

# MAESTEG TOWN COUNCIL

## COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of a meeting of the **Council** held remotely via Microsoft Teams and at the Council Meeting Room, Council Offices, Talbot Street, Maesteg, on **Tuesday, 1<sup>st</sup> September 2020.**

### **PRESENT:**

#### **COUNCILLORS:**

**A James (Mayor)**

R Collins, R Davies, D K Edwards, P Jenkins,

R Lewis, R Martin, R Penhale-Thomas, G Thomas,

L Thomas, P White and I Williams.

**APOLOGIES** for absence received from Councillors L Beedle, P Davies, W May, C Reeves, S Smith,

### **DECLARATION OF INTEREST:**

Cllrs R Collins, D K Edwards, R Penhale-Thomas and P White 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.

Cllr L Thomas declared an interest in items that may relate to Awen Cultural Trust.

### **114. MAYORAL EVENTS**

27<sup>th</sup> August           Diamond Wedding Anniversary

31<sup>st</sup> August           Maesteg's Forgotten Soldier remembrance service

The Mayor requested that Maesteg Town Council send a letter of thank you and a bouquet of flowers to volunteer Mr R Meredith for all the work he provided in researching and arranging the Henry (Harry) Patrick Walsh service with the family and the Royal British Legion.

**RESOLVED:** Clerk to provide thank you letter and arrange a bouquet of flowers.

**115. MINUTES**

The Following Minutes:

- **Full Council** – 04/08/2020

copies of which had been circulated to Members, were read, accepted as a true record and signed by the Mayor.

- **Personnel Committee** – 25/08/2020

The Acting Clerk was asked to leave the meeting for Council to discuss the Personnel Committee minutes.

**RESOLVED: THAT THE COUNCIL GO INTO COMMITTEE**

**Pursuant to section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 and Local Government Act 1972, ss100 & 102 ‘Members of the public/press can be excluded by resolution if publicity would prejudice the public interest by reason of confidential nature of the business and arising out of the business to be transacted’**

**RESOLVED: THAT THE COUNCIL COME OUT OF COMMITTEE**

Following the discussion, the Acting Clerk was asked to return to the meeting and to minute the following:

- There should be a positive action in recruitment
- Vote on the interview process:

OVW process	Other process	Abstain
7	3	1

Result: OVW process agreed to be used.

- Cllr G Thomas to amend recommendation 1 to a salary range and not an exact salary
- Agreed to accept all other recommendations

- **Property, H&S Committee** – 26/08/2020

copies of which had been circulated to Members, were read and all recommendations were accepted and agreed as a true record and signed by the Mayor.

**MATTERS ARISING**

**116. MINUTE 79  
LITTER BINS**

Email sent to BCBC 05/08/2020

BCBC will look in to the Hearts of Oak and get some feedback, it may be a case of refurbishment or vandalism as we have been experiencing a lot of this in the

Maesteg area, for which I was contacted by the local police that they had remanded someone they had caught carrying out this?

Awaiting further response.

**RESOLVED:** Confirmation of action and to note the information.

**117. MINUTE 80**

**AGENCY AGREEMENT FOR PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY**

Clerk messaged RoW/Environment contractor 06/08/2020 to request weekly/monthly schedules, these were sent, however due to inclement weather and illness only one schedule provided.

**RESOLVED:** Confirmation of action and to note the information.

**118. MINUTE 81**

**TOWN & COMMUNITY COUNCIL (T&CC) CAPITAL GRANT SCHEME APPLICATION**

A member queried the list of sports clubs that had shown an interest in the scheme as one was not currently involved with the CAT process. The Acting Clerk advised that this list was prepared before the scheme was agreed and open for applications. Once the scheme was open (05/08/2020) the BCBC CAT officer provided a list of clubs entitled to apply and all relevant clubs were emailed to apply for funding see minute 94.

**RESOLVED:** To note the information.

**119. MINUTE 82**

**DOG BAG REQUESTS**

Email sent 05/08/2020

BCBC currently in consultation with Tikspac to acquire more bins as we are under a contract, will respond to the request when they have a response.

