

**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, 11<sup>th</sup> January 2022.**

**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, L Thomas and I Williams.

**APOLOGIES: NONE**

**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.

Cllr L Thomas declared an interest in items that may relate to AWEN Cultural Trust.

Cllrs ARD Davies and A James declared an interest in items that relate to Caerau Community Growers.

**368. POLICE MATTERS**

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

**Maesteg Crime Statistics for December 2021**

	Caerau / Nanty	Maesteg East	Maesteg West	Llan	Total in category
<b>Robbery</b>	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Drugs</b>	2	0	4	0	6
<b>Dwelling burglary</b>	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Burglary other</b>	2	0	0	0	2
<b>Theft of vehicle</b>	0	0	1	0	1
<b>Theft from vehicle</b>	1	1	2	0	4
<b>All other theft</b>	3	3	13	0	19
<b>Damage</b>	2	5	4	0	11
<b>Violence against the person</b>	14 (5)	7 (2)	11 (4)	3	35 (11)
<b>Domestic related occurrence</b>	4	4	2	3	14
<b>All crime total</b>	24	16	35	3	78

<b>Anti-social behaviour total</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>Drink Driving</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

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

The following was raised:

Members queried the following highway safety issues:

- Parking on the pavement at the junction of Castle Street and Bridge Street; whereby the view is obscured, 4x4 vehicles parked on pavements stretching 20m up the road.
- Parking for the New City takeaway on Bridgend Road; whereby cars are parking on the bend 4-5 metres from the refuge by the White Heart and with cars other side of the road on double yellow lines could lead to a serious accident
- Junction of Commercial Street and Bridge Street near the Coytrahen Arms - lots of vans and cars parked so cars can't see.
- Yr Ysfa – parking on the pavements causing obstructions

Sgt Lea advised that SW Police do respond to complaints however the issue reoccurs all the time. Parking enforcement has been taken away from SW Police and therefore can only issue fines for obstruction. Sgt Lea will ask PCSO's to monitor the areas highlighted.

Members thanked Sgt Lea for the support the PCSO's and SW Police provided during the Santa on a Sleigh evenings before Christmas.

**RESOLVED:** To note the information

### 369. MAYORAL EVENTS

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

The Deputy Mayor advised that he had not attended any events in December 2021, however wanted to thank Caerau Ward members for thank for use of ward fund to purchase 124 children selection boxes for the Santa Grotto at Caerau Community Growers.

**RESOLVED:** to note the information

### 370. MINUTES

The Following Minutes;

- Finance Committee – 06/12/2021 Emailed 07/12/2021
- Full Council – 07/12/2021 Emailed 10/12/2021

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

- Extraordinary Council – 04/01/2022 Emailed 05/01/2022

copies of which had been circulated to Members, were read, it was requested that an amendment to the minutes to advise that the Clerk asked to read out Cllr P Jenkins email with comments on the precept requirement and was advised by Cllr W May that unless a member is present then comments within an email cannot be read out

Members agreed to the amendment and the minutes were accepted as a true record, all recommendations agreed and signed by the Mayor.

## **MATTERS ARISING**

### **371. MINUTE 327**

#### **HYBRID MEETINGS USING MTC COUNCIL CHAMBER**

Clerk advised that 2 companies have been contacted to give quotes for installing Wi-Fi in the Chamber – one visited before Christmas and have provided a quote. The 2<sup>nd</sup> company will visit 17/01/2022.

In the meantime, ITCS have been contacted with regard to the issue of telephoning Cllrs May & Smith for the meetings and they have advised that Microsoft Teams no longer have the callout feature and the Cllrs would need to phone into the meeting. Clerk advised that this would be costly for those on pay as you go mobiles and they have advised that MTC could purchase an 0800-phone number for the 2 Cllrs to phone into the meeting. Costs for this are:

- £25 one-off charge to obtain the 0800 number.
- £15 monthly charge for the contact path rental and the hosting of the inbound number.

