

**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, 5th October 2021**.

PRESENT:

COUNCILLORS: **A James (Deputy Mayor)**

L Beedle, AR Davies, P Davies, K Edwards, P Jenkins,
R Martin, R Penhale-Thomas, G Thomas, L Thomas and
I Williams,

APOLOGIES were received from Cllrs R Collins, R Lewis, W May, C Reeves and P White

DECLARATION OF INTEREST:

Cllrs P Davies, K Edwards and R Penhale-Thomas declared an interest in items relating to Bridgend County Borough Council, including Development Control and Licensing.

Cllr 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.

194. POLICE MATTERS

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

Maesteg Crime Statistics for September 2021

	Caerau / Nanty	Maesteg East	Maesteg West	Llan	Total in category
Robbery	0	0	0	0	0
Drugs	1	3	0	0	0
Dwelling burglary	0	1	1	0	2
Burglary other	0	0	0	0	0
Theft of vehicle	1	0	0	0	1
Theft from vehicle	0	1	1	0	2
All other theft	1	2	2	0	5
Damage	12	4	5	1	22
Violence against the person	35	8	19	8	70**
Domestic related occurrence	9	2	6	4	21
All crime total	50	19	28	9	106
Anti-social behaviour total	21	5	13	0	39
Drink Driving	0	0	0	0	0

****NOTE:** SGT Watts confirmed that the figures we received are correct technically but includes matters that arise online. He corrected the ‘*Violence Against the Person*’ section to 18 crimes committed within the community physically – not virtual. He stated this was due to how cases are classified when received within the police service.

The following was raised:

- A) Issue with constant speeding vehicles Neath Road and Heol Ty Gwyn in the evenings, believe its 2 or 3 vehicles 2 of which have blowback exhausts. Another member raised concerns further up the valley in Caerau whereby they speed pass shops and residents.

Sgt Watts advised that SW Police are not allowed to chase these vehicles or to observe with a helicopter. SW Police are aware of the vehicles and on is a red motorbike that frequently drives with a passenger at high speeds. SW Police have yet to receive confirmation of number plates, however if a series of photographs can be collected, they can then locate the vehicle and seize the vehicle on the evidence provided. Sgt Watts advised to use 101 online for reporting issues as these are picked up faster than telephone reports as there are staffing issues with the 101 telephone teams.

- B) A member raised the issue that not only is it impossible to get through to 101, but also the direct phone numbers that Sgt’s and PCSO’s have provided. As a recent incident no one answered any of the phones.

Sgt Watts advised that it is not always possible to answer mobile phones and that members should use the online reporting system for non-urgent incidents and 999 for urgent incidents.

RESOLVED: To note the information

195. BCBC BUDGET CONSULTATION

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

Part of the expectations is for BCBC to consult on its Budget annually.

- Consultation runs from 20th September 2020 until 14th November 2021 with report going to Cabinet Meeting 14th December 2021.
- A number of versions are available for residents to complete the consultation; Large Print, Easy Read, Standard, Youth, on the telephone and all are available in Welsh.
- Once again, the team is unable to engage with residents’ face to face in libraries or community centres. There has been more focus to Social Media campaigns, polls, pod casts, radio campaigns, press releases, visiting secondary schools and liaising with T&CC’s and BCBC Members.

Members raised the following questions:

- Hopefully many residents will complete the consultation, however, have you identified some questions of multiple choice that should services be passed to T&CC's there will be a saving for BCBC but an increase in Council Tax from T&CC's?

This is a question the team get asked a lot and this is answered in the consultation Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) section.

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

Clerk advised that the Consultation links and poster had been forwarded to all Councillors and placed onto the noticeboard and website.

RESOLVED: To note the information

196. MAYORAL EVENTS

The Deputy Mayor advised that he had attended 1 x 50th wedding anniversary

RESOLVED: to note the information

197. MINUTES

The Following Minutes;

- **Full Council** – 07/09/2021 – emailed 08/09/2021
- **Full Council Confidential Minute** - 07/09/2021 – emailed 09/09/2021
- **Property, H&S Committee** - 09/09/2021 – emailed 10/09/2021

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

- **Standing Orders Committee** – 21/09/2021 – emailed 24/09/2021

copies of which had been circulated to Members, were read, accepted as a true record. It was agreed that item 3.e be kept in the new standing orders, whereby should a member of public wish to address Council they need to place it in writing before the meeting; under item 10 it is added that *at the discretion of the Mayor / Chair of the meeting an emergency item may be discussed*. All other recommendations were agreed to ask to Chair of Policy Committee to discuss said policies and signed by the Deputy Mayor.

MATTERS ARISING

198. MINUTE 145 MINUTES

Cllrs W May & A R Davies added onto the standing orders committee and website updated to reflect this.