**RESOLVED:** Confirmation of action and to note the information.

**120. MINUTE 83**

**REQUEST FOR INFORMATION REGARDING MR HENRY PATRICK WALSH A WW2 POW**

Email received from the family to advise approximately 19 family members will attend on 31<sup>st</sup> August 2020.

Chair of Finance to liaise with Traditional Bakery for welsh cakes.

Letter of thanks received from volunteer Mr R Meredith advising that 13 family members attended on the day along with 6 members of the Maesteg Branch of the Royal British Legion. Included was a thanks from the Walsh family for the kindness and sympathy shown in making the event a success. The family also thanked the Council for the light refreshments provided following the service.

**RESOLVED:** Confirmation of action and to note the information.

**121. MINUTE 87**

**REFERRALS MONTH SINCE LAST MEETING**

• **OVERGROWN TREES ON LAND BEHIND COEGNANT ROAD, NANTYFFYLLON**

Received a telephone call from a resident concerned that trees that were planted 30 years ago during the land reclamation scheme and is now on the banking next to the community route are very overgrown and is affecting their satellite signal.

Email sent to Custcare to chase response 06/08/2020.

**RESPONSE:** 06/08/2020 BCBC have requested that the inspector attend the area

Further email sent to Custcare 25/08/2020 as no response from the inspector received.

**RESOLVED:** Confirmation of action and to note the information.

**122. MINUTE 89**

**APPLICATION TO DIVERT A SECTION OF FOOTPATH 23 MAESTEG AT CWRT Y MWNWS FARM**

Following non delivery of the book Rights of Way: A Guide to Law and Practice 4th edition 'Blue Book', Clerk contacted the book retailer 05/08/2020 who advised that the delivery company had tried several times to deliver, however have now resolved to leave the parcel with the post office. Clerk has now collected the Rights of Way: A Guide to Law/ and Practice 4th edition 'Blue Book' was collected from the Post Office and is available for Councillors to peruse in the office.

**RESOLVED:** Confirmation of action and to note the information.

**123. MINUTE 90**

**EASING LOCKDOWN - CAR PARKING AND TOILETS**

Clerk emailed JC Decaux again on 07/08/2020 and response forwarded to all Councillors advising that in Wales they were hoping to re-open all APC Units

week commencing 17/08/2020. Unfortunately, JC Decaux then emailed to advise that JC Decaux are aiming to reopen the APC unit in Maesteg in early September - current scheduled date is Monday 7<sup>th</sup> September. Prior to reopening the unit, our technician will undertake a deep clean and testing to ensure it is in full working order.

Clerk contacted OVW for guidance, however no portable toilet specific guidance available, only the general H&S guidance that included the need for cleansing at least twice daily. This information forwarded to all Councillors.

Chair of H&S has contacted the Jobcentre to advise that MTC are looking for part-time cleaner of toilet facilities, six days a week (Mon - Sat). Hours TBC - but likely 12-15 hours. Pay at least NMW and likely a six-month contract in the first place. CVs would be preferable - submitted to the Clerk who will then convene a meeting of the personnel committee to take it forward.

**RESOLVED:** Following recommendation from Property, H&S Meeting, Chair of Property, H&S to continue with the clearing of the outside store room and the employment of a temporary cleaner.

**124. MINUTE 92**  
**PROPOSAL FOR ENVIRONMENTAL BUDGET BE SET FOR EACH WARD**

Clerk contacted Z Shell for details of the proposal 05/08/2020 – Received the following response:

*thanks for the email we are looking into the ability for the town council to dispose of waste jointly on our disposal account at a local outlet. So, we can confirm options would it be possible if you could provide a projection / estimate of the anticipated tonnage that the Town Council is likely to collect and your anticipated / available budget for disposal payment and I come back to you asap.*

Clerk advised MTC haven't looked into the actual tonnage yet, but have allocated £5k per ward within Maesteg Town Council boundary so have a budget of £20K for 2020-21 to include our contractor payments

Cllr G Thomas advised Z Shell:

*Thanks for the info and as Sian pointed out this is a small-scale project for the town council to try to help with some of the localised fly tipping. On that basis would it be possible to treat this as a pilot project and base the costs on an estimate of:*

