

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 January 2020.**

PRESENT:

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

APOLOGIES for absence received from Councillor L Beedle and Clerk Mrs M Buckley.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST:

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

Cllrs R Lewis and I Williams declared an interest in items that may relate to Llangynwyd Middle Community Council.

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

216 POLICE MATTERS

The Mayor welcomed PCSO's M Harris & M Benson-Davidson to the meeting; Members were provided with the following Crime figures:

Maesteg Crime Statistics for December 2018

	Caerau / Nanty	Maesteg East	Maesteg West	Llan	Total in category
Robbery	0	0	1	0	1
Dwelling burglary	0	0	1	0	1
Burglary other	0	0	1	0	1
Theft of vehicle	0	2	1	0	3
Theft from vehicle	0	0	0	0	0
All other theft	1	5	10	1	17
Damage	1	2	7	0	10
Assault with injury	2	1	5	2	10
All crime total	10	10	14	6	40
Anti-social behaviour total	14	4	9	3	28
Drink Driving	1	0	0	0	1

Maesteg Crime Statistics for December 2019

	Caerau / Nanty	Maesteg East	Maesteg West	Llan	Total in category
Robbery	1	0	0	0	1
Drugs	0	0	0	0	0
Dwelling burglary	0	0	0	1	1
Burglary other	1	0	2	1	4
Theft of vehicle	0	0	0	0	0
Theft from vehicle	1	0	0	1	2
All other theft	3	2	6	1	12
Damage	4	2	10	4	20
Assault with injury	7 (5)	1	8 (5)	1	16
All crime total	17	5	26	9	57
Anti-social behaviour total	7	11	9	0	27
Drink Driving	0	0	0	0	0

Members questions:

- **Members noted that there had been an increase in social media regarding crime in the Llynfi Valley, however the above statistics show a different story.**
- **Members raised concerns regarding a property on Bethania Street covered in graffiti and furniture outside**

PCSO's advised that PCSO J Banks is currently investigating this issue.

- **Members noted that there was an increase in commercial waste being fly tipped behind the Riverboat**

PCSO's advised that they will increase patrols in the area.

- **Members raised further concerns of issue of speeding vehicles and mentioned a recent incident where 2 cars were racing side by side along Llwydarth Road, however unable to get the number plates or take photographs as the cars had sped away before being able to get mobile phone out.**

PCSO's advised that if anyone sees these incident occurring please try and get details of registration numbers or even descriptions of the cars (colour / make / model) of offending vehicles this would enable the police to build a profile of the offending vehicles and stop potential vehicles in the area.

- **More concerns raised with off road bikes churning up grassed areas, especially along the cycle track and behind the old Duffryn Pub.**

PCSO's advised that if members could provide any details of the offending vehicles (colour / make / model) this would enable the police to build a profile of the offending vehicles and investigate potential vehicles being stored in the area.

RESOLVED: To note the crime figures.

217 GIDEONS

The Mayor welcomed Mr & Mrs Laviers of the Gideons to the meeting; the Mayor was presented with a bible and Members were asked if they also wanted bibles, those who wanted them received them.

218 MAYORAL EVENTS

5th December	Caerau Dementia Friends Christmas Lunch
6th December	Hartshorn House Christmas Coffee Morning
7th December	Llynfi Valley Council of Churches Blessing of the Crib
8th December	Christmas Tree Festival Carol Service
12th December	Caerau School Nursery Christmas Concert Caerau School Christmas Dinner
13th December	South Wales Audit Office St Mary's & St Patrick's Infants Christmas Concert Extraordinary Council Meeting

	Maesteg Cancer Research Christmas Concert
14th December	Llynfi Valley Council of Churches Pageant
17th December	Caerau Primary Year 1 & 2 Christmas Concert
	St Mary's & St Patrick's Juniors Christmas Concert
18th December	Nantyffyllon Primary School Christmas Concert
6th January	Mayors Charity Meeting

Deputy Mayor

13th December	Caerau Primary – Reception Christmas Concert
18th December	Caerau Primary – Year 3 & 4 Christmas Concert
19th December	60th Wedding Anniversary
	Caerau Primary – Year 5 & 6 Christmas Concert

RESOLVED: Information noted.

219 MINUTES

The Confidential Minutes of the Joint Personnel and Finance Meeting held on 24th October 2019; copies of which had been circulated to Members. A discussion ensued relating to amendments made; Cllr G Thomas objected to the amendments. Original minutes to be supplied for next Council.