RESOLVED: to note the information

199. MINUTE 148

REQUEST FOR GRIT BINS AT VARIOUS LOCATION IN MAESTEG

Notified BCBC of new grit bin locations. Awaiting response from them - no install date given.

RESOLVED: to note the information

200. MINUTE 151

REFERRALS

Emailed BCBC to ask about the cuttings left after grass and hedges etc have been cut.

Response: Our Parks Officer is making further investigations.

RESOLVED: to note the information

201. MINUTE 154

INSURANCE RENEWAL

Councils' insurance has been renewed for 1 year – new policy documents have been received.

RESOLVED: to note the information

202. MINUTE 157

AGENDA ITEM 12 – TO DISCUSS SPRING BULBS FOR 2021-22

Bulbs arrived 23/09/2021 arrangements are being made for organisations to collect or for CMO to deliver – due to inclement weather CMO delivered by 1st October 2021. Last of the collections to be collected 6th October 2021.

RESOLVED: to note the information

203. MINUTE 165

DRAFT LOCAL ELECTIONS (PRINCIPAL AREAS) (WALES) RULES 2021 AND DRAFT LOCAL ELECTIONS (COMMUNITIES) (WALES) RULES 2021

Local election rules consultation was completed and sent on 8th September 2021.

RESOLVED: to note the information

204. MINUTE 167

ACCESS PATHWAYS TO THE MINER

A telephone call received from Mr R Meredith to advise:

- 1) This is a bridlepath and any changes can only be done by applying for a DMMO whereby a right of way is claimed, re-graded or deleted with a Definitive Map Modification Order (DMMO)
- 2) The bridlepath is on private land owned by NRW

- 3) It is coincidental that there is a track along this bridlepath as it was a historical track used to remove waste from the old colliery

Response received from NRW advising: I have passed your email and the details over to our land management team for the area and have asked them to look into the request.

RESOLVED: to await further response from NRW

205. MINUTE 172

PHOTOCOPIER CONTRACT

A new Solutions in Technology account manager visited the Council Office to introduce herself and to discuss the photocopier account. On looking at the contract in more detail the following applies:

Agreement	Start Date	End Date
Photocopier lease (CF Corporate)	25/05/2019 2 initial payments + 20 quarterly payments	May 2024
Maintenance & Service Agreement (SIT)	25/05/2019 60-month contract	May 2024

Usually, the account manager would only look at available savings and available options once there is only a year remaining in the contract as there is still over 2.5 years remaining the options are not currently available. When the lease and maintenance contracts are approaching the options would include:

- To purchase the photocopier and carry on with the maintenance contract
- New 5-year lease whereby they would try and reduce quarterly payments

Full details of available options would be sent via email for Council to agree / re-tender.

RESOLVED: to note the information

206. MINUTE 174

PARKING IN TALBOT STREET FOLLOWING DISPUTE – CLLR PHIL JENKINS

Contacted BCBC in regards to Filco deliveries, they passed it onto the Town Centre manager who has spoken to the manager of Filco and will monitor the situation

RESOLVED: to note the information

207. MINUTE 177

AGENDA ITEM 11 – PROJECTS COMMITTEE

Projects committee membership updated on the Member profiles on the website.

RESOLVED: to note the information

208. MINUTE 178

AGENDA ITEM 12 – READING COMMITTEE

Reading committee has been disbanded and has been removed from Member profiles on the website

RESOLVED: to note the information

209. MINUTE 179

AGENDA ITEM 13 – TO DISCUSS CHRISTMAS 2021

1) GIFT BAGS

Resident numbers checked 08/09/2021

<u>Care Home</u>	<u>No. of Residents</u>	<u>Men</u>	<u>Women</u>
Bryncelyn Nursing Home	56 when at capacity	15	39
Ty Llwynderw	10	2	8
Ty Newydd	16	8	8
TOTAL	82	25	55

Ordered the gift bag items 17/09/2021 and should be delivered end of September, whereby the Clerk and Deputy Clerk can then start to make the gift bags in plenty of time for Christmas.

2) SELECTION BOXES

Email sent to ILC 10/09/2021 - **Response:** I will also inform ILC that the Council is providing Selection boxes to all primary school children.

Clerk contacted the local primary schools for pupil numbers and has ordered 69 boxes of 24 selection boxes that will be delivered 12/10/2021. Cadbury's Gifts Direct have an offer currently with 8% off making the selection boxes £1 instead of £1.09 each.

3) CHRISTMAS TREE IN CAERAU

Email sent to ILC 10/09/2021 - **Response:** I will inform all the members of Caerau Christmas Celebrations of Maesteg Council's generous offer to pay 50% of the cost of the tree in Caerau Square again this year.

