

MAESTEG TOWN COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of a meeting of the Council held at the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Talbot Street, Maesteg, on **Tuesday, 7th November 2017.**

PRESENT:

COUNCILLORS: I A Williams (**Mayor**)
W May, L Beedle, P W Jenkins, D K Edwards,
D L Evans, R Collins, R Penhale-Thomas, L Thomas,
C Reeves, P Davies, A James, S B Smith,
A R Davies and R L Lewis.

APOLOGIES for absence received from Councillors G Bevan and P White.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST:

Cllrs D K Edwards, R Penhale-Thomas, P Davies and R Collins declared an interest in items relating to Bridgend County Borough Council, including Development Control.

His Worship the Mayor, Cllr I A Williams, declared an interest in items relating to Llangynwyd Middle Community Council.

The Clerk made the Council's Register of Interest available for Members to update.

208 POLICE MATTERS

Sgt Bradley was welcomed to the meeting.

Crime Figures

Crime statistics were presented to the Members for the month of October 2017, comparing them to the crimes committed in the various categories for 2016.

Maesteg Crime Statistics for October 2017

	Caerau / Nanty	Maesteg East	Maesteg West	Llan	Total in category
Robbery	0	0	0	0	0
Dwelling burglary	2	3	2	0	7
Burglary other	2	0	0	0	2
Theft of vehicle	3	0	2	1	6 (all secure, 1xmotorbike)
Theft from vehicle	1	1	0	1	3 (all secure)
All other theft	3	6	7	0	16
Damage	12	3	7	0	22
Assault with injury	9	2	13	5	29
All crime total	32	15	31	7	85
Anti-social behaviour	33	14	17	1	65
Drink Driving	0	1	1	0	2

Maesteg Crime Statistics for October 2016

	Caerau / Nanty	Maesteg East	Maesteg West	Llan	Total in category
Robbery	0	0	0	0	0
Dwelling burglary	3	1	1	0	5
Burglary other	1	1	3	0	5
Theft of vehicle	0	0	1	0	1 (motorcycle recovered at Maesteg Welfare Park)
Theft from vehicle	3	0	0	0	3 (2xsecure, 1xtheft of Front wheels)
All other theft	4	5	6	0	15
Damage	10	8	8	1	27
Assault with injury	4	2	4	1	11
All crime total	25	17	23	2	67
Anti-social behaviour	14	11	25	2	52
Drink Driving	0	0	1	0	1

Members highlighted concerns:

- Incident Halloween Night; no police presence in the Town.
- Anti-social behaviour bonfire Night.
Sgt Bradley, confirmed the structure of the Police team in Maesteg. Council's concerns would be reported to the Inspector.
- Increase in 'Works' vehicles being broken into.
Sgt Bradley updated Members on current position and confirmed that the Policing Team had been assigned to target this vehicle crime.
- Commercial burglaries
Members were updated on the strategies put in place to target these crimes.
- Increase of Anti-social behaviour Caerau Ward
Continued to be monitored and addressed.
- Issues at junction of Park View/Llwydarth Road; an improvement noted.
Continue to be monitored.
- Herman Road parking on pavements; concern that parents with prams and children walking to School have to walk on the main highway.
Residents have been contacted.
- Parking issues on Caerau Road and rear lane.
PCSO has checked the vehicles with DVLA and they are taxed and insured.
Awaiting information on ownership of rear lane.
- Nantyffyllon Primary School - evening activity.
Discussion held with the School, resolved.

209 MAESTEG BRANCH ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

The Mayor welcomed representatives of the Maesteg Branch of the Royal British Legion.

The Branch sincerely thanked Maesteg Town Council for their support in allowing them to house the exhibition commemorating the Battle of Passchendaele.

The Council received an account of "Jeremiah Cosgrave, Royal Dublin Fusiliers" who had enlisted at the Council Chambers and who sadly died at the Battle.

Links had been made with his family in Eire who had recently visited Maesteg Town and were welcomed by the Mayor at the Council Chambers.

The Mayor was presented with the Memorial Plaque in honour of the bravery of Jeremiah Cosgrave.

RESOLVED: The Mayor, Councillor Idris Williams, on behalf of Maesteg Town Council, thanked the Branch and confirmed that the Plaque will be placed in the Council Chamber.