*20 Skips (fully loaded 5 tonnes per skip ) – In reality this waste is likely to be fairly light weight and of an ad hoc nature so maximum of 1t per visit using a trailer? so I think a realistic weight would be in the 20t total ball park – We have set aside £20K on a 5k per ward basis and this will include the cost of the contractor to collect and deliver the waste. We can then review the project as it progresses with your waste provider to gauge the actual extent of the waste. Until we start its difficult to know and will be on an individual case basis.*

*I hope this help and that we can work together on this to progress some of the eye sore areas of our community*

25/08/2020 – Still awaiting details and procedure from BCBC as they have to check with the local waste outlet about joint disposal arrangements and also need to have some internal discussions with Procurement/Legal department to ensure what we do is set up correctly.

**RESOLVED:** Acting Clerk to continue to liaise with BCBC for procedure.

**125. MINUTE 93**

**PROPOSAL FOR TRAFFIC CALMING MEASURES**

Clerk emailed BCBC Traffic & Transportation 05/08/2020 to initiate the speed/traffic surveys for:

- Heol Ty Gwyn near the North entrance to the welfare park,
- Cymmer Hill in Caerau,
- St David's Place
- Salisbury Rd/Neath Rd
- Ewenny Rd

With a view to initially look into schemes for Heol Ty Gwyn, Cymmer Hill and St David's Place in the first instance and then to revisit other areas in 3 months' time to see how much funding would be available.

To date no further response received from BCBC.

**RESOLVED:** Acting Clerk and Cllr P White to liaise with BCBC to initiate the traffic surveys.

**126. MINUTE 94**

**CAT GRANT SCHEME**

- Clerk contacted G Smith to proceed with contacting BCBC Communications department to highlight that the scheme is now open 05/08/2020
- Clerk contacted Sports Clubs within MTC boundary to advise that the scheme is open. Also contact the club outside of the boundary to advise that they can be considered. It was also noted that MTC advise Llan Middle

Community Council that MTC have been contacted by the sports club within their boundary for assistance with CAT 05/08/2020

- Clerk publicised that the MTC CAT Grant Scheme is now open by placing this onto the website. – Contacted ITCS and this is on the website homepage 05/08/2020

**RESOLVED:** Confirmation of action and to note the information.

**127. MINUTE 95**

**LIST OF PAYMENTS FOR THE MONTH OF JULY 2020**

- Clerk processed the online form for Cllr G Thomas to become an authorised signatory 05/08/2020. Awaiting confirmation from the bank.
- Chair of Personnel wrote to the member concerned 05/08/2020.
- Mayor contacted the Clerk to discuss how many bulbs are ordered. A discussion ensued as to whether other types of bulbs could be ordered e.g. crocus bulbs that would add an additional colour to the Valley? Mayor to look into costing this.

**RESOLVED:** Confirmation of action and to note the information.

**128. MINUTE 96**

**BT PAYPHONE CONSULTATION**

Clerk advised BCBC planning that there are no objections to the removal of the payphone at Hermon Road 06/08/2020.

**RESOLVED:** Confirmation of action and to note the information.

**129. MINUTE 99**

**REFERRALS TO BCBC**

• **OVERGROWTH**

Weeds and other overgrowth are overhanging the pavements of Crown Row to Crown Road

**RESPONSE:** Thank you for contacting BCBC regarding the Hazardous (Cut back vegn/brmbles/ogrth. Cln out ditches) at Crown Road, Garth, Maesteg. An order has been issued to undertake the removal of the Hazardous (Cut back vegn/brmbles/ogrth. Cln out ditches) concerned.

To date this work still hasn't been carried out and a further email sent to BCBC 25/08/2020.

**RESOLVED:** Confirmation of action and to note the information.

**130. MINUTE 100**

**CODE OF CONDUCT COMPLAINT RECEIVED**

Clerk received email advising that the Ombudsman is not pursuing the complaint.

**RESOLVED:** To note the information.

**131. MINUTE 104**

**ONE VOICE WALES – WEBINAR TRAINING**

Chair of Personnel to contacted Councillors 05/08/2020. 4 Councillors have advised that they would like training and it was therefore discussed that a bespoke course was not necessary and individual members to have webinar training.

