

**MAESTEG TOWN COUNCIL
COUNCIL MEETING**

Minutes of a meeting of the Council held at the Council Chamber,
Council Offices, Talbot Street, Maesteg, held on **Tuesday, 1st October 2013.**

PRESENT:

COUNCILLORS:

P W Jenkins (In the Chair)
P N John,
T T Mizen, D G Howells,
M Harpur, R Martin, R Collins, K Haste
W May, L Beedle, D K Edwards.

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs R L Thomas, J Terry,
G Davies, S B Smith, P White and I Williams.

Declarations of Interest received:

Cllrs D K Edwards, P John declared an interest in items relating to BCBC,
including Planning Matters as Members of that Authority.

Cllrs P W Jenkins, M Harpur, G D Howells and R Collins declared an interest
in the item regarding the Royal British Legion and Armistice correspondence as
members of the Club.

171 POLICE ISSUES

PC Matt Aitken part of the Neighbourhood Policing Team, relayed
Inspection Lewis' apologies, and circulated a copy of the statistics for the
month of September 2013.

1. Crime Figures

PC Aitken stated that a good result had been achieved following the
recent case of robbery in Caerau with the sentences that had been granted
to the offenders.

There has been an increase in dwelling burglaries; however, Council
was advised that charges have been brought in some cases and hopefully
a significant reduction will be noted with these offenders off the streets.
The Council was advised that the assault figures included domestic
attacks, and were all linked to licensed premises. Officers are targeting
these crimes in a special operation.

2. ASB – Town Centre

A report was made of an incident of ASB witnessed recently when young people were sitting in the town planters. Following a personal approach the youths did move on.

Members were asked to report each incident in order that it is recorded and can be attended.

3. Incidents in Nanttyffyllon

Members asked for an update on the issues worrying and being suffered by residents of Picton Street, Nanttyffyllon, where drug related activities reported are still on-going.

Officers have attended and are aware of the problems and are pursuing investigations.

The question of legal responsibilities of private landlords was raised.

Council was advised that they are limited and do not fall in line with social housing landlords. Officers do advise private landlords of incidents and receive some positive action; however, it is not enforceable. Where drug related problems exist, Officers are adopting a zero tolerance attitude and residents are urged to report each incident when it is occurring.

4. Arson

The Officer was asked if a camper van fire in Garth was being treated as arson and how likely it is that the same people are responsible for these attacks throughout the area. Members expressed their concern.

It was also reported that garden furniture and fencing had been set on fire on several occasions in the Garth area.

PC Aitken stated that he was not aware of the incidents and would make enquiries; however, he advised that the PCSO's are targeting schools etc. to educate young people and trying to build relationships.

5. Armed Response Unit

The Officer was asked about an armed response unit's visit recently to Caerau. Members advised that this was responding to reports that an offender had a tazar weapon at an address where Officers were required to execute a warrant. No tazar was found; however, other offences were detected.

The Mayor thanked PC Aitken for attending.

172 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on 3rd September 2013, copies of which had been circulated to Members were read and accepted as a true record.

RESOLVED: That the Minutes be approved, adopted and signed by the Mayor.

MATTERS ARISING

**173 MINUTE 143
MAYOR'S CHARITY FUND**

The Mayor's Charity Fund Committee extends a warm welcome to Members to the first official fundraising event, kindly hosted by the British Legion. An artist takes to the stage at the Club on Saturday, 19th October from 7.30pm and all proceeds go to the Charity Fund. Tickets are available via the Mayor or John Hughes at £3 each.

On Halloween, in conjunction with the Friends of Maesteg Welfare Park, the Committee are hosting 'Party in the Dark', a spooky night of Halloween fun at the Pavilion from 6 until 8pm. This includes a fancy dress competition, creepy story-telling and a torch-lit walk around the park as well as a BBQ. Tickets are limited to a maximum of 80 spaces. Members in particular with young children or grandchildren are most welcome. Tickets from the Mayor - no more than two children per paying adult (£3 adults, children free).

RESOLVED: That the information be noted.

174 **MINUTE 144**
FIRST CYMRU NO 30 SERVICE

Response received from the Operations Manager of First Cymru, stating that he is happy to meet with Members; however, he will require further detailed information on dates and times when the services have failed to turn up in order that investigations within the Company can be made. All vehicles are covered with GPS and can be tracked, providing the above information is received.

Copy of an application from First Cymru, to change details of local service registration submitted to Department of Transport received for information and providing details of proposed timetables.

Members did not accept this response, and those who use this service regularly stated that no log had yet been taken by passengers; however, stated that if the buses are fitted with GPS then the Company should know when they deviate from the route or are cancelled. It was also stated that the drivers have to keep a written log of the service. It was therefore

RESOLVED: That the Company be advised that the information they require is already in their possession and a meeting be arranged forthwith.