210 COMMUNITY FURNITURE AID

Representatives of the above registered Charity were welcomed. The Council received a presentation on the work undertaken by the organisation and the support offered to homeless residents. It is their aim to furnish homes of the Most in Need, creating homes and restoring dignity. Examples of their support were noted. The organisation work with agencies and charities to provide the basic essentials to create a home, for a set price that covers running costs. The Group requested the help of the Council in spreading this message to others.

RESOLVED: The Clerk to place posters and fliers on behalf of the Charity in the Council Offices and also advise Citizens Advice Bureaux.

The Mayor, Councillor Idris Williams, on behalf of Maesteg Town Council commended the work and support given to “The Most in Need” by Community Furniture Aid.

211 SOUTH WALES MINER’S MUSEUM

Representatives of the above organisation were unable to attend the meeting to receive the Official Maesteg Town Council’ Coat of Arms Plaque in recognition of being awarded the Queen’s Award for Voluntary Service 2017. Apologies were received.

RESOLVED: The Clerk to confirm the Council’s congratulations and to forward to the organisation the Coat of Arms Plaque.

212 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on 3rd October 2017; copies of which had been circulated to Members, were read and accepted as a true record.

MATTERS ARISING

213 MINUTE 173 HIGHWAY MEETING BRIDGE STREET/CASTLE STREET

Following the recent meeting regarding the above location, BCBC have agreed to commission their highway design engineers to investigate the feasibility of the re-alignment of the kerb line and road markings to see if it works; if affirmed, the scheme will be designed and costed. However, unfortunately BCBC do not have funding to carry out the construction works, but are able to fund the feasibility and any design costs.

RESOLVED: To await developments.

214 MINUTE 177 BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL TOWN AND COMMUNITY FUND 2017/2018

Members were advised that the Council's bid submitted for the 2017/2018 Town and Community Fund had not been successful. The reason for this was that Bridgend County Borough Council felt they should focus on bids that support the Community Asset Transfer. It was further advised that £100k will be available for 2018/2019 and the criteria would be that capital funding through the Town & Community Council Fund would only be considered on bids that support Community Asset Transfer. Council has not received formal notification of this decision from BCBC.

The Clerk confirmed that the above was not set down as main criteria.

RESOLVED: To write to BCBC for clarification.

215 MINUTE 201 MINE WATER DRILLING, BREWERS SITE, BLAENCAERAU ROAD, CAERAU

**E-MAIL RECEIVED FROM SKILLS AND SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT MANAGER, BCBC**

“We received telephone calls yesterday from residents and from MTC Councillors, hence this email to you, regarding an urgent meeting which has been convened by Bridged CBC in response to concerns raised by residents of Blaencaerau Road regarding some test drilling which was due to start on 18th September. This has been delayed but is scheduled to commence later this week.

We have convened the meeting being held today only last Friday 15th September and residents received letters inviting them to the meeting on Saturday 16th September by registered post. It will take place at 1pm today with 6 residents invited who presented themselves to the information sessions at Noddfa Chapel w/b 11th September. We arranged the meeting today as quickly as possible with the aim of allaying fears and their concerns and have shoehorned it into everyone's schedule who can provide good information and advice.

There have been requests to hold this in Caerau but this would add to time issues for all concerned and maybe make the meeting impossible and we are keen to hold it as soon as we can. We also didn't know if there is a room available at a short notice. As it is anticipated that the drillers will be on site later this week so getting the meeting done before that is a priority.

We also learnt that one resident wanted it held at a later date in Caerau so that more local people could be alerted and attend. Our fear about this is that it would not add to clarity for those concerned if it was an open meeting but just turn into a shouting match.

We would like to offer apologies for calling the drill site 'Caerau Colliery' in the letter as it transpires that the site sits outside the former boundary of the colliery. Ceri Williams, the Low Carbon Officer did apologise directly to residents for this error in a meeting held last week in Caerau.

We have heard reports that there has been tweeting about this issue raising questions about planning. While this was an issue for the main contractor, Cardiff University, to resolve at project design stage we have checked this out and are confident that as long as the rig is not there for more than 28 consecutive days, is more than 50m away from residential properties and is less than 12m in height, the exploratory works would be a form of permitted development under Part 22 of the regulations. This means it does not require planning permission.”

RESOLVED: To note the information.

216 **MINUTE 205**
APPLICATION FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Letter of thanks received for donations of £100 from:

- **Bridgend Carers Centre**
Confirmation received that this Charity does work to raise awareness of the caring role in the Bron-y-Garn Surgery and are currently looking at other locations within the Maesteg area.
- **Sandville Self Help Foundation**

RESOLVED: To note the information.

217 **LIST OF PAYMENTS FOR THE MONTH OF OCTOBER 2017**

RESOLVED: That the List of Payments made by the Council during the month of October 2017; copy of which had been circulated to Members, be accepted, confirmed and signed by the Mayor.

CORRESPONDENCE

218 **CONGRATULATIONS**

Mr & Mrs Jackson celebrated their Golden Wedding anniversary in October 2017. A bouquet of flowers and the Council's official congratulations card was sent to them. Cost out of Part B of the Mayor's Allowance.

RESOLVED: To confirm action taken.

219 **MONITORING OFFICER**

Correspondence received from the Monitoring Officer advising that he is experiencing increased incidences of Members going directly to him for advice. To date Mr Jolly has not turned anyone away; however, he is concerned that he may be undermining the Clerks' role (albeit unintentionally) but also be drawn into the politics of respective Authorities. He feels as well that there may be a possibility of him not

being given the full facts and this advice being misunderstood and then relayed to others. Mr Jolly, therefore in future, will direct all Members to their Clerks, whilst assuring Members that he is available to the Clerks should they wish to discuss any matter. The Clerk had referred this information to Members.

RESOLVED: To confirm action taken.

220 RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT – MAESTEG STREET NAMING COMPETITION

Request received from Morganstone inviting the Council to forward suggestions of street naming of Maesteg Extra Care Scheme and Residential Development. Closing date was 6th October 2017. Due to the short timescale, the Clerk forwarded the information to Members.

RESOLVED:

- (i) Action confirmed.
- (ii) The Clerk to write to Morganstone advising them of the Members' disappointment of receiving the late request.

221 CODE OF CONDUCT TRAINING

Confirmation that the Mayor, Councillor I Williams, Councillors L Beedle, P W Jenkins, W May, D K Edwards, D Evans and L Thomas attended the training at Bridgend County Borough Council.

RESOLVED: To note the information.

222 JAPANESE KNOTWEED SPRAYING – 2017 PROGRAMME

Confirmation that the Council's contractor has completed this year's programme.

RESOLVED: Information noted.

223 ENVIRONMENT – DAFFODIL PROGRAMME 2017

Confirmation that the daffodil bulbs have been delivered; schools, environment groups etc. have received their quota as agreed by Council. The Council's contractor/Councillors are in the process of planting the bulbs in areas identified by Council. Thanks received on behalf of the Caerau Growers.

RESOLVED: To note the information.

224 CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU – MAESTEG

E-mail received from the Deputy Chief Officer advising that they will be closing on Thursday of each week as of the 2nd November 2017.

However, they will be running a service from Hartshorne House, Health & Wellbeing Centre in Maesteg on Mondays and Thursdays 9.30am-2.00 pm . The organisation will be continuing to advertise the changes, in their offices, on social media, word of mouth and via leaflets. Tuesday and Wednesday of each week will continue as normal.

During discussion it was noted that CAB only pay towards the service charges, as outlined in the Lease Agreement.

RESOLVED:

- (i) The Clerk to write to Bridgend Borough Citizens Advice Bureau to ascertain the reason for moving the service to Hartshorne House as noted above.
- (ii) To advise that the advertising of this change had not been effective as many members of the public attended the Council Offices on Thursday 2nd November and had to be re-directed.

225 PLAY WALES BULLETIN OCTOBER 2017

The above bulletin received from Play Wales. Information available for Members.

RESOLVED: To note the information.

226 DRAFT BUDGET/WELSH TAX REPORT/RATES AND BANDS

The Finance Secretary, Mark Drakeford, has:

- unveiled a new budget for Wales, reflecting the Welsh Government's new tax and borrowing powers.
- published the **Welsh Tax Policy Report (available on Welsh Government Website)**. The report sets out progress to date on the tax policy framework and proposes a short list of ideas for new taxes.
- announced the new **rates and bands for Land Transaction Tax (LTT) and Landfill Disposals Tax (LDT)**, published within the Welsh Tax Policy Report.

Welsh Government are keen to work with people and organisations across Wales to learn more about views and evidence. They welcome any questions or to have further discussions: Gov.wales@welshtreasury
WelshTreasury@gov.wales Draft Report available for Members information.

RESOLVED: To note the information.

227 BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR WALES: REVISED PROPOSALS REPORT 2018 REVIEW

The Commission has published its Revised Proposals for changes to Parliamentary constituencies in Wales. Available on the Commissions' website: www.bcw2018.org.uk or at 54 public locations across Wales.

Representations about the Revised Proposals should be made within 8 weeks of publication. As the proposals have been published on an all-Wales basis, the Commission asks that all representations make it clear which area or areas they concern. All representations received by the Commission will be acknowledged. The representation period will end on 11 December 2017.

RESOLVED:

- (i) Members of Council to review the revised proposals on the Commissioners' website. (Copy available in Clerk's Office).
- (ii) Discuss at December meeting to respond by due date.

228 BURIAL CHARGES FOR CHILDREN

In March of this year, the First Minister committed to “step in and make sure that burial charges for children will no longer apply in Welsh Communities”. This was in recognition of the significant variation in current approach to charging across local government in terms of whether fees are charged and even how a child is defined for these purposes. It is hard to justify that a family burying a child in one part of Wales could pay hundreds of pounds in local government fees while a family in another part of Wales would pay nothing.

Welsh Government have been considering how best to achieve this and concluded that it should proceed on a partnership basis, working with local government to agree a “Memorandum of Understanding” (MOU) setting out a shared agreement not to charge any fees in relation to the burial or cremation of a child and to use a common definition of a child as aged up to 18.

To help to progress this issue further, One Voice Wales have been asked on behalf of the Welsh Government to identify those Community and Town councils who are actively operating cemeteries or crematoria or both; with the intention of including them within the MOU. Welsh Government appreciates the financial implications of not charging and therefore, when agreement is reached and a common set of standards in place, an appropriate amount of funding will be made available in recognition. It is proposed that there be an expectation, explicitly covered within the MOU, that local authorities would distribute a proportionate amount of the money received to community and town councils in their area who have agreed to stop charging. Should you have any queries in respect of this email then they should be addressed to john.davies@gov.wales

RESOLVED: Information noted.

229 BAVO – VOLUNTEER TRAINING TO BE A PART IN CREATING SHARED NATIONAL STORY FOR NHS

Volunteer training days will take place at V2C Resource Centre, Nolton Street, Bridgend, on Wednesday 15th November and Thursday 16th November from 10am-4pm. Further information available for members.

RESOLVED: To note information.

230 EQUALITY, LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE – NEW CONSULTATIONS: PUBLIC SERVICES OMBUDSMEN (WALES) BILL

The Equality, Local Government and Communities Committee are undertaking an inquiry into the general principles of the Public Services Ombudsman (Wales) Bill. Further details about the Bill, Terms of Reference and the accompanying Explanatory Memorandum can be found on the [Bill webpage](#).

<http://senedd.assembly.wales/documents/s67128/Consultation%20Letter%20-%2011%20October%202017.pdf>

Terms of reference

In scrutinising the general principles of the Bill at Stage 1, the Committee is invited to consider the following terms of reference:

To consider

- The general principles of the Public Services Ombudsman (Wales) Bill and the need for legislation to deliver the stated policy intention,
- The provisions of the Bill which set out the new powers for the Ombudsman to:
 - accept oral complaints;
 - Undertake own initiative investigations;
 - Investigate private medical treatment including nursing care in a public/private health pathway;
 - Undertake a role in relation to complaints handling standards and procedures.

- Any potential barriers to the implementation of the Bill’s provisions and whether the Bill takes account of them,
- The appropriateness of the powers in the Bill for Welsh Ministers to make subordinate legislation (as set out in Chapter 6 of Part 1 of the Explanatory Memorandum).
- Whether there are any unintended consequences arising from the Bill, and – the financial implications of the Bill (as set out in Part 2 of the Explanatory Memorandum).

The Committee invite the Council to submit written evidence to assist in its consideration of the Bill; using the terms of reference and guidance notes. Submissions should arrive by Friday 1 December 2017.

Electronic copy of submission to: SeneddCommunities@assembly.wales

Full report available for Members with Clerk.

RESOLVED:

- (i) To note the information.
- (ii) Councillors to consider and submit any comments by the due date.

231 SUSTAINABLE WALES – CELEBRATING 20 YEARS

Sustainable Wales Cymru Gynhaliol is celebrating 20 years as the first Welsh NGO promoting sustainable responses to the cultural challenges to be faced. In celebrating this landmark a convivial evening has been arranged to celebrate, Thursday 16th November 2017, 7 pm at Porthcawl Grand Pavilion. Members of the Council invited.

RESOLVED: To note the information.

232 TY HAFAN – CWTCH NEWSLETTER AUTUMN/WINTER

The above newsletter available for Members’ information.

RESOLVED: To note the information.

233 SANDVILLE SELF HELP CENTRE NEWSLETTER

The above Newsletter available for Members' information.

RESOLVED: To note the information.

234 BRIDLEWAY 77

In response to the Council's request that clearance work is required on the above Bridleway, confirmation received from the Rights of Way Officer, BCBC, that the matter has been passed to the Countryside Access Maintenance Officer who will carry out an inspection prior to quotes being sought.

RESOLVED: To await development.

235 CONSULTATION ON PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO LOCAL AUTHORITIES (CAPITAL & ACCOUNTING) (WALES) REGULATIONS 2003

Council advised that the Welsh Government would like views on proposed amendments to the Local Authorities (Capital Finance & Accounting) (Wales) Regulations 2003. A copy of the consultation documents and the response form can be found at:

<https://consultations.gov.wales/consultations/proposed-amendments-local-authorities-capital-finance-and-accounting-wales-regulations>

Comments required by 12 January 2018. Information available for members.

RESOLVED: To refer to BCBC Town and Community Forum to agenda for discussion at next meeting.

236 ONE VOICE WALES – CAPTURING PLANNING IN IMAGES – COMPETITION TO PICTURE WALES

The Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI) is currently running a competition 'Capturing Planning in Images – Competition to Picture Wales'. The competition aims to collect photographs, plans and

illustrations which represent different aspects of planning in Wales. The overall winning entry will receive one year's family membership to Cadw sites. Successful entries may also be published in Planning Policy Wales and the National Development Framework.

Welsh Government Planning Directorate has been working with the RTPI on this particular competition and information and contact details available for Members from the Clerk. Closing date 10th November 2017.

RESOLVED: Members noted the information.

237 PLANNING AID WALES – FREE PLANNING TRAINING

Information received of a free planning training workshop for Community and Town Councillors at Civic Offices, Angel Street, Bridgend, CF31 4WB, on Monday 18th December 2017.

The workshop will focus on planning applications. Planning officers from the local planning authority will be attending to answer questions. Attending the workshop will help your Council to better understand how planning applications are dealt with and how you can influence decisions. Two free places available for each Community and Town Council.

This workshop is one in a Wales-wide programme of events to be held in all 25 planning authority areas, with funding from Welsh Government.

RESOLVED: Councillors S B Smith and P W Jenkins, members of Planning Committee, to attend. The Clerk to confirm.

238 REFERRALS MONTH OF OCTOBER 2017

- **RECYCLING AND WASTE COLLECTIONS**

Several complaints from residents with regards to the Waste and Recycling reported.

RESPONSE: Immediate responses received that matters being addressed and to allow at least 10 days for delivery for equipment

- **OVERGROWTH**

Referral made regarding litter, weeds and overgrowth at the steps leading from Bridge Street down too Castle Street/Bridgend Road, making it very hazardous for residents to walk up and down.

RESPONSE : Location inspected by BCBC and they have identified that work is required, and will be actioned when resources allow.

Referral made regarding overgrowth on footpath leading from junction Crown Row to Crown Road.

RESPONSE: BCBC have investigated this location and at present do not deem it necessary for any action to be taken. But have ensured that the location will be monitored more closely during their regular routine inspections.

Referral made regarding several complaints from residents and members of the public visiting the hospital, that the pavement is covered with leaves and very slippery and dangerous.

Referral made regarding grass verges within the location of Ystad Celyn; require clearing.

AWAITING RESPONSE TO ABOVE

- **FLY TIPPING**

Referral made of Fly Tipping in the Oakwood Estate area.

RESPONSE: BCBC have logged the report and arrangements have been made to have the Fly Tipping removed.

- **STREET LIGHTING**

Several referrals made regarding street lights not working:

- North Street, Caerau.
- Barnardo Street, Nantyffyllon.
- Neath Road

RESPONSE: “Job tickets” raised for repairs to be made within the required timescale.

239 COAL INDUSTRY SOCIAL WELFARE ORGANISATION

It is hoped to create this Social Group within the Maesteg area. A meeting has been arranged for 14th November 2017 at 2 pm in Hartshorn House for any interested ex-miners or a spouse/partner of an ex-miner.