**RESOLVED:** Cllr G Thomas to provide list of Councillors and Acting Clerk to forward to OVW.

**132. MINUTE 105**

**FINANCIAL APPLICATIONS**

Letter of thanks and acknowledgement for financial support received from:

- First Responders – Defibrillators & security boxes
- Noah’s Ark Childrens Hospital Charity

**RESOLVED:** To note the information.

**133. MINUTE 112.2**

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS RELATING TO PROPERTY AND H&S**

Quote received for a building survey from 1<sup>st</sup> company:

- Detailed quote £3,975.00
- Plus a list of Optional Services £3,468.50

Quote received for a building survey from 2<sup>nd</sup> company

- Building Condition Survey £2,500 + VAT
- Repair & Maintenance Plan £1,500 + VAT

**RESOLVED:** Chair of Property, H&S to look at the quotes and decide which is best value for Maesteg Town Council to proceed with.

**134. LIST OF PAYMENTS FOR THE MONTH OF AUGUST 2020**

**RESOLVED:**

That the tables of Expenditure (£7,361.680), Income (£139.97) during the month of August 2020; copies of which had been circulated to Members, which included the addition of DD payments, Faster Online Payments and Bank Reconciliation be accepted, confirmed and signed by the Mayor.



A copy of the Receipts and Payments Account was also provided for Councillors which include expenditure against the budget and the budget remaining. An income analysis was also provided.

Cllr L Thomas raised the issue of reviewing supplier Contracts. Acting Clerk advised that this has been placed on the agenda for the next Finance Committee.

**135. AGENDA ITEM 7  
ZURICH INSURANCE RENEWAL**

Members were provided details of the Zurich Insurance renewal on 31<sup>st</sup> July 2020. At the August Full Council Meeting it was agreed to Agenda this for September as the renewal is not due until 25<sup>th</sup> September 2020.

Maesteg Town Council is currently in a long-term agreement with Zurich which was agreed in 2016, for five years so the 20-21 renewal will be the final year. Before next year's renewal, Zurich will contact MTC with a new long-term agreement offer, to see the different renewal options from them.

**Renewal cost: £3,100.79**

Members have been provided with the new policy documentation relating to the renewal as the email requested that Maesteg Town Council read the policy documents carefully before renewal.

Members discussed the policy documents and it was noted that on page 8 of the Policy Schedule the Portable Toilets are listed. As it was uncertain how long Maesteg Town Hall refurbishment would take and how long Covid-19 restrictions would be in place to leave the portable toilets listed on the policy.

**RESOLVED:** Acting Clerk to proceed with the renewal.

**136. AGENDA ITEM 8  
2020 BULB PLANTING**

Following the question raised at August Full Council meeting regarding the bulb planting within Maesteg Town Council Boundary the Clerk has contacted groups from last year to gauge interest for planting bulbs this year.

The following organisations have been contacted and have advised the following:

Ward	Area/organisation	No of sacks requested for 2019	No of sacks received in 2019	No of sacks requested for 2020
CAERAU	Caerau Invest Local	0	0	3
CAERAU	Caerau Dementia Friends	3	3	
CAERAU	Growers, School & Welfare Group	5	5	5
CAERAU	CDT	3	3	3
CAERAU	Local community	1	1	2
MAESTEG EAST	Green & banking by Brodawl	1	1	
MAESTEG EAST	Goodwin Terrace, Cross Street & Golden Terrace	2	2	4
MAESTEG EAST	Bronfair Allotment & Special Families	1	1	1
MAESTEG EAST	Caerau Men's Shed currently working in Comprehensive School	0	0	
MAESTEG EAST	Celtic Area	2	2	1
MAESTEG EAST/WEST	LLynfi Rivercare Group	0	0	2
MAESTEG WEST	Maesteg Park	1	1	1
NANTYFFYLLON	Locality of Nantyffyllon	1		
<b>TOTAL NO. OF SACKS</b>		<b>20</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>22</b>

The Following Schools are also to be contacted:

