task and finish group and why it was disbanded. Still awaiting a reply.

Item 10 within the minutes as per the instructions from members. The Chief Officer has submitted the Town Council's response to the Community Review in July 2023. The closing date was the 30th of August 2023. When any update is received from TCBC The Chief Officer will update members accordingly.

On the 12th of August 2023 together with fellow officers and Cllrs attended and set up the Country and Western Fayre at Broad Street car park. Despite the weather, this was a successful event.

On the 13th of August 2023 together with Kerry Jones and several Cllrs namely Cllr Beavan, Hunt, Wheeler, and Matthews also Alex Berger and members of the public, attended a litter pick at Broad Street car park and associated streets around Broad Street.

Since the last Full council meeting the Chief Officer's focus has been directed to the completion of the 2022/23 VAT return. This has now been completed and will be discussed further at agenda item 14.

As members are also aware, the 2022/23 audit requirements were submitted to Audit Wales on the 19th of July 2023. Since the last FCM further information has been requested from Audit Wales.

The information requested has also been submitted and the Chief Officer is now waiting the audit opinion pending any other requests.

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

Resolved: Members noted the update.

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

Cllr Wheeler informed members that on the 6th of September 2023 he attended the Mic Morris trustees meeting in Pontypool. Payments were made to several people including Kai Powell who received £1k from the trust.

Cllr Evans updated members that he attended the World Heritage Steering Group meeting. He stated that the Chief Officer did not receive the agreed invite to the meeting. Furthermore, there were no ward members present at the meeting.

A discussion took place amongst attendees regarding the lack of promotion and marketing for tourism within Torfaen for World Heritage. There is a vacancy for the position of World Heritage Marketing Chair for the group.

The group did not receive an update regarding the Police 'Operation Harley' as Cllr Horler (TCBC) was not present.

A proposal was discussed that Mynydd Gern Fawr (Bloreng Mountain) be handed to the Commoners on a twenty-year lease. Cllr Evans requested that the Torfaen officer provides communication and a letter to explain in full to the Town Council in order that the council can be involved.

There was further discussion around the wind farm. The application goes direct to the Welsh Assembly. Cllr Evans has requested for a Torfaen officer to contact the Town Council to discuss their presentation. He suggested that Rebecca Hartley be invited to a Town Council meeting to provide members with a thorough update.

Members asked if the working groups were currently meeting. Cllr Evans informed members that there were no updates at the meeting.

A further question was raised in relation to the current position of the Blaenavon Partnership group on the wind farm. Cllr Evans informed members that the group had objected to the wind farm.

Cllr Matthews updated members that he along with Cllr Cowles attended the Healthy Blaenavon Strategic Partnership meeting. The meeting was poorly attended with only four partners in total. The focus of the meeting revolved around promoting acts of kindness within the community.

The next meeting is scheduled for next week and as yet no agenda or invitations to contribute have been received from either Dave Leech or Emma Davis McIntosh.

It was felt by Cllrs who attended the meeting that the Town Council need to have a stronger in-put and more involvement to enable the group to succeed.

Resolved: Members noted the update.

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

Members were provided with the following update.

Summer projects and events delivered.

- Community swimming sessions - both sessions fully booked with 75 attendees.
- Animals' Interactive wellbeing session - fully booked with 30 attendees.
- Cook Stars sessions - fully booked with 40 attendees over the four sessions.
- Skateboarding sessions - no booking required. A consistent number of attendees, averaging 8/10 per session over the four sessions.
- Paddle boarding sessions - total of 23 over the four sessions with a great mix of ages taking part.
- Rec Rock - 6 young people took part and really enjoyed the project. The sessions were originally fully booked with 12 young people. Rec Rock received a lot of cancellations due to some of the attendees feeling unable to take part for personal reasons.

In partnership with TCBC CELT+ team, the 8-week yoga and mindfulness programme began at the beginning of September 2023. There has been a very positive response to these sessions from residents of various ages.

Alongside fellow officers and councillors Sophie helped plan and deliver the Country and Western Fayre held in August 2023.

Sophie also attended meetings with Healthy Blaenavon partners regarding a new 'Good Neighbour' initiative and promoted this within the community.

Sophie attended meetings with Walter Waygood regarding his work with the Heritage Youth Ambassadors, exhibition, and book, and attended the launch event at the Workmen's Hall.