RESOLVED: To note the information.

240 BRIDGEND ROAD GARTH

Confirmation received that the road closure on Bridgend Road, Garth, will start on 27th November and continue until 22nd December 2017. The road will only be closed from the junction of Greenfield Street to outside 27c Bridgend Road.

RESOLVED: To note the information.

241 MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT

Information received from Chris Elmore MP on the forthcoming Advice Surgeries. Poster displayed.

RESOLVED: To note the information.

242 SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE

Invitation received from Llangynwyd Middle Community Council for the Mayor and any Councillors from Maesteg Town Council to attend the Llangynwyd Service arranged for 20 am on Friday, 10th November 2017, at Village Hall, Llangynwyd. This service will be conducted by Reverend Geraldine Blyth.

RESOLVED: To note the information.

243 SCHEME TO PROMOTE CLOSER WORKING WITH LOCAL GOVERNMENT

An updated scheme setting out the basis of a new relationship between the Welsh Government and local government has been published recently. The Local Government Scheme looks at how the Welsh Government, local government and the wider public service will deliver

services according to the principles of the Well-being of Future Generations Wales Act 2015. This means a more holistic approach to decision-making in public services, recognising the importance of working together and with citizens. Full information sent to Members via e-mail.

RESOLVED: To note the information and confirm action of the Clerk.

244 BENCHES MAESTEG WELFARE PARK

Confirmation that the four re-cycled benches for the Town Centre have now been installed by the Council's contractor within the Maesteg Welfare Park as agreed by Council in 2016.

RESOLVED: To note the information.

245 REQUEST FOR ROAD CROSSING AT ENTRANCE TO GARTH PARK, MAESTEG

For Members; information; the authority has received correspondence from a member of the public who requested that a pelican crossing be installed at the above site.

Response given: When the Authority considers introducing a controlled crossing point on roads in the County Borough, the site has to be assessed to see if it meets the current guidelines laid down by the Department for Transport to ensure that it is safe for a controlled crossing point to be installed. This guidance takes into account pedestrian crossing movements against vehicle flows to ensure that its introduction is safe and will not detract from road safety.

Also, it has been found historically that if a controlled crossing is not well used throughout the day, drivers become complacent which can lead to drivers failing to stop at the crossing when a pedestrian is using it, as they are not used to having to do so.

Unfortunately, even if the authority were to consider that the installation of a controlled crossing point was warranted at this location, the authority has no funding available to introduce a Pelican signalled controlled system at a cost of approximately £35-£40,000 plus per site.

However, these costs are only approximate quotations for the locations and are based on what the authority has recently been quoted for similar installations. Each location would have to be individually surveyed and a scheme designed, which could increase the costs.

The authority's budget to address road safety concerns is very limited and after taking into account the collision history at the location, unable to bid for funding for a controlled crossing at this time.

Nevertheless, having visited the site it is considered that should any funding become available from any other source in the future it may be possible to move the crossing further towards Garth. However, alteration from and to the access in and out of the park would increase the cost of the scheme.

Members were advised, that a suggestion put forward by Highways Department, BCBC, was that in the best interests of road safety for the members of the public, an alternative would be to close the existing gate currently used for the Park and re-open the alternative gate for entrance and exit of the Park. Following discussion Members supported this proposal.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk write to Parks & Playing Fields, Bridgend County Borough Council, supporting the proposal.

246 SCRUTINY 3 MEETING – ATTENDANCE OF KEIR OFFICERS

Further to copy correspondence sent to Members regarding the above, please note that members of the public are able to attend; however, they are not allowed to ask questions or enter into any discussion.

RESOLVED: To note the information.

247 SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE LLANGYNWYD MIDDLE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Confirm that the Mayor and Members of the Council have been invited to the above Remembrance Service; time 10 am on Friday, 10th November 2017 at the Village Hall.

RESOLVED: To note the information.

248 REMEMBRANCE SERVICES MAESTEG

Members were advised of the various services:

Saturday, 11th November 2017 at 11 am, Short Service at the Maesteg Cenotaph.

Saturday, 11th November 2017 at 6.30 for 7 pm Concert and Service, Maesteg Town Hall.

Sunday, 12th November 2017 at 9.30 am Service St Michael's Church, followed by march to the Cenotaph and Service at 11 am. Mayor to take salute.

Sunday, 12th November 2017, 10 am, St Cynfelin Church, Caerau, followed by march to the Cenotaph and Service.