Ward	Area/organisation	No of sacks requested for 2019	No of sacks received in 2019	No of sacks requested for 2020
MAESTEG EAST	Garth Primary School	1	1	
MAESTEG EAST	Plasnewydd Primary School	1	Not sure if collected	
MAESTEG WEST	Cynwyd Sant Primary School	1	1	
MAESTEG WEST	St Patrick's & St Mary's RC School	2	2	
NANTYFFYLLON	Nantyffyllon Primary School	2	2	
<b>TOTAL NO. OF SACKS</b>		<b>7</b>	<b>6</b>	

Maesteg Town Council Environmental Contractor has planted 6 sacks at the following locations in 2019:

- Entrance to Maesteg - Llwydarth Rd,
- Alma Road
- Salisbury Road
- Lower Neath Road
- Heol Ty Gwyn
- Caerau Park

Mayor contacted the Clerk to discuss how many bulbs are ordered. A discussion ensued as to whether other types of bulbs could be ordered e.g. crocus bulbs that would add an additional colour to the Valley? Mayor to look into costing this.

Costings: (via GeeTee Bulb Company website)

Crocus (Mixed)

1-50 packs                      Per pack of 50 bulbs                      £10.14 (£8.45 + VAT)

Daffodils                      Per 25kg sack                      £38.40 (£32 + VAT)

Following a discussion, it was agreed to plant daffodils and crocus plants this year.

**RESOLVED:** Acting Clerk to proceed with ordering daffodils and crocus bulbs.

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

### **137. COVID-19 SPECIFIC UPDATES**

Emailed to all Councillors for information:

- BCBC Media Updates
- Welsh Government updates

**RESOLVED:** Confirmation of action and to note the information.

### **138. REFERRALS MONTH SINCE LAST MEETING**

- **POTHLES**

2 large potholes Belmont Close

**RESPONSE:** Awaiting response

- **LOOSE MAHOLE COVER**

On Crown Row opposite junction with Lewis Avenue

**RESPONSE:** Awaiting response

- **REQUEST TO MOVE SOUTH PARADE STREET SIGN**

South Parade street sign not visible enough to motorists, request to move to better location

**RESPONSE:** Awaiting response

- **DAMAGED STILE ON FOOTPATH 39**

Damaged stile on footpath 39, photos were also sent to BCBC RoW manager.

**RESPONSE:** Thanks for advising about the dilapidated stile on Fp 39 Maesteg. I've passed it on to our Maintenance Officer, to take forward as soon as we are able to.

- **DEAD PIGEON ON PAVEMENT – COMMERCIAL STREET**  
Dead pigeon on pavement near to the sweets shop on Commercial Street.

**RESPONSE:** This has been passed onto our Cleaner Streets Team.

**RESOLVED:** Confirmation of action and to note the information.

**139. RBL POPPY APPEAL**

Maesteg Branch of the Royal British Legion have advised that there will not be a poppy appeal in 2020. This is a national decision due to Covid-19.

Currently no decision has been made on the Remembrance Sunday Service and Parade. However, wreaths will still be available for Remembrance Sunday and can be ordered by contacting the Chairperson of the Maesteg Branch of the Royal British Legion (contact details can be found with the Clerk). The Chairperson of the Maesteg Branch of the RBL will then advise what dates the wreaths can be collected from the basement of MTC building and is likely to be by appointment only.

**RESOLVED:** To note the information.

**140. REQUEST WHEN HENSHED CAN RECOMMENCE MEETINGS**

Maesteg Henshed have emailed requesting when they can recommence their weekly meetings. Clerk has advised that the building is currently still closed to the public and some of our main concerns is the bottleneck at the entrance/exit of the building, use of kitchen/toilets, number of people (as the 30 people gatherings limitation is for outdoors only). Council are continually looking at Welsh Government Guidance and the Current Welsh Government restrictions can be found <https://gov.wales/coronavirus-regulations-guidance#section-39241>

Members agreed that Maesteg Town Council follow all Welsh Government advice and restrictions and that the building continues to be closed to the public and to groups.