Attended various meetings with Torfaen Sports Development Officers regarding sessions the town council currently run in partnership with them. This includes Family Club, Mums and Daughters, Teen Gym, and both Over 60s Exercise classes.

The sessions that paused over the summer holidays have now restarted with numbers increasing.

Sophie has corresponded with Torfaen Play regarding updates on the summer wellbeing camp at BHVC school and attended the school with Councillors.

In partnership with TCBC Multiply Team and Garnsychan Partnership plans have been made for a five week 'Cooking on a Budget' course at The Pantry, Blaenavon using the recipe book that the Town Council produced last year. Sessions are due to start on Friday 6th October 2023.

Sophie attended Connecting Torfaen Learning and Development event alongside various other Torfaen wide organisations to discuss partnership working within the community.

Met with Big Pit to discuss the Intergenerational Group and Dementia Group plans for the next academic year.

Created the 2023 year so far document which details the projects, events and work undertaken by the Council. This has been shared via social media and on posters throughout the town.

Attended meetings with Early Years/Flying Start team to discuss provision and support for families in Blaenavon and ways of working together to promote and deliver these.

Attended meetings with the new TCBC Community Capacity Builder for Blaenavon to discuss ways the Town Council can support their role and work together on upcoming projects within the community. An energy saving event is being held in the Workmen's Hall on the 3rd of October 3.30pm - 5.30pm where various free energy saving items will be on offer.

Attended meetings with newly appointed Wellbeing Officer for TVA regarding the activities in Blaenavon and how they can support going forward.

Met with the Supporting Activities Co Ordinator at Arthur Jenkins care home to discuss ideas for activities for residents.

Sophie has made regular visits to the school. The Little Voices group have now resumed after the summer holidays, which support the children's learning and wellbeing.

Sophie continues to attend various groups and activities to engage with and support residents.

The pumpkin competition, swimming sessions and Cook Star session for October & November have all been arranged and will be launched in the next few days. Sophie has assisted with the planning for the Christmas lights switch on and craft fayre both taking place in November 2023.

Sophie has recently attended a meeting at Victory Church, a discussion took place regarding contributions for this year's Harvest Festival.

As members are aware, Victory Church manage the Eastern Valley Foodbank and a consideration would be for the Town Council to supply a food hamper to support the festival. The estimated cost of the hamper would be between £40 - £50.

Sophie requested if members would consider making a determination to support supplying a food hamper for the church as part of the Harvest Festival which will support the foodbank provision.

Members had a brief discussion.

It was proposed by Cllr Beavan and seconded by Cllr Keen that a food hamper to the value of £50 be donated to support Victory Church Eastern Valley Foodbank Harvest festival.

All members in agreement.

Resolved: Sophie Johnson to purchase items to the value of £50 for inclusion into a food hamper.

10. To note and make any relevant determinations regarding a letter received from TCBC relating to the Ken Jones statue.

Members made a determination in April 2023 not to take ownership or responsibility of the Ken Jones statue.

The Chief Officer wrote to TCBC in May 2023 to inform them of the Council's decision not to take ownership or responsibility of the statue based on the information available at that time.

A response from Cllr Joanne Gauden, TCBC was received some five months later on 26th September 2023, which has been forwarded to Cllrs for their perusal.

The determination made by members in April cannot be changed for six months, therefore October 2023 by the six-month rule under Local Government Act 1972.

Members had a lengthy discussion with regards to the ownership and responsibility of the statue and the content of the letter from Cllr Gauden.

Cllr Matthews proposed that the content of the letter received from Cllr Gauden be noted and no further action be taken at present. This was seconded by Cllr Cowles.

All members in agreement.

Resolved: No further action regarding the Ken Jones statue at present.

11. To receive an update and make any relevant determinations in relation to the Christmas Light / Carol Service event 2023.

The Chief Officer updated members regarding the street trading licence. A variation request to the existing licence has been made to TCBC to authorise an evening event. This was submitted on the 8th of September 2023.

Consultation notices have been placed at the required five locations within the town. The cut-off date is the 3rd of October 2023. The variation application will then be heard at a TCBC licensing panel who will make the final decision. Members will be updated in due course.

Resolved: Members noted the update.