Copy Notices, Orders and plans received regarding the closure of the roads at both locations.

The Clerk advised that Marmor Memorials have undertaken the cleaning, repairing and necessary painting of both Maesteg and Caerau Cenotaphs. The re-gilding of the lettering will take place in the summer.

RESOLVED:

The Mayor to attend the Service of Remembrance at St Michael's Church, take the salute at the Council Offices and to lay the Maesteg Town Council' wreath at the Maesteg Cenotaph.

The Deputy Mayor to attend the Service at St Cynfelin Church and to lay the Maesteg Town Council' wreath at Caerau Cenotaph.

249 PRESENTATION ON THE REVIEW OF THE ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE COUNTY BOROUGH OF BRIDGEND

Letter received for the Chief Executive of Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales advising that they will be undertaking a review of the electoral arrangements for the County Borough of Bridgend with a view to considering and formulating proposals for future arrangements. Before the commencement of the review, the Commission would like to invite the Chair or a representative from our Council to a presentation which will explain the review process and answer any questions that the Council may have. A presentation will take

place at Bridgend County Borough Council, Angel Street, Bridgend, on 9th January at 17.30. BCBC will be confirming this in due course.

RESOLVED: The Mayor, Councillor I Williams, to attend on behalf of the Council.

250 TRAFFIC LIGHTS CROSSROADS NEATH ROAD/TALBOT STREET

A letter received from a resident requesting that consideration be given to the alteration of the traffic lights at the above location. It is suggested that if the lights worked singularly they would allow the traffic to flow more freely. Examples are given of how the traffic builds up; this does not occur Commercial Street/Llynfi Road as the traffic does move singularly.

RESOLVED: The Clerk to forward to Highways Department, BCBC, for action and response to the resident. The resident be advised of this action.

251 SOUTH WALES FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

South Wales Fire and Rescue Service continues to strive to improve services to its communities. Statistic driving focus for Service on priority actions for the South Wales communities. This Authority has published its improvement Plan “How did we do in 2016/2017 and what it aims to plan to do in 2018/2019 which highlights the differences and changes – positive and negative – that have occurred as a result of the risk reduction and educational activities they have carried out from April 2016 to March 2017. Available at www.southwales-fire.gov.uk The Council are asked to answer a short list of questions and respond to them on this link.

RESOLVED: Councillor P W Jenkins, on behalf of the Council, to respond to this survey.

252 PROPOSALS FOR FUTURE PROJECTS

Members were presented with copy e-mails sent to Highways Officer, Bridgend County Borough Council, by Cllr P Davies (Caerau Member) regarding concerns of speeding Caerau Square/Cymmer Hill and requesting that a Puffin/Pelican crossing be installed to replace the current zebra crossing in the interests of road safety of residents.

Response received from Highways Officer regarding the Speeding of Traffic - A4063 Cymmer Road, Caerau, Maesteg.

“Thank you for your recent query on behalf of a resident in the area concerning vehicle speeds at the above location, which have been sent to my Department to investigate. As you are aware Cymmer Road is an A classified road which links the Llynfi Valley with the Afan and carries a high volume of traffic including goods vehicles and buses.

Department for Transport guidelines on installing traffic calming on A roads is very restrictive, the use of road humps is not encouraged owing to the noise and pollution that could be generated. Another restriction would be the road topography, and as Cymmer Road has a steep gradient humps would not be suitable.

Therefore, we are restricted to signage and road markings at this location and as you may be aware the current signs and road markings were introduced approximately 4 or 5 years ago. They were introduced following the unsuccessful bid to Welsh Government for a fixed speed camera to be installed in the area as part of a road safety grant funded scheme.

Notwithstanding the above, as you can appreciate to provide suitable traffic calming measures along the road would have significant financial implications for the Authority, and along with other departments the budget available for Traffic Management and Road Safety schemes is extremely limited.

The effect of this is that virtually all available funding is directed at locations or on routes that have a history of a large number of personal injury road traffic collisions recorded.

However in response to your request, an interrogation of our personal injury road traffic collision database for the last 5 years up to the end of December 2016 (the latest data supplied to us by South Wales Police / Welsh Government) has been carried out for these areas location, and it shows that even taking in to account the injury collisions record (two recorded incidents within the period) we would not be able to bid to Welsh Government for suitable funding for the road.