The Minutes of the Finance Meeting held on 2nd December 2019 were discussed and not agreed. A discussion ensued advising that the figures did not add up. Deputy Clerk to amend the wording of the minutes and that back lanes are replaced with the wording unadopted areas.

The Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on 3rd December 2019; copies of which had been circulated to Members, were read, accepted as a true record and signed by the Mayor.

The Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting held on 6th January 2020; copies of which had been circulated to Members, were read, accepted as a true record and signed by the Mayor.

MATTERS ARISING

220 MINUTE 189

TOWN AND COMMUNITY COUNCIL FUND 2020/2021

The resolution from last meeting to move the motion incorrect and Council advised that the motion was accepted.

A discussion took place where Members agreed apply for match funding up to £30,000.00 for CAT process. If accepted and Maesteg Town Council receive T&CC Fund grant then Clubs are to apply for an equal share of the match funding from Maesteg Town Council.

RESOLVED:

- Cllr C Reeves to complete the match funding application form on behalf of Maesteg Town Council.
- Clerk to write to clubs to remind them that the application process is open.
- If funding is approved from BCBC then the clerk to publicise in local media that Maesteg Town Council are able to accept applications for match funding.

221 MINUTE 199

WELSH GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION: A MORE EQUAL WALES - COMMENCING THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC DUTY

Cllr W May apologised that he was unable to complete a response on behalf of Maesteg Town Council, however Members were able to provide individual responses.

RESOLVED: To note the information.

222 MINUTE 201

LITTER BINS

The resolution that the Finance Committee look into the financial costs of providing and servicing extra litter bins has not yet been discussed in a finance committee meeting.

A discussion took place following a recent Town & Community Forum meeting where the Head of Street scene advised that there was no point in adding extra bins in areas as there are no staff to service them.

RESOLVED: To note the information.

223 MINUTE 206

CHRISTMAS PARADE

1. The official photographs and video have now been uploaded to the Maesteg Town Council Website. As of 12th December 2019 the video has had over 17000 views on social media and YouTube.

2. Received a total of £1031.31 in Donations from various businesses and clubs throughout the Town towards the Christmas Parade. This includes £251.31 donations received for Santa's Grotto & Raffle.
3. Several e-mails and messages received congratulating the Council on the Christmas festivities including one with the following comments:
"I just wanted to drop you a brief line to say how impressed I was yet again with the Christmas display in Maesteg this year. The parade and fireworks were also amazing as always. I live in Cardiff but I am in Maesteg regularly visiting my parents and always attend the switch on. Considering Cardiff is the capital city of Wales their Christmas lights do not come anywhere close to the one's in Maesteg and there was not even a switch on event or any kind of event in Cardiff this year on the night the lights were switched on. It is so nice to see a small town like Maesteg providing a better display and event than all the larger towns and even cities surrounding it and long may it continue!"
4. Received e-mail from the BCBC Town Centre Manager:
I just wanted to express my thanks for all the hard work Margaret, Sian, volunteers and Maesteg Town Council put into the "Christmas Lights Switch On event".

I have had numerous comments from people who attended praising the event and also received much praise from the Town's retailers.

The newly established Maesteg Business Association were also very complementary at their recent meeting and I think there is scope for the Council to work together in future years for the good of the Town.

5. Received update from Trading Standards:

"2x Trading Standards Officers + 2x Licensing Officers attended the Christmas Parade on 30th November 2019.

I understand there were a reduced number of street traders this year compared to previous years. I can report that those present were inspected. Our licencing colleagues confirmed that the street traders present were licenced peddlers. The toys they were selling also appeared to be labelled correctly and we could not see any significant safety concerns in their constructions.

In regards to the silly string, it is apparent that this product has clearly become a significant feature of this event! None of the peddlers had any silly string which was being sold primarily by three retailers on commercial street. The canisters being sold were all made by UK companies and I could not see any particular issue with the actual product itself. As the silly string canisters were marked up as solvents, I advised shopkeepers that they should not sell it to children under 18 - The sale of solvents is restricted to 18+ where the retailer reasonably believes it will be abused (inhaled) by the purchaser. Seeing the event unfold and on reflection, I could see the sale of this product was clearly for use as the product is intended. On this basis, I would probably not give the same advice to businesses (not to sell to children) if I were to attend next year. Informal advice could be provided to retailers prior to the event not to sell to unsupervised children however this advice in my opinion could not be enforced.

