

## **MAESTEG TOWN COUNCIL**

### **COUNCIL MEETING**

Minutes of a meeting of the Council held at the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Talbot Street, Maesteg, on **Tuesday, 7<sup>th</sup> August 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, S B Smith, R L Lewis and  
L Thomas,

**APOLOGIES** for absence received from Councillors A R Davies 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.

Cllrs D K Edwards, R Collins, P White, R Penhale-Thomas and P Davies declared a prejudicial interest in Agenda 15, Maesteg Bus Station Toilets.

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

Cllrs P Davies and P White declared an interest in items relating to Agenda item 12, Caerau Community Growers.

Cllr L Thomas, declared an interest in items relating to Agenda item 76 with regards to Awen Cultural Trust.

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

## 70 **POLICE MATTERS**

There were no representatives in attendance from South Wales Police at this meeting; current crime figures were unavailable.

### **The following was discussed:**

#### **SPIRIT OF LLYNFI WOODLAND SITE VANDALISM**

NRW have been experiencing some vandalism on the Spirit of Llynfi Woodland site in the area around the miner statue. The seats of the three picnic tables have been pulled out of the ground and broken apart, the bin lid by the miner was removed and strewn into the bushes, and rocks were found near to the base of the miner with a few marks showing on the miner which may have been caused by rocks being thrown at it.

NRW are really disappointed at the deliberate acts of vandalism on site, and in order to try and deter future acts of vandalism NRW has contacted the local PCSO's to ask them to undertake increased patrols of the area. NRW intend to repair the benches and reinstate them as soon as possible, but for the time being have hazard taped them and left them on site until they can collect them. On this occasion, NRW have decided not to issue a press release to highlight the issue of vandalism on site, fearing that it may attract further vandalism over the summer period, and indeed may 'glorify' the mindless acts of the perpetrators concerned. If, however, vandalism continues to persist over the summer holidays then a press release may be the appropriate measure to take further down the line, and if this is the case, perhaps we could look at issuing a joint press release with the town council and the Llynfi Woodland Group? - But hopefully this vandalism will be a one-off occurrence, and a press release will not be necessary.

The above was discussed with Councillors concurring that the vandalism, graffiti, etc. is getting worse along with small fires being lit in the evenings. Several concerns were expressed with regard to the possibility of larger fires being lit in this area especially whilst the schools are on holidays.

**RESOLVED:** The Clerk to write to South Wales Police and Natural Resources Wales of the Council's concerns.

## 71 GIDEON INTERNATIONAL

The Mayor welcomed Mr & Mrs David Labius from Gideon's International who presented her with the "Bible" and hoped that it would guide the Mayor through her year of Office and extended the best wishes of the Organisation to all Members of the Council.

The Mayor thanked Mr David Labius and his wife for attending and their presentation of the Bible.

## 72 MAESTEG TOWN CENTRE MANAGER

The Mayor welcomed Ms Mari-Wyn Elias-Jones, the newly appointed Town Centre Manager, to the Council Meeting.

Ms Elias Jones gave a brief outline of her previous role within Vale of Glamorgan County Borough Council as the Town Manager for Barry, Cowbridge, Llantwit Major and Penarth. She advised that her role was mainly one of mediator between local businesses and Bridgend County Borough and will be looking at increasing the vibrancy and footfall to the Town. She intends to base herself in Maesteg each month.

Several questions were asked:

1. How did you regenerate previous areas?

*Previously worked with four very different towns accessing Town Partnership Grants and invested in Capital projects with assistance to infrastructure and noticeboards. Other projects included:*

- *Introduced monthly market to Llantwit Major*
- *Held street food events in Penarth*
- *Brought traders together in Barry*

2. Since the closure of the indoor market, young entrepreneurs will have no-where to trial their projects.

*Will be looking into the vacant units and converting them into spaces for multiple pop up stalls. There could be vacant shops within the town not only the market square; can also look into running training events, small grants for start-up, etc.*

3. Can the dilapidated buildings within the Town be addressed?

*Ms Elias-Jones advised that she is based within the regeneration team so will liaise with them to contact Landlords on this issue.*

*Members were advised that she looked forward to working with the Council and with the Traders within the Town.*

The Mayor thanked Mari-Wyn Elias-Jones for attending the meeting.

### **73 MAYOR'S REPORT**

Events and Meetings attended during the month of July 2018:

#### **Mayor Councillor Lynne Beedle**

- Rev Geraldine Blythe retirement farewell service - 10th July 2018
- Ein Neuadd, Ein Stori – 14th July 2018
- Civic Service – 15th July 2018
- Charity Committee Meeting – 16th July 2018
- Maesteg Comprehensive School Sports Presentation – 18th July 2018
- Porthcawl Civic Service – 22nd July 2018

### **74 ABSENCE OF COUNCILLOR G BEVAN**

Members were advised that the Clerk had spoken to Councillor G Bevan who advised that due to his continual ill health he would be resigning as an elected member; awaiting written confirmation.