**RESOLVED:** Confirmation of action and to note the information.

**141. BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL (BRIDGEND ROAD, GARTH) (TEMPORARY TRAFFIC ORDER) ORDER 2020**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that the Council as the Highway Authority for Garth in exercise of its powers under Section 14(1) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 (as amended) intends in not less than 7 days from the date of this Notice to make an Order which will temporarily introduce the restriction set out in the schedule below. The Order is necessary due to insufficient width of carriageway to maintain vehicular access during masonry repairs to bridge and

tree felling and is in the interest of public safety. **The Order will come into force on the 28th September 2020 and it is anticipated will be operative between 23:10 to 06:00 on 28th September 2020 to 3rd October 2020**, or until such time as the works are completed, and will continue in force for a maximum period of eighteen months.

#### Schedule

1. No person shall cause any vehicle to proceed in Bridgend Road, Garth at approximately 20 meters either side of the rail bridge

The restriction shall however only apply at such time and to such extent as shall from time to time be indicated by traffic signs prescribed by The Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions 2016.

The alternative route is via Castle Street, Talbot Street, Commerical Street, Bethania Street, Llwydarth Road, Maesteg Road, Mill Street, Bridgend Road.

Access for pedestrians and emergency vehicles will be maintained.

**RESOLVED:** To note the information.

#### **142. RATS IN ROOF OF MTC BUILDING**

Rat droppings have been seen in the upstairs meeting room of Maesteg Town Council building. They appear to be coming from the attic vent in the ceiling.

Following a conversation with the Chair of Property and H&S Dragon Pest Control have been contacted.

Dragon Pest Control visited the offices and advised that the pellets were not rat droppings but empty larvae casing. He proceeded to go into the attic and advised that there was no evidence of rat activity but a number of large dead hornets were present and that there were no holes in the roof. He did a quick visual inspection outside the building and noted that there are areas where pigeons could enter the roof and that the soffits looked to be rotten.

Mr G White has blocked the attic vent to prevent any further debris falling into the meeting room.

**RESOLVED:** Confirmation of action and to note the information.

**143. REPORT ON 2016-17 ACCOUNTS**

**RESOLVED: THAT THE COUNCIL GO INTO COMMITTEE**

**Pursuant to section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 and Local Government Act 1972, ss100 & 102 ‘Members of the public/press can be excluded by resolution if publicity would prejudice the public interest by reason of confidential nature of the business and arising out of the business to be transacted’**

**RESOLVED: THAT THE COUNCIL COME OUT OF COMMITTEE**

**144. MAESTEG POST OFFICE**

Request from Cllr R Penhale-Thomas:

Maesteg Post Office is currently under temporary management in a temporary location. As was evident in the early Summer when it appeared the Post Office could have closed, it's a very well-used facility with residents of the Llynfi Valley and further afield accessing a range of services. It is crucial that this service is not lost.

I therefore ask that council agrees to undertake a feasibility study into acquiring the franchise for Maesteg Post Office as a way of securing its future for the benefit of local residents. There is a precedent for local authorities and/or town and community councils having stepped in to support Post Office services, including Hailsham Town Council (East Sussex) and Monmouthshire County Council running the service in Usk.

The feasibility study could be led by a cross-party working group (to a maximum of four councillors), reporting back to council its findings in due course.

Members considered this proposal as the local MP and MS have jointly been investigating this issue along with BCBC and Maesteg Town Council do not want to duplicate the work of these elected bodies. There has been lots of interest locally but no permanent solution found. It was agreed to form a working panel to undertake a feasibility study. The Following Councillors agreed to form the working panel:

Cllr P Jenkins  
Cllr R Martin  
Cllr R Penhale-Thomas  
Cllr G Thomas

**RESOLVED:** Working panel look into the feasibility study and report back to Council.

#### **145. CHRISTMAS LIGHTS**

Centregreat telephoned to enquire about the Christmas lights for 2020. It was discussed that due to the ongoing refurbishment works at Maesteg Town Hall it is unlikely that a Christmas Tree would be needed. Likewise, due to the ongoing Covid-19 restrictions it is unlikely that a Christmas Parade would be achievable this year. Centregreat advised that it would be best to keep to the lighting as per 2019 and not to make any changes, they also suggest that the switch-on could be done at the beginning of the December Council meeting?