That said, the police reported empty silly string canisters being thrown into the crowds last year and we heard this had happened on at least one occasion this year. In view of the above, if the Council want to prevent this product being sold in the future, they could look at the anti-social behaviour legislation to see whether the sale of this product could be restricted. This would need to be considered well in advance of the event and would also need to be supported by the police. Ultimately it would be a question of whether to limit the fun of the majority because of the stupid actions of a few.”

6. CHRISTMAS GIFTS TO PUPILS OF PRIMARY SCHOOLS

Confirmation that Primary School’ pupils within the Town received their annual donation of chocolates. Unfortunately, due to ill health “Santa could not visit”.

Grateful thanks received from the Primary Schools of Maesteg Town:

Ysgol Cynwyd Sant
St Mary and St Patrick
Nantyffyllon
Plasnewydd
Garth
Caerau

Members queried the comments made by schools about the chocolate coins as two schools were unhappy with the last-minute change from a

selection box to chocolate coins; one school went out to purchase additional chocolates.

It was confirmed that the Clerk received permission from the Mayor to change from selection boxes to chocolate coins as online suppliers would not confirm that delivery could be made before the schools broke up for the Christmas period. Tesco had previously been contacted; however, they would not allow Maesteg Town Council to bulk purchase selection boxes and only stock on the shelves could be purchased.

Deputy Clerk advised that the Clerk had received verbal thanks from the schools.

RESOLVED: To note the information.

224 **MINUTE 207**
FINANCIAL APPLICATIONS

Letter of thanks and acknowledgement for financial support received from:

- CISS (Cancer Information & Support Services)
- Bridgend Community Bereavement Services

RESOLVED: To note the information.

225 **MINUTE 209**
ONE VOICE WALES

Acknowledgement of application and advice received from One Voice Wales:

- OVW officers can only speak to Clerk of the Council and the Mayor (or 1 other if the Mayor has given permission) over any issues – they will NOT speak to Councillors
- Maesteg Town Council will need to provide details of representatives (1 representative and one substitute representative) to go to meetings etc.
- OVW hold quarterly area meetings held in Cowbridge – next meeting scheduled for 13th January 2020 – clerks also invited to attend
- OVW hold 3 conferences a year
- OVW hold an additional 4 monthly meetings for larger T&CC's
- T&CC's will only benefit from membership if they become involved – if you don't use you won't benefit

- OVW have a service level agreement with Legal Advisers who specialise in T&CC's

RESOLVED: Clerk to advise One Voice Wales that Cllr C Reeves is the Maesteg Town Council representative.

226 MINUTE 214

TENDER PORTABLE TOILETS

1. Deputy Clerk emailed the winning tender to request whether hand washing facilities are included in the quote from Tender 2 and how much each unit would cost to replace if damaged.

Response received that:

- All units have hand sanitiser and during servicing it would be replenished.
 - For insurance purposes the cost of replacement is:
 - Single unit £700 +VAT
 - Disabled unit £1400 +VAT
 - They can deliver the units within 48 hours
2. Deputy Clerk emailed BCBC Market Manager to confirm that the units can be placed in the location as previously discussed

Response received: *Subject to agreeing an exact location and the installation of safety barriers, BCBC give consent for the portable toilets to be located in the service yard behind the market.*

RESOLVED: Deputy Clerk to advise the winning tender to proceed with installing the portable toilets.

227 MINUTE 215

PERSONNEL DISCUSSION

1. One Voice Wales (OVW) was contacted with regard to a 'Health Check' of the current Finances & Personnel matters.

Received a telephone call from Deputy Chief Executive OVW who advised that in the first instance a meeting needs to be arranged with the Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Personnel Committee (Cllrs G Thomas (Chair), L Thomas, D Edwards, R Martin, C Reeves) and Chair of Finance.

Due to the urgency of this request the only dates he has available at the moment for an evening meeting would be Friday 17th January 2020 at 6:30pm or Friday 24th January 2020 at 6:30pm.

2. A discussion took place with the ongoing absence of the Clerk, the lack of availability of financial documents and the precept deadline where the Clerk had advised that Maesteg Town Council had received an extension to submit.

RESOLVED:

1. Deputy Clerk to advise ONV that Friday 17th January 2020 at 6:30pm is convenient.
2. A letter is to be hand delivered to the Clerk by the Mayor requesting all documents returned to Maesteg Town Council.
3. Deputy Clerk to check with BCBC time limit to submit precept.