Please thank all the councillors for once again voting to contribute to the cost of the tree, as we have been unable to carry out any fundraising events in 2021.

4) TO DISCUSS CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS IN NANTYFFYLLON

Item placed on Agenda for October 2021

5) **CHRISTMAS PARADE**

Awaiting advice / guidance from ESAG committee.

RESOLVED: to note the information

210. **MINUTE 187**

TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE BUILDING WORKS

Email received and members advised that one of the stonemasons due to work on the chimney contracted covid so they have been unable to complete the works as programmed. This has now been rescheduled for the 4th October.

Clerk has contacted BCBC to see if the Herras fencing can be removed from around the building as there is scaffolding and the chimney repair work is to begin.

Response from BCBC Structural Engineer: Provided the scaffold does not require the Heras fencing to prevent unauthorised access to the scaffold then with the scaffold in place I see no reason why it cannot be removed.

The scaffold should catch any loose stonework for the foreseeable future until the repair work is finished and provided the scaffold has been erected to ensure unauthorised access is not possible then the Heras fencing is no longer required.

RESOLVED: to note the information

211. **LIST OF PAYMENTS FOR THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER 2021**

RESOLVED:

That the tables of **Expenditure (£23,256.20)**, **Income (£163.18)** during the month of September 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 Deputy Mayor.

Members were also provided with:

- list of payments to be made in October 2021 totalling £5,627.10
- A copy of the Receipts and Payments Account which includes expenditure against the budget and the budget remaining.
- An income analysis was also provided.
- VAT Reclaim Quarter 2 = July -September 2021 totalling £5,826.41

Members agreed to continue with the quarterly VAT reclaims.

CORRESPONDENCE

212. **HYBRID MEETINGS USING MTC COUNCIL CHAMBER**

Clerk contacted ITCS to ask for advice for Hybrid meetings to take place in the Council Chamber as currently the WiFi extender boxes do not work in the Chamber and the signal is not strong enough to host a meeting online. Currently Hybrid

meetings are held in the meeting room but a maximum of 8 people including Clerk, Deputy Clerk and Mayor can attend.

An officer from ITCS visited the building on 20/09/2021 and has advised: that he would need to speak to the BCBC Conservation Officer to see what was allowed within the remit of the Grade II* status. A meeting with the BCBC Conservation Officer was arranged for 30th September 2021, however was cancelled due to the petrol shortages. A new date is to be arranged.

RESOLVED: to note the information

213. DOG WASTE BAGS

Clerk has reordered dog waste bags from the supplier as there is less than 15 boxes in the basement. Supplier has advised:

Unfortunately, we are out of stock until early next month as it is a nightmare getting stock in at the moment with delay after delay. Plus, costs are going up every month.

Advised that delivery would be October/November. Dog Bags arrived 04/10/2021.

Request received from AWEN libraries for Maesteg Library to be a distribution point for dog waste bags.

Members advised that CDT and Caerau Market Garden had run out of dog bags and request that a supply is delivered to both organisations. Members also deliberated the request from AWEN and agreed that as a central location Maesteg Library is added as collection point

RESOLVED:

- to deliver bags to CDT and Caerau Market Garden
- arrange for Maesteg Library to be a collection point

214. COVID-19 SPECIFIC UPDATES & MEDIA UPDATES

Emailed to all Councillors for information:

- BCBC Media Updates

RESOLVED: to note the information

215. NEWSLETTERS / FLYERS / BRIEFING NOTES

Emailed to all Councillors for information:

- Older People's Commissioner's Bulletin

RESOLVED: to note the information

216. REFERRALS

- Why the Pavilion for Garth Park is not open yet as the rugby teams are having to change on the side of the pitch and shower at home afterwards whereas other pavilions in the area have been re-opened?

Response: Apologies for the delay in replying to your enquiry. With regards to the pavilion at Garth Park, we are currently assessing the pavilions for compliance with Health and Safety officers with regard to adequate ventilation, conforming to the guidelines we have been instructed to follow, to reduce the risk of Covid-19. An appointment has been booked to assess Garth tomorrow (10/09/2021) and once that is complete, which will also be tomorrow, I will be able to advise you of availability for use of the changing rooms/showers.

A Member advised that following the meeting on 10th September the pavilion was re-opened.

- Overgrowth preventing residents using footpath Blossie Street

Response: Thank you for the information this has been reported to the relevant department who will investigate the matter. Further email received to advise that a works order has been raised for this and is on a schedule to be completed.

RESOLVED: to note the information

217. DOG WASTE BIN REQUEST

Email request received from a new business on Picton Street, Nantyffyllon whereby the owners have noticed whilst refurbishing the property there is a considerable amount of dog waste along the footpaths leading up to and in front of the new shop.