**RESOLVED:** To note the information and await written confirmation of resignation from Councillor Bevan.

### **75 MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2018 and Minutes of the Meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> July 2018 to discuss “Tidy Town Project”; copies of which had been circulated to Members, were read and accepted as a true record.

Members confirmed “to agree in principle to the initiative; however, the Council to discuss and consider at the forthcoming “Precept Meeting”.

## **MATTERS ARISING**

**76**     **MINUTE 63**  
**AWEN CULTURAL TRUST – MAESTEG TOWN HALL**  
**FUNDING**

Received letter of thanks and receipts from Awen Cultural Trust for the funding granted to Maesteg Town Hall.

**RESOLVED:** To note the information.

**77**     **MINUTE 67**  
**FINANCIAL APPLICATIONS**

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

1. Ward 15, Princess of Wales Hospital, Garden Project
2. St Mary and St Patrick's Primary School
3. Nantfyllon Primary School
4. Plasnewydd Primary School
5. Children With Cancer UK
6. Bobath Children's Therapy Centre Wales

**RESOLVED:** To note the information.

**78**     **LIST OF PAYMENTS FOR THE MONTH OF JULY 2018**

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

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

**79**     **CHRIS ELMORE MP JULY ADVICE SURGERY**

Received poster of Chris Elmore MP' Advice Surgeries for July; placed on notice boards.

**RESOLVED:** Confirmation received on action taken.

**80**     **100<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY**

The Mayor, on behalf of the Council, visited Mr V Davies on the celebration of his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday. The official Council's congratulation card and gift voucher were presented to Mr Davies.

**RESOLVED:** To note and to confirm the action taken.

## 81 **REFERRALS MONTH OF JULY 2018**

- **NON PLANTING OF BEDDING PLANTS AT MAESTEG CEMETERY**

Why have BCBC not planted the bedding area in Maesteg Cemetery when the bedding areas of Bridgend and Porthcawl Cemeteries have been planted?

**RESPONSE:** Awaiting response

- **MISSED REFUSE COLLECTIONS**

Recycling and waste collections not collected for the last two weeks at Priory Terrace.

**RESPONSE:** Kier will look into this

- **OVERGROWN GRASS VERGE**

The grass verge linking the pavement and road of Priory Terrace is overgrown.

**RESPONSE:** Awaiting response

- **RECYCLING CONTAINERS**

The following recycling containers requested:

➤ Food waste outside caddy – Llust Fach Cottage, Priory Terrace,

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

- **POTHOLE**

Pothole at the entrance of Brookfield Road.

**RESPONSE:** Awaiting response

- **FLY TIPPING**

AHP bags and black refuse bags in the rear lane of Duke Street.

**RESPONSE:** a report has been logged and arrangements have been made to remove the bags.

- **OVERGROWN GRASS PLAY AREA**

The grass play area near the river on Bridge Street is overgrown.

## **AWAITING RESPONSE.**

- **POTHOLE**

Pothole at the entrance of Brookfield Road.

**RESPONSE:** the location has been inspected and the need for works has been identified. An order has been issued for works as requested for the Pothole as soon as resources permit.

- **RECYCLING CONTAINERS**

The following recycling containers requested:

➤ Food Waste Bags– Llwydarth Road resident.

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

- **LAMP POST**

Residents concerned that the lamp post in the lane between St David's Place and St Cynwyd's Avenue has been removed; advised BCBC Lighting Department of residents' concerns and requested an up-to-date report on replacement.

**AWAITING RESPONSE.**

- **FLY TIPPING**

Residents have been cutting their hedges and dumping the waste in the lane between St David's Place and St Cynwyd's Avenue.

**RESPONSE:** BCBC advised that the location in question is the responsibility of Valleys to Coast. Valleys to Coast addressing this.

- **OVERGROWTH**

Overgrowth obstructing the lanes between Caerau Road and Treharne Road.

**RESPONSE:** Highways Department, BCBC, advised.

Work has now been completed. E-mail thanking Council for their response received from resident.

- **MAESTEG BUS STATION TOILETS**

Concerns raised about the gents' toilet facilities.

**RESPONSE:** BCBC advised and are addressing.

**RESOLVED:** Confirmation received on actions taken.

**82**     **100<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY**

Letter received from Mr Victor Davies for the visit he received from the Mayor to celebrate his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday and for the gift from the Council.