175 **MINUTE 146**
FOODBANK VOUCHER ISSUE

Letter received from H Irranca-Davies MP regarding the Council's request that the above matter be taken with the DWP, enclosing a copy of the reply received.

The DWP Complaints Resolution Manager expressed concern on the issues raised by Council and following an investigation assurance has been given that any customers querying foodbank vouchers are advised of the circumstances in which these vouchers can be issued. The Job Centre ascertains if benefit is being paid, or if a short term advance is applicable, or assistance from the Discretionary Assistance Fund, and only issues a voucher if it is applicable. The staff are fully aware of the CAB opening times.

Members discussed the constraints that the Job Centre have to work under, and the criteria that must be used to issue food vouchers. Council also referred to the CAB consideration of extending its opening hours in Maesteg, and were advised that the Clerks had been asked to log the number of clients that call at the office on Fridays; however, it was stated that this will not be a true reflection of the figure requiring vouchers as people are now realising that CAB is closed on Fridays. Members also asked for any update from Credit Union on this matter, but no further information was available.

RESOLVED: That

1. A letter be sent to CAB requesting an update on the decision on opening hours in Maesteg.
2. The Clerk contact Credit Union for an update on its application to issue vouchers.

176 **MINUTE 147**
MAESTEG CEMETERY

Reminder e-mail sent to BCBC for response on the complaint details in Minute 147, 5TH and 25TH September 2013.

Council was advised that a pipe has been installed at the top section of the Cemetery and the pipe is also on site in readiness for a tap.

RESOLVED: That the information be noted.

177 **MINUTE 151**
BRIDGEND CONVERSATION AREAS
HERITAGE INTERPRETATION PANEL SCHEME

Application submitted.

RESOLVED: That the information be noted.

178 **MINUTE 153**
BCBC TOWN AND COMMUNITY COUNCIL FORUM

Confirmation received that a report will be submitted before the next meeting of the Forum, connected to the Town Council's suggestions, though it will be called the Designated Management Plan and will relate to the broader areas other than just BCBC town centres.

RESOLVED: That the information be noted.

179 **MINUTE 162**
MAESTEG MARKET

Members are reminded of the official launch for the market on 17th October 2013.

Members were given a verbal report by Cllr Edwards, that there is a 90% occupancy in the indoor market and 62% interest in the new units.

RESOLVED: That the information be noted.

180 **MINUTE 163**
MAESTEG HERITAGE WALKS

Step Back in Time

Tuesday, 29th October 2013, 10.30 am.

Starting point Maesteg Sports Centre.

Walk around Maesteg led by Roy Meredith.

Lunch at Glamorgan Archives, Cardiff, bus departs from Sports Centre at 12 noon for lunch at 12.45, followed by tour of Glamorgan Archives and introduction to the records relating to Maesteg and a chance to consult the documents. Bus departs for Maesteg at 4 pm.

RESOLVED: That the information be noted.

181 MINUTE 164
PLANS FOR WIND ENERGY PROJECT AT FOEL TRAWSANT

Members who had attended the information day held in Nantyllyllon reported on the details provided, stating that this was a substantially enormous project, although the wind turbines would not be visible from the majority of areas within the Valley, the project site would be surrounding most of the boundary. The current proposal is for 16 turbines, with the potential for many more. The company is working within Government energy guidelines and restrictions, with seismic level surveys being undertaken to check vibration levels will not affect the area.

It was also stated that this is a WG designated Tan8 area.

RESOLVED: That the information be noted.

182 MINUTE 166
COUNCIL 2013 NEWSLETTER

Arising from the above Minute the Clerk advised that when arrangements were being made with Royal Mail for circulation of the Newsletters, it had arisen that the items needed to be sent to Swindon for collation for distribution purposes. Therefore, a courier was required for this purpose, and having received several quotes which were considered by the Mayor and Deputy, a contractor from Bridgend was engaged at a cost of £85 + Severn crossing toll.

Confirmation of this action is required.

The Newsletters have arrived at Swindon and will be delivered locally throughout the two post code areas, between 7th-11th October.

RESOLVED: That the information be noted and action taken be confirmed.

**183 LIST OF PAYMENTS MADE BY THE COUNCIL
DURING THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER 2013**

RESOLVED: That the List of Payments made by the Council during the month of September 2013 amounting to £13826.42 copy of which had been circulated to Members, be accepted, confirmed and signed by the Mayor.

CORRESPONDENCE

**184 ULTIMATE DANCE CREW (UNDER 10'S)
NODDFA COMMUNITY CENTRE**

A letter of congratulations had been sent to the above following their recent success of winning third place at the 2013 UDO World Street Dance Championships.

Confirmation of action taken required.

RESOLVED: That the action taken be confirmed.

