

**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, 13th April 2021**.

PRESENT:

COUNCILLORS:

A James (Mayor)

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

APOLOGIES were received from Cllr K Edwards

DECLARATION OF INTEREST:

Cllrs R Collins, P Davies, 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.

Cllrs L Beedle and G Thomas declared an interest in the Correspondence item relating to Maesteg Harlequins and did not participate in the discussion

437. REQUEST FROM THE MAYOR

Following the altercation in last month's meeting the Mayor had been requested to ask Cllr P Jenkins to leave the meeting. A number of Cllrs also requested that Cllr Jenkins leave the meeting.

Clerk advised that legally this was not allowed due to an ongoing investigation with the Ombudsman.

Cllr Reeves advised that as Cllr Jenkins wouldn't leave the meeting she could not continue and left the meeting.

438. **POLICE MATTERS**

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

Maesteg Crime Statistics for March 2021

	Caerau / Nanty	Maesteg East	Maesteg West	Llan	Total in category
Robbery	0	0	0	0	0
Drugs	0	0	3	0	3
Dwelling burglary	0	1	0	0	1
Burglary other	2	0	0	0	2
Theft of vehicle	0	1	1	0	2
Theft from vehicle	2	2	0	1	5
All other theft	1	3	5	1	10
Damage	4	5	5	1	15
Violence against the person	16	19	12	2	53
Domestic related occurrence	4	6	4	2	16
All crime total	25	31	26	5	
Anti-social behaviour total	19	18	27	6	70
Drink Driving	0	0	0	0	0

The following was raised:

- a) Members raised the continued ASB in the Llynfi road carpark whereby local PCSO's have recently issued section 59 orders.
- b) Lady walking a dog on the cycle path was recently followed by a male in a black puffer jacket but has yet not reported the incident.

Sgt Lea had connection difficulties and was unable to address concerns, it was agreed that members will email the SGT directly with their concerns.

439. **MAYORAL EVENTS**

- 50th Wedding Anniversary
- 60th Wedding Anniversary
- Childrens Easter competition on Facebook

440. **MINUTES**

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

- **Full Council** – 02/03/2021 – emailed to members 23/03/21
- **Extraordinary Council** – 22/03/2021 – emailed to members 23/03/21

- **Property, Health and Safety Meeting** – 22/03/21 – emailed 23/03/21

MATTERS ARISING

441. MINUTE 405

GRIT BINS

Clerk emailed BCBC 26/03/2021 to advise of grit bin requirements.

RESOLVED: To note the information.

442. MINUTE 412

BCBC TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT UPDATE:

Members have met with BCBC traffic officers and request a projects committee to discuss further.

RESOLVED: Projects Committee meeting to be arranged.

443. MINUTE 418

SUMMER PLAYSCHMES 2021

A member queried weather this had been budgeted for in 2021-22 budget. Clerk advised that money had been earmarked from 2020-21 budget.

RESOLVED: To note the information.

444. MINUTE 423

SHOP APPY

Porthcawl Town Council advised that BCBC will take the lead with the Shop Appy App and advise the 3 Town Councils

RESOLVED: To note the information.

445. MINUTE 433

AWEN CULTURAL TRUST PAYMENT

Member noted that nothing had been placed in the budget for Awen cultural trust for 2021-22. Clerk advised that refurbishment works were not due to be completed until 2022. It was agreed in a previous finance meeting that Awen would have to apply for any further funding.

RESOLVED: To note the information.

446. MINUTE 436

OTHER ITEMS RELATING TO PROPERTY AND H&S.

Chair of Property, H&S advised there are ongoing discussions with BCBC, Caerau Market Garden for storage of lease vehicle and tools. Clerk requested whether the container Llan Middle CC have would be large enough for MTC CMO to share?

RESOLVED: Clerk to contact Llan middle CC to enquire about sharing their container.

447. LIST OF PAYMENTS FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH 2021

RESOLVED:

That the tables of **Expenditure (£99,603.41), Income (£159.39)** during the month of March 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.

