

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, 2nd February 2021.**

PRESENT:

COUNCILLORS:

A James (Mayor)

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

APOLOGIES for absence received from Councillor W May.

Apologies received from SW Police following the meeting.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST:

Cllrs R Collins, P Davies, 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, Maesteg Town Hall.

359. MAYORAL EVENTS

- 20th Jan – 50th Wedding Anniversary
- 30th Jan – 100th Birthday

RESOLVED: Cllr G Thomas thanked the Mayor for visiting the 100th birthday resident. To note the information

360. CORRECTIONS TO 01/12/2020 MEETING

Members were provided with the corrections to the previous minutes of 01/12/2020 meeting to minute numbers 296, 297 & 298, to which they were read and agreed and signed by the Mayor.

361. CORRECTIONS TO 04/01/2021 MEETING

Members were provided with the corrections to the previous minutes of 04/01/2021 meeting to minute number 314, to which they it was read, agreed and signed by the Mayor.

362. MINUTES

The Following Minutes:

- **Full Council** – 12/01/2021

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

The Following Minutes:

- **Personnel Committee** – 026/01/2021

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 were discussed and the following agreed:

- 1) Members were advised that One Voice Wales had recommended that Members vote to suspend Standing Orders to amend the caveat and proceed with the recruitment process, a vote ensued:

Results:

Name	Vote		Name	Vote
Cllr P Jenkins	Disagree		Cllr G Thomas	Agree
Cllr I Williams	Agree		Cllr R Penhale-Thomas	Disagree
Cllr R Davies	Agree		Cllr L Beedle	Disagree
Cllr L Thomas	Disagree		Cllr P White	Agree
Cllr R Lewis	Agree		Cllr R Martin	Agree
Cllr A James	Agree		Cllr P Davies	Agree
Cllr C Reeves	Agree		Cllr K Edwards	Abstain

10 Agree
4 Disagree
1 Abstain

Following the vote, it was **Agreed** to suspend Standing Orders to amend the caveat and proceed with the recruitment process of a Deputy Clerk. Members agreed that it would be pertinent for the role that the person have experience in local government and procedures.

- 2) Propose to recruit a Community Maintenance Officer for a 6-month temporary contract.

Members were advised that in January's meeting it was agreed for the Personnel Committee to look at this role as the current contractor has advised his intention of retiring at the end of the year and is currently shielding. It was felt that 20 hours would not be sufficient for the amount of ROW, however this year it was felt that the temporary post holder would work alongside the current contractor.

The Chair of Personnel also advised members that a fully costed report was also attached to the minutes and it was **proposed** that the Projects Committee look into the purchase / lease and storage of a vehicle.

Following the discussion members agreed to proceed to recruit a Community Maintenance Officer on a 6-month temporary contract with a possibility of being made permanent.

Cllr L Thomas **proposed** that all further recommendations 3 – 7 were accepted to which there were no objections. The Clerk advised that the overtime was no longer 18 hours but 14 hours, to which members agreed.

MATTERS ARISING

363. MINUTE 323

FALLEN STONE ON BUILDING

Cllr C Reeves queried whether the insurance company had been contacted?

Clerk advised that the insurance company would be contacted once all the reports and costings had been received from the specialist architect and structural engineer. Whereby more information can then be given to the insurance company.

RESOLVED: To note the information.

364. MINUTE 325

NEWSLETTER

Information from all Wards received. Newsletter sent for printing and will be delivered to all properties within Maesteg Town Council Boundary during February.

Further update was provided that the Newsletters had arrived and had already started being delivered.

RESOLVED: To note the information.

365. MINUTE 329

FINANCIAL APPLICATIONS

Cllr Reeves requests that all of the organisations given grant funding specifically for Christmas be contacted for an update as to how the grant was spent to include copies of invoices where items were purchased. The organisations include:

- CDT
- Special Families
- Maesteg Salvation Army
- Noddfa Community Project
- Nantyllyllon Youth Club

RESOLVED: Clerk to write to the organisations.

**366. MINUTE 333
TO DISCUSS DEPUTY CLERK**

Clerk contacted OVW for clarification who provided the following response:

The Town Council has made a decision to appoint a Deputy Town Clerk with the caveat of “until such time as the office is open” the decision was made based on the assumption that the restrictions regarding COVID would soon be lifted which it has since been found is not the case.

