

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, 3rd November 2020**.

PRESENT:

COUNCILLORS:

A James (Mayor)

L Beedle, R Collins, P Davies, R Davies, D K Edwards, P Jenkins, R Lewis, R Martin, R Penhale-Thomas, C Reeves, S Smith, G Thomas, L Thomas, P White and I Williams.

APOLOGIES for absence received from Councillor W May

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, including Development Control and Licensing.

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

Cllrs R Collins and P White declared an interest in items relating to Royal British Legion. Cllr P Jenkins advised that whilst he is a member of the RBL, he has no financial gain from the Financial Application.

Cllr P Davies declared an interest in items relating to Caerau Development Trust.

224. POLICE MATTERS

The Mayor welcomed Sgt Evans to the meeting and the following Crime figures were provided:

Maesteg Crime Statistics for October 2019

	Caerau / Nanty	Maesteg East	Maesteg West	Llan	Total in category
Robbery	0	0	0	0	0
Drugs	0	2	0	0	2
Dwelling burglary	1	0	0	0	1
Burglary other	0	0	6	0	6
Theft of vehicle	0	0	0	0	0

Theft from vehicle	0	2	3	0	5
All other theft	3	3	13	0	19
Damage	4	6	4	0	14
Assault with injury	4	2	25	1	12
All crime total	12	15	31	1	59
Anti-social behaviour total	13	10	13	3	39
Drink Driving	0	0	0	0	0

Maesteg Crime Statistics for October 2020

	Caerau / Nanty	Maesteg East	Maesteg West	Llan	Total in category
Robbery	0	0	0	0	0
Drugs	1	0	1	0	2
Dwelling burglary	0	0	2 attempted	0	2
Burglary other	2	0	1	0	3
Theft of vehicle	0	0	1	0	1
Theft from vehicle	2	0	0	0	2
All other theft	11	2	10	0	23
Damage	6	6	6	2	20
Violence against the person	23	20	18	4	65
Domestic related occurrence	6	6	7	2	21
All crime total	45	28	39	6	118
Anti-social behaviour total	31	16	22	11	80
Drink Driving	0	0	0	0	0

Sgt Evans advised members that Sgt Lea is currently working with British Transport Police and BCBC Community Safety Partnership to tackle many of the issues within the Town Centre that include options for CCTV on Llynfi Lane and more signage advising that ASB will not be tolerated.

Members raised the following:

- a) Issues in Caerau where youths are kicking in fences
Sgt Evans advised that they are witnessing an increase in ASB in Caerau, Maesteg Park, Town Centre and Tesco. SW Police have been unable continue with engagement activities due to Covid-19, however advise all residents to report issues to 101 in order for areas to be visited.
- b) How many breaches of Covid restrictions are being reported and investigated?

Sgt Evans advised that Maesteg is quite high with the number of breaches of Covid Regulations, however this does vary day to day. Officers do attend these residential premises and most of the time there are genuine reasons why it may seem like a breach of the regulations. With regard to licensed premises some have been reported and attended but no data at present as to which premises have been investigated.

- c) There have been issues with a property located on Turberville Street, where all night parties are being held. The police are contacted but it doesn't seem to have any effect.

Sgt Evans advised that if there is a Covid regulations breach, SW Police can intervene, however if its noise related then this falls within the remit of BCBC Environmental Health. Also, if the property is a V2C property they can also intervene, however during Covid social landlords are unable to evict for 6 months.

- d) Increase in inconsiderate parking on pavements where no action is being done. The problem is exasperated on refuse collection days where not only are the pavements blocked with cars but also the refuse and recycling bags making it impossible for pedestrians, wheelchair users and families with pushchairs being able to use the pavements.

Sgt Evans advised that she will ask the local PCSO's to visit the problematic areas and issue tickets for obstruction. However, BCBC parking enforcement have been contacted on numerous occasions.

Sgt Evans requested that if anyone was aware of any events being planned for bonfire night that they are reported to SW Police.