Members were also provided a **list of payments to be made in April 2021.**

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.

A copy of the VAT Reclaim for quarter 4 (January - March) was also provided for Councillors. It was **agreed** for the Clerk to proceed with reclaiming the VAT for quarter 4.

A member queried the ROW payment following the contractor resigning as a volunteer. Clerk advised that contractor is still operating as a contractor until the end of 2021.

CORRESPONDENCE

448. COVID-19 SPECIFIC UPDATES & MEDIA UPDATES

Emailed to all Councillors for information:

- BCBC Media Updates
- Welsh Government

RESOLVED: To note the information.

449. NEWSLETTERS

Emailed to all Councillors for information:

- BAVO
- OVW December 2020 News Bulletin

- Elections Newsletter

RESOLVED: To note the information.

450. CODE OF CONDUCT COMPLAINT RECEIVED

A code of conduct complaint made against a Maesteg Town Councillor has been received from the Ombudsman. However, the Ombudsman have stated that the details of the complaint must be treated in confidence at this stage.

RESOLVED: To note the information.

451. SUMMARY OF KEY PROVISIONS OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND ELECTIONS (WALES) ACT 2021 FOR THE COMMUNITY AND TOWN COUNCIL SECTOR

Email received and emailed to Councillors with the Summary of key provisions of the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 for the Community and Town Council Sector

RESOLVED: To note the information.

452. FLY TIPPING – REAR OF CAERAU ROAD

Following a recent fly tipping incident at the rear of the former Progressive Club (the middle club) on Caerau Road yesterday afternoon, whereby the waste was obstructing the lane. Caerau Ward members agreed to have the waste removed using an external company and utilise the Caerau Ward Fund.

RESOLVED: To note the information.

453. MAESTEG THIRD AGE TRUST (U3A)

Request for when Covid-19 restrictions are lifted if the Maesteg U3A could place a stall outside the Council Offices with members in attendance to advertise their organisation and the range of activities they engage in for retired people. They also request the use of the up-stair's room to further advertise their range of activities along with tea/coffee and cakes to those people who are interested enough about U3A and want to further discuss joining it.

Members discussed the U3A request and agreed to the request when COVID-19 restrictions are lifted.

RESOLVED: Clerk to advise Maesteg U3A when Covid-19 restrictions are lifted they may proceed with their request.

454. THE GOOD COUNCILLORS GUIDE TO CYBER SECURITY

Email received and emailed to Councillors with the Good Councillors Guide to Cyber Security.

RESOLVED: to note the information

455. DIGITAL CONNECTIVITY SURVEY

NFWI-Wales has teamed up with the Wales YFC, NFU Cymru, the FUW and CLA Cymru to launch a survey to gather a picture of broadband and mobile connectivity across Wales.

Since Covid-19 the importance of good digital connectivity has become more and more evident. We have relied on the internet to keep connected with family, friends and our communities as well as for many other purposes such as work, business, education, leisure and day to day activities.

However, we recognise that not everyone has access to decent broadband, in particular rural communities. According to a report published by Ofcom in December 2020, 18,000 homes in Wales are unable to access ‘decent’ broadband, which is defined as providing download speeds of 10 Mbps and upload speeds of 1 Mbps.

Email was emailed to Councillors with the anonymous Digital Connectivity Survey to be completed by 31st March 2021.

RESOLVED: to note the information

456. CAERAU WARD FUND

Caerau Ward Members have purchased 20 x litter pickers and hoops for litter picking in the Caerau area. Following this Nantyllyon members also purchased the same equipment.

Members queried if other wards could order litter picking equipment due to the increase in volunteers willing to partake in these activities. It was agreed that Maesteg West would order litter picking equipment and store theirs within the Fairfield centre and friends of Maesteg Welfare Park. Maesteg East Members will discuss a suitable storage location before agreeing to purchase.

RESOLVED: to note the information

457. AUDIT WALES

Email received and forwarded to all Councillors with information about changes to the published audit requirements this year.

RESOLVED: to note the information

458. T&CC FORUM MEETING

The next T&CC meeting will be held remotely via Microsoft Teams on Monday 10 May 2021 at 4.00pm.