Given that the Council does not wish to rescind its decision to appoint a Deputy Town Clerk but it simply wishes to remove the caveat “until such time as the office is open” I would recommend that the Council agree to suspend standing orders to remove the caveat to allow the Council to go ahead and appoint a Deputy Town Clerk.

This had previously been discussed when discussing the recommendations from the Personnel Committee meeting.

RESOLVED: To note the information.

**367. MINUTE 337
BRIDGEND PROBATION SERVICE**

Contacted Bridgend Probation Service 15/01/2021 who have advised that yes the repainting of bus shelters would be a suitable project, however they are currently not completing any projects due to Tier 4 restrictions.

RESOLVED: To note the information.

**368. MINUTE 338
ENERGY SUPPLIERS**

After recently paying a Llynfi Rd Car Park electricity invoice, Clerk noticed that MTC were out of contract and looked on comparethemarket.com moneysupermarket.com and googled energy comparison for businesses and all went through to Bionic.

Clerk spoke to Bionic about the Llynfi Rd car park electricity supply and as we are currently out of contract with EDF they were able to find the following:

	Currently	Recommend	Alternative
Provider	EDF	EDF	British Gas Lite
Daily Standing Charge	80.00p / day	23.25p / day	52.13p / day
Unit rate per kWh	24.31 / kWh	16.647 / kWh	17.18 / kWh

Clerk contacted Chair of Finance and agreed to stay with EDF at the lower rate and to pay by direct debit. This is a 3-year fixed rate contract; Clerk has opted out of the automatic renewal by Bionic and Maesteg Town Council will therefore need to look for alternatives in 3 years' time.

RESOLVED: To note the information.

369. MINUTE 345
COMPLAINT ABOUT CAR PARK TOILET

Received the following response from JC Decaux:

We had experienced some issues with vandalism between November 2020 and early January 2021, these issues have since been fixed – I am not aware of any ongoing issues with this toilet so it should be fully operational now.

I can confirm that the toilets in Wales have remained in service during Tier 4 restrictions and there's no plan to close them - at the moment anyway.

RESOLVED: To note the information.

370. MINUTE
FINANCIAL APPLICATIONS

Letter of thanks and acknowledgement for financial support received from:

- Welsh Air Ambulance

RESOLVED: To note the information.

371. LIST OF PAYMENTS FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY 2021

RESOLVED:

That the tables of **Expenditure (£5,641.77)**, **Income (£2,049.85)** during the month of January 2021; 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 member queried the income from BCBC for CAT, whereby the Clerk explained that Maesteg Town Council pay the grant to the recipient then reclaim 40% from BCBC. The payment received is 40% from the grant issued to Caerau Athletic & Caerau Welfare Bowling Clubs.

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.

CORRESPONDENCE

372. COVID-19 SPECIFIC UPDATES & MEDIA UPDATES

Emailed to all Councillors for information:

- BCBC Media Updates
- Welsh Government

RESOLVED: To note the information.

373. REQUEST FROM INVEST LOCAL CAERAU (ILC)

Email received from Invest Local Caerau (ILC), requesting at what date last year did Maesteg Town Council begin discussing the idea of presenting the children of the area with selection boxes for Xmas. The reason for the enquiry is because ILC duplicated this idea and are looking into why this was and how it can be avoided in the future.

Clerk responded that this had been the case for many years that Maesteg Town Council give selection boxes to all the primary schools within the boundary of Maesteg Town Council. For December 2020 it was discussed in the Events Meeting 15th September which was Agreed in October Full Council meeting.

The Mayor asked if any long-standing Councillor was able to advise when this 1st started as he was aware of this for the last 10 years of working in a local primary school? Cllr Penhale-Thomas advised that he became a Councillor in 2008 and this had been the case certainly since then. Other members found this a strange request as 2 members of the ILC were previous members of Maesteg Town Council.

RESOLVED: To note the information.

