

MAESTEG TOWN COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of a meeting of the **Projects Committee** held remotely via Microsoft Teams and at the Council Meeting Room, Council Offices, Talbot Street, Maesteg, on **Monday, 19th October 2020.**

PRESENT:

COUNCILLORS: **R Davies (Deputy Mayor)**
L Beedle, R Collins, P Davies, D K Edwards, P Jenkins,
R Martin, R Penhale-Thomas, C Reeves,
G Thomas, L Thomas, P White and I Williams.

APOLOGIES for absence received from Councillors A James, R Lewis, W May and S Smith

DECLARATION OF INTEREST: Cllrs R Collins, P Davies, D K Edwards, R Penhale-Thomas and P White declared an interest in items relating to Bridgend County Borough Council.

207. Speed Traffic Survey Recommendations

Members were provided with the Speed Survey results and the recommendations from the Traffic and Transportation officer are:

1. It is advised that on entry to Bridgend County Borough from Croeserw prior to entering Cymmer Hill, the speed limit be raised from its current 30mph to 40mph, with a new gateway feature on the entrance to Caerau at the top of the hill indicated by 30mph signs on yellow reflective back boards. They could be located prior to the current dragons' teeth. In addition, a new sign on reflective backboard to replace the current gradient warning sign or even a vehicle activated sign (subject to funding). Combining a speed limit change with a new gateway feature at the top of the hill the measures should visually prompt drivers to the upcoming change in environment.
2. It is noted that high volumes of traffic travel along Garnwen Road and Nantyyffyllon Terrace however the majority are at or below the posted speed limit and it is considered that speed along this road is mainly inappropriate rather than excessive speed and should therefore be reported to the police.
3. Heol Ty Gwyn's mean speed limit is around the posted speed limit however there is a large proportion above the posted speed limit and therefore we are contacting Gosafe to highlight this area as a site of community concern to request that they monitor the location. Should funding become available we could also consider a 30mph Vehicle Activated Signs on both approaches to the park and along the straight stretch of this road after the industrial estate

entrance. Each of these VAS's cost approx. £2,500 each again subject to funding being available a vas speed sign could also be installed just after the junction prior to the start of Garnwen Road.

4. Speed surveys for St Davids place and Kier Hardie Road indicate that the majority of drivers are beneath the posted speed limit with the Mean speed significantly beneath the posted speed limit and it is therefore considered that no intervention is required on these roads at this time.

Requests from Councillors:

- extend the speed survey and measures to include outside Nanty park – this park is on the main road and has had multiple incidents including the main wall being hit by a car last month – something needs to be done to prevent reoccurrence such as erection of a crash barrier?
- Acting Clerk invited BCBC Traffic & Transportation officers to the meeting and requested that the other areas are surveyed as previously requested and the below response was provided:

Unfortunately, we are unable to attend this meeting however should you wish to make arrangements for a meeting between 9am and 4pm Monday to Friday to discuss the matter we would be happy to assist.

The original request was to provide speed surveys for the Heol Ty Gwyn, Cymmer Hill in Caerau, St David's Place which we provided speed survey quotes for undertaking. You have received St Davids place however should you wish for surveys to be undertaken at Salisbury Rd/Neath Rd plus Ewenny Rd, please can you clarify the exact locations that you wish the surveys to be undertaken at. Please note they are unable to be undertaken at junctions which the Salisbury Rd/Neath road reads as.

After looking at the recommendations from BCBC Traffic and Transportation it was **agreed** that a meeting with the Officer was needed as the recommendations do not provide sufficient speed calming measures for the areas surveyed. Members deliberated each recommendation and agreed that not many people adhere to the VAS and white/yellow lining and that more physical measures were needed to slow down the traffic. It was noted that not all accidents recently have been due to speeding vehicles.

The following members agreed to meet with the Traffic and Transportation Officer remotely in the first instance but it was also felt that a physical socially distanced site meetings in all Wards were also needed to explain the area to the Officer:

Caerau	Maesteg East	Maesteg West	Nantyffyllon
P Davies	I Williams	R Collins	G Thomas
		R Martin	P White
		R Penhale-Thomas	

RESOLVED: Clerk to arrange Microsoft Teams Meeting with Traffic and Transportation Officer.

208. Covid Recovery Fund

Members were provided with the original Proposal from Cllr G Thomas that was an agenda item in the October Full Council Meeting.