185 COUNCIL CHAMBER HIRE

Application received from Maesteg U3A to use a room in the Council Offices in order to hold French study group meetings, on the first Friday of each month, the first session 4th October 2013.

Members are advised that the room is available as Want to Work have changed days to Wednesdays and Thursdays.

Confirmation of action taken required

RESOLVED: That permission be granted for the use of the Chamber at the usual fee of £10 per session.

186 BRIDGEND ROAD CONTROLLED CROSSING

E-mail received from BCBC stating that the Public Notice and second consultation stage on the above proposal has now closed and no objections have been received. The BCBC Design Section will now

provide a final costing to Maesteg Town Council and if that is agreed the works can be progressed.

RESOLVED: That the information be noted

187 SLCC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice of the above received which will be held in Leicestershire on 18th October 2013.

RESOLVED: That the information be noted

**188 SECTION 14 ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
TEMPORARY CLOSURE CHURCH STREET BRIDGE**

Notice received of the above which is necessary for bridge maintenance, commencing on 7th October 2013 until such time as the works are completed for a maximum period of 18th months.

RESOLVED: That the information be noted

189 TOWN GUIDES

Information received from a publishing company regarding the publication of town guides. The Company claims to be able to supply up to 12,000 gratis copies of a town guide for distribution, plus a PDF format copy for the council to upload to its website. Each publishing agreement is individually tailored to a Council's objectives and produced on an annual or bi-annual basis. Full contact details are provided should Council wish to hold talks with the company.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk seek further information for consideration.

190 **GRANT THORNTON**
R L EDWARDS

A progress report in respect of the above case is available to view on www.grant-thornton.co.uk/portal. Full details available to Members upon request.

RESOLVED: That the information be noted

191 **TIDAL LAGOON SWANSEA BAY**

Newsletter received on the above providing an update on the progress of the project.

Full details available to Members upon request.

Presentation on the findings of the Environmental Impact Assessment 17th October 2013. Details available upon request.

RESOLVED: That the weblink be sent to all Members.

192 **TY HAFAN 'CWTCH' NEWSLETTER AUTUMN/WINTER 2013**

Copy of the above received which is available to Members upon request.

RESOLVED: That the information be noted

193 **MAESTEG TOWN COUNCIL**
COAT OF ARMS PLAQUE

Application for a plaque received from Maesteg Gleemen, who are on tour to Cornwall on October 11th to a joint concert with Mevageesy MVC in St Austel for presentation.

Following consideration it was

RESOLVED: That the Council provide a plaque of the Council's Coat of Arms to Maesteg Gleemen for presentation in St Austel.

194 **WG CONSULTATION DOCUMENT**
‘PUBLIC SERVICE WORKFORCE: DRAFT GUIDANCE AND
DIRECTIONS WHICH INCLUDE A CODE OF PRACTICE ON
WORKFORCE MATTERS’

The principles underpinning the proposed Code, which builds on the existing Code issued in 2003, are promoting those of equality. Responses to be submitted by 20th December 2013.

Members were advised that there could be implications from any new measures in this Document, and in order to protect staff in Wales Council should be careful in its response. It was

RESOLVED: That Cllr Howells formulate a response on behalf of the Council and send it to the Clerk for submission by the due date.

195 **RCT PENSION FUND**
AGM – 18TH NOVEMBER 2013

Notice of the above received to be held at Clydach Vale. The meeting will commence at 10.30 am until lunchtime, with lunch provided. The speakers will be David Cullinan – State Street and Alison Murray - AON Hewitt

RESOLVED: That Cllr D G Howells attend if available or W May as substitute.

196 **REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY**
10TH NOVEMBER 2013

Cllrs Jenkins, Harpur, Howells and Collins having declared an interest took no part in the discussion on this issue.

The Council are asked to consider the usual donation to the Royal British Legion towards the above (£100 donated in 2013) and the purchase of two wreaths (£20 each) for laying by the Mayor & Deputy Mayor at Maesteg and Caerau respectively.

The Council is also asked to consider arrangements for the cleansing of the cenotaphs at Maesteg & Caerau.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk make all the necessary arrangements for Armistice:

- The Cleaning of the two monuments
- The purchase of the two wreaths at a cost of £40
- The Council agree to a donation of £100 towards the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal under Section 137 of the LGA (as amended).

**197 TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURES FOR EVENTS
TOWN POLICE CLAUSES ACT 1847**

Notice received of a temporary closure of Brynmawr Place, St Michael's Road, Station Hill, Commercial Street, Talbot Street, Church Street, Castle Street Maesteg and Cymmer Road, Duffryn Road, and Caerau Square, Caerau in the interest of safety and traffic control during the Remembrance Service. 10th November 2013.

RESOLVED: That the information be noted.