RESOLVED: To note the information

225. BCBC BUDGET CONSULTATION

The Mayor welcomed BCBC Budget Consultation Officers N Bunston and A Boyce to the meeting who gave an overview of the current BCBC Budget Consultation including the following:

- Consultation runs from 19th October 2020 until 13th December 2020, with a view to get the report completed by January 2021.
- Change in the way the budget is being consulted. – unable to engage with residents face to face in libraries or community centres. More focus on online engagement, however hard copies of the consultation are available by telephoning (01656) 643664, where the team are also able to go through the consultation on the telephone.
- Questions geared more for the future recovery plans from Covid rather than money savings.

Since the consultation has started approximately 500 people have responded online and some of the responses include:

- 85% say they haven't missed coming into civic offices
- 51% say its important to give financial support to businesses
- 35% say to keep Council Tax the same

Members raised the following questions:

- Many concerns about a large proportion of population that are digitally isolated, how will they be engaged? What is the target % of population you hope to engage with?

Difficult to engage with everyone, however BCBC have advertised the consultation in the local newspapers and on local radio. The team are happy to post out the consultation surveys in a number of formats that include easy read, large print, youth surveys. With regards to a target number of responses, last year 7,500 responses were received and the team hope that after the firebreak more residents will complete the surveys.

- It seems that there is never any reference within the consultations on what Town & Community Councils can do to support BCBC. It is difficult to know what is expected of T&CC's to provide and budget for their communities when BCBC do not advise T&CC's what they need.

This is a question raised by many T&CC's and this year there is a FAQ section on the consultation web pages that include T&CC's.

The Consultation Officers requested that Maesteg Town Councillors highlight the need to complete the BCBC Consultation with their residents.

RESOLVED: Clerk to forward the BCBC Consultation poster to all Councillors and also request it be placed onto MTC Website & noticeboard.

226. **MAYORAL EVENTS**

- 10th October - Golden Wedding Anniversary
- 24th October - Opened the new Poundland Store
- Ran a Facebook pumpkin carving competition – prizes donated by Poundland

RESOLVED: To note the information

227. **MINUTES**

The Following Minutes:

- **Full Council** – 06/10/2020
- **Extraordinary Council** – 13/10/2020
- **Projects Committee** – 19/10/2020

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

The recommendations of the Minutes of the **RBL Sub Committee** – 21/10/2020, were read and the Clerk advised that as a Town Council we are unable to offer money to organisations, however should they request funding then we can consider providing grant funding.

The recommendations of the Minutes of the **Personnel Committee** – 29/10/2020, were read and were discussed. An amendment to recommendation 3 was voted on whether to review the number of hours in 6 months' time and received the following outcome 6 for and 10 against.

MATTERS ARISING

228. MINUTE 161 POLICE MATTERS

Email sent 12/10/2020 to Sgt Evans requesting the crime figures are broken down further and to ask why there is such an increase in violence against persons.

Response: I have tried to explain this previously, but it is not straight forward and is to do with the way things are recorded by SWP.

The figures are a rough guide and often can be changed by the time they are finally classified.

Violence against the person will include assaults and also includes harassment and threats (where there has not been any physical assault.).

The criteria for harassment is that a person is caused harassment, alarm and distress. This is also the same for ASB, so sometimes an incident that is ASB may end up being recorded as a crime.

This, as you can imagine, causes the figures to appear quite high.

I will ask administrative support if they are able to break the figures down further, but this can be quite time consuming.

RESOLVED: To note the information

229. MINUTE 163 MINUTES – CAT GRANT PANEL

Clerk advised that the Monitoring Officer had responded to advise that there were no concerns with the CAT Grant Panel.

RESOLVED: To note the information and to progress with the scheme.

**230. MINUTE 165
LITTER BINS**

27/10/2020 - It will be replaced shortly; we have a number of bins being refurbished but have been hampered recently with replacing vandalised bins. I will try to get this sorted this week.