228 LIST OF PAYMENTS FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER 2019

No list of payments was provided by the Deputy Clerk to cover the month of December 2019. This was due to the Deputy Clerk not having access to the Accounts documents.

CORRESPONDENCE

229 SINGLE-USE PLASTICS

Information received from Brackla Community Council advising that they are considering the reduction of single-use plastics; looking at BCBC initiatives as well as others that have recently been publicised. They request if other Town and Community Councils within the Bridgend Borough have or are considering such initiatives; could views be shared?

RESOLVED: Deputy Clerk to advise that Maesteg Town Council don't have any current initiatives.

230 REFERRALS MONTH OF DECEMBER 2019

• **STREETLIGHTS**

- Greenfield Street

RESPONSE: Orders have been placed for work to be done.

- **RECYCLING CONTAINERS**

Recycling containers requested:

- Turberville Street

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

RESOLVED: Confirmation of action and to chase the request for recycling containers for Turberville Street as they still haven't been delivered.

231 CONCERN VULNERABLE ADULT- MAESTEG TOWN

Received concerns regarding an elderly lady, in a vulnerable condition in Talbot Street, requesting money from members of the public. The local PCSO contacted for assistance.

The Council advised that:

- the lady was not homeless and resided in Cardiff, having a return train ticket.
- the Police receiving many reports of vulnerable people requesting money from members of the public in the Town; on investigation these too are not homeless but are from the Cardiff area relying on the compassion and generosity of the valley residents.

RESOLVED: Confirmation of action and to note the information.

232 LLYNFI WOODLAND GROUP ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Invitation received for the above AGM on Wednesday 15th January 2020. Maesteg Town Council delegates – Cllr A James and co-opted member Mr R Meredith invited to attend.

RESOLVED: Deputy Clerk to forward invitation to Cllr A James.

233 THE PLAYING FIELDS (COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT IN DISPOSAL DECISIONS) (WALES) REGULATIONS 2015

Received the revised Statutory Guidance relating to The Playing Fields (Community Involvement in Disposal Decisions) (Wales) Regulations 2015, which has been updated due to an error at the end of paragraph 7.4 (a). The Guidance can also be accessed via the Welsh Government website:

<https://gov.wales/playing-field-disposal-guidance>

E-mailed to all Councillors for information.

RESOLVED: Confirmation of action and to note the information.

234 CONCESSIONARY BUS PASSES

Grace period agreed to support bus pass holders who have not yet applied for their new travel cards. Plans for what happens after the 31 December 2019 when Wales' largest renewal programme officially comes to an end have been announced.

These plans are an important step to support the small number of people who have yet to apply or receive their new-style cards. Over the past few months, Transport for Wales has been managing the re-issue programme to replace all over 60s and disabled persons' bus passes with new-style Concessionary Travel Cards before their expiry date at the end of December 2019.

Chief Executive of Transport for Wales, James Price, said "We'd like to thank everyone who has applied for their new bus card so far. Since September we've received over 550,000 applications, which includes 25,000 paper applications and there's been a significant operation behind the scenes to process all the applications as quickly as possible.

However, there may be people who have not applied yet or customers who are still waiting for their new cards to arrive. As a result, we are implementing a grace period in the new year and have worked with bus operators to agree a period of two months. During this time bus drivers should accept both old and new-style cards for travel. It's important to stress that this period will be temporary and is not an extension of the deadline. Those who wish to continue receiving the travel benefits into 2020 will need to re-apply for their new card by 31 January 2020 to make sure that we have time to issue a new card before 29 February 2020."

E-mailed to all Councillors for information.

RESOLVED: Confirmation of action and to note the information.

235 INCREASE IN CAR PARKING CHARGES

E-mail received about the increase in car parking charges for Bridgend and Porthcawl car parks that will come into effect on 1st January 2020.

E-mailed to all Councillors for information.

RESOLVED: Confirmation of action and to note the information.

236 RENTAL OF OFFICE SPACE

Request received from Llangynwyd Middle Community Council.
“Cost of renting office on a permanent basis for 4 hours per day.”
Currently being charged £50 per week (£10 per session of 4 hours per day), in line with Council’s current agreement.

RESOLVED: To continue with current agreement of £50 per week.

237 NEWSLETTERS/BULLETINS/ POSTERS

Available in Clerk’s Office for Members’ information:

- Sandville Self Help
- Noah’s Ark Winter Newsletter 2019
- Children with Cancer January 2019 – Impact report
- Bridgend Community Transport Drop in Event – 10/01/20
- Huw Irranca-Davies AM and Chris Elmore MP Joint Surgery 24/01/20 in Tesco Café
- Hartshorn House January 2020 Newsletter

Posters have been placed onto the notice board for information.