The 2 councillors would need to dial the 0800-toll number that is provided by the Microsoft Teams meeting email when created. Once dialled they will join the meeting via phone audio. This will eliminate the dial-in costs for the two councillors. This number can be provided to the councillors by going into the meeting and sending the number that is generated if the two councillors are unable to access or have no access to their emails.

Currently the Clerk and Deputy Clerk use their mobile phones to contact Cllrs May & Smith.

Members discussed these added costs of £205 a year and felt that this would be a short-term problem as when Chamber Wi-Fi has been arranged then there is plenty of room in the Chamber for members to attend. Clerk advised that currently within the meeting link there is a phone number for attendees to phone but there would be a cost to call from the attendee. Members discussed whether these calls could be reimbursed and was advised that this would be covered by the IRP payment available to members. Cllr May advised he will use this in future and does not expect reimbursement.

Cllr G Thomas proposed and was seconded by Cllr W May that any member can opt to telephone into the meeting using the number provided in the meeting invitation link.

**RESOLVED:** advise ITCS no longer wish to continue with 0800 telephone number

**372. MINUTE 329**  
**OVERGROWTH ON BLOSSE STREET**

CMO cut back the overgrowth that was encroaching the footpath on 10<sup>th</sup> December 2021.

Further complaint received that the overgrowth wasn't removed from the parking area, CMO advised that he cut back the offending growth from the footpath however it would require 20 – 30 bags of growth to be removed if he is to dig out the roots etc.

Clerk advised that this is still the responsibility of BCBC and they have this on their list of works.

Cllr L Thomas advised of a site meeting with Cllr P Davies who has taken photographs and forwarded onto BCBC and will advise of any response received

**RESOLVED:** to note the information

**373. MINUTE 336**  
**TO DISCUSS THE QUESTION RAISED BY OUR GRANT APPLICATION**  
**AGENT**

£5,000 added to the Grade II\* listed building budget column as requested.

Following response received regarding the BCBC Grant Application and forwarded to all members.

*The application and tender documentation have been reviewed by the independent QS and we have received his initial report.*

*The report has confirmed that the lower tender received is the most competitive to carry out the works set out in your application.*

*However they have stated that they would be able to commence the works in the Spring and would be a 14-week programme of works. This would unfortunately mean that the scheme cannot be considered for the current funding that we have available as this would require the works to be complete by the end of March 2022.*

*We hope to have confirmation about possible funding for next financial year 2022/23 in the next few weeks, so we will be in touch as soon as we can, to put this scheme forward.*

Members were also advised of an email received from the Agent regarding this response.

Members deliberated the responses and Cllr G Thomas proposed and was seconded by Cllrs W May and R Penhale-Thomas that it's an extraordinary opportunity missed if we don't do something with the grant. Only option would be to work out how much work can safely be done within this financial year.

**RESOLVED:** Clerk to contact BCBC and Agent to discuss what works can be completed before the end of March 2022 and whether Maesteg Town Council would still be eligible to apply for grant funding in the new financial year.

**374. MINUTE 343  
REFERRALS**

- Cllr P Davies emailed BCBC regarding the Seat and paving by Caerau War Memorial broken  
**Response:** has been added to the list of works to be completed by BCBC
- Overgrowth outside Maesteg Swimming Pool - BCBC confirmed this is the responsibility of HALO Leisure. Clerk advised that HALO have been in contact with Mr A Pearson.

**RESOLVED:** to note the information

**375. MINUTE 344  
COMPLAINT REGARDING PLANNING P/21/181/FUL**

Clerk emailed Democratic Services with the item request for the next TCC Forum Meeting 17/12/2021.

**Response:** I'll raise this with the appropriate Officer.

**RESOLVED:** to note the information

**376. MINUTE 347  
REMEMBRANCE GARDEN WITHIN ST DAVID'S CHURCH**

Payment to Mr A Pearson completed 16/12/2021

**RESOLVED:** to note the information

**377. MINUTE 350  
LLYNFI RD CAR PARK TOILET**

Email to cancel the contract with JC Decaux sent 09/12/2021

**RESOLVED:** to note the information

**378. MINUTE 351  
REQUEST FOR CLLR ATTENDANