

**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 November 2021**.

PRESENT:

COUNCILLORS:

AR Davies (Mayor)

L Beedle, R Collins, P Davies, K Edwards, A James,
P Jenkins, R Lewis, R Martin, W May, R Penhale-Thomas,
C Reeves, S Smith, G Thomas and I Williams,

APOLOGIES were received from Cllr L Thomas

DECLARATION OF INTEREST:

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

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

Cllrs C Reeves and I Williams declared an interest in items that may relate to Maesteg Comprehensive

Cllr L Beedle declared an interest in items that related to Caerau Men's Shed

Cllr G Thomas declared an interest in P/21/875/FUL

Cllr L Beedle declared an interest in P/21/897/FUL and P/21/931/FUL

256. POLICE MATTERS

The 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	0	0	0	0	0
Dwelling burglary	0	0	0	0	0
Burglary other	3	0	3	0	6
Theft of vehicle	0	0	0	0	0
Theft from vehicle	0	1	1	0	2
All other theft	2	2	4	0	8

Damage	6	4	5	0	15
Violence against the person	18 (7)	5	32 (10)	10	65 (17)
Domestic related occurrence	5	2	5	2	
All crime total	28	12	45	10	95
Anti-social behaviour total	17	6	7	1	31
Drink Driving	0	0	0	0	0

SGT Watts confirmed that none of the figures were related to licensed premises.

SGT Watts confirmed that the previous complaints of motorcycle nuisance the perpetrator has been caught, the motorcycle ceased and is waiting to be crushed.

Members thanked SGT Watts for this update and positive outcome for the community.

The following was raised:

A) Issue with ASB in Maesteg whereby lots of complaints on social media highlighting the incidents that have included:

- Paving slabs being lifted
- Street post being removed
- Various incidents in the market square
- Cricket club vandalism
- Litter bin in the car park being removed
- Paint being thrown along the pavement / seats in car park

Sgt Watts advised that SW Police have noticed an increase in ASB and they have managed to arrest the perpetrators of the vandalism to the cricket club. A number of ASB offenders have been passed to the Youth Offending Service, SW Police have spoken to Knox & Wells and the security team for the Town Hall as youths are climbing the scaffolding. Additionally, families of the offenders have also been spoken to.

B) A member raised the issue of ASB at Noddfa and behind the Station Hill

Sgt Watts advised that they believe this is due to the displacement from Caerau Square and there is no excuse for the behaviour.

C) A member raised the issue that cars that linked to Tuberville Garage are being parked on the junction and are blocking the junction making it difficult for traffic to pull out onto the main road

Sgt Watts advised that parking issues are difficult to police, however PC Hunter is due to be given new DVLA Powers to remove untaxed vehicles.

D) Ongoing issues at Bron Y Waun whereby complaints relating to one house suspected with drug issues, V2C and SW Police have been trying to resolve the issues but to date nothing has been done.

Sgt Watts advised that he is aware of this property, however the complaints SW Police have received are related to noise issues which have been passed to the Shared Regulatory Services. No reports have been received regarding drug issues.

E) Staff at Filco in Caerau are being harassed by youths and children, whereby some of them are comprehensive age and others are primary school age. Caerau Primary School will discuss this issue with the children in the school but wonder if SW Police are aware of the abuse being given

Sgt Watts advised that one of the youths was taken home by officers, however were unaware that there were also primary school children giving abuse. If Cllrs know the identity of the children, if they could let Sgt Watts know he will arrange a home visit to the families.

F) A member raised the recent issues with cars being scratches in Nantyllyllon by a gang of youths?

Sgt Watts advised that no formal incidents had been reported and queried where these incidents occurred and how was it being advertised?

The member advised that incidents had occurred by the old surgery, top road, Brown Street and John Street, the incidents had been highlighted on Facebook Maesteg Hub Group pages.

G) A member raised the issue of drivers using their mobile phones and witnesses this on a daily basis at school drop off times on the bottom of Cymmer Hill turning into Library Road Caerau.

Sgt Watts advised that he will try and get a joint operation with SW Fire Service.

RESOLVED: To note the information

257. MAYORAL EVENTS

The Mayor advised that he had not attended any events in October 2021

RESOLVED: to note the information

258. MINUTES

The Following Minutes;

- **Full Council** – 05/10/2021 – emailed 11/10/2021
- **Full Council Confidential Minute** - 05/10/2021 – emailed 11/10/2021
- **Extraordinary Council** – 21/10/2021 – emailed 22/10/2021

- **Finance Committee - 28/10/2021** – emailed 29/10/2021 copies of which had been circulated to Members, were read, accepted as a true record, all recommendations agreed and signed by the Mayor.