Please see attached copies of a PDF they provided to highlight where the 2 litter bins are located and where 2 dog grooming shops are located and a suggestion of where a new bin and dog waste bag station could be located.

Additionally, the request has been sent to BCBC to see if MTC placed a bin would BCBC empty it?

Response from BCBC: We checked out this location and unfortunately there was nowhere suitable to install the bin directly and with the lane being tarmac there was no way of fixing a post mounted bin or installing a post safely, the only alternative would be to remove the bin at the location marked on the map and replace it with a dog waste bin, we can also install a dog tik pack post too. The proposed area has been marked in red on the map.

Members agreed with the location suggestion from BCBC. A member queried how BCBC were able to offer installing a tiks pack post in Nantyffyllon yet a request for one at Garth Park has yet to be authorised?

RESOLVED:

- Clerk to advise that Council agree to the suggested location and for BCBC to proceed with installing a bin and tikspack post
- Clerk to query why the request for tikspak post at Garth Park has yet to be authorised?

218. ILCA TRAINING

Clerk and Deputy Clerk have applied to complete ILCA (Wales) (Introduction to Local Council Administration). This is a Level 2, online sector specific learning tool designed to support all new council officers in Wales in their roles in the first few months of employment, as well as those aspiring to go on and complete their Level 3 CiLCA qualification. The aim of the course is to provide an introduction to the work of a local council, the clerk and its councillors.

The course has five modules. Each module contains several sections and pages of activities, questions and explanations. To gain a certificate and 8 CPD points you must pass the Assessment. You can have one attempt at each of two tests and pass a test with a score of 80%.

The Clerk and Deputy Clerk request that one day per week is allocated for studying for the qualification whereby emails and telephone calls are not answered.

Members agreed that Clerk and Deputy Clerk could use a morning each a week on different days and to do the training from home in order that office provision is undisturbed.

RESOLVED: to note the information

219. REQUEST TO USE THE OUTSIDE POWER SUPPLY FOR ANDREWS FAMILY BUTCHERS

Andrews Family Butchers have requested whether they can use the outside power supply again the week before Christmas for distributing the Christmas meat hampers

Members agreed to the request.

RESOLVED: to advise that Council agree to the request

220. CAERAU MENSHERD

Request received from Caerau Men's Shed whereby they are again producing their 2022 calendar and would like to request permission that they can sell outside Maesteg Town Council Office.

Members queried why they were asking for permission from Maesteg Town Council when they would be located on the public highway. Clerk advised that Maesteg Town Council are responsible for 1.5meters outside the curtilage of the building and that permission would be needed to be located outside the building. Members agreed

that once the Herras fencing is removed there would be no issue with the Men Shed selling their 2022 calendars outside the building.

RESOLVED: to advise Caerau Men's Shed they can sell their 2022 calendars outside the building.

221. **BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL (CYMMER ROAD, CAERAU)**
(DE-RESTRICTION)(40MPH SPEED LIMIT) TRAFFIC ORDER 202-
The above traffic order was emailed to all members and placed onto the website.

RESOLVED: to note the information

222. **TRAFFIC SCHEMES UPDATE**
Emails received and forwarded to all members regarding the proposed traffic schemes in Maesteg, Caerau and Nantylffyllon. To date the following updates have been received:

1. Barrier installation in Nantylffyllon = works order has been booked – waiting on BCBC Contractor Barrier Services to carry out the works – no date given
2. VA Signs Caerau = programme for VA signs commencing Monday 20th September - Cymmer Hill Caerau.

No update on Heol Ty Gwyn yet.

Members requested a further update on the schemes.

RESOLVED: to contact BCBC for further update on the schemes

223. **BCBC CLEANER STREETS OFFICER LEAVING**
Email received and forwarded to all members regarding the retirement of a BCBC Cleaner Streets officer following ill health and a terminal diagnosis.

Members were upset at the notification and request that formal condolences are sent to the officer and thanking him for his commitment to the valley.

RESOLVED: to send thank you and condolence to the officer.

224. **NEATH PORT TALBOT REPLACEMENT LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN (2021 – 2036)**
Email received and forwarded to all members regarding the above consultation on the Draft Delivery Agreement and draft ISA Scoping Report that takes place from midday on Monday 16th August, 2021 until midday on Monday 27th September, 2021.

RESOLVED: to note the information

225. MAKE VOTES MATTER MEETING INVITATION

An invitation received and forwarded to all members for an open meeting 7:15pm on 26th October at Tondu Cricket Club to create a Bridgend Area Branch of the 'Make Votes Matter' organisation - whereby they are a non-partisan movement campaigning in favour of changing the UK voting system from 1st past the post to a proportional system.

RESOLVED: to note the information

226. TROLLIES IN RIVER

Complaint of 10+ trollies in the river by the bridge linking Llynfi Rd Car Park with Plasnewydd Street.