Cllr G Thomas propose that Maesteg Town Council extend the current BCBC Covid recovery fund to other areas of the valley that are not included in this scheme. I would like to set aside £40K to be allocated to this project on the same rules as the BCBC scheme (but with a lower grant Cap of 2.5K and still 80% grant – 20% contribution) it can be equally shared across the 4 wards – to allow grants to be allocated to help commercial businesses especially in the hospitality industry to improve the outdoor facilities to encourage their use during the winter months. With the increasing risk of Covid-19 I think it is imperative that the council act to help businesses prepare for the winter season ahead. There are budgeted revenue items unspent from various budget lines that would allow this cost to be covered without effecting the councils reserves or ongoing spending.

Email responses from Cllrs:

- Dear clerk please would you get clarification from OVW on the question of giving public funds to private business, firstly do we have the powers do so and under what section, has I have grave reservations on this, given that Welsh gov has given money and extra powers to help businesses, we do not have these powers, given that there hundreds of individual business who would claim they are struggling and rightly so. Also, families are also suffering and would be worthy of support from council. As far as 137 concerned I think we would struggle to prove public funds were put to community use. Could you get answers to both these questions as not to fall foul of Auditor.
- Thank you, whilst I would like to help everyone, and proposal made in good faith, the flood gates may not hold back from the help that could be required. Scenario should further restrictions be in place or complete lockdown then as far as retail and in particular cafes food restraints will have no footfall, thus no amount of money or improvement would be to no avail, without customers. I know of family's who are in the grey area of council/ and gov help who are struggling to access the help needed to stay above water. please feel free to express my concern and sentiment.

Response from OVW

The Acting Clerk advised Members that following a number of emails concerning this Agenda Item, advice was sought from OVW and the following information was provided:

- the only powers currently available would be the general powers available under Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972 or the Power of Wellbeing also called General Powers see NALC Legal Topic Note (LTN) attached explaining both powers.
You will note that the total expenditure under Section 137 and the Power of Wellbeing in any one financial year is limited by Welsh Government (WG) see letter attached in relation to 2020/21.

If the Council's expenditure under the aforementioned powers has not reached the limits set by WG for this year i.e £8.32 per elector then the Council could consider setting up a fund within the limited finance it has left to support local businesses.

The question of which type of business if any the Council should support if such a fund was established is a matter for the Council to determine when it debates the proposal.

Unlike the County Borough Council that will have a responsibility for the economic development of the County Borough a Community or Town Council has no such specific powers other than Section 137 or the Power of Wellbeing that it can for such purposes and as you can see there is a limit to the total amount a Council can spend in any one year on expenditure under both powers combined.

The Acting Clerk had also sought advice from Audit Wales and they advise against giving grants to businesses.

MINUTED FROM FULL COUNCIL 06.10.2020

Members deliberated the proposal as the BCBC fund is limited to the town centre hospitality businesses only. It was agreed to discuss this further at a projects committee. Cllr W May objected to the proposal and objected for it to be discussed further at Projects Committee.

Members agreed that businesses were suffering due to the current pandemic. However, there were concerns with this proposal where an officer from Audit Wales had advised against giving this type of grant to businesses. BCBC are able to provide the grants as they have been required to administer a grant via Welsh Government, Town & Community Councils have not been requested to support the local hospitality businesses in this way.

RESOLVED: This proposal is not supported.

209. Post Office Feasibility.

Members were unable to discuss fully the delegates report from the Full Council Meeting in October and it was requested to discuss at the Projects Committee.

The feasibility group advised that currently they are in no position to provide costings for renting a premises and subsequent decisions about the feasibility of running a post office. Members of the group also advised if business plans were to be provided there would be costs involved with obtaining legal advice and approximate costs in sourcing premises. Maesteg Town Council can run a post office by becoming a Community Investment Company but in order to proceed a full business plan would be needed. The group asked Council if this is work pursuing as there are unknown costs involved.

Members all agreed that Maesteg Town require a facility and service suitable for the community and that the current temporary location of the post office is a temporary solution until a more permanent solution can be found.

RESOLVED: The feasibility group to continue with providing a business plan and Council agreed to costs involved.

210. Bus subsidy for Maesteg Park circular service

Cllr R Penhale-Thomas requested this item to be discussed.

Previously Maesteg Town Council were advised in the Full Council Meeting in September 2019, MINUTE 103 that the Maesteg Park 37 Service could only continue with the continuation of £30,000 subsidy.

Originally when looking at the bus subsidy for Service No. 37, it was a 6 day per week service at £30,000 subsidy. Cllr Penhale-Thomas requests whether Maesteg Town Council would be willing to subsidise a reduced service and possibly go into partnership with Llan Middle Community Council as the route is also used by residents within Llan Middle Community Council boundary.