MATTERS ARISING

259. MINUTE 197

MINUTES

MINUTES – PROPERTY, H&S COMMITTEE

Early termination costs for the Llynfi Road Toilet have been received and emailed to all Members for consideration and are based on the most recent rental figures and 18-month notice period:

The early termination costs are as follows.

- Termination Charge (Unpaid Rental x 0.15) = **£5,943.49**
NB: Unpaid rental (Annual rental /365 x Unexpired term of 548 days) = £39,623.24
*(£26,391.39/365 = £72.31) X 548 remaining days following **18 month** notice period.*
- Removal cost @ **£6,500.00** (subject to permitting and licensing costs)
- **Total cost = £12,443.49**

Members discussed the termination costs and agreed that the Clerk should proceed with the termination and for Council to consider other public toilet options in the 18 months' notice period.

RESOLVED: Clerk to proceed with the termination of the contract.

260. MINUTE 209

AGENDA ITEM 13 – TO DISCUSS CHRISTMAS 2021

1) GIFT BAGS

All items for the gift bags have been delivered and the bags are ready for delivery.

2) SELECTION BOXES

Selection boxes arrived 12/10/2021. Cllr L Thomas assisted with the unloading of the delivery. School pupil numbers to be checked after half term and selection boxes will be in bundles ready for delivery 1st week in December.

RESOLVED: to note the information

261. **MINUTE 212**

HYBRID MEETINGS USING MTC COUNCIL CHAMBER

Email received and forwarded to members from ITCS who advised:

that following the meeting with the Conservation Officer who advised that before any works take place the company and person doing the works would be held liable for any damages unless they make things right. Unfortunately, ITCS do not have the qualified tradesmen to make repairs to lime-mortar or carpenters to repair any damage to woodworks and have therefore advised that they cannot put the WiFi into the Chamber. Additionally, this has also got to all of the engineers who are also now reluctant to do any work here at the Council offices in case they get held responsible for any mishaps.

Members discussed this issue and the necessity of having WiFi in the Chamber for hybrid meetings. Cllr G Thomas **proposed** and was seconded by Cllr P Jenkins that the Clerk contact ITCS and advise that Maesteg Town Council will indemnify the works needed to install WiFi.

RESOLVED: Clerk to contact ITCS to advise that MTC will indemnify the works needed to install WiFi to enable Hybrid meeting from the Council Chamber.

262. **MINUTE 213**

DOG WASTE BAGS

Delivery of bags have been made to the following locations:

- Maesteg Library 11/10/2021
- CDT 15/10/2021
- Caerau Market Garden 15/10/2021
- Special Families 15/10/2021

Request received from Caerau Men's Shed to also become a distribution point for the residents of Nantyllyllon.

Members raised the point that Caerau Men's Shed base is in Dyffryn Chapel and that their work shop is located at Old Anne's Enterprises.

Members agreed that dog bags could be delivered to the workshop for the residents of Nantyllyllon as the location is next to the entrance to the cycle track.

RESOLVED: Clerk to arrange delivery of dog waste bags and to update the distribution list on the website and noticeboard.

263. **MINUTE 216**

REFERRALS

- Overgrowth preventing residents using footpath Blossie Street – further request as to when these works will be carried out

Response: No further update received to date

RESOLVED: to note the information

264. MINUTE 222

TRAFFIC SCHEMES UPDATE

Email received and forwarded to all members with the following from BCBC:

We have recently received an update (below) from Gosafe regarding their position on supporting a speed camera along Heol Ty Gwyn. It reads as follows:

I presented the case: due to the prospect of the same request being made from other Local Authorities, the Board have asked that I draft a formal policy relating to similar requests which will be discussed in the next board meeting in January. In general, I felt they could see potential benefits of installing a camera there, but need to consider ongoing support/maintenance in a more formal manner for purposes of transparency for all partners involved.

The traffic management department also met with legal and procurement services in September 21 to discuss a method of progressing such a scheme should Gosafe support the Average Speed Camera. During this meeting it was advised by legal services that should Maesteg Town Council wish to fund and progress the average speed camera at Heol Ty Gwyn (with the support from the local authority), then the town councils finance services will be required to contact BCBC finance services to enter into a legal agreement prior to progressing the formal procurement process.

We will update you once we have had further update from Gosafe in the new year.