12. To discuss and evaluate the recent Bronwen Lewis concert held at the Workmen's Hall on the 8th of September 2023.

The concert was a successful event with over two hundred tickets sold. Feedback received has been very positive.

Payment of £3030 has been received into the Town Council bank account from Ticket Source.

Cllr Beavan proposed that a letter of thanks be sent to the volunteers at the Workmen's Hall. This was seconded by Cllr Keen.

All members in agreement.

Resolved: Chief Officer to send a letter of thanks to the Workmen's Hall on behalf of Blaenavon Town council.

13. To receive an update and make any relevant determinations regarding the Town Council Civic Awards 2023.

The Chief Officer explained to members that the public nomination forms will be advertised on the Town Council website and Facebook page this week for a two week period.

As previously agreed, members will need to decide on a corporate nomination. Cllr Matthews suggested a maximum of three nominations from members.

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

All members in agreement.

The corporate nominations can be discussed collectively during the October 2023 finance meeting along with the nominations from members of the public.

A provisional date of Friday the 3rd of November 2023 for the Mayor's Civic function and Civic Awards ceremony has been made with Blaenavon Constitutional Club.

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

All members in agreement.

Resolved: Maximum number of three corporate nominations set. The 3rd of November 2023 agreed by members for a joint Mayor's Civic function and Civic Award Ceremony.

14. To receive, discuss and make any relevant determinations regarding the 2022/23 VAT reclaim.

The Chief Officer presented to members the VAT reclaim for 2022/23 and explained that this had been submitted to HMRC for processing.

It was further explained that a VAT reimbursement in the sum of £5797.86 has subsequently been received into the Town Council bank account. This concluded the VAT reclaim for 2022/23.

Resolved: Members noted the update.

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.

None received.

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 by the Mayor Cllr Matthews.

NB for noting only by members as the consultation date had expired.

- **DEVELOPMENT PROPOSED:** Side extension.
- **LOCATION:** Coed Cae Road, Blaenavon, Torfaen

Resolved. No objections from members.

- **DEVELOPMENT PROPOSED:** Temporary modular building.
- **LOCATION:** Big Pit, Blaenavon, Torfaen.

Resolved. No objections from members.

- **DEVELOPMENT PROPOSED:** Change of use to out building.
- **LOCATION:** Heol Y Nant House, Forgeside, Blaenavon.

Resolved. No objections from members.

- **DEVELOPMENT PROPOSED:** Additional single-story extension.
- **LOCATION:** Middle Coed Cae Road, Blaenavon.

Resolved. No objections from members.

- **DEVELOPMENT PROPOSED:** Amend internal layout, external staircase.
- **LOCATION:** Trem Y Mynydd, Blaenavon.

Resolved. No objections from members.

- **DEVELOPMENT PROPOSED:** Residential development.
- **LOCATION:** Land North of Llanover Road, Blaenavon.

Resolved. No objections from members.

- **DEVELOPMENT PROPOSED:** Proposed change of use from Bank to Post Office/shop, single storey extension and external alterations.
- **LOCATION:** Broad Street, Blaenavon.

Resolved. No objections from members.

It was clarified that a further planning application had been received but it was not listed on the agenda therefore it cannot be discussed during the meeting. Members are encouraged to view the applications and contact the Chief Officer if there are any matters for discussion.

Resolved. No objections from members.

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

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

Members discussed the donation requests, namely:

- Cerebral Palsy Cymru.
- Friends of the Green - Blaenavon.
- SSAFA - The Armed Forces Charity.

Cerebral Palsy Cymru

A discussion took place amongst members regarding the request for financial assistance. It was decided not to award a donation to the national charity.

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

All members in agreement.

Resolved. Donation not supported.

Friends of the Green - Blaenavon.

Friends of the Green requested financial assistance of £250 from the Town Council to support their Christmas tree board fencing panel art project.

A discussion took place amongst members.

It was proposed by Cllr Beavan and seconded by Cllr Keen to that a donation of £250 be authorised.

All members in agreement.

Resolved. Donation of £250 authorised. Chief Officer to facilitate the transaction.

SSAFA - The Armed Forces Charity

A discussion took place amongst members regarding the request for financial assistance. It was decided not to award a donation to the national charity.

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

All members in agreement.

Resolved. Donation not supported.

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 19:46 hrs.

Signed Chairman: *W. Matthews*

Date: 25/10/23.