RESOLVED: To note the information

**231. MINUTE 166
DOG BAG REQUESTS**

BCBC able to offer 3 Tikspac posts at present, be for the areas identified below:

- 1 in Garth Welfare Park
- 1 on Talbot Street
- 1 on Commercial Street

Further email sent requesting more Tikspac posts for the cycle track.

Chair of Finance looked online and the Tikspac posts cost the following:

- £150 (all + vat) - post
- £65 ×2500 bags
- £8 allan key

RESOLVED: It was agreed that pending permission Maesteg Town Council purchase 5 Tikspac posts and install them on the entrances to the cycle track.

**232. MINUTE 167
REQUEST FOR INFORMATION REGARDING MR HENRY PATRICK WALSH A WW2 POW**

Chair of Finance advised that Traditional Bakeries have advised that they have given the Welsh cakes as a donation.

RESOLVED: To note the information and send thank you letter to Traditional Bakeries

**233. MINUTE 173
ONE VOICE WALES – WEBINAR TRAINING**

Email received with list of dates for Webinar Training in October emailed to all Cllrs.

RESOLVED: To note the information

234. MINUTE 179

PURCHASE OF SELECTION BOXES

Emailed Cadbury's Direct the selection boxes will be delivered on Thursday 26th November 2020, however due to wanting a timed delivery at 11am there has been an extra £10 + VAT added to the delivery costs.

Volunteers required to assist with unloading of the pallet as the company will not bring the pallet to the building – they will drop the pallet off at the bus station and the pallet will need to be unloaded from there to the building. The delivery company are not insured to move the pallet once removed from the lorry.

Unfortunately, they are not able to deliver to the street outside the building as the traffic lights and white zigzag lines do not allow lorries to stop and unload. I did discuss having the delivery to my home address but again the pallet would be delivered to the street and not brought up to my garage.

Clerk advised that volunteers R Meredith and G White had agreed to assist with the delivery.

RESOLVED: To note the information and Cllrs A James and R Lewis will also assist with the delivery.

235. MINUTE 180

OTHER CHRISTMAS FESTIVITIES IDEAS

Acting Clerk contacted the manager of Ty Llwynderw who advised that a toiletries hamper is the most suitable gift for the residents.

Members agreed that a £5 per head would be suitable to spend on the hampers.

RESOLVED: Clerk to contact the managers of Bryncelyn and Ty Llwynderw for resident figures and gender and to spend £5 per resident.

236. MINUTE 180

THE RESOLUTIONS FROM JULY 2020 MEETING

PROPERTY, H&S RECCOMENDATIONS TO FULL COUNCIL

- Building Survey to be completed 13/10/2020 – waiting for the report
- Clerk contacted Mr C Bickle to query certificates for completing emergency lighting inspections and PAT testing. Mr Bickle's response was provided to all councillors.
- The Electrical Installation Inspection was carried out 03/11/2020. Verbal report is that all passed, the company will provide a report in the next few days.
- The Emergency Lighting Inspection was carried out 03/11/2020. Verbal report is that most of the emergency lighting failed the tests. The company will provide a full schedule ad costs involved in replacing the units.

- The Quote to replace the Fire Alarm System arrived 03/11/2020.
The quote is from the existing Fire Alarm Company and the quote covers:
Supply, installation, testing & commission of a fire alarm system =
£17,598.00
With an additional Annual Maintenance = **£220.00**

Members discussed the Fire Alarm Quote and agreed that further quotes were needed as comparisons.

RESOLVED: Clerk to contact 2 companies to provide quotes to upgrade the Fire Alarm System.

237. MINUTE 185

LIST OF PAYMENTS FOR THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER 2020

VAT Reclaim submitted 16/10/2020

Money reclaimed from HMRC 26/10/2020

RESOLVED: To note the information

238. MINUTE 187

TO CONSIDER CANCELLING THE CLEANING CONTRACT

A letter cancelling the cleaning contract was emailed to the Cleaning company 16/10/2020. Confirmation received that the contract is to end 27/11/2020.