RESOLVED: to note the information

265. MINUTE 229

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

Cllr W May has advised that after reading Section 13 – Payments to Members of Community and Town Councils it transpires that Maesteg Town Council now fall within Group 1 as there are 2 factors when determining which group the council will be placed. It now takes into consideration both size of electorate and income or expenditure exceeds £200,000 a year it will be moved upwards into the next group.

Members thanked Cllr May for reading the report and highlighting the point above.

RESOLVED: to note the information

266. MINUTE 231

FINANCIAL APPLICATIONS

Email of thanks received from Llynfi Valley Panthers Netball Team for the S137 payment received.

Email requesting more clarification from Maesteg Park FC – Youth section following the email sent to them stating the parent club should apply for the funds they ask for clarification to the following:

Thank you so much for your email and your advice.

It is a bit difficult as MPFC is split into 3 separate groups, each running their own funds and money, that's why we have nothing to start off. It has a mini & Junior, a youth and a senior group.

Which one would you suggest I use as the parent club applicant?

Club has now submitted new application form to be discussed under S137

RESOLVED: to note the information

267. MINUTE 233

AGENDA ITEM 12 – REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

Centregreat have advised they are unable to do the road closures for Remembrance Sunday and have provided a contact for another company who have advised that they may be able to do the Road Closures – have yet to provide a cost.

Wreath Collection times poster has been placed onto the website and forwarded to all members. Unfortunately, if an organisation did not advise they wanted a wreath in 2021 they will be unable to lay one as there are no spare wreaths as Maesteg Branch RBL were unable to order any extras.

Cllr P Davies advised that he has a list of Traffic Management firms that are used by NPTCBC that he will forward to the Clerk.

RESOLVED: Cllr P Davies to forward list of TM companies to the Clerk

268. MINUTE 234

**AGENDA ITEM 13 – TO DISCUSS CHRISTMAS 2021
CHRISTMAS PARADE**

An update was placed onto the website 11/10/2021.

RESOLVED: to note the information

269. MINUTE 235

AGENDA ITEM 14 – TO OPEN AND DISCUSS TENDER DOCUMENTS

Advice from the BCBC Monitoring Officer and OVW was received and forwarded to all members.

RESOLVED: to note the information

270.

MINUTE 241

TO DISCUSS OPTIONS FOR CHRISTMAS 2021

(1) TO DISCUSS CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS (1 per ward)

22/10/21 emailed Centregreat with Option 1 – refurbished light features at the following 6 locations:

Caerau	BCBC lighting column below 7 Rathbone Terrace
Maesteg East	As near as possible to the Celtic along Bridgend Road
Maesteg East	By the Iron Bridge – on the Boundary with Nantyffyllon
Maesteg West	On metal lamppost on the island by St Davids / Fairfield Avenue
Maesteg West	By the Maesteg entry sign on Llwydarth Road
Nantyffyllon	BCBC lighting column on the green in High Street

4 of which are to be paid from Christmas budget and 2 from Ward Specific Funds.

in addition to the agreed 1 per ward and extras from the Ward specific funds for Maesteg East and Maesteg West, Nantyffyllon Ward members have requested the following 6 refurbished light features be installed at the following locations:

1. Lamppost at the Nanty end of Maesteg welfare park on Heol -ty – Gwyn – As entrance to Nanty
2. Lamppost on Tonna Road near the “top of the hill” bus stop or old Odd fellows rest pub. - As entrance to Nanty
3. Lamppost outside the Duffryn hotel pub – by the bus station – As entrance to Nanty
4. Lamppost opposite Nanty swing park on bottom road, again opposite the bus stop – Central to Nanty
5. Lamppost outside the Elderbush (one of 2 metal posts) on Picton Street
6. Lamppost near bus stop on Davies Terrace above the rock garage.

(2) OTHER OPTIONS FOR CHRISTMAS

a) Santa’s Grotto

- 22/10/21 emailed KAYES for a catalogue with suitable gifts for Santa’s Grotto
- 22/10/21 emailed BCBC Town Centre Manager for list of Event Management Companies – 1 received
- 25/10/21 emailed 7 events management companies to Tender for the Christmas Grotto
- Received 1 tender from 7 event management companies to run the Santa’s Grotto – see attached information

Members discussed the 1 tender received and were disappointed that only 1 company responded.

Cllr May **proposed** and was seconded by Cllr G Thomas that the tender is accepted. Cllr R Penhale-Thomas requested an **amendment** and was seconded by Cllr K Edwards that the Clerk write to the companies again and request that they tender for the Grotto by 5pm Friday 5th November.