Has been reported to Aldi and Tesco – N.B. Tesco website has a link to Trolleywise where you can report abandoned trollies:

https://www.wanzl.com/en_GB/360-degree-service/TrolleyWise

(Trolleywise can also be found of the iOS store and android store)

Wanzl has launched a new initiative calling on members of the public to help report abandoned trollies by downloading our free-to-use Trolleywise app. You simply take a photo using the app alerting the nearest Trolleywise collection team - we will then do the rest!

A member advised that Trolleywise are currently unable to come into this area, however the Rivercare Group will be looking at ways to remove the trollies as they are currently not allowed to go into the river due to fish spawning.

RESOLVED: to note the information

227. BCBC CHASING MTC FOR PAYMENT

BCBC are chasing MTC for payment of the installation of the pelican crossing in Garth that was installed in 2014.

The difficulty BCB is experiencing at the moment is that they are unable to establish whether or not MTC submitted a request for the TCC grant once the works had been completed as this is a requirement of the grant scheme. Once the works are completed the application is submitted and an invoice is raised for the full amount.

If no application for the grant was submitted at that time, then MTC would be responsible for the payment.

Clerk has forwarded all Minutes to BCBC & members whereby the crossing is mentioned:

- November 2011 - minute 280

- January 2012 – minute 373
- July 2012 – Minute 96
- August 2012 – Minute 119
- November 2012 – Minute 254
- March 2013 – Minute 411
- October 2013 – Minute 186
- February 2014 – Minute 358

Members deliberated this issue as Maesteg Town Council did pay for the works including other programmed works at Grove St and Llynfi Road which we were invoiced for as the remainder of the works were to be funded by BCBC. If their procedure was for Maesteg TC to pay for the whole of the works and then to reclaim the grant then why did BCBC only invoice for part of the works? Due to the Limitation Act why is this only recently being requested? It is for BCBC to source the evidence.

RESOLVED: to note the information

228. BCBC WESP CONSULTATION

Members forwarded the BCBC Welsh Education Strategic Plan (WESP) Consultation. The consultation period will begin on the 27 September 2021 and close on the 19 December 2021

RESOLVED: to note the information

229. INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL FOR WALES DRAFT ANNUAL REPORT CONSULTATION - FEBRUARY 2022

Members forwarded the IRP draft annual report consultation whereby any comments need to be made no later than 26th November 2021.

RESOLVED: to note the information

230. “POTENTIAL CANDIDATE” SESSIONS – 18 & 25 NOVEMBER 2021

Email received and forwarded to all members regarding the above whereby Bridgend County Borough Council is holding two Potential Candidate sessions aimed at those residents of Bridgend County Borough considering standing in the local government elections of May 2022.

Each Potential Candidate event will take place virtually via Teams beginning at 6.30pm on the 18th and 25th November, 2021 and lasting for approximately one hour. The sessions will be in two parts with the first part outlining information about the role of the Councillor and the functions of the Council, and the second part explaining how to become a candidate and the process for being elected.

The sessions are planned to provide information and not to be political, however they may be of interest to any Town/Community Councillors who are planning to stand at the election and who are not already a County Borough Councillor.

Anyone interested in attending one of these sessions therefore can e-mail: membersbcbc@bridgend.gov.uk indicating which session they would prefer to attend; they will then be sent a joining link.

Further information can also be found on the BCBC website at:

<https://www.bridgend.gov.uk/my-council/democracy-and-elections/have-you-thought-about-becoming-a-councillor/>

RESOLVED: to note the information

231. **FINANCIAL APPLICATIONS**

Members were provided with completed application forms from the following organisations, whereby Members read and agreed to the following grant funding:

1. **Maesteg Park FC – Youth**

On looking at the application form and the S137 Policy clearly states that:

- Local Groups/Clubs (including sporting clubs):
 - i. An application from the parent club: £500
 - ii. Applications from Individual section (age groups): advise to apply through parent club

Within the application form and corresponding letter the club clearly states that they are mention “we value our club and being part of Maesteg Park FC (MPFC)” they also advise that the established mini and senior sections of MPFC are stand alone organisations with separate funds and fundraising.

Members deliberated and agreed that the policy clearly states that a parent club has to apply for the funds and for them to distribute to the section. It would be unwise for Council to make an exception on newly formed policy.

RESOLVED: Clerk advise the Youth section to submit an application via the parent club as per the S137 Policy.

2. **Llynfi Valley Panthers Netball Team**

Members read the application form and agreed that the application complied with the S137 Policy.

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

232. DELEGATES REPORT

Delegates Report from Town and Community Council Forum 20/09/21
Shaping Bridgend's Future - Budget Consultation 2021 Engagement with Town and Community Councils

This year the consultation focusses on nine key areas:

- Performance over the past 12 months
- Support for Business, Tourism and the economy
- Wellbeing
- Customer face-to-face access
- Digitalisation
- Investment in services
- Fees and charges
- Council Tax levels
- The future

Consultation is being undertaken, starting on 20th September, until 14th November, clerks will be contacted for presentations on engagement to be made to Town and Community Councils. The results of the consultation will be reported to Cabinet in December.

Planning Update Local Development Plan, National Planning Policy & Placemaking
The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 requires Bridgend County Borough Council to prepare a Local Development Plan (LDP), setting out its objectives for the development and use of land in Bridgend County Borough over the plan period to 2033, and its policies to implement them. The Deposit Draft builds upon the Preferred Strategy (the blueprint of the proposed plan), which has previously been consulted on in 2019. The purpose of the Deposit Draft consultation is to seek the views of all communities on the next stage of the LDP process. Once finalised and adopted, the Replacement LDP will replace the existing LDP (2006-2021) as the statutory Development Plan for the County Borough.

Cllr Ceri Reeves
Maesteg West

RESOLVED: to note the information

233. AGENDA ITEM 12 – REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

Update email received and forwarded to all members with the following information:

Maesteg Branch RBL Committee have agreed the following:

Poppy Appeal:

- The committee agreed that while the responsibilities of a branch Poppy Appeal Organiser will be shared among committee members, the secretary will

ultimately take responsibility for distributing and banking donations and coordinating committee members and volunteers;

- The Branch Secretary will create a notice for the Poppy Appeal to be displayed for advertising in local businesses;
- Proposed locations for collecting donations for the Appeal include Tesco's, Lidl, Wilko's, and outside the Council Offices. By mid-October, a rota for committee members and volunteers to set up at said locations to collect donations.

Remembrance Sunday:

- The route of the parade agreed by the committee is as follows:
 - 10:00am: Parade to assemble at Maesteg Car Park;
 - 10:15am: Parade to proceed to the Cenotaph from Maesteg Car Park, via Llynfi Road and Talbot Street;
- On arrival at the Cenotaph, Remembrance Service to commence, including the blessing of the wreaths, in the build-up to 11:00am;
- 11:00am: Two-minute silence, and laying of the wreaths at the Cenotaph.
- The Parade will be subject to Covid-19 restrictions at the time

Clerk has sent Road Closure applications to BCBC 14/09/2021

Clerk met with 2 RBL branch committee members and Cllr W May to help coordinate contacts with organisations and individuals for distributing wreaths and collecting donations. The outcome of this meeting included:

- Going through the current list and noting who will chase the organisations
- A poster to be placed on the website, noticeboard and for emailing to members advising organisations that they need to contact Maesteg Town Council by 8th October with their intention to get a wreath for remembrance Sunday.

It was agreed that the list be updated by Maesteg Town Council and that the RBL branch members supply contact details for the individuals. We will meet again after 8th October to check how many wreaths are needed and compare with the wreaths already in the basement before ordering more. Once agreed the collection of wreaths can begin asap at a cost of £25 per wreath.

RESOLVED: To note the information

234. AGENDA ITEM 13 – TO DISCUSS CHRISTMAS 2021

TO DISCUSS CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS IN NANTYFFYLLON

Following September Full Council meeting whereby Cllr P Davies gave apologies and was unable to attend. Council moved that this be discussed when Cllr P Davies in attendance:

Email request received from Cllr P Davies:

“I would like to agenda the following issue to be added to the agenda for debate in the September meeting by full council after being contacted by a local resident.

“Xmas decorations in the Nanty area”.

I am looking for the support of members and ideas as to what decorations are feasible and affordable by MTC.

Residents of Nanty feel left out at present to a total lack of any form of celebration within their ward.

Regards, Cllr Paul Davies, Caerau Ward.

Clerk had sought advice from Centregreat about decorations in Nantyffyllon and they have advised that Christmas Lights are not allowed to be placed on the wooden Western Power poles but are allowed to be placed on metal ones.

Members sympathise with the request, however get a number of requests for lower Garth and along Llwydarth Road. Likewise, what about Maesteg Park and Caerau Park?

Cllr G Thomas **proposed** and seconded by Cllr P Davies that costs are received for 3 stars for 3 areas for next year.

An **amendment** was made by Cllr L Thomas and seconded by Cllr A James that each Ward is looked at with locations suitable for a Christmas streetlight decoration.

CHRISTMAS PARADE

Clerk advised members that the clerk was requested to submit an ESAG event notification form for the ESAG committee to discuss at their October meeting and have also been asked to complete an event checklist and a Covid Risk Assessment of which the checklist was provided to members to complete.

Additionally, it has been suggested that one way of minimising Covid-19 exposure to, and the spread of, coronavirus is by having a ticketed event (even if this is free) whereby groups of 10/20 are corralled into set areas throughout the Town. However, this might be extremely difficult due to the nature of the Christmas Parade event.

Another concern is that should the parade go ahead and number of infections / deaths rise in Maesteg and are linked to the event then Maesteg Town Council could be blamed for holding the event. The Clerk has been advised that a number of local Town and Community Councils are NOT holding a parade this year but will be switching the lights on via social media.

BCBC Town Centre Manager has offered Maesteg Town Council £3,000.00 towards Christmas celebrations within the Town for 2021 providing BCBC is acknowledged for its contribution.

Current Welsh Government Guidelines:

From Monday 11 October - People will be required to show the NHS COVID pass to prove they are either fully vaccinated or have a recent negative Lateral Flow Test to attend:

- nightclubs
- indoor non-seated events where over 500 people are mixing closely for prolonged periods
- outdoor non-seated events where over 4,000 people are mixing closely for prolonged periods
- any event of more than 10,000 people

A number of email responses received from members:

- Initial thoughts, given that historically the town is filled with people in extremely close proximity, it will be difficult in the extreme to manage, given the new regulations
- I find it strange that 20,000 or more people can watch a football match and hundreds of people can crowd into nightclubs and we have these restrictions applied to a Christmas parade
- We must adhere to rules where practicable, in principle I am in favour of a Xmas parade, dependant on rules and how deliverable it would be like
- I find it strange that the contradiction and lack of decisiveness displayed by all forms of government, obviously leads me to believe nobody has a clue. One-minute covid on rise next it is not one minute more deaths next there is none. How the devil is large events such as WRU games allowed to take place in which up to 80,000 could pack a stadium from all over UK and the world stupid. Each family should make their own mind up perhaps bearing in mind their safety their family and the public at large. If you could have Concrete Rules Guidelines ready for debate, I would appreciate it.

Following this Clerk advised members on the current advice on WG website
Frequently asked questions:

<https://gov.wales/alert-level-0-frequently-asked-questions>

Will attendees at nightclubs and big events be required to provide Covid Passes or a negative lateral-flow tests to gain entry?

From Monday 11 October - People will be required to show the NHS COVID pass to demonstrate they are either fully vaccinated or have had a recent negative lateral flow test, to enter the following venues and events:

- Nightclubs

- Indoor non-seated events of more than 500 people, where people are mixing closely for prolonged periods.
- Outdoor non-seated events of over 4,000, where people will be mixing closely for prolonged periods.
- Any event, of any nature, which has more than 10,000 people in attendance.
- The NHS COVID pass allows people to prove they have either been fully vaccinated or to provide evidence of a negative lateral flow test.

The system is working and you are already able to access your pass using the NHS digital system which will allow you to produce a COVID pass using a smart phone, a computer or laptop. Access your COVID pass (on nhs.uk).

Lateral flow tests can be ordered from the Welsh Government website: Get rapid lateral flow COVID-19 tests if you do not have symptoms.

Notwithstanding that requirement, all business and event organisers must still undertake a full coronavirus Risk Assessment and put in place reasonable measures to minimise the risk of coronavirus as they currently do.

For events below the above levels which are pre-ticketed, consideration should be given to asking attendees to complete a pre-attendance health check questionnaire or, whether pre-ticketed or not, asking attendees to provide evidence of a negative COVID-19 test or of being fully vaccinated.

Members deliberated the Christmas Parade and agreed that the parade is a staple in the community and this year would be one of the most important for moral boosting purposes alone. However, with Winter heightening the risk of the spread of covid cases and the difficulties surrounding the policing/ticketing of the parade to ensure covid safety guidelines are met then the parade will have to be annulled this year. Although the Council recognise the risk over covid is lowering as we exit the pandemic but if cases and deaths were to rise as a result of the parade then the council would be solely responsible for this.

Cllr G Thomas **proposed** that the Christmas Parade proceeds as normal, however this was not seconded and not supported by the remaining Members.

A member raised that Caerau Men's Shed were planning on organising Santa on a sleigh. To which the Deputy Mayor asked a member of the Caerau Men's Shed who was present at the meeting whether they had made any plans. The member advised that they were planning a Santa's Grotto and maybe doing a sleigh in Caerau area, however last year when planning this the Police stopped the sleigh going around the streets. Caerau Men's Shed would be happy to support Maesteg Town Council with a Santa Sleigh going around the streets only if SW Police would allow this.

Cllr R Martin **proposed** and was seconded by Cllr L Beedle that Council agree not to proceed with the Christmas Parade in 2021.

