

**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 **Tuesday, 20th April 2021.**

PRESENT:

COUNCILLORS:

A James (Mayor)

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

APOLOGIES were received from Cllrs P Jenkins and R Penhale-Thomas

**470. MAESTEG TOWN COUNCIL WORKING GROUP REPORT.
PROJECTS COMMITTEE PROPOSAL FOR ROAD SAFETY MEASURES
WITHIN THE TOWN COUNCILS BOUNDARIES.**

Members were provided with a copy of the Working Group Report – Cllr G Thomas discussed each section and recommendation from the report as detailed below.

Recommendations for projects committee.

- 1) Work with BCBC to trial the number plate recognition system camera on Heol Ty Gwyn failing this fund a full speed camera option B
- 2) Discuss the road marking and speed change for Cymmer hill at £7532
- 4) Invest in a VAS at Cymer hill council to debate options.
 - a. Fixed sign £9,656
 - b. Number plate sign systems as per Heol ty gwyn £26k
- 5) Invest in Armco barrier installation at Nanty park ~ £20K.
- 6) Discuss the proposed design study for Fairfield Avenue.

471. HEOL TY GWYN (item 1)

Within the report members were provided with an incident history, traffic survey results and 3 options for discussion that include the number plate recognition system and 2 average speed camera options (only 2 companies have been verified by Go Safe Wales to install this type of camera, hence only 2 quotes received)

Option A	£157,464.00
Option B	£95,441.28
Option C	£26,000.00

Cllr G Thomas advised that road traffic calming is unsuitable for this location due to the residential area leading to 2 separate industrial estates and that ‘speed humps’ would increase noise pollution.

The working groups preferred option would be to use number plate recognition system (Option C), however BCBC have not used these types of signs anywhere yet and are considering the GDPR impact of storing the numberplates and speeds – BCBC data protection team have agreed the impact Statement, but are awaiting BCBC traffic sign off for the proposal. When questioned how long for the sign off of the proposal, no date was given. It was noted that Option C would only be for display and no penalties would be issued.

Members raised concerns regarding taking on the responsibility of traffic calming from BCBC as this falls within the realms of the Unitary Authority and there is no mention of partnership working / contributions and how can Maesteg Town Council pledge money of this magnitude without raising Council Tax? Members were advised that BCBC do not have any available funding to offer and likewise Welsh Government were also contacted and due to no fatalities in the area will not provide any grant funding. Go Safe also do not provide funding.

Cllr P White **proposed** and seconded by Cllr G Thomas that Option B is recommended to Full Council

Cllr L Thomas called for an **amendment** that was seconded by Cllr I Williams to wait and see if Option C is authorised for use and to proceed with Option C.

Members **voted** on the **amendment** with the following recorded vote:

Name	Vote	Name	Vote
Cllr L Beedle	For	Cllr R Lewis	Against
Cllr R Collins	Against	Cllr R Martin	Against
Cllr R Davies	Against	Cllr C Reeves	Against
Cllr P Davies	Against	Cllr G Thomas	Against
Cllr K Edwards	For	Cllr L Thomas	For
Cllr A James	Against	Cllr P White	Against
		Cllr I Williams	For

Against = 9

For = 4

Following the above vote the **proposal** of Option B was passed for recommendation to Council.

472. CAERAU / CYMMER HILL (item 2)

Within the report members were provided with traffic survey results, proposed solution and costs involved.

Members were also advised that Welsh Government have published plans to make all roads within a 1-mile radius of a school 20mph within the next few years. This is not legislation yet but is currently being piloted in 8 locations across Wales. The intention is to roll this out nationally from April 2023. If this was to come to fruition then this road would be covered by this new traffic order.

The solution proposed is 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. 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.

Members queried if WG introduce the new 20mph speed limits within the next couple of years then why alter the current limits? Members deliberated and felt that Maesteg Town Council shouldn't wait for WG to introduce the new legislation.

Cllr K Edwards **proposed** and seconded by Cllr L Beedle that we wait until Welsh Government introduce the new legislation.

Cllr C Reeves called for an **amendment** that was seconded by Cllr P Davies to continue with the proposed solution.