Members proceeded to vote on the amendment with the following result:

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

Agree with Amendment x 6

Disagree with Amendment x 7

Following the vote, the Proposal stands and the amendment falls.

Members then discussed what gifts could be given as no response was received from KAYES. It was **agreed** that selection boxes are purchased for the event.

b) Choirs in Bandstand

- 22/10/21 emailed 8 choirs to see if they would like to sing in the bandstand on Saturdays in December

Received the following 3 requests from 8 Choirs to sing in December:

Date	Morning Session 10:30 – 11:30	Afternoon Session 13:30 – 14:30
4/12/21	Children's Choir	
11/12/21	Harmony	
18/12/21	Maternal Harmony	

Members then discussed the afternoon sessions and Cllr R Penhale-Thomas suggested that we could ask the 3 dance groups if they would like to perform in the afternoon sessions. Members **agreed** that this was a good idea.

- 25/10/21 sent letters to local Cafés to see if they would like to provide mince pies and hot chocolate to the choristers and audiences on Saturdays in December

Received 1 email from 6 Cafés to provide Mince Pies and hot chocolate that can be managed by a member of staff giving out vouchers during the performance for the audience / choristers to then visit the café to get their mince pie and hot chocolate following the performance

Cllr W May **proposed** and was seconded by Cllr I Williams that we accept the offer from Casey's Café to provide Mince Pie and hot chocolate to the performers and audiences at each session.

Members discussed advertising and Cllr K Edwards **proposed** and was seconded by Cllrs G Thomas and A James that a banner advertising the weekend events is purchased and placed on the columns outside the Council building.

c) Santa Sleigh going around the Wards

- 22/10/21 emailed Caerau Men's Shed asking for a suitable date to meet with MTC to discuss Santa on Sleigh going around the Wards – Meeting arranged for 26/10/21 – see Delegates report
- 27/10/21 – Spoke to Sgt Watts who advised that they are happy to support this and if available will drive with the sleigh and ask PCSO's to join the marshals.

d) Video of past Christmas Parades

- 22/10/21 emailed Chris Davies & Phil Davies for costs for a video highlighting past Christmas Parades using their original video footage and photos

RESOLVED:

- Clerk to advise Centregreat of the additional lighting features for Nantyyffyllon.
- Clerk to proceed with the tender received and to order Selection Boxes as gifts
- Clerk to email the 3 dance groups to see if they would like to perform on the afternoon sessions.
- Clerk to speak to Casey's Café.
- Order a banner for advertising

271.

MINUTE 243

TO DISCUSS FURTHER WORKS QUOTED BY DAWSON

STONEMASONRY FOR WEST ELEVATIONS AND SOUTH ELEVATIONS

22/10/21 email sent to Architect to advise that MTC agreed to the quote.

RESOLVED: to note the information

272.

MINUTE 244

TO DISCUSS WHETHER MTC APPLIES TO BE ON THE PILOT OF

COMMUNITY AND TOWN COUNCILS SELF-EVALUATION TOOLKIT –

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

22/10/21 emailed sent to OVW advising MTC would like to be part of the Pilot

Response: I have added your Council to the list.

RESOLVED: to note the information

273.

MINUTE 245

URGENT QUOTE TO REPLACE FAILED FIRE EXTINGUISHER

EQUIPMENT

22/10/21 emailed FireRite to proceed with the replacements as quoted.

Response: Replacements to be installed 10th November 2021

RESOLVED: to note the information

274. MINUTE 248
TO CONFIRM HANGING BASKET TENDER FOR 2022

22/10/21 emailed the winning tender and contacted the street planter contractor to deliver the hanging baskets to them

RESOLVED: to note the information

275. LIST OF PAYMENTS FOR THE MONTH OF OCTOBER 2021

RESOLVED:

That the tables of **Expenditure (£14,210.88)**, **Income (£7,955.54)** during the month of October 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 with:

- list of payments to be made in November 2021 totalling £6,828.33
- A copy of the Receipts and Payments Account which includes expenditure against the budget and the budget remaining.
- An income analysis was also provided.
- Draft Budget for 2022-23

Members thanked the Chair of Finance for providing the draft budget for comments before the next Finance Committee meeting

CORRESPONDENCE

276. COVID-19 SPECIFIC UPDATES & MEDIA UPDATES

Emailed to all Councillors for information:

- BCBC Media Updates
- WG updates

RESOLVED: to note the information

277. NEWSLETTERS / FLYERS / BRIEFING NOTES

Emailed to all Councillors for information:

- Older People's Commissioner's Bulletin
- OVW October training schedule

RESOLVED: to note the information

278. SHWMAE SU'MAE? DAY

As part of the BCBC promotion of the Welsh Language within its town centres we are working with Menter Bro Ogwr to promote Shwmae Su'mae? Day on October 15.

Shwmae Su'mae? Day is an opportunity to celebrate the Welsh language and to support and encourage the efforts of all who are currently learning Welsh.

Menter Bro Ogwr would like to work with the businesses of Porthcawl, Bridgend and Maesteg town centres to celebrate this day. They will provide a 'Shwmae' speech bubble to be displayed in your windows on the day and ask you to start every conversation in Welsh with customers/workforce on that day. Menter Bro Ogwr are asking local businesses to take pictures/videos on the day and send them to Menter Bro Ogwr menter@broogwr.org so that they can upload them to their social media platforms.

If anyone is interested in being part of this initiative then please contact Amanda Jaine Evans 07774032624 / menter@broogwr.org for more details.

RESOLVED: to note the information

279. MAESTEG TOWN HALL AND MAESTEG FESTIVAL

Email received and forwarded to all members from AWEN as they are pencilling in some dates into the Maesteg Town Hall diary for 2023. We were wondering if the Maesteg Festival committee had any dates in mind that they would like to use the Hall following its reopening? I believe that previously, it was two weekends in July? Ideally, we would love to work more closely in partnership with the committee to develop the Festival at the Hall, but we can meet to discuss this at a later date.

Please could you let us know at your earliest convenience, so that we can secure the dates in the diary for you.

Clerk advised that Maesteg Town Council have yet to discuss events for 2022 and haven't thought of 2023. We have an election in May 2022 whereby the makeup of the Council may change – therefore it would be unwise to discuss 2023 until after the Annual Meeting of Council at the end of May 2022. I'm sure the Events Committee would appreciate the knowledge and advice for events for the festival in 2023.

Members discussed this request and agreed that it would be prudent to AWEN Cultural Trust and ask them what are their proposed charges going to be for the hire of the Town Hall before any decision can be made as to booking the venue.

RESOLVED: Clerk to write to AWEN Cultural Trust to ascertain the venue hire charges.

280. Y BRYN ONSHORE WINDFARM – PHASE 2 PUBLIC CONSULTATION AND AN INVITATION TO ATTEND THE NEXT Y BRYN STAKEHOLDER PROJECT FORUM

Email received and forwarded to all members with the above invitation.

The next Y Bryn Stakeholder Project Forum, will take place virtually (via Teams) between 9.30am and 11.30am on Tuesday 19th October 2021. The Forum will provide an overview of the feedback received from Phase 1 Pre Application Consultation, key issues raised and how we are addressing these issues.

More details will be available on our website, www.ybryn-windfarm.cymru, where you can also register for regular updates as the project progresses.

RESOLVED: to note the information

281. LIFT DOOR HINGES CRACKED

Advised that the lift door hinges were cracked and KONE plc were called out to check whether this affected the usage of the lift. It transpires that the cracks were on an outer plastic casing that does not affect the usage of the lift. The engineer has removed all the cracked casing and double checked the hinges and all are working correctly and safely.

RESOLVED: to note the information

282. REFERRALS

- Traffic lights out of sync on Bridgend Road/Crown Row/Shoemakers Row
Response: no response to date
- It has been noticed that BCBC have recently resurfaced parts of Temple Street with junction of Castle Street.

Many residents complain that there are far worse streets that need resurfacing especially at their junctions with the main road. Complaints are being received from Alfred Street and Queen Street.

Response: Thank you for the information this has been reported to the relevant department who will investigate the matter.

- Overgrowth overhanging the footpath and people are having to duck down to avoid the overgrowth or go onto the road.

The location of the overgrowth is from the old Colliers Arms to the Iron Bridge (towards Maesteg) on Highstreet Nantyffyllon

Response: Thank you for your email, this has been passed to our Highways department for their attention.

RESOLVED: to note the information

283. ASB OUTSIDE THE TOILET

Complaint received to advise that there was a group of teenagers hanging around the toilet on Saturday (16/10/21) who when asked to leave they were shouting and swearing at the cleaner. This group of teens were then seen to be hanging around the rear of the market pulling cardboard from the wheelie bin and throwing it into the river.

RESOLVED: to note the information

**284. BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL
ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 - EMERGENCY TEMPORARY
ROAD CLOSURE - A4063, MAESTEG**

Email received and forwarded to all members with the below Emergency Road Closure A4063 – also placed onto the website.

THE BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL, as the Traffic Authority for Maesteg, hereby gives notice that under Section 14(2)(b) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, no person shall cause any vehicle to proceed along the A4063, Maesteg from the layby opposite WEPA Paper Mills to the access to Cefn Ydfa which is a distance of approximately 520 metres.

The restriction is necessary due to insufficient width of carriageway to maintain vehicular access during carriageway resurfacing works.

The closure will come into force on 19/10/21 and will continue until such time as the works are completed up to a maximum period of 5 days.

It is anticipated the works will be undertaken between 23.00 and 04.00 from 19/10/21 to 21/10/21.

The alternative route is via A4063, B4281, A48, A4107, B4282, A4063 and reverse in opposite direction.

Access will be maintained for pedestrians and emergency vehicles.

RESOLVED: to note the information

285. 2022 DIARIES / PENS

Adler telephoned to ask if we want to order any for 2022? Adler telephoned to ask if we want to order the following:

2022 Diaries Grey & Blue with Maesteg Town Council embossed on cover	£2.31 each minimum order 50 units = £115.50
Pens	£2.29 each – minimum order 50 units = £114.50

Red pens with stylus & light also with Maesteg Town Council branding	
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Members discussed whether there was a need for diaries and agreed that most members used their mobile devices or purchased their own diary. It was agreed to advise Adler that MTC do not require diaries or pens for 2022.

RESOLVED: to note the information

**286. NOTICE OF VACANCY / HYSBYSIAD AM SWYDD WAG
Maesteg Town Council - Nantyffyllon Ward**

The Notice of Vacancy for Nantyffyllon Ward has been placed onto the noticeboard and website. Electoral services have advised that the costs will be shared between BCBC & MTC as Cllr P White was also a BCBC Member.

Pursuant to Section 87(2) of the Local Government Act 1972, and the Local Elections (Parishes and Communities) Rules 2006.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN / HYSBYSIR GAN HYN:

- (1) That following the death of Councillor Philip Joseph White, a casual vacancy exists in the office of Councillor for the Maesteg Town Council - Nantyffyllon Ward
- (2) If by 4pm Friday, 12th November 2021 a request for an election to fill the said vacancy is made in writing to the Returning Officer of Bridgend County Borough Council, Civic Offices, Angel Street, Bridgend CF31 4WB, by TEN electors of the Maesteg Town Council - Nantyffyllon Ward, an election will be held to fill the vacancy.
- (3) If an election is not requested as outlined above, the Community Council will co-opt a person to fill the vacancy as soon as practicable.

NOTE

Any person who writes requesting an election should state the address at which their name appears on the current Register of Electors. Further, advice can be obtained from the Electoral Services Office Telephone 01656 643296.

RESOLVED: to note the information

287. BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL (CYMMER ROAD, CAERAU) (DE-RESTRICTION) (40MPH SPEED LIMIT) TRAFFIC ORDER
Clerk forwarded the above traffic Order to all members

RESOLVED: to note the information

288. CDT – REQUEST FOR SELECTION BOXES

We are sending you an email today to find out if it is possible that we could request 80 selection boxes. In December we are holding a pantomime at the centre and were

wondering if we could get some selection boxes to be able to give out to the children that attend the pantomime.

We would be very grateful for these selection boxes and would be a massive help towards us for that day.

Cllr P Davies declared an interest in CDT and did not partake in the discussion.

Members agreed to give the requested selection boxes.

RESOLVED: Clerk to advise CDT that MTC will provide the requested 80 selection boxes

289. ARE THE DOG POO BAGS BIODEGRADABLE?

While I think the issue of providing dog poo bags to the residents of Maesteg is a brilliant initiative, can you please advise if these bags are biodegradable and therefore not contributing to further plastic waste in landfill.

Clerk advised that we purchase the bags from JRB enterprises and it states on the poo bags:

This bag is oxo-biodegradable and will leave no harmful residues

Clerk forwarded a scanned pack of bags to the resident

RESOLVED: to note the information

290. REQUEST TO USE THE UPSTAIRS MEETING ROOM

AWEN have an alternative Christmas show that has been produced in Bridgend, and have 3 exclusive dates and I would love to bring it to your room upstairs if it was available! It is a one woman show and it is available Monday 20th or Tuesday 21st December. They would need to get it to set up around midday and the show would be at 7pm ending at 8pm so probably out by 9pm.