An **amendment** was made by Cllr L Thomas and seconded by Cllr A James that in addition to not proceeding with the Christmas Parade 2021 that Maesteg Town Council go into partnership with Caerau Men’s Shed for an event; that the Switch on of the Christmas lights is done at the beginning of the December meeting and placed on social media.

Members agreed to the amendment, however Cllr G Thomas asked for his disagreement to be minuted.

RESOLVED:

- 1) Clerk to consult with Centregreat for costings to add a star to each ward
- 2) To arrange an extraordinary meeting to discuss the following:
 - a) costings from Centregreat
 - b) Santa Sleigh around the streets
 - c) Other Christmas events
- 3) To Contact SW Police for advice about running a Santa Sleigh around the streets.
- 4) To liaise with Caerau Men’s Shed with arranging a Santa Sleigh to go around the streets.
- 5) Not to proceed with the Christmas Parade

235. AGENDA ITEM 14 – TO OPEN AND DISCUSS TENDER DOCUMENTS

The following tender documents were sent by email to a number of prospective contractors and placed onto the Website. All tenders were received and placed in sealed envelopes for opening at the Council meeting. The Clerk opened each tender as per below and members agreed to the below winning tenders.

1. Winter and Summer Floral Displays 2021-22

Cllr K Edwards requested to know if any of these tenders were received from a company with links to any member of the Council – the clerk advised that this tender did not.

	Date Received	Date Opened	Amount £	Winning Tender
Tender 1	29/09/21	05/10/21	£4,015	Accepted

No other tenders received

2. Hanging Baskets for 2022

Cllr K Edwards requested to know if any of these tenders were received from a company with links to any member of the Council – the clerk advised that one did as two members were Directors. To this Cllr K Edwards declared a prejudicial interest and left the meeting.

Members requested that the Meeting go into Committee to discuss this further to which the Deputy Mayor agreed. During this time the meeting went passed 9pm and members agreed to suspend standing orders to complete the meeting.

236. RESOLVED: THAT THE COUNCIL GO INTO COMMITTEE

Pursuant to section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 and Local Government Act 1972, ss100 & 102 ‘Members of the public/press can be excluded by resolution if publicity would prejudice the public interest by reason of confidential nature of the business and arising out of the business to be transacted’

238. RESOLVED: THAT THE COUNCIL COME OUT OF COMMITTEE

RESOLVED: that all applicants be advised whether they were successful or unsuccessful in their tender bids.

239. AGENDA ITEM 16 – TO RECEIVE A CONFIDENTIAL UPDATE FROM CHAIR OF FINANCE

RESOLVED: NO NEW INFORMATION TO DISCLOSE

240. PLANNING

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

The following Cllrs remained present and the meeting remained quorate:
Cllrs L Beedle, A James, R Martin, G Thomas, L Thomas and I Williams

Members **Supported** the following application:

Ref: P/21/816/FUL
Applicant: Siderise (Holdings) Ltd
Location: Land adjacent Siderise Insulation Limited Forge Industrial Estate
Maesteg CF34 0AH
Proposal: New research and development unit building (fire testing) together with access, parking, landscaping, drainage infrastructure and associated works
Case Officer: Lee Evans

Members had **no objections** the following applications:

Ref: P/21/819/FUL
Applicant: Mr T Jones
Location: 107 Turberville Street Maesteg CF34 0LU
Proposal: Single storey rear extension
Case Officer: Julie Earp

Ref: P/21/863/FUL
Applicant: Mr I Wells
Location: 51 Ystad Celyn Maesteg CF34 9LT
Proposal: Remove existing conservatory and garage; construct single storey rear living area extension; single storey side store/garden store extension
Case Officer: Julie Earp

Ref: P/21/860/FUL
Applicant: Mr R Evans
Location: 83 Mill View Estate Garth Maesteg CF34 0DE
Proposal: Raise and re-shape roof to create first floor accommodation
Case Officer: Hayley Kemp

Members **objected** to the following application:

Ref: P/21/210/FUL
Applicant: Mrs A Kennedy
Location: Ffos Farm Cwmdu Road Maesteg CF34 0DG
Proposal: Retention of static caravan for use as a holiday let with ancillary works
Case Officer: Hayley Kemp

Reason for objection: no planning originally for static caravan.

The following application had an interest declared by a member of the council. Councillor G Thomas then left the room leaving five councillors which deemed the meeting not quorate so this application will have to be adjourned until the next full council meeting on 2nd November 2021.

Ref: P/21/875/FUL
Applicant: Maesteg Golf Club
Location: Maesteg Golf Club, Mount Pleasant Neath Road Maesteg CF34 9PR
Proposal: Place a glass balustrade on an existing dwarf wall to act as a wind break
Case Officer: Craig Flower

RESOLVED: To note the information.

Minutes emailed to all Councillors to Read on 11th October 2021

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

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Mayor