RESOLVED: To note the information

239. MINUTE 194

REFERRALS MONTH SINCE LAST MEETING

▪ **POTHOLES**

Email sent to BCBC to chase response 12/10/2020 – no response to date

RESOLVED: Clerk to contact BCBC to see if the works have been completed.

240. MINUTE 195

VANDELISED BINS

12/10/2020 Email sent to BCBC to request costs for replacing bins

Response: Here are the costs for the bins, I would recommend the steel post mounted bins for the high street as they seem to be the attention of the vandals. Any further help please do not hesitate in contacting me.

The bins will be fitted free of charge and serviced by cleaner streets as long as they are placed in areas that we have access to.

Floor Mounted – Plastic - £386.40 ex Vat

Floor Mounted – Metal - £438.80 ex vat

Post Mounted – Plastic - £130.87 ex vat

Post Mounted – Metal - £137.06 ex vat (Clearance Price)

Members discussed the response and agreed to fund an initial 4 post mounted metal bins and to request how many are needed and whether the missing bin which was located by the footpath leading to the 7777's was included.

RESOLVED: Clerk to advise that Maesteg Town Council will fund the 4 post mounted metal bins and to request how many are needed and whether the missing bin which was located by the footpath leading to the 7777's was included.

241. MINUTE 197

REQUEST TO SITE A DEFIBRILLATOR ON MTC BUILDING

16/10/2020 Email sent to BCBC for pre-application advice, BCBC Conservation Officer to meet with Clerk following the Fire Break.

RESOLVED: To note the information

242. MINUTE 199

ADM NURSERIES – HANGING BASKETS

Tender letters for hanging baskets were sent to the following companies / organisations 27/10/2020

- B-Leaf
- Caerau Market Garden
- ADM Nurseries
- Ton Nurseries

RESOLVED: To note the information

243. MINUTE 200

MAESTEG CEMETERY

Cllr Richard Collins updated Members that the ground in the extended section of the Cemetery is currently being investigated by BCBC and the necessary works needed to bring it up to standard will take some time.

RESOLVED: To note the information

244. MINUTE 201

FINANCIAL APPLICATIONS

Letter of thanks and acknowledgement for financial support received from:

- Llynfi Woodland Group

RESOLVED: To note the information

245. MINUTE 207

SPEED TRAFFIC SURVEY RECOMMENDATIONS

Meeting arranged with BCBC Traffic & Transportation 4th November 2020.

RESOLVED: To note the information

246. MINUTE 210

BUS SUBSIDY FOR MAESTEG PARK CIRCULAR SERVICE

A member raised the issue that there was currently no service to Blaencaerau / Caerau / Maesteg Town and whether this could be incorporated into the subsidised service. Members discussed and agreed that any route would have to be discussed with the operator directly. Another member raised the issue of the eastern side of the Valley to incorporate Garth and Caerau Park, again members agreed the route would need to be discussed with the operator.

RESOLVED: To note the information

247. LIST OF PAYMENTS FOR THE MONTH OF OCTOBER 2020

RESOLVED:

That the tables of Expenditure (£8,440.66), Income (£1,901.77) during the month of October 2020; copies of which had been circulated to Members, which included the 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.

Members thanked the Chair of Finance and Clerk for ongoing work being carried out and the transparency of the information being provided.

248. AGENDA ITEM 9

TO CONSIDER PROPOSAL FROM CLLR R LEWIS

In the current climate of food insecurity for so many people, and seeing as Maesteg Town Council have a currently very healthy bank balance, I'd like to propose that Council donate money to local agencies offering support in this area, to cover the Christmas period 2020, and hopefully help to ensure that no person, whatever their age, goes hungry during this period.

My proposal is that Council donates a sum of a thousand pounds to the Maesteg food bank, a thousand pounds to the Caerau development trust and, if they are offering support of this nature, Special families Maesteg.

I believe this to be a more than suitable gesture from Council to help the vulnerable in our community during these trying times. I look forward to debating this with my fellow Councillors, and would be happy to consider any amendments, and suggestions to other agencies offering support of this nature in our community, not included in my original proposal.

Thank you, kind regards, Cllr Rob Lewis.

Following earlier advice that Maesteg Town Council are not allowed to offer money to organisations and they need to request grants funding. Members deliberated as many agreed to the sentiment within the proposal, however there are many challenges faced. Other ideas were deliberated that included:

- Setting up a hardship fund
- A voucher scheme – it was felt that this wouldn't be a viable option.

RESOLVED: To set up a hardship fund and wait for the organisations to request funding.

249. AGENDA ITEM 10
TO DISCUSS POSITION OF DEPUTY CLERK

This Agenda item was already discussed with the minutes of the Personnel Committee Meeting 29/108/2020.

RESOLVED: To note the information.

CORRESPONDENCE

250. 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.

251. VACANCY ON THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE

A vacancy for a Town and Community Council representative has arisen on the Authority's Standards Committee. The Monitoring Officer is therefore seeking any expressions of interest.

Email forwarded to all Councillors as expressions of interest together with a Curriculum Vitae including a brief summary of their experience to BCBC by Friday 30th October 2020.

RESOLVED: Confirmation of action and to note the information.

252. WINTER DISPLAY QUOTE FOR

Quote received for the Winter Planting Scheme:

FLOWER BED

Preparation and planting of flower beds in Garn Rd along with maintenance throughout the winter.

Total for works = £530

STREET PLANTERS

Preparation and planting of eleven street planters with winter bedding along with maintenance throughout the winter.

Total for works = £780

TOTAL COST: £1,310.00

Members looked at the quote and agreed for the Winter Planting Scheme to go ahead in Winter 2020.

RESOLVED: Clerk to advise that Maesteg Town Council agree to the quote.

253. T&CC FUND APPLICATION INFORMATION 2021/2022

Email received and forwarded to all Cllrs with information attached information about the coming financial year's Town & Community Council Fund.

RESOLVED: Confirmation of action and to note the information.

254. ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR IN MAESTEG

Due to an increase in reports of Anti-social Behaviour in and around Maesteg Town Centre. BCBC are arranging a multi-agency meeting to discuss a multi-agency response to the issue and are bringing relevant partners together to co-ordinate activities. Partners include South Wales Police, BCBC Education, highways, parking and town centre management, 3rd sector etc.

Email forwarded to all Councillors.

RESOLVED: Confirmation of action and to note the information.

255. FUTURE AUDIT ARRANGEMENTS FOR COMMUNITY AND TOWN COUNCILS IN WALES

Email received from Audit Wales and forwarded to all Councillors advising of new audit arrangements for the audit of 2020-21 accounts onwards. This will include a 3 year audit programme. Audit Wales will be hosting a Webinar in November 2020 to provide more information to Councils on how the arrangements will work.

Clerk advised that the webinar would be taking place on Tuesday 17th November 2020 12:30-13:30. To date the following Cllrs have advised they would like to participate in the webinar: R Collins, R Martin, R Penhale-Thomas and C Reeves

RESOLVED: Clerk to book tickets for the above Councillors.

256. LOCAL COUNCILS, WE WANT YOU TO HAVE YOUR SAY

Email received from South Wales Fire and Rescue Service advising of their proposed objectives for 2021-22. They would now like to know if you agree with our proposed objectives. By providing your opinions, you will help to determine our future activities. A link to their proposed objectives was provided and emailed to all Cllrs for information. The email noted that all responses are anonymous and the closing date for responses is 15th January 2021.

RESOLVED: Confirmation of action and to note the information.

257. FALLEN STONE ON BUILDING

A section of stonework fell off the building on 28/10/2020. The Stonemason who is working on the Town Hall has been contacted and will make the area safe and quote for necessary repairs. Photos of the damage sent to all Cllrs for information.

Members were very concerned with this occurrence and felt it needs to be looked at by CADW as there is water standing in the parapet. Questions were raised if this was highlighted by the building survey, clerk advised that the report had yet to be received from the surveyor. Members queried whether this would be covered within the insurance, clerk will check the insurance document. Members also concerned if more stonework should fall, it was agreed that the clerk contact BCBC Town Hall project officer and ask if sturdier barriers could be placed in front of the building to prevent any possible injuries to the public.

RESOLVED:

- Clerk to contact BCBC and request barriers.
- Clerk to check the insurance documents to see if this is covered.
- Clerk to contact the building surveyor for the building survey report.

258. REFERRALS

• **TRAFFIC LIGHTS SEQUENCING**

The sequencing of the traffic lights at junction of Crown Row / Bridgend Road and Shoemakers Road – they were disconnected to allow road works in the area and have now been switched back on but are out of priority as per prior to road works. Many complaints from drivers regarding the priority for north to south on Bridgend Rd. Please can they be set correctly.

RESOLVED: Confirmation of action and to await response.

259. WALES COOPERATIVE CONNECTING CARERS

Email received and forwarded to all Councillors from Paula Lunnon the recently appointed Development Worker for the Wales Cooperative centre's 'Connecting Carers' project in Bridgend.

The project is being sponsored by Andrew Thomas at Bridgend Council and is looking to connect 'unpaid' carers or those who are looking after family members, friends or neighbours.

During November, we are hosting some live informal chats on Zoom, with people who were carers and have come together to set up local support or activities.

RESOLVED: Confirmation of action and to note information.

260. THE WASTE (WALES) (MISCELLANEOUS AMENDMENTS) REGULATIONS 2020

Email received and forwarded to all Cllrs with Welsh Government - The Waste (Wales) (Miscellaneous Amendments) Regulations 2020.

RESOLVED: Confirmation of action and to note information.

261. 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY – GIFT SUGGESTIONS?

Clerk has been notified of a 50th Wedding Anniversary in December 2020 where the wife is unable to receive flowers due to being asthmatic. What gift would be a suitable alternative?

Members suggested a gold coloured carriage clock or a fruit hamper to the same value as a floral bouquet.

RESOLVED: To note information.

262. FINANCIAL APPLICATIONS

Cllrs R Collins and P White declared an interest in items relating to Maesteg Branch, Royal British Legion.

A) MAESTEG COMMUNITY FIRST RESPONDERS

Members were provided with a letter requesting to fund 2 defibrillators and security boxes to be located in Nantyllyllon and Garth (Mason's Arms, Nantyllyllon and Celtic, Garth.)

The email includes a quote to the sum of £2,446.70 + £489.34 VAT (Total – £2,936.04)

Members deliberated this request as the request was for Maesteg Town Council to purchase equipment that the First Responders would then place at the advised locations. There would be no grant being given directly to the First Responders only a request to purchase the equipment. It was **agreed** that the Clerk seek clarification from OVW as Maesteg Town Council had previously bought equipment for the First Responders.

Members then voted on whether to purchase the requested equipment and from these 4 members Abstained from voting and everyone else voted for purchasing the equipment.

RESOLVED: Council purchase the equipment subject to OVW advice under Section 137 of the Local Government Act (as amended).

B) MAESTEG BRANCH ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

Letter received from Maesteg Branch Royal British Legion requesting funding due to the loss of revenue from not being able to fundraise with the poppy appeal in 2020.

Members discussed this request as historically the Maesteg Branch of the RBL have raised up to £15,000 in poppy appeal from the local residents. 2 different amounts for funding was presented by councillors one for £500 and one for £5,000 this led to a vote being held:

<u>Cllrs A-Z</u>		£500 or £5,000
Lynn	Beedle	£5,000
Richard	Collins	Declared an interest
Paul	Davies	£500
Rhys	Davies	£500
Keith	Edwards	£5,000
Andrew	James	£500
Phil	Jenkins	£5,000
Rob	Lewis	£500
Rose	Martin	£500
Ross	Penhale-Thomas	Left meeting

Ceri	Reeves	£500
Steve	Smith	£500
Gavin	Thomas	£500
Leighton	Thomas	£500
Phil	White	Declared an interest
Idris	Williams	£500

RESULTS: 10 for £500
3 for £5,000

Cllr P Jenkins advised that whilst he is a member of the RBL, he does not have an interest in the funding.

RESOLVED: Following the vote it was agreed Council donate the sum of £500 under Section 137 of the Local Government Act (as amended).

263. **DELEGATES REPORTS**

- 1) Members were provided with a Delegates Report from Cllr C Reeves who attended the Town & Community Council Forum Meeting held 26/10/2020.

There were three reports discussed in this meeting.

Unadopted Roads

The Senedd has been discussing this subject, and most of the recommendations contained in the report are more useful for forthcoming house building. I asked whether there would be an appetite for unadopted roads and lanes to be adopted by the Borough Council if they were brought up to specification, whether there would be an appetite for this. The response was there an appetite, and there would be a further report on this.

I also asked if maps could be sent to clerks for their areas, showing adopted and unadopted roads and lanes.

Public Service Board

There is a duty on Larger Town and Community Councils

4.7 Section 40 (1) of the Well-being of Future Generation (Wales) Act 2015 places a duty on certain community and town councils to take all reasonable steps towards meeting the local objectives included in the Bridgend Well-being Plan that has effect in their areas.

4.8 A community or town council is subject to that duty only if its gross income or expenditure was at least £200,000 for each of the three financial years preceding the year in which the local well-being plan is published.

4.9 Bridgend, Maesteg and Porthcawl Town Councils currently meet the criteria in Section 40 (1) of the Act Page 20

4.10 If a town or community council is subject to the duty it must publish a report each relevant financial year detailing the progress it has made in meeting the objectives in the local well-being plan

4.11 The Statutory Guidance Shared Purpose: Shared Future: Collective Roles (Community Councils) provides more detail.

I have brought this to the clerk's attention, and suggest we discuss this in a future meeting.

Budget Consultation

We were shown the Mid Term Financial Strategy Plan, which shows an underspend at quarter 2 across the council of £3.5m. although some departments have overspent on their budgets currently. A consultation exercise has started, and Town and Community Councils have been invited to discuss this with the officers in their meetings. I have suggested to the clerk that this be added to a future agenda.

2) UPDATE ON THE INVESTIGATION

Members were provided with a brief update on the ongoing fraud investigation where the Clerk updated members on a recent insurance investigation meeting and a meeting with Audit Wales. The Clerk reminded all members that any information discussed was to remain confidential.

Members queried the attendees at the insurance investigation meeting and Cllr G Thomas explained the reasons to the attendees.

Members queried why no figures or evidence was being shared with Council and the Clerk advised that Audit Wales had advised that until the investigation has been completed no details were to be shared with members.

RESOLVED: To note the information.

264. PLANNING

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

The following applications received no objections:

Ref: P/19/616/FUL

Applicant: Llynfi Coaches

Location: Llynfi Coaches Heol Ty Gwyn Industrial Estate Maesteg CF34
OBQ

Proposal: New portal building for a paint body shop

Ref: P/20/738/FUL
Applicant: Mr L Bowen
Location: 86 Mill View Estate Maesteg CF34 0DE
Proposal: Front pitched roof dormer & rear dormer extension

Ref: P/18/754/FUL
Applicant: R J Murray Construction Services Limited
Location: Land south of 110 Tonna Road Maesteg CF34 0RU
Proposal: Four new houses [number of houses reduced from 6 and amended plans received 13-10-20]

Ref: P/20/735/FUL
Applicant: Mr Reed
Location: 61a Neath Road Maesteg CF34 9PH
Proposal: Proposed landscaping works which include engineering operations and retaining walls

The following application, members queried the access to the garage as if its at the rear then access would be via a narrow lane.

Ref: P/20/710/FUL
Applicant: Mr Stephen Arthur
Location: 5 Heol Gelli Lenor Maesteg Park Maesteg CF34 9ND
Proposal: Detached garage

**Read and accepted at a remote meeting of the Council
held on 1st December 2020**

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Mayor