Members discussed that bus services are diminishing within the area; the loss of Service No.37 not the only service to be lost. Service No. 30 which travels between Caerau and Turberville Estate has also been lost recently and is another vital route to many residents.

Members were mindful that should Maesteg Town Council fund a bus service then this would need to be funded in subsequent years. Members agreed to look into the costs involved with subsidising this service as a trial before agreeing to

other services and to contact Bridgend Community Transport to see what current and future plans they have for the area.

RESOLVED: Cllr R Penhale-Thomas and Clerk to look into costings for bus subsidy with a local bus contractor.

211. Residential Permit Parking

Cllr R Penhale-Thomas requested this item to be discussed.

Currently the only information on BCBC Website:

<https://www.bridgend.gov.uk/residents/roads-transport-and-parking/residential-parking/>

Currently, permits are free, but only one permit is allowed per house. You can only have a residential parking space on roads with a scheme in place.

In Maesteg the following Streets have residential parking and are enforced by BCBC parking enforcement team:

- Alfred Street
- Castle Street
- Cross Street
- Goodwin Street
- Meadow Street
- Plasnewydd Street
- Queen Street
- River Street
- Tabor Place
- Temple Street

Members were advised that 3 or 4 years ago BCBC Cabinet agreed to a trial of residential parking in the Bridgend Town Area. The issues during the trial period included other streets being impacted and inundated with parking issues.

Maesteg Town Council and its members are inundated with requests for residential only parking and have been requesting this with BCBC for many years. Almost all streets surrounding the schools have issues twice daily and currently there seems to be an increase in requests for residential parking in the streets surrounding the town centre. It was suggested to enquire about re-opening the section of carpark underneath Aldi, however this was originally closed due to arson attacks.

It was agreed that this be discussed during the meeting with the Traffic and Transportation Officers.

RESOLVED: Clerk to arrange Microsoft Teams Meeting with Traffic and Transportation Officer.

212. Double yellow lines at junctions throughout the Llynfi Valley.

Cllr R Penhale-Thomas requested this item to be discussed as this was a piece of work MTC had originally agreed to undertake with BCBC.

Clerk contacted Traffic & Transportation for advice and they advised:

Following retirement of all the Traffic Management staff at the start of this year, please can you send across the list of locations that you would like us to investigate with regards to the introduction of double yellow lines in order for us to restart the process.

Members were provided with the original email sent to Traffic & Transportation officer in 2018 where members agreed to undertake a feasibility study on the following streets on the condition that submission of these potential traffic orders would be covered under one legal order cost of £7k to £10k.

Members identified due to obstructive parking and lack of access for emergencies the following streets:

Caerau	Maesteg East	Maesteg West	Nantyffyllon
Metcalfe St	Talgarth St	Ivor St at jct Station St	John St
	Duke St	Park View at jct Llwydarth Rd	Brown St
	Pit St	Exchange St	
	Crown Rd	Court St	
	Lewis Rd	Upper St	
	Crown Row	Albert Tce	
		Neath Rd opposite jt Salisbury Rd	
		Morris St	
		West St	

Members deliberated the issue of double yellow lines and the issues it can create especially in areas where there is narrow road infrastructure, increased housing, increase in car ownership. Currently there are regulations with parking too close to a junction but it is not enforced. By increasing double yellow lines, it can create further parking problems.

It was agreed that this be discussed during the meeting with the Traffic and Transportation Officers.

RESOLVED: Clerk to arrange Microsoft Teams Meeting with Traffic and Transportation Officer.

213. Festival funding to be reserved for next year

Cllr G Thomas requested this item to be discussed.

Would like the festival funding be reserved for next year but extended to outside the town center. I would like a portion of the budget circ 5K to be allocated to each ward to extend the festivities outside the main town center (maybe a discussion for the normal budget spend rather than project).

Members discussed the proposal and agreed that events should be held throughout the Maesteg Town Council boundary. Should any venues and events wish to be included then this could be revisited at an Events Committee meeting when planning the annual Gŵyl Maesteg Festival.

RESOLVED: Clerk to add to the Agenda for an Events Committee meeting

214. Ward funding for 3 year plan

Cllr G Thomas requested this item to be discussed

Would like £20-30K to allow local ward to progress with a 3-year year plan see Nantffyllon Plan as an example.

Members looked at the road map provided and agreed that it was a good plan, however most was currently either within the remit of BCBC or should be adapted for all of the Council and not just Ward specific. It was agreed to add the road map to a budget meeting.

RESOLVED: To add to a future budget meeting.

**Read and accepted at a remote meeting of the Council
held on 3rd November 2020**

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Mayor