**198 LLANGOLLEN INTERNATIONAL MUSICAL EISTEDDFOD
2013**

Letter received outlining the success of the above held in June this year, towards which the Council provided a donation under Section 137 of the LGA (as amended), together with a Souvenir Programme where the donation is recorded.

RESOLVED: That the information be noted.

199 APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

1. L EVANS

Application received from the parents of the above youth from Caerau who has won a scholarship with the AFD Bath, for a full time education and football programme. This had been dependant on GCSE results which had proved sufficient to begin attending at the start of the new term in early September. The Council were asked to support this local youth achieve his potential both in education and in his football career.

Due to the timescale the Mayor and Deputy had considered the application and agreed to donate the sum of £150 to Liam towards his expenses.

Confirmation of the action taken is required.

Following a discussion when congratulation were expressed, it was

RESOLVED: That the action taken be confirmed, with the payment made from Section 137 of the Local Government Act (as amended).

2. MINUTE 165

CAERAU CDT BMX TRACK

Members were advised that discussions are on-going on this issue, with further meetings planned to try to ensure that this Track is maintained for public use, as well as by the Club.

RESOLVED: To await further reports.

3. MAESTEG PARK FC MINI AND JUNIORS

Letter received from the above advising that the Club is solely reliant on subscriptions and donations received, with membership of 60 children players. The Council is asked to consider making a donation towards the training equipment and kits.

Following consideration when the Council noted the number of local children that play for this Club, it was

RESOLVED: That the Council donate £200 to the Club under Section 137 of the Local Government Act (as amended).

200 DELEGATES REPORTS

1. Maesteg Town Hall

A written report had been circulated to Members following the meeting of the above Board held on 17th September 2013.

Details of the Box Office arrangements were provided, together with details of the AGM, to be held on 6th November 2013 at 7pm.

The need to recruit new members on the Board was also discussed.

Council were also advised that a grant of £29,000 has been achieved from the Arts Council for Wales for marketing and promoting events, which is a positive step.

2. Llynfi Valley River & Environmental Group

Members were advised that a clean-up at the top end of the Valley had been undertaken with 2 trailer loads of rubbish removed again. The Group had also de-littered the new RBL Garden of Remembrance at St David's Church. A fridge freezer has been deposited at the rear of Caerau Road, which the Clerk agreed to make arrangements with BCBC to remove for environmental purposes.

Cllrs John and Edwards left the meeting at this point.

201 PLANS

The following plans received from BCBC were presented for consideration:

Ref: T/13/54/TPO
Applicant: ABM University Healthboard
Glanrhyd Hospital, Tondu Road, Bridgend
Development: Crown reduction of oak trees
Location: Maesteg Community Hospital, Neath Road, Maesteg

Ref: P/13/670/BCB
Applicant: BCBC Regeneration
Civic Offices, Bridgend
Development: Installation of public art feature in the new market square
Location: Maesteg Square, Talbot Street, Maesteg

Ref: P/13/676/BCB
Applicant: BCBC Regeneration
Civic Offices, Bridgend
Development: Change of use from A1 to A3 for 3 units
Location: Maesteg Square, Talbot Street, Maesteg

Ref: T/13/53/CON
Applicant: St Michael's Church, c/o Rev Geraldine Blythe,
Brynmaur Place, Maesteg
Development: Remove conifer tree and carry out various works to
various lime trees
Location: St Michael's Church, Maesteg

Ref: P/13/700/BCB
Applicant: K Fosbury BCBC
Development: Change of use from B1 B2 & B8 to B1 B2 B8 with a
10% retail trade allowance
Location: Units 1-9 Starter Units, Heol Ty Gwyn, Maesteg

RESOLVED: That the Council **SUPPORT** the above proposals.

Notice of withdrawal of the following proposal has been received from BCBC:

Ref: P/13/577/FUL
Development: Shower Room, addition for disabled person
Location: 20 Golden Terrace, Maesteg

RESOLVED: That the information be noted.

202 **PLANNING DETERMINATIONS**

PERMISSION GRANTED:

Former Garn Stores	Construct 4 outbuildings to house rainwater harvesting Equipment (Plot 1-4)
4 Church Street, Maesteg	Replace existing rear single storey ext with new, re-use blocked up opening on side elevation
8 Talbot Street, Maesteg	Installation of new fascia & projecting sign at Greggs
6 Brynmaur Place, Maesteg	Convert grassed area to a drive, remove front wall, and drop kerb, erect new pillar and gates

5 South Parade, Maesteg	Detached garage
44 Princess Street, Maesteg	Proposed two storey extension
50 Ystad Celyn, Maesteg 2 nd	Storey additional over existing garage
32 Wesley Street, Maesteg	Store/Shed extension to rear

RESOLVED: That the information be noted.

**Read and accepted at a
Meeting of the Council
held on the 5th November 2013**

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Mayor