It is a really powerful piece of theatre and we can do everything we just need access to a space!!!

Members discussed the request and felt that it was a superb use of the building.

Cllr G Thomas **proposed** and was seconded by Cllrs R Martin and W May that MTC support the request and follow the policy for hiring the building.

RESOLVED: to note the information

291. PHOTOCOPIER CONTRACT

Further to the meeting in August Solutions in Technology have advised that they can provide an early renew of the contract for a further 5 years with annual saving of £156.

Currently pay £349.99 for the lease of the photocopier and they are proposing a new 5-year lease contract for £310.99 per quarter giving a 5-year savings of £780.00

Members discussed this offer and given the savings and that MTC cannot operate without a photocopier, Cllr G Thomas **proposed** and was seconded by Cllr W May that the contract is renewed at the new rate.

RESOLVED: Clerk to proceed with the early renewal of the contract.

292. GRIT BINS

Clerk has emailed BCBC highways for update as to when the additional Grit bins will be installed.

Response: The winter maintenance crews are currently working their way through the grit bin refreshing programme, and we will be looking to introduce the new ones on behalf of Maesteg Town council this month.

In regard to the unit, you require opposite the Rock garage, Nantfyllon, can you please confirm the location as both the main road (Picton street) and the road at rear (Nantfyllon Terrace to Davies Terrace) are on the primary gritting network and are therefore treated at the onset of freezing temperatures. Can you confirm where you wish this unit to be placed.

Members agreed that the unit by the Rock Garage would not be needed as it is on the main primary gritting network.

RESOLVED: to advise BCBC the bin by Rock Garage no longer required.

293. VIRTUAL COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS IN BRIDGEND

Email received and forwarded to all members from SW Police to advise that The Police and Crime Commissioner, Alun Michael, is holding a virtual community conversation with residents in the Bridgend Borough on Tuesday 9th November at 5.30pm via Zoom. The aim of this meeting is to offer residents the opportunity to speak directly to the Commissioner and representatives from the local policing team about community safety concerns affecting the local area and their policing experiences. Details about how to take part in this virtual conversation is included in the attached graphics.

Details of the event have been placed onto the website.

RESOLVED: to note the information

294. ACCESS TO WARD FUND

Email request from Cllr R Martin to access the ward specific fund to clear glass from the access area to the allotments in Maesteg Park, I have tried to get BCBC to clear the glass. I have been unsuccessful because the land belongs to a private owner. Whilst I understand the issues and responsibilities of the owner. There is no time to wait for information to find him. There are children who use this area to play.

Maesteg West Members agreed to the request and to see if the CMO would be able to remove, if not contact a private company to remove.

RESOLVED: Clerk to discuss with CMO whether he would be able to remove the fly tipping, if not contact a waste removal company to remove.

295. TREE PLANTING

Request forwarded from Cllr Davies from a resident:

As usual on social media I cannot find the actual link, but I distinctly remember reading something in the last week about Welsh Government plans for increasing tree planting which has just popped in my head:

The walking/cycling path behind the old Dyffryn pub and the fire station is rather bare and hardly the most picturesque of places - I was walking along it last Sunday and it got me thinking that a row of trees would help create some habitat, provide some shelter from the rain (which it did that day!) and create a natural barrier to make access for off-road motorbikes that little bit more difficult.

My query is whether MTC would be able to investigate this as a possible site to plant some trees?

Unfortunately MTC are unable to plant trees on land without knowing ownership. Additionally in the past BCBC planted trees in areas but then have negated responsibility for them once they grew to 30-40ft. Residents in this area already have issues with overgrown trees and it would be unlikely that they would agree to more being planted.

RESOLVED: to note the information

296. 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 HENSHED

Members read the application form and unfortunately S137 is not allowed to fund refreshments or Christmas meals for members of organisations.

RESOLVED: Council is unable to donate any S137 grant for this application.

2. MAESTEG PARK FOOTBALL CLUB – YOUTH

Members read the application form and agreed that now this application has been resubmitted from the parent club the application complied with the S137 Policy. Members also noted that this would be the only application granted for 1 year from Maesteg Park Football Club as per the policy

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

297. DELEGATES REPORT

Members were provided with 2 delegates reports:

One Voice Wales Area Meeting Report – Ceri Reeves 11/10/21

Received reports from outside bodies, Glamorgan Heritage Coast and Cardiff and Vale UHB.