**RESOLVED:** To note the information.

**83**     **TOWN PLAQUE AND ARMORIAL BEARINGS**

The Mayor, during the Civic Service, presented the Council's plaque and armorial bearings to Rev Geraldine Blythe in recognition of her pastoral support within the Town.

**RESOLVED:** Confirmation received on action taken.

**84**     **FLY TIPPING – UNADOPTED LANE**

Fly tipping in rear lane between Goodwin Street and River Street.

**RESOLVED:** To note the information.

**85**     **COMMUNITY HUB AFTERNOON TEA**

Poster received from Cwm Calon to advise of Community Afternoon Tea on 25<sup>th</sup> August 2018, 1pm – 5pm. Poster placed on the notice board and Councillors advised.

**RESOLVED:** Confirmation received on action taken.

**86**     **VOTE GOLDIES CYMRU / GOLDEN-OLDIES**

Information received with regard to the chairty work carried out by the above organisation with isolated and vulnerable disabled people, particularly the Sing&Smile session in Maesteg. It's a regular social group that takes place at Maesteg Town Hall in partnership with Strictly Cinema. When not singing our hearts out at Goldie's sessions we're running some other fun activities which support communities to come together, like the intergenerational projects which get the over 65s working on activities with their local primary schools. Our current lottery funded schools programme commemorates the final months of WW1.

One project, from children at Thornhill Primary School, Cardiff, is a brilliant 30 minute production of words and music called ARMISTICE CANTATA it has been selected amongst hundreds of others to be included in this years' Education Category, National Lottery Awards and it is now a PUBLIC VOTE which is why I am getting in touch on behalf of our Founder Grenville and Patron Sir Cliff Richard who is encouraging votes on Facebook. Click on the link below to vote...



<https://www.lotterygoodcauses.org.uk/project/armistice-cantata>

Information e-mailed to all councillors.

**RESOLVED:** Confirmation received on action taken.

**87 ACTIVE4LIFE SUMMER PLAY SCHEMES**

Posters received for the forthcoming Active4Life Summer play schemes for Maesteg and Caerau 30<sup>th</sup> July -24<sup>th</sup> August. Posters e-mailed to all councillors and hard copies placed on notice board.

**RESOLVED:** Confirmation received on action taken.

**88 60<sup>TH</sup> WEDDING ANNIVERSARY**

The Deputy Mayor, on behalf of the Council, visited Mr & Mrs Powell on the celebration their 60<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary. The official Council's congratulation card and flowers were presented to Mr & Mrs Powell.

**RESOLVED:** Confirmation received on action taken.

**89 FLY TIPPING – UNADOPTED LANE**

E-mail received from SW Fire Service with regards to fly tipping in the lane to the rear of The Middle Club on Caerau Road, Caerau, Maesteg. SW Fire Service has concerns due to a sharp increase in fire calls in the Maesteg area this year from discarded rubbish and fly tipping.

**RESOLVED:** That the Clerk contact BCBC Environmental Health Department requesting them to address this as there is a fire risk.

**90 HARTSHORN HOUSE NEWSLETTER & INFORMATION SHEETS**

The newsletter and information sheets received and e-mailed to all Councillors.

**RESOLVED:** Confirmation received on action taken.

**91 FIRST CYMRU BUS SERVICE NO. 79**

Concerns have been raised regarding the proposed amendment to the Bus No.79 schedule that services Caerau Park, Blaen Caerau, Tesco's, Maesteg Cemetery and Turberville Estate via Heol Faen. Over the last two years there has been a hap hazard service, later start times and earlier finishes, i.e. previously 8am – 5pm service, currently 9am – 4pm. It has

now come to light that the service will be amended further to 10am - 3pm.

**RESOLVED:** To note the information. The Clerk to write to BCBC and First Cymru to enquire the reason for these amendments and advising them of the concerns raised by members of the public.

**92 ASDA CAR PARK**

Received many queries regarding the demolition of the unsafe building in the Asda car park as to what they intend to do with this area.

**RESOLVED:** To note the information.

**93 APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

**1. CAERAU COMMUNITY GROWERS**

In August, Caerau Community Growers are holding an open day for the community to celebrate their achievements in this year's growing season. The open day is aimed at families and will include willow weaving, garden crafts, healthy eating and how to grow your own at home. In order to make these sessions free to the community a request for a donation received.

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

**2. CARRIE-ANNE EVANS WELSH JUDO SQUAD**

Carrie-Anne Evans is 11 years old and is a member of Maesteg Judo Club and has recently been selected on the Welsh Judo Squad. Since being selected to represent Wales she has competed in Northern Ireland and Belgium where she won gold medals and became champion in both competitions.