374. COMPLAINT WITH VARIOUS ISSUES

Email received with the following complaint:

- *the bins which are situated along the cycle route are overflowing.*
- *the amount of dumped rubbish at the back of Aldi by the old bridge and rubbish dumped on the forestry path to Garnwen is unacceptable. Whilst I fully understand that this is the responsibility of the Borough Council surely you can put pressure on them to sort this problem out.*

Response from BCBC advising they will clear the area

- *the addition of the Keeper aka The Miner overlooking the valley is absolutely fantastic the background leaves a lot to be desired. Long "grass/shrubbery" is unsightly and the whole area looks as if it needs an additional item maybe a tram or some other mining artefact. The area is large enough to encompass something else that is compatible with the concept.*

With permission Clerk advised that the bins are emptied in the evenings and the other issues forwarded to BCBC and Natural Resources Wales.

Members discussed these complaints and agreed that if a Community Maintenance Officer was in place some of the issues could be resolved.

Cllr R Martin advised that the Llynfi Rivercare Group would usually clear the rear of Aldi and the river bridge, however they have been told by their insurance company that due to Covid-19 they are unable to operate.

Cllr R Collins advised that there is an increase in traffic along the road near to the Garnwen forestry area and the increase in walkers along the forestry paths there is going to be unfortunately an increase in litter.

Members felt that most of the complaints were unnecessary in the current pandemic as most were down to local residents disrespecting the local area.

Clerk advised that the Llynfi Woodland Group had also responded directly to the complainant advising that the area surrounding the Keeper of the Colliery is left as a wildflower meadow and welcomed new members to their group.

RESOLVED: To note the information.

375. OVW - ADDITIONAL FREE PLACES AVAILABLE ON OUR CORE MODULES

OVW are able to advise Councils that the Welsh Government has decided to offer a greater number of additional free places on selected core modules available from the start of December through to March next year. This is a very generous offer and demonstrates the Welsh Government's commitment to the sector as Councils strive to enhance their capacity and capability in providing high quality services for their communities.

Two free places on each of the following training webinars:

- Council as an Employer
- Understanding the Law
- Local Government Finance (Basic)
- Local Government Finance (Advanced)

Although priority will be given to Council Chairs and Chairs of Finance Committees, Councils can nominate any other Councillors to attend the webinars.

Email forwarded to all Councillors

Clerk advised to date 3 members had requested to complete training. Following a discussion, it was felt that as the training is only £30 per course, anyone who wishes to complete training should irrelevant of whether the free places have been used.

RESOLVED: To note the information.

376. CONNECTING WITH YOUR LOCAL COMMUNITY - A COMMUNICATIONS GUIDE FOR WELSH COMMUNITY & TOWN COUNCILLORS AND THEIR CLERKS

Email received from OVW with the Digital Guide Connecting with your local community - A Communications Guide for Welsh Community & Town Councillors and their Clerks.

Email forwarded to all Councillors

RESOLVED: To note the information.

377. NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Request for information about setting up a local neighbourhood watch and having signs placed in local area. The resident complains that the crime rate in Caerau Park is out of control especially vandalism, fly tipping and antisocial behaviour which is having a detrimental effect on the elderly and vulnerable residents in the community.

With the resident's permission the email was forwarded to the local SW Police Sgt's and BCBC Ward Members for the area.

Members advised that this should also be sent to V2C as the area concerned is within their housing area.

RESOLVED: Clerk to forward to V2C.

378. ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

Email received and forwarded to all councillors regarding the deadlines for preparation of annual accounts. It follows the same as last year i.e. following the 2019-20 timetable will require preparation and certification of draft accounts by 31 August 2021 and publication of final audited accounts by 30 November 2021 for all local government bodies in Wales.

Members queried whether the internal auditor had been involved with the accounts yet? The Chair of Finance advised that she had met with the internal auditor, however the internal auditor was going to write to the previous internal auditor before taking over with the accounts.

RESOLVED: The Chair of Finance and Clerk to chase the internal auditor.

379. COVID VACCINATION SCAM EMAIL

Email received and emailed to all councillors advising of a scam email currently circulating whereby the victim receives an email that they are on the Covid vaccination list and they need to select whether they do or don't want the injection. Either choice will take the victim to a site where they will be requested to enter personal / financial data such as bank account details, card numbers, driving licence ID, on the pretext that the site is checking their validity. The site is doing exactly the opposite, it is taking their details so they can be used for in more direct 'spear phishing' or to utilise the details for ID Theft and also financial fraud.

RESOLVED: To note the information.