Representation on Cwm Taff Morgannwg University Health Board Stakeholders Group was discussed, they don't just cover the Bridgend Area, so they would be happy to have 1 member representing the Town and Community Councils, they couldn't have one for each area. Similar situation in the North Wales area – OVW wrote out to each council in the Health Board Area, asking people to put their names forward. One representative would have to represent the whole area, meeting decided to do this.

OVW going to employ a digital services officer to assist councils to help with remote meetings. Have to carry on offering access remotely. Encouraging recordings of meetings to be published on websites.

There are OVW training taster session available on their website, as well as the full courses.

The meeting should have had a presentation from Rhodri Thomas, Environmental Management Consultant, Cynnal Cymru/Sustain Wales to talk about how Community & Town Councils can reduce their carbon footprint – he did not attend, disappointingly.

A member queried whether the issues received with installing Wi-Fi in the Council Chamber could be looked at by the OVW digital services officer, to which Cllr Reeves advised that the Officer didn't attend the meeting but could see no reason why MTC couldn't ask.

Meeting with Caerau Men's Shed 26/10/2021

In Attendance: Cllrs AR Davies, A James and R Penhale-Thomas, Clerk, Caerau Men's Shed Trustees x3 and T Beedle (Santa)

Caerau Men's Shed advised that the sleigh is jointly owned by C Davies and T Beedle and they had planned on driving through Nantyffyllon and Caerau ringing bells and wishing everyone a Merry Christmas.

Last year LBS offered to provide a vehicle and driver for this but was stopped by SW Police due to the Covid status at the time although other areas were able to proceed.

This year Maesteg Town Council wish to go into partnership with Caerau Men's Shed to fulfil this event and to also go through the streets of Maesteg East and Maesteg West in order for all 4 Wards to be included.

A discussion ensued about how the Sleigh could be made waterproof for inclement weather and whether a temporary structure consisting of a gazebo or scaffolding poles and a cover can be placed onto the vehicle during the events.

The dates of events were discussed whereby it was agreed in order to try and avoid inclement weather the 2 evenings would be done during the 2 weeks leading up to Christmas Day avoiding the weekends. So, either in the week 13th – 16th December or 20th – 23rd Dec.

It was **agreed** that Cllr R Penhale-Thomas would contact LBS to see if they would be able to provide a vehicle and driver for 2 evenings in the 2 weeks running up to Christmas and whether they had a cover or if Caerau Men's Shed could construct a removeable cover for the events.

For the actual events it was discussed that the following volunteers would be needed:

- Driver – hopefully provided by LBS
- Santa – T Beedle
- Mayor of Maesteg – Cllr AR Davies
- Elves – request 2 or 3
- Marshals – minimum 4 but hopefully 6
- PCSO's – if they are available

Caerau Men's Shed would be looking at adding lights to the Sleigh by use of a generator which could also be used to fuel a speaker from which Christmas Carols could be played. Of which Cllr A James advised that he had a speaker that could be used for this. It was also suggested that MTC could purchase torches for the marshals to use whilst walking alongside the vehicle. It was noted that the volunteers for elves and marshals could be different for each event. MTC would provide high vis vests for the marshals. MTC could pay for the fuel needed for the events for the generator/vehicle.

Members discussed how the events could be advertised as nobody would like to create areas with crowds gathering to watch Santa. It was **agreed** that social media

can be used on the days of the events saying that ‘Santa will be visiting Caerau and Nantyffyllon tonight’ or ‘Santa will be visiting Maesteg East and Maesteg West tonight’ both without divulging the route to be used.

Members also discussed whether the marshals could carry collection buckets and collect donations for a local charity.

Clerk advised that in a recent ESAG meeting there was no opposing comments for this type of event, however, will contact the local police Sgt’s to confirm this is ok.

Items to be discussed at the next meeting week commencing 22nd November:

- Route to be taken
- Local charity for the bucket collection

Clerk advised that this event would also be covered by MTC public liability insurance as we are in partnership with Caerau Men’s Shed.

Members thanked all Cllrs for providing the delegates reports.

RESOLVED: Clerk to ask the new OVW digital services officer if they are able to assist with getting Wi-Fi in the Chamber.

Whilst a number of Councillors were talking someone at the meeting kept muting and removing members from the meeting multiple times. Following this the Mayor interjected and requested that with the issues of Members being muted and removed from the meeting not by the Clerk or the Mayor that the meeting went into Committee to discuss the remainder of the meeting Agenda items.

298. 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’

301. RESOLVED: THAT THE COUNCIL COME OUT OF COMMITTEE

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

Minutes accepted at a remote meeting of the Council held on 7th December 2021

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Mayor