RESOLVED: To note the information.

459. MAESTEG HENSHED

Email received from Maesteg Henshed following the announcement that from 17th May groups of 15 can meet inside, they are requesting whether the Henshed can recommence meetings in the Council upstairs meeting room via a shut door policy and only allow in people whom have booked a seat at the table before the day i.e. no walk ins, just people's names on the sheet.

Members discussed and allowed Maesteg Henshed the use of the building providing this is allowed with the restrictions lifted. Advice to be sought from BCBC & WG.

Members queried when BCBC will be reopening to the public and were advised there were no plans until we are at level 1.

RESOLVED: Clerk to advise the Henshed that we will be waiting for clearer guidelines from WG and BCBC before allowing the recommencement of groups.

460. EX COUNCILLOR / CHAIR PASSED AWAY

Clerk advised members that ex Councillor and past Chair (1986/87) Keith Rowlands has passed away.

RESOLVED: clerk to obtain address details of family members of the late Keith Rowlands and send condolences

461. LLYNFI RD CAR PARK TOILET

Complaints received about the toilet not accepting 20p's and the radar key not working. Complaint forwarded to JC Decaux who will inspect the toilet.

Further investigations have shown that the sensor for the radar key has failed so that's why that isn't working JC Decaux are trying to source a replacement however they can confirm it is accepting 20p's and is in full working order bar radar key entry.

Clerk has enquired with BCBC about removing the Herras fencing to the rear of the Council building for access to the disabled toilet, however due to recent masonry falling it is unwise to consider removing the fencing.

Members discussed and agreed unable to open at the moment, however would like this kept on the agenda for further meetings.

RESOLVED: keep item on agenda

462. REFERRALS

- Pothole surrounding a manhole cover – Lewis Road
- Broken paving slab – Caerau Road
- Rocking manhole cover – Duke Street

To date no response received apart from confirmation that all have been logged for the Highways Department.

RESOLVED: to note the information

463. DUKE OF EDINBURGH

Following the announcement from Buckingham Palace on the death of His Royal Highness Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, arrangements are being made to have the flag on the Maesteg Town Council building to be flown at half-mast as a mark of respect.

RESOLVED: to note the information

464. FALLEN MASONRY

Complaint received about fallen masonry from the Maesteg Town Council building and hitting a member of the public. A number of BCBC officers have been contacted and it has been agreed to have some emergency repairs made via the Architect's Stone Mason whereby the effected stone is cut back to firm stone and a new sections of stone 'pieced in' to the body of the retained stone with stainless steel dowels and epoxy grout (a well-known conservation repair approach).

Zurich Insurance have also been contacted due to the sustained injury.

RESOLVED: to note the information

465. MAESTEG HARLEQUINS REQUEST

Email received from Maesteg Harlequins:

"I understand that Maesteg Community Council has engaged a consultant to examine the councils' role in the future management of the welfare parks within the

valley, I would be grateful if you could include South Parade Playing Fields in these considerations.

If possible, the club would appreciate the opportunity to discuss a proposal for a three-way partnership between the school, the council and the club for the future use of the playing fields. I would be grateful if you could put this idea forward for consideration at the appropriate council meeting or sub-committee meeting.”

They have been advised that the Maesteg Welfare Park is being looked at by BCBC.

Members were advised that Maesteg Harlequins are currently in discussions with CAT of South Parade playing fields and they request MTC to take ownership of South Parade. They have confused the Maesteg Welfare Park consultation as being all of the playing fields within the Valley. However, MTC are only stakeholders.

Unfortunately, MTC are unable to take over playing fields within the valley as all clubs need to be treated equally many of whom have already applied for the MTC CAT grant pending completion of the CAT lease.

RESOLVED: to note the information

466. AGENDA ITEM 10 – ATTENDANCE FIGURES AT MEETINGS FOR PUBLIC VIEWING

Request from Cllr AR Davies

In order for the council and indeed it's councillors to be as clear and transparent moving forward, and to rebuild a somewhat damaged reputation from previous years, I believe it is only fair that the public have ease of access to relevant data relating to the councillors which they elected to represent them.