380. BRIDGEND ACTIVE TRAVEL CONSULTATION ; INVITATION TO STAKEHOLDER WEBINAR

The Active Travel consultation of Welsh Government and Bridgend County Borough Council has started successfully in December and has received very good feedback on barriers to walking and cycling throughout the first phase of public engagement, with over 3100 contributions to date.

Based on the feedback on barriers to walking and cycling that residents face, combined with data on the journeys that are made within Bridgend, a first draft of the future Active Travel Network Map has now been created. A map which will be a plan for the construction of future walking and cycling routes.

Maesteg Town Council has been invited as a stakeholder to view the network plans and give us your feedback on your local area, before the draft network gets opened up to public for feedback.

The webinar will take place on Tuesday, 9 February 2021, 11.00 – 11.45 am on Zoom.

Email forwarded to all councillors

RESOLVED: To note the information.

381. REQUEST FOR MINING MEMORIAL WITHIN TOWN HALL RE-FIT

Request received that Maesteg Town Council write to Knox & Wells to ask that as part of their contribution they donate a fitting memorial to the mining community in recognition of their contribution when the building was first built.

Members discussed that whilst there is the current refurbishment of the Town Hall, we shouldn't forget the original building and the mining community that

contributed. As the main contractor it should be for Knox & Wells to place a memorial to the original building.

Cllr K Edwards proposed and seconded by Cllr G Thomas that Maesteg Town Council write to Knox & Wells.

RESOLVED: Clerk to write to Knox & Wells.

382. COEGNANT COLLIERY MEMORIAL

Complaint received regarding the area surrounding the Coegnant Colliery Memorial. Complaint forwarded to BCBC to ascertain ownership of the land to which the Rights of Way department have advised that it is owned by BCBC but not the ROW department.

Response from the Property department:

I can confirm that the parcel of land including the memorial is owned by Bridgend County Borough Council.

This was acquired as colliery reclamation land and sits with the BCBC Highways department. I have copied in BCBC Highways to respond regarding maintenance of the site.

The Mayor advised that he would be meeting local volunteer Mr R Meredith to discuss the area and ownership. Cllr K Edwards advised that the memorial is fenced off and that no one should enter as this was a capped off shaft that may be extremely dangerous and members should wait for a response from highways before proceeding with any works.

RESOLVED: To note the information and await response from highways.

383. AGENDA ITEM 11

This had previously been discussed when discussing the recommendations from the Personnel Committee meeting.

RESOLVED: To note the information.

384. AGENDA ITEM 12 - REQUEST FOR GRIT BINS

Members had been provided with the following requests for grit bins:

1. ALEXANDRA ROAD / NORTH STREET CAERAU

Request from Cllr R Davies:

For a number of years now, the residents of North Street and Alexandra Road in Caerau have had to deal with persistent road safety issues at this time of year due to ice on their roads. This morning (22/01/2021), I was again contacted by a

resident of Alexandra Road regarding this issue and have attached images to support this.

As BCBC will not grit such roads, the residents are continuously finding themselves left in the predicament of either risking the decline down the hill in order to get to work (risking theirs and others safety) or being unable to get out. This is also of major concern given the fact that ambulances and fire service vehicles would be unable to gain access in an emergency, particularly in times that we find ourselves in.

Therefore, on behalf of the residents of this area, and with the support of all Caerau Ward councillors from both sides of the chamber, I am formally requesting that Maesteg Town Council fund to house a grit box in this location. This request is pending a service agreement which has been put forward with BCBC. I would appreciate if you could agenda this as an item for debate at the next full council meeting on Tuesday 2nd February 2021 in order to identify a suitable location to house the equipment, providing it is supported initially by full council.

2. CYCLE TRACK

Request from Cllr R Lewis:

A **proposal** to purchase some grit boxes, to be placed on the cycle path behind the school. I recently fell myself on this path, knocking myself out, and sustaining a nasty head injury.

I've also received messages over the weekend that a number of members of the public have fallen on this path as a result of the water that runs across the path into the stream becoming frozen, with lots of patches of ice, and more dangerously, black ice.

My **proposal** is that Council place boxes at four points on this path, one at each end, and two more at central points along the path. These boxes could be secured to fence posts along the back of the school to prevent vandalism to them maybe? I also **propose** that Council maintains these grit boxes, with our Contractor Mr. White, or, as discussed previous discussed by Council, a future employee maintaining these boxes, as they will be in the area maintaining the dog waste bins, obviously this would only be necessary during Winter months.

