

MAESTEG TOWN COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of a meeting of the Council held at the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Talbot Street, Maesteg, on **Tuesday, 3rd July 2018.**

PRESENT:

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

APOLOGIES for absence received from Councillors S B Smith, A R Davies, A James, R L Lewis, and G Bevan.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST:

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

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

Cllr L Thomas, declared an interest in item 62 regarding Awen Cultural Trust – funding for Maesteg Town Hall.

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

44 POLICE MATTERS

The Mayor welcomed to the meeting Sgt Matthew Beynon who is new to Maesteg area. Sgt Beynon introduced himself and provided his contact and twitter details for members information.

CRIME FIGURES

Crime statistics were presented to the Members for the month of June 2018, comparing them to the crimes committed in the various categories for June 2017.

Maesteg Crime Statistics for June 2018

	Caerau / Nanty	Maesteg East	Maesteg West	Llan	Total in category
Robbery	1	0	0	0	1
Dwelling burglary	2	1	3	0	6
Burglary other	1	1	0	0	2
Theft of vehicle	2	1	1	0	4
Theft from vehicle	0	0	1	0	1
All other theft	0	0	0	1	1
Damage	6	4	9	0	19
Assault with injury	13	0	6	1	19
All crime total	25	7	20	1	53
Anti-social behaviour	22	9	9	3	43
Drink Driving	0	0	0	0	0

CRIME STATISTICS FOR JUNE 2017

	Caerau / Nanty	Maesteg East	Maesteg West	Llan	Total in category
Robbery	0	0	0	0	0
Dwelling burglary	4	0	2	0	6
Burglary other	0	0	2	0	2
Theft of vehicle	1	1	0	0	2 (tipper vehicle from insecure compound, 1xsecure)
Theft from vehicle	0	0	0	0	0
All other theft	6	5	8	0	19
Damage	2	7	4	2	15
Assault with injury	7	2	8	0	17
All crime total	20	15	24	2	61
Anti-social behaviour	24	11	9	4	48
Drink Driving	0	0	0	0	0

The following was discussed:

- Concerns were raised as to the increase in theft of vehicles and whether theft from vehicles was from vans etc.
Sgt Beynon advised that whilst he couldn't comment on the actual thefts of vehicles he is aware that there are issues with Ford key fobs which is being investigated. He agreed that most thefts from vehicles occur from vans.
- Concerns were raised concerning a group of youths walking around the lanes of Neath Road looking at garages and sheds, would it be possible for the local PCSO's to patrol the area?

Sgt Beynon advised that there are many opportunistic thefts occurring due to the weather where the public are more likely to keep windows and garages open.

- Was assault with injury due to domestic violence/alcohol or drug abuse?

Sgt Beynon advised that this is the 1st time for him to see the statistics for Maesteg so was unable to comment, however he will break down the assault with injury into the 3 categories

1. Domestic violence
2. Alcohol abuse
3. Drug abuse.

The Mayor thanked Sgt Beynon for his presence.

45 MAYOR'S REPORT

Events and Meetings attended during the month of June 2018:

Mayor Councillor Lynne Beedle

- Festival – The Graduate – 6th June 2018
- Festival – Hospital Fete – 16th June 2018
- Festival – Country Superstars – 16th June 2018
- Festival – Starsearch – 23rd June 2018
- Mayor's Charity Fund – 25th June 2018
- Samaritans AGM – 29th June 2018
- Children's Choir Annual Concert – 30th June 2018
- Maesteg Hospital celebrates NHS 70 years 3rd July 2018

Past Mayor Councillor Idris Williams

- Festival – Opening of the Maesteg Art Society Exhibition – 18th June 2018

46 GŴYL MAESTEG FESTIVAL PRESENTATION

The Mayor welcomed to the meeting Mr Tom Lewis who provided a brief presentation and report on the Gŵyl Maesteg Festival 2018, that included a short video of the opening concert of the festival. Mr Lewis outlined how each event went with approximate attendance figures.

The following was discussed:

- Why band night numbers not as expected?
Can't give exact reasons; however Stereophonics were playing in Cardiff on the same night – other events out Council's control.
- With regards to Star search, is it the prize money or recognition that attracts the acts?
Mr Lewis advised that his personal opinion is that both performance and recognition attracts the acts.

Members were advised that the Events' Committee will meet in August 2018 to fully discuss the 2018 Gwyl Maesteg Festival' events and to consider whether successful or not, replacement of events for 2019 required and costings of each event.

- Were numbers up on last year?
A detailed report would be made available to the Events Committee; however, the footfall to many events had increased.
- It was confirmed that the Festival was well advertised:
All events advertised on Bridge FM, festival leaflets sent out to all households within CF34 area and to primary schools, posters displayed on noticeboards and in the display area on the Llynfi Road Car Park, banners throughout the Town. The societies were also responsible for advertising their own events.
- The huge success of the Festival was due to the many volunteers who assist and who co-ordinate arranging the events with the Clerks of the Council.
- On behalf of the volunteers, Mr Lewis stated that they are proud that Maesteg Town Council provides an excellent annual festival for the community and town, together with visitors, to enjoy, which is not replicated in many other Towns.

Members sincerely thanked all the volunteers involved and it was

RESOLVED: To note the information and that comments made will be discussed at the next Events Meeting; which all Councillors were invited to attend.

47 MAESTEG TOWN COUNCIL WEBSITE

Members were advised that the Council's Website is currently live and information will be continued to be inputted. Unfortunately, the system was unavailable for the presentation. Mr Tom Lewis was thanked for his support and assistance.

48 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on 5th June; copies of which had been circulated to Members, were read and accepted as a true record.

MATTERS ARISING

**49 MINUTE 35
REFERRALS MONTH OF MAY 2018**

• **LETTER OF THANKS**

Following the Clerk's referral to BCBC, Llynfi Lane had been cleansed. A letter of thanks had been received from resident for the prompt action.

RESOLVED: To note the information.

**50 MINUTE 44
FINANCIAL APPLICATIONS**

Received receipts and thank you correspondence from the following who have received financial assistance from Maesteg Town Council:

1. Garth Community Garden
2. Maesteg Branch – Royal British Legion
3. Noah's Ark Children's Hospital
4. Children with Cancer UK

RESOLVED: To note the information.

51 LIST OF PAYMENTS FOR THE MONTH OF JUNE 2018

RESOLVED: That the List of Payments made by the Council during the month of May 2018 and June 2018; copy of which had been circulated to Members, be accepted, confirmed and signed by the Mayor.

CORRESPONDENCE

52 CHRIS ELMORE MP MAY ADVICE SURGERY

Received poster of Chris Elmore MP Advice Surgeries for June,
Poster placed on notice board early June.

RESOLVED: Confirmation received on action taken.

53 GŴYL MAESTEG FESTIVAL

1. Many letters and e-mails of thanks and congratulations received from organisations, visitors and residents regarding the events organised during the month of the Gwyl Maesteg Festival.
2. A letter received from the Maesteg Hospital League of Friends sincerely thanking Maesteg Town Council for their continued support, to the Councillors who helped during the day and to the Events Committee' volunteers, ensuring the 56th Annual Hospital Fete remained 'AFLOAT' despite the most dreadful weather conditions.
3. As the Heritage Walk had been postponed, sixty pupils and six teachers from Ysgol Cynwyd Sant Primary School attended the Council Offices and were given a presentation by Mr Roy Meredith on the Grade II listed buildings within Maesteg Town, together with an informative narrative on their past and present usage. The presentation also contained the history of the mining and iron industries within the Valley. The pupils received a booklet which contained information on the historical buildings which will greatly help them in their project work.

RESOLVED:

- (i) To note the information.

- (ii) Formally thank Mr R Meredith for arranging the presentation for Ysgol Cynwyd Sant Primary School.

54 **MAESTEG TOILETS**

Information received that Bridgend County Borough Cabinet are to discuss the provision of public toilets within the Borough, which will include the toilets within the Maesteg Bus Station.

- Maesteg Bus Station
As part of the redevelopment plans for Maesteg Town Hall in the medium term, the existing public toilets adjacent to the bus station will close and be replaced by new public toilets within the redeveloped Town Hall.
These facilities would be operated and cost borne by Awen Cultural Trust; available for members of the public during Town Hall opening times.

In the short term prior to the new facilities being provided by Awen it is recommended Maesteg Town Council be approached to seek if they would be willing to undertake the responsibility of maintaining the facility. However, should Maesteg Town Council not wish to do so, then as a short term measure, the toilets at this location would be closed and local businesses would be approached and offered the opportunity to participate in the Council's "Comfort Scheme".

While 54% of respondents would be comfortable using a business such as cafes/bars as an alternative to Council operated public toilets 74% of respondents also indicated they would not support the replacement of public toilets with the "Comfort Scheme" as an alternative facility within town centres. Notwithstanding this, Cabinet will need to balance the Council's current financial position with the views of the public and its ability to continue to fund and provide public toilets in its town centres, when balanced against other competing demands for public services.

To date no information directly from BCBC has been received with regards to the proposal that Maesteg Town Council take on the responsibility.

RESOLVED: To wait for further information from BCBC.

55 BCBC VACANCY ON THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE

A vacancy for a Town and Community Council representative has arisen on the Authority's Standards Committee. The Monitoring Officer is, therefore, seeking any expressions of interest. E-mail forwarded to all Councillors.

RESOLVED: Confirmation received on action taken.

56 REFERRALS MONTH OF JUNE 2018

• **MISSING RAILINGS**

Railings are missing from the outside fence of Caerau Welfare Park roughly opposite 8 Rathbone Terrace. Youths on scramblers are now accessing the welfare park through this hole.

RESPONSE: BCBC have logged the complaint and passed it through to the relevant officer to action.

• **OVERGROWN ADOPTED LANE**

Residents of St Michael's Road Maesteg have complained about the adopted lane that runs from St Michael's Road to Commercial Street Maesteg is severely overgrown.

RESPONSE: BCBC have issued an order to undertake the removal of the overgrowth.

• **RECYCLING CONTAINERS**

The following recycling containers requested:

- Blue refuse bags – Flat 4 Coronation Terrace, Nantfyllon
- Blue refuse bags & Food Waste Bags– 19 Heol Faen

RESPONSE: Request has been processed; allow at least 10 working days for delivery.

• **3 PIECE SUITE DUMPED**

Forwarded to V2C – a 3 piece suite has been discarded in Oakwood Estate.

RESPONSE: V2C have forwarded on to the relevant department.

• **OVERGROWTH**

1. Trees and bushes are overhanging the pavement on Castle Street leading to Bridge Street.

2. Entrance to Chestnut Grove off Cemetery Road the grass area needs cutting
3. Also on the bend at the top of Cemetery Road leading to Crown Road the grass verge is overhanging onto the road obscuring drivers view
4. Brambles on riverbank by Cavan Row

NO RESPONSE RECEIVED.

RESOLVED: Confirmation received on action taken.

57 RETIREMENT OF REV GERALDINE BLYTH

Rev Geraldine Blyth will be retiring at the end of August 2018. Before Rev Blyth retires she will be having a ‘farewell service’ at St Michael’s Church on Tuesday, 10th July 2018 at 7pm, followed by a reception afterwards in the Crypt. The Mayor and Members invited.

RESOLVED: To note the information and Members to confirm if they are able to attend.

58 CHANGES TO THE CONSENTING OF INFRASTRUCTURE

Following the May 2018 meeting, Councillor May has read and provided the attached responses to the above Welsh Government consultation which seeks views on proposed changes to the consenting of energy and infrastructure in Wales following the receipt of new powers under the Wales Act 2017.

RESOLVED: Confirmation received Clerk to submit responses to Welsh Government.

59 INDEPENDENT REVIEW PANEL - JUNE NEWSLETTER

June newsletter received and e-mailed to all councillors for information.

RESOLVED: Confirmation received on action taken.

60 “IMPORTANCE OF BEES”

70 children from Garth, St Mary’s & St Patricks and Llangynwyd Primary Schools attended the Council Chamber for a presentation given by Garth Primary school on the “Importance of Bees”.

Garth Primary School were given a grant from the Global Communities Charity to fund this project and part of the grant entailed sharing their findings and learnings with other schools. It was a very interesting and

informative presentation which included a video of the pupils using dance to tell their story of the “Importance of Bees”.

RESOLVED: To note the information.

61 EIN NEUADD, EIN STORI

His Worship the Mayor, Councillor Lynne Beedle, and Councillors of Maesteg Town Council have been invited to the above event in Maesteg Town Hall on Saturday, 14th July at 6pm for 6.30pm start.

Invitations sent out to all Councillors with meeting papers. Members to advise Clerk if they are able to attend who will respond on their behalf by 4th July 2018.

RESOLVED: To note the information.

62 AWEN CULTURAL TRUST – MAESTEG TOWN HALL FUNDING

Cllr L Thomas declared an interest in this item and left the Chamber whilst discussions ensued.

Reference to the letter from AWEN Trust with regard to the request for financial support discussed at the last meeting, please refer below:

- a. Awen Cultural Trust is once again looking to extend the programme at the Hall and build on the support gained throughout last two years. With this in mind, we have submitted another application to the Arts Council of Wales with the aim of continuing the high level of programming that has been received so well by the people of the Llynfi Valley. We would therefore be very grateful if the Town Council would again consider its support for the programme, this time for an amount of £10, 000. A decision on the grant will be due in August 2018 but confirmation of match-funding from the Town Council would go a long way in supporting the application.

Confirmation received from the Chief Executive of AWEN Cultural Trust; that any grant received by Maesteg Town Council for Maesteg Town Hall is ring fenced for Maesteg Town Hall. If grant agreed within this financial year it will be used as match funding to draw down further grant from the Arts Council of Wales to support programme development exclusively at the Maesteg Town Hall.