Members **voted** on the **amendment** with the following recorded vote:

Name	Vote	Name	Vote
Cllr L Beedle	Against	Cllr R Lewis	For
Cllr R Collins	For	Cllr R Martin	For
Cllr R Davies	For	Cllr C Reeves	For
Cllr P Davies	For	Cllr G Thomas	For
Cllr K Edwards	Against	Cllr L Thomas	For
Cllr A James	For	Cllr P White	For
		Cllr I Williams	Against

Against = 3

For = 10

Following the above vote the **proposal** of the road marking and speed change for Cymmer Hill at £7532 was passed for recommendation to Council.

473. CAERAU / CYMMER HILL (item 3)

Members then deliberated whether to invest in a Vehicle Activated Sign (VAS) or a number plate sign like Heol Ty Gwyn. Some members felt that the VAS signs do not

discourage speeding vehicles whereas others felt they not only deter but notify some motorists that the limits have changed.

Cllr P Davies **proposed** and seconded by Cllr R Lewis that Maesteg Town Council accept the recommendation for a fixed VAS.

Members **voted** on the **proposal** with the following recorded vote:

Name	Vote	Name	Vote
Cllr L Beedle	Against	Cllr R Lewis	For
Cllr R Collins	For	Cllr R Martin	For
Cllr R Davies	For	Cllr C Reeves	For
Cllr P Davies	For	Cllr G Thomas	Against
Cllr K Edwards	Against	Cllr L Thomas	Against
Cllr A James	For	Cllr P White	For
		Cllr I Williams	Against

Against = 5

For = 8

Following the above vote the **proposal** for a fixed VAS was passed for recommendation to Council.

474. NANTYFFYLLON PLAY AREA (item 4)

Members were provided with some background to the issues outside the play area whereby 2 recent events lead to breaches in the wall both allowing vehicles to enter the children’s park area. The area has been repaired by BCBC but the risk of a future event is high without any changes to the infrastructure. BCBC highways department have reviewed the site with various contractor partners and have proposed the installation of Armco protective barriers and have provided the installation costs for installing 20 meter ARMCO barrier.

Some members felt that this proposal does not support traffic calming in the area just damage limitation. Members deliberated this and felt that the safety of the children using the play area located next to a dangerous stretch of road outweighs the need for traffic calming.

Cllr G Thomas **proposed** and seconded by Cllr AR Davies that the ARMCO barrier is installed outside the play area.

Members **voted** on the **proposal** with the following recorded vote:

Name	Vote	Name	Vote
Cllr L Beedle	Abstain	Cllr R Lewis	For
Cllr R Collins	For	Cllr R Martin	For

Cllr R Davies	For	Cllr C Reeves	For
Cllr P Davies	For	Cllr G Thomas	For
Cllr K Edwards	Abstain	Cllr L Thomas	For
Cllr A James	For	Cllr P White	For
		Cllr I Williams	Against

Abstain = 2

Against = 1

For = 10

Following the above vote the **proposal** for installing ARMCO barrier was passed for recommendation to Council.

475. FAIRFIELD AVENUE (item 5)

Members discussed the proposed design study for Fairfield Avenue and the issues being the current road layout. It was felt that paying £8K for a design study was not productive to the residents as any further proposals would incur further costs. Ward members also provided concerns for the area but without the necessary incident data it was unlikely to receive approval from the emergency services.

Cllr L Thomas **proposed** and seconded by Cllr R Martin that Maesteg Town Council take no further action at this time.

476. RECOMMENDATIONS TO COUNCIL

- 1) **Option B** – Average Speed Camera system with an initial outlay for equipment is **£77,098.88** with a maintenance and service costs of approximately **£4,585.60** per annum.
- 2) Introducing a new gateway along Cymmer Hill whereby the road marking and speed changes at a cost of **£7,532.00**
- 3) Installing a VAS double bend sign on Cymmer Hill at a cost of **£9,656.11**
- 4) Installing ARMCO barrier outside Nantyffyllon Play area at a cost of **£20,000.00**

Minutes emailed to all Councillors to Read on 22nd April 2021

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

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Mayor