Unfortunately the collision data supplied to us only involves Police recorded injury collisions and not damage only collisions, and owing to delays in obtaining data we do not have any for 2017 so cannot comment on any incidents which may have occurred this year. Therefore, I trust you and your constituents can appreciate that after taking account of the

above collision history the request for traffic calming cannot be considered as a priority at this time.

If your constituent is of the opinion that vehicle speeds are above the 30 mph posted speed limit I would ask that they contact their local Neighbourhood Policing Team in order for them to carry out speed monitoring / scoping exercises along the road, and if it is found that vehicles are speeding they should forward the results to Go Safe, the All Wales Casualty Reduction Partnership via the South Wales Police Liaison Officer asking that the locations be assessed for enforcement under their areas of community concern.”

Councillor P Davies requested, in light of this response, that his proposal of installation of Puffin/Pelican crossing at this location be considered by the Projects Committee for recommendations to Council.

Following discussion on the feasibility of this proposal, in light of the strict criteria imposed by the Borough, together with various concerns expressed it was

RESOLVED:

- (i) To seek clarification from the Highways Department, BCBC.
- (ii) The Projects Committee to review the proposal put forward, together with the response from the Highways Department, and to make recommendations to Council.

253 BRIDGEND CARERS CENTRE – LATEST NEWSLETTER

The above Newsletter received giving information and dates of working carers’ evenings. Available for members’ information.

RESOLVED: Information noted.

254 APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

1. LLYNFI VALLEY COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

Letter received from Llynfi Valley Council of Churches, requesting financial assistance towards, their Christmas Voucher Scheme. This scheme is to help towards families within the Valley, who would otherwise find it difficult to provide for their families at Christmas.

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

2. **MARIE CURIE NURSES IN BRIDGEND**

Letter received from Marie Curie Nurses, Bridgend, requesting support for the work being done by them.

Marie Curie Nurses help people living with a terminal illness and their families at the time they need it most. Our care enables people to stay in the familiar surroundings of their own homes with their loved ones as their illness progresses.

Last year alone Marie Curie provided over 3000 hours of care for more than 110 people right here in Bridgend County and this year our services are growing. However the demand for our services increases each year and for every family we help, there is another that we can't. Your help will enable us to continue to provide more care and support to people with living with a terminal illness and their families in your local communities. It is important to make you aware that all of our services are free to those who need them. However they aren't free to run, your support is vital as it costs the charity:

- £180 to provide a full nine hour Marie Curie nursing shift.
- £20 for one hour of Marie Curie nursing care in a patient's home.
- £5 for bereavement booklets to support 20 children.

We would sincerely appreciate any support you can give us to help us fund the work of the amazing Marie Curie Nurses we have right here in Bridgend. Thank you for your continued support which makes a real difference to the lives of people with terminal illnesses and their families.

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

255 **REVIEW OF COMMUNITY AND TOWN COUNCIL SECTOR IN WALES**

Members were presented with the recommendations made by Councillor W May.

During discussion and consideration of the recommendations the following amendments/additions to be included in Council's response:

Amendment “How do they operate”: Maesteg Town Council Standing Orders allows for members of the public to ask questions; however, a request to do so must be given to the Clerk prior to the meeting.

“Members of the Public attending meetings without prior notification, who wish to address an urgent item; discretion of the Chair.”

“How do Councils ensure they best represent their local community”:

Amendment: Providing services that cater for the needs and well-being of the community “engaging with County Councils”.

Addition: Providing services that cater for the needs and well-being of the Community, “interacting with members of the community; parents, young people, etc.”

RESOLVED: Council agreed to the above and the Clerk to respond within the timescale.

256 **DELEGATE REPORTS**

Members confirmed receipt of the following reports:

Cllr P W Jenkins:

Town and Community Council Forum 16th October 2017

Cllr D L Evans:

Maesteg Town Hall Advisory Group

Cllr L Thomas declared an interest in this item.

RESOLVED: Members noted the contents of the reports.

257 **PLANS**

Cllrs R L Penhale-Thomas, K Edwards, R Collins and P Davies left the meeting at this point and took no part in the discussion on planning proposals.

The following plans were discussed:

P/17/839/FUL, P17/838/FUL,
P/17/795/FUL, P17/843/FUL,
P/17/850/FUL, P17/510/OUT,
P/17/828/FUL

RESOLVED: That the above Planning Applications be supported.

**Read and accepted at a meeting
of the Council held on
5TH December 2017**

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Mayor