- b. Following the support of the Town Council to purchase new lighting and sound control desks, Awen are keen to extend the technical capabilities of the Hall through the further purchase of stage sound equipment. The equipment will benefit local users as well as the increasing number of professional artistes programmed at the venue. We would be grateful if Council would consider a contribution of £10,000.00 towards this. Copy invoices and specifications can be provided as assurance of purchases.

Council agreed in principle to donate the requested grant of £10,000.00 (ten thousand pounds).

RESOLVED: Council agreed to donate under Section 145 both requests for £10,000.00 totalling £20,000.00.

63 GŴYL MAESTEG FESTIVAL

Email received following the Keeper of the Colliery Fun Run:

“Just wanted to say thank you for the well organised run and also thanks to all who organised it, marshalled it and supported the event. Well done.

Hoping that this is a new annual event to the Maesteg calendar. As a seasoned runner, will definitely do it again.

Also many telephone calls received congratulating the Council on an excellent event and enquiring of the date for 2019.

RESOLVED: To note the information.

64 SAMARITANS AGM

Mayor Cllr Lynne Beedle attended the Samaritans AGM; a copy of the end of year report and accounts are available in the Clerk’s office.

RESOLVED: To note the information.

65 WELSH BLOOD SERVICE

E-mail and poster received regarding the planned Welsh Blood Service Donation session on Tuesday 10th July 2018 at Maesteg Sports Centre.

Email forwarded to all Councillors and posters placed on notice board.

RESOLVED: Confirmation received on action taken.

66 APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

1. SCHOOLS WITHIN THE TOWN

The following annual applications for grant of £200 are due for agreement by Council:

Councillors who were appointed Governors declared an interest on their specific Schools.

- Caerau Primary School
- Garth Primary School
- Maesteg Comprehensive School
- Nantfyllon Primary School
- Plasnewydd Primary School
- St Mary's & St Patrick's Catholic Primary School
- Ysgol Cynwyd Sant Primary School

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

2. MAESTEG CRICKET CLUB

Maesteg Cricket Club, who over the last 12 months have done substantial work inside and outside of the club to improve the facilities and make it more inviting for the community and visiting cricket teams.

Currently they have spent in excess of £14,000 where they have improved security by installing CCTV, upgrading the fencing around the club, decorated the club inside and out and also built a patio area with benches to make it more appealing to the town to come and enjoy the facilities.

The Cricket Club would like to continue to enhance this area by putting in place a few planters to make it more attractive and also extend the patio area so they can continue providing a venue to get used outside by local charities and schools who hold their sports days and fundraising free of charge at the club.

We request financial assistance from Maesteg Town Council for a donation even if it's a small amount towards helping us do this and continue our good work.

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

67 **DELEGATES' REPORTS**

No delegated reports received for June 2018.

RESOLVED: To note the information.

68 **PLANS**

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

The following planning applications were discussed and were supported by Members:

Ref: P/18/321/DPN
Applicant: Asda
Location: Asda Castle Street Maesteg CF34 9UN
Proposal: Prior notification for demolition of a single storey stone built building

Ref: P/18/434/FUL
Applicant: Mr P Jones
Location: 80 Ystad Celyn Maesteg CF34 9LT
Proposal: Demolition of garage and erect two storey side extension

Ref: A/18/15/ADV
Applicant: Bronze Berry Ltd
Location: Old Llynfi Bakery Building Llynfi Lane (Rear of 18 Commercial Street) Maesteg CF34 9DF
Proposal: 1no. fascia sign

Ref: P/18/426/FUL
Applicant: Mr M James
Location: 46 Cwrt Coed Parc Maesteg CF34 9DG
Proposal: Ground floor extension to rear of dwelling

Ref: P/18/447/FUL
Applicant: Mr C Hardcastle
Location: 9 Duffrynmadog Maesteg CF34 0BE
Proposal: Removal of existing structure and construct single storey addition to rear.

Ref: P/18/498/FUL
Applicant: Mrs D Meek
Location: 5 South Parade Maesteg CF34 0AB
Proposal: Extend existing first floor bedrooms to provide disabled shower room facilities to bedroom 2

Ref: P/18/502/FUL
Applicant: Mr D Thomas
Location: 33 Crown Rise Maesteg CF34 0JY
Proposal: Single storey side extension

Ref: P/18/503/FUL
Applicant: Mr H Evans
Location: 35 Duffrynmadog Maesteg CF34 0BE
Proposal: Two storey addition to rear and demolition of outbuildings

The following planning application was discussed and concerns were raised over access and e-gress to the properties.

Ref: P/18/414/FUL
Applicant: N Richards
Location: Land north of 10 Bangor Terrace Maesteg CF34 0HU
Proposal: New 2 bed detached dormer bungalow with integral garage

**Read and accepted at a meeting
of the Council held on
7th August 2018**

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Mayor