Therefore, I am formally requesting that from this year and moving forward, figures relating to meeting attendance are published in line with the AGM and are shared for viewing to the public on our council's website. The first set being published for the year 2020/21.

I believe that the format we should adopt should be as clear and transparent as possible, meaning councillors moving forward would be more accountable to their constituents. These figures should include all meetings that a councillor has been summoned to, including committees and extraordinary meetings.

Subsequently, I would hope that, moving forward, this would encourage attendance more frequently, as opposed to the once or twice we have been seeing on occasions, in some instances, every six months in order to remain compliant with the "six months rule" and stay on the council. This should be a benefit for all stakeholders as

we progress ahead and endeavour to be more professional, competent and efficient for the residents we have been elected to represent. I would like to suggest the following format:

Councillor	Ward	Meetings	Attended	% attendance
Cllr. A N OTHER	Maesteg West	20	18	90%
Cllr. A N OTHER	Maesteg East	22	16	72.73%

This is not a new system and is something that BCBC already publish, albeit in a slightly different format. This format removes any complexity. I believe the above format is clear and that this is something we should adopt moving forward. This will support our move in becoming a far more professional outfit and being more accountable to the public we have been elected to represent.

Members discussed the proposal however had reservations about this years attendance being reported due to the pandemic and the change to remote meetings. It was felt that not all members were able to attend remotely and only recently members were able to attend via conference call. There is no legal requirement for TCC's to record attendance figures and was a decision for council to make. It was proposed and seconded that attendance figures are recorded from the next AGM and not retrospectively.

RESOLVED: Attendance figures recorded / published from 2021 to 2022

467. FINANCIAL APPLICATIONS

NSPCC

Members have been provided with an email from NSPCC Wales requesting financial support.

RESOLVED: Council donate the sum of £150 under Section 137 of the Local Government Act (as amended).

MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT

Macmillan Cancer Support in Wales annual request for funding.

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

468. **DELEGATES REPORT**

No delegates reports received in March.

469. **PLANNING**

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

The following applications had **No Objections**:

Ref: P/21/127/FUL
Applicant: Mr W Videan
Location: 3b Crown Row Maesteg CF34 0LG
Proposal: Single storey extension to rear elevation to provide family/dining room

Ref: P/21/136/FUL
Applicant: Mr D Wiles
Location: 16 Duffryn Madog Nantyffyllon Maesteg CF34 0BE
Proposal: Single storey extension to rear of property to enlarge kitchen area

Ref: P/21/166/FUL
Applicant: Mr S Cook
Location: 3 Alexandra Road & 4 Alexandra Road Maesteg CF34 0PL
Proposal: Construction of garage to rear garden of no.3 and alteration of roof of adjoining garage of no.4 to pitched roof structure

Ref: P/21/181/FUL
Applicant: Ms L Roberts
Location: 48 Ystad Celyn Maesteg CF34 9LT
Proposal: Raise roof to create first floor to accommodate bedroom with en-suite and balcony to front, 2 bedrooms and bathroom

Ref: P/21/235/FUL
Applicant: Mr R Davies
Location: 32 Duffryn Madog Maesteg CF34 0BE
Proposal: Demolition of rear garage and shed; construct new double car garage with kennels to lower level; removal of retaining wall and replace with new concrete block retaining wall

Ref: P/21/156/FUL
Applicant: Maesteg Celtic Ltd
Location: Maesteg Celtic Sports Club Garth Park Bridgend Road Maesteg CF34 0NE
Proposal: Extension of existing patio area

Ref: P/21/240/FUL
Applicant: Mr & Mrs Lewis
Location: 81 Cwrt Coed Parc Maesteg CF34 9DQ
Proposal: First floor side extension

RESOLVED: To note the information.

Minutes emailed to all Councillors to Read on 20th April 2021

**Minutes accepted at a remote meeting of the Council
held on 4th May 2021**

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Mayor