3. CHESTNUT GROVE & MILL VIEW

Request from Cllr L Beedle:

I had a complaint off neighbour about grit bins in Chestnut Grove.

My neighbour works for a company doing house calls for elderly and infirm, which is a critical job, and also can't get the children to school, they are in school as she is a critical worker. she has not been able to get out of the street as the roads are too bad. The BCBC gritters do not come this way and there is no grit bin at the bottom of this site where she lives. She has walked to some of her more local calls but could not do most of her visits as she couldn't get her car out.

Do we have any say as to where they are placed? Or could you please get onto BCBC about this?

Also just had a call about the lack of them in Mill View. Which means critical workers there also have the same problems. Both these sites are in the East ward.

4. MAESTEG WEST

Request from Cllr R Penhale-Thomas:

Please can we put on the agenda the purchase of additional grit boxes by MTC? We've funded a lot in the past. From memory they were £250 each. Good to fund several per ward if possible. I've had loads of requests but going to have to look at them and prioritise.

The Clerk advised members that Maesteg Town Council have already purchased the following grit boxes in the past that are located at the following locations:

Caerau Ward

Victoria Street – North Street end

Railway Terrace/Albert Street

Nantyffyllon Ward

Top of John Street jct with Uplands Drive

Top of lane near the garages near the Nantyffyllon Primary School

Maesteg East Ward

Outside 37 Mill View

Cwrt y Mwnws, near access to the community route at the junction

Maesteg West Ward

Near 1 Heol Cefn Ydfa junction with Brynllwarch which is on the bus route

Near electric substation in Oakwood Estate

Members deliberated the requests and agreed that BCBC had done a fantastic job recently on the A & B roads, however it is the responsibility of the residents to disperse the grit from the grit boxes as there are no BCBC staff to complete this task.

Cllr R Penhale-Thomas **proposed** and seconded by Cllr R Davies that Maesteg Town Council fund 4 grit boxes per ward on the proviso that BCBC are in partnership to refill the boxes.

Regarding the Cycle Track, Cllr R Lewis **proposed** and seconded by Cllr R Davies that Maesteg Town Council fund 4 grit boxes to be placed along the cycle track with the Contractor / Community Maintenance Officer to assist with the dispersal of the grit.

RESOLVED:

- Clerk to contact BCBC for a list of Grit Bins and o request if Maesteg Town Council order additional grit bins would they maintain them?

- Clerk to contact NRW for permission to site grit bins along the cycle track.

385. AGENDA ITEM 13 - TO CONSIDER COMMISSIONING A MEMORIAL TO THOSE THAT HAVE LOST THEIR LIVES DURING THIS PANDEMIC TO COVID 19

Request from Cllr G Thomas

Given the ongoing pandemic and the effect it is having on the community with the truly tragic loss of family and loved ones, I greatly ask the council to consider commissioning a memorial to those that have lost their lives during this pandemic to Covid 19. I would like to propose that the council approach Awen trust to work in partnership to create something as part of the Town Hall upgrade. That may take the form of a memorial wall inscribed with names, or any other remembrance the partnership feels appropriate. I Believe this would be a fitting use of the council's resource and would be well received within our local community to remember those tragically lost to this world-wide pandemic.

Members agreed with the sentiment of this proposal, however were very aware that the pandemic is yet to be over and that anything created today would be out of date by tomorrow. Additionally, with GDPR it would be almost impossible to retrieve the names of those who died and whether they died of Covid-19 or other illness.

Members had many suggestions other than a named memorial wall that included:

- Memorial Plaque
- Memorial Book – whereby relatives write names of those lost

Members were also advised that when the Hospital League of Friends wanted to place a plaque on the wall of Maesteg Town Hall BCBC had categorically said that the market square and building walls within the market square are not to be used for memorial plaques.

Cllr G Thomas **proposed** and was seconded by Cllr R Collins that a working group be formed to discuss appropriate options available.

It was **agreed** that the following Councillors form the working group:
Cllrs: R Collins, A James, R Penhale-Thomas, C Reeves and G Thomas

RESOLVED: The working group to meet and discuss appropriate options.