There are many more competitions booked for the rest of the year along with training in Maesteg and 2-3 times a week in Cardiff, we would be very grateful if Maesteg Town Council would consider providing a grant towards the increasing costs involved.

**RESOLVED:** Council donate the sum of £200 under Section 137 of the Local Government Act (as amended) to the Maesteg Judo Club towards the expenses of Carrie-Anne Evans.

**94 DELEGATES ON THE PROJECTS & ENVIRONMENT SUB-COMMITTEES**

A brief discussion took place and it was

**RESOLVED:** That full Council be appointed onto the Projects & Environment Sub Committees.

**95 DELEGATES' REPORTS**

No reports received for July 2018.

**RESOLVED:** To note the information.

**96 MAESTEG BUS STATION TOILETS**

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 Maesteg Bus Station Toilets.

A letter with an attached report had been received from Head of Neighbourhood Services, BCBC, advising the Council that following a recent public consultation exercise on the provision of public conveniences, the Council's Cabinet reached a decision at its meeting on the 19<sup>th</sup> June 2018 on the future provision of toilets within the town centres of Maesteg, Porthcawl and Bridgend. The documentation was made available to Member for information.

In accordance with Cabinet's approval at that meeting, Bridgend County Borough Council were formally writing to Maesteg Town Council to set out the timescales in relation to implementing these recommendations. It is with regret that, if no alternative management of these facilities can be identified, the County Borough Council will have no alternative but to close the following public toilets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2019:-

- *Maesteg Bus Station public toilets, Maesteg*
- *Cheapside public toilets, Bridgend*
- *Griffin Park public toilets, Porthcawl*
- *John Street public toilets, Porthcawl*

If a decision is not received by this date, the County Borough Council will assume that Maesteg Town Council does not wish to assume responsibility for the toilets and it will begin the process of staff consultation and de-commissioning of the facilities.

The public toilets at the Bus Station in Bridgend Town centre will convert to “pay to use” and their management will remain with the County Borough Council.

Maesteg Town Council is advised that they have an opportunity to take over the operation of the toilets under the County Borough Council’s Community Asset Transfer (CAT) programme by the above date. In order to provide sufficient time for this Council to consult with staff, confirmation of Maesteg Town Council’s position in relation to assuming full responsibility for the operation and management of the toilets in Maesteg Bus Station by 30<sup>th</sup> September 2018.

In accordance with the recommendations of the report, BCBC is currently identifying alternative business premises that would be prepared to open their toilets to non-paying customers under the Council’s Comfort Scheme.

A discussion took place with regards to Bridgend County Borough Council’ proposals . The following concerns were raised:

- Period of time not known to maintain and operate the Maesteg Toilets
- MTC already have a 24 hr toilet in the Llynfi Road Car Park
- Issues with the drains both internal and external; are not mentioned in the report; however, historically there have been many serious issues with the drains forcing the toilets to close sporadically
- If Maesteg Town Council considers taking over the toilet facilities, what will happen when they have to close for the Maesteg Town Hall refurbishment and who will be responsible for redundancy package for the existing employee?
- What happened to the outcomes of the consultations? Report advises that the public want to keep the toilets open and do not want to use business premises within the Town.

- The toilets form part of the Maesteg Town Hall building so this cannot be a Cat Asset Transfer as the Council will not own the building.

**RESOLVED:** The Clerk to write to BCBC and get clarification as to what maintenance means.

## 97 **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/18/536/FUL  
Applicant: Mr A Tabor  
Location: 37 Humphreys Terrace Maesteg CF34 0SG  
Proposal: Shower room & lobby extension, platform lift access arrangements from public footpath to front entrance door

Ref: P/18/580/FUL  
Applicant: Mr W Krauzer  
Location: 16 Union Street Maesteg CF34 0BG  
Proposal: Single storey extension to rear elevation

Ref: P/18/552/FUL  
Applicant: Ms B Griffiths  
Location: 59c Castle Street Maesteg CF34 9YL  
Proposal: Raise roof and provide dormers to front and rear

Ref: P/18/595/FUL  
Applicant: Mr K Vincent  
Location: 125 Mill View Estate Maesteg CF34 0DE  
Proposal: Raise height of roof and dormer extensions to side elevations

Ref: P/18/613/FUL  
Applicant: Mr A John  
Location: 26 Neath Road Maesteg CF34 9PG  
Proposal: Proposed new pitched roof garage to rear

The following plan no observations were made:

Ref: P/18/616/FUL  
Applicant: Samawi Ltd  
Location: Land rear of Princess Street Maesteg CF34 9BD  
Proposal: Two new detached dwellings with associated access road  
and landscaping

**Read and accepted at a meeting  
of the Council held on  
4<sup>th</sup> September 2018**

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**Mayor**