A further email from a member of the public also received requesting information on:

- Date & time of parade, switch on and fireworks
- Date & time of Blessing of the Crib
- Date & Time of Christmas Fayre

Members deliberated that due to current Covid-19 restrictions a parade could not be endorsed. However, felt that this issue needs to be discussed in more detail with the Events Committee. The Acting Clerk also added whether the annual selection boxes should be ordered in preparation to give out to the primary schools within Maesteg Town Council boundary.

#### **RESOLVED:**

- Events Committee to meet to discuss.
- Acting Clerk to contact schools to enquire if they feel that selection boxes are appropriate this year due to Covid-19, if yes to acquire pupil figures.

#### **146. FIRE RISK ASSESSMENT**

The Fire Risk Assessment was completed 27/08/2020. Still awaiting the report (which will be forwarded to all Councillors once received) however, the assessor did mention the following risks:

- The building can hold no more than 60 people at any time
- Not happy about the 2 x gas canisters being stored in the basement as they pose a massive fire risk
- Under the staircase should remain empty and clear at all times
- Fire alarms should be tested weekly – have contacted ADT to be shown how to do this
- Emergency exit lighting should also be tested monthly - have contacted the electrician to be shown how to do this

**RESOLVED:** Confirmation of action and to note the information

**147. NALC 2020-21 NATIONAL SALARY AWARD**

The above for 2020-21 has been received and forwarded to all Councillors for information. Acting Clerk currently paid on scale 24 therefore an increase of 40p per hour from 2019-2020. These scales came into effect 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020, however only advised of this change 1<sup>st</sup> September 2020. It was agreed that the Acting Clerk be paid the backpay due following the pay increase.

**RESOLVED:** Acting Clerk to provide the number of hours where backpay is due to cover the period 01/04/2020 to 31/08/2020 to the Chair of Personnel and the Mayor.

**148. FINANCIAL APPLICATIONS**

**MARIE CURIE NURSES in BRIDGEND**

Email received from the above, requesting financial assistance. They sincerely thank the Council for its support each year. Marie Curie Nurses help people living with a terminal illness and their families at the time they need it most. Their care enables people to stay in the familiar surroundings of their own home with their loved ones as their illness progresses. Last year they provided 1400 hours of direct care for 56 people within the Bridgend County, including patients from the Maesteg area.

Due to increased demand, Marie Curie has also extended the opening hours of its Support Line service to 7 days a week: Monday to Friday 8am to 6pm, Saturday and Sunday 11am to 5pm. If you, or someone you know, is affected by a terminal illness and concerned about Coronavirus, our Support Line team are ready to help with the information you need when you need it. Call free 0800 090 2309. You can also find more information on our website: [mariecurie.org.uk/coronavirus](http://mariecurie.org.uk/coronavirus)

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

**149. DELEGATES REPORTS**

No Delegates reports for August 2020

**150. PLANNING**

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

The following application was discussed and Cllr R Lewis is to look at the location as the only objection would be lack of parking:

Ref: P/20/475/FUL  
Applicant: Mr G Rees  
Location: 3b Picton Street Maesteg CF34 0EW



Proposal: Conversion of shop premises into 3no. self-contained flats and ground floor retail unit (A1 to A1/C3 use class)

The following applications received no objections:

Ref: P/20/525/FUL  
Applicant: Mr C Kensella  
Location: Former Natwest Bank 15b Talbot Street Maesteg CF34 9BW  
Proposal: Change of use to convert first floor in part and second floor into 2no. self-contained flats

Ref: A/20/17/ADV  
Applicant: Poundland Ltd  
Location: The Original Factory Shop Castle Street Maesteg CF34 9UN  
Proposal: New illuminated fascia sign to front elevation to replace existing facing Castle Street

Ref: P/20/565/FUL  
Applicant: Ms J O'Gorman  
Location: 6 Vicarage Terrace Maesteg CF34 9PF  
Proposal: Demolition of substandard structure and construct 2 storey extension to rear

**Read and accepted at a remote meeting of the Council  
held on 6<sup>th</sup> October 2020**

.....  
**Mayor**