386. FINANCIAL APPLICATIONS

Clerk advised none had been received for the month of January.

RESOLVED: To note the information.

387. DELEGATES REPORT - OVW BRIDGEND/CARDIFF/VALE AREA COMMITTEE REPORT 25/1/21 - CLLR C REEVES

Cllr Reeves advised members of the following:

Kyle Robinson from Land Registry – encouraging Councils to register land/buildings that they own. Helps with some grant applications. Land Registry can help councils to register land. Application is relatively simple, Land Registry can help with this. How Land Asset information is held varies hugely between councils. Land Registry can work with all options. Start with a data sharing exercise, share our list with Kyle, he can tell us what is and isn't registers. **Suggest MTC does this at the earliest opportunity – would cost £680 up front but then would only be charged for the registration fee per item, and be refunded – for example they charge £30 for each parcel up to a value of £80,000, prices go up for higher values.**

6-month rule for councillors is now in place since meetings recommenced.

Enquiries are being made of Cwm Taf Morgannwg Health Board for a representative from the area committee (there is already one on Cardiff and Vale).

The minutes of previous meetings were accepted.

The importance of taking an active part in commenting on planning applications was emphasised.

The different experiences of CAT transfers were discussed.

Cllr Reeves advised that it would be a good idea to look into the Land Registry proposal. Whereby the Clerk questioned what land did Maesteg Town Council own? Cllr P Jenkins advised that the building was on a long-term lease from BCBC who own the land.

The Clerk advised that there had been a number of queries regarding the 6-month rule and had contacted Welsh Government for clarification. Welsh Government had responded and the response was emailed to all Councillors prior to the meeting that included the following advice:

The emergency regulations were made by the Welsh Ministers to enable all councils in Wales to hold all their meetings during the pandemic on the basis of all participants attending remotely and came into force on 22 April 2020.

Regulation 10 of the 2020 Regulations suspended the effect of section 85(1) of the 1972 Act (above) for the period beginning with the day the 2020 Regulations came

into force (22 April 2020) until the first day after 22 April 2020 on which a meeting is held, which the councillor would have attended.

Therefore, the only period of time to be disregarded in terms of calculating the 6-month period for all councillors would be from 22 April 2020 to the date of the first meeting held by Maesteg Town Council after this date.

Current Situation

The 2020 emergency regulations remain in force until 1 May 2021 as the framework within which councils are able to meet and work throughout the pandemic, allowing flexibility to enable councils to operate safely, effectively and lawfully, while retaining the principles of openness and accountability to the public by conducting meetings on the basis of remote attendance.

Councils should consider what is practicable for each meeting, take into account the circumstances of each participant, and agree meeting arrangements on the basis of consensus. Remote attendance does not necessarily mean joining by video conference facilities. The regulations allow participants to take part in meetings by telephone conference if need be. Provided participants can speak to and be heard by each other, the requirements as regards remote attendance will be fulfilled. In making arrangements for council meetings the 2020 emergency regulations must be read in conjunction with the prevailing public health regulations. Under the current Alert Level 4 restrictions in Wales, people must not, without a reasonable excuse, leave the place where they are living or remain away from that place. These measures are reviewed periodically, but it seems likely that community and town councils will continue to meet remotely for some time yet.

The Clerk explained that records of attendance are kept and there are NO Cllrs that have exceeded the 6-month rule since commencing the remote meetings. Additionally, the speakerphone used in the meeting room was also able to support telephone attendees, however the speakerphone is fixed in the meeting room and Clerk unable to bring home for meetings. At this point Cllr G Thomas interjected that Microsoft Teams also supported attendance via telephone.

RESOLVED: To note the information.

388. PLANNING

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

Clerk advised none had been received for the month of January.

RESOLVED: To note the information.

389. PLANNING APPEALS

Members were provided with details of 2 planning appeals to be heard by the Planning Inspectorate Wales. The details of the appeals were noted and it was felt that there was no need for a member of Maesteg Town Council to attend the virtual hearing as Planning Inspectorate Wales only listen to the Applicant then BCBC before making a decision.

RESOLVED: To note the information.

Minutes emailed to all Councillors to Read on 4th February 2021

**Minutes accepted at a remote meeting of the Council
held on 2nd March 2021**

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Mayor