RESOLVED: Confirmation of action and to note the information.

238 BEREAVEMENTS – LETTERS OF CONDOLENCES

We have been advised of the following bereavements:

- Councillor Collins' mother, Mrs Jean Collins, passed away Saturday, 21st December 2019.
- Richard Voyce (toilet technician from JCDecaux) who serviced and maintained the Llynfi Rd Car Park toilet passed away at the end of November 2019 following a 4 month cancer diagnosis – a new contact has now been provided.

Letters of condolence have been sent to the families.

RESOLVED: Confirmation of action and to note the information.

239 TOWN HALL WORKS

Received an email from BCBC Town Centre manager to update on the above works:

Works required to facilitate the construction programme for Maesteg Town Hall are commencing on Monday 6th January. These works include traffic signal modifications such as pole relocation to back of footway, Additional pole to be added at kerb side and controller box relocation Town Hall side of the road.

The works will commence on Monday 06/01/20 at 08:30am and will complete on Friday 10/01/20.

Pedestrian barriers to manage the foot traffic shall be erected, ensuring 1.5m footway width including the tactile paving / drop kerbs.

Email forwarded to all Councillors for information.

RESOLVED: Confirmation of action and to note the information.

240 THANK YOU CARD

Thank you card, for the flowers received for Diamond Wedding Anniversary

RESOLVED: Confirmation of action and to note the information.

241 LLOYD'S BANK

Confirmation letters received that Deputy Clerk is now:

- an authorised signatory for the cheque book
- authorised user for online banking – user name and pin number to be sent separately
- Online for Business guide to Internet Banking – advises that for Online Payment Control you can set payment limits for each user or choose 2 or 3 people to authorise all online payments

Confirmation required for Online Banking to be used by Council and decision on Payment Control.

RESOLVED: Confirmation received that Deputy Clerk can progress with online banking to include 3 authorisers.

242 FINANCIAL APPLICATIONS

1. EISTEDDFOD YR URDD 2020

Annual request for financial support from above and is being held in Denbighshire.

RESOLVED: Council donate the sum of £100 under Section 137 of the Local Government Act (as amended).

2. AGE CYMRU WEST GLAMORGAN

Age Cymru Swansea Bay and Age Cymru Afan Nedd have merged to form Age Cymru West Glamorgan and now covers Bridgend, Neath Port Talbot and Swansea.

RESOLVED: Council donate the sum of £100 under Section 137 of the Local Government Act (as amended).

243 DELEGATE REPORTS

Cllr P Jenkins provided Members with the reports that were provided at the Town & Community Council Forum meeting held on 10th December 2019 which can be accessed with the following links:

Bridgend Local Education Services Report:

<https://democratic.bridgend.gov.uk/documents/s20786/TCC%20Forum%20Bridgend%20LGES%20101219%20v1.0.pdf?LLL=0>

Street Cleansing Report:

<https://democratic.bridgend.gov.uk/documents/s20785/TCC%20Street%20Cleansing.pdf?LLL=0>

244 PLANS

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

Ref: P/19/889/FUL
Applicant: Miss R Powell
Location: Brynrhug Farm Cwmdu Road Maesteg CF34 0DL
Proposal: Single storey rear extension to existing dwelling

Ref: P/19/930/FUL
Applicant: Mr R Tanner
Location: 31 Park View Maesteg CF34 9HF
Proposal: Detached single storey summer room/store in rear garden

Ref: P/19/947/FUL
Applicant: Mr W Adams
Location: 23 Morris Street Maesteg CF34 9EL

Proposal: Demolish existing substandard lean to & WC,
construct single storey extension to extend kitchen &
form decking area to rear elevation

Ref: P/19/944/FUL

Applicant: Mr Lee Jones

Location: Canann Independent Chapel St Michaels Road
Maesteg CF34 0PA

Proposal: Demolition of rear structures and conversion of
former chapel to dwelling

Ref: P/19/928/FUL

Applicant: Mr C Lavis

Location: Turbovil Garage Cemetery Road Maesteg CF34 0LW

Proposal: Increase in height of garage building

RESOLVED: To support the above planning applications.

**Read and accepted at a meeting of the Council
held on 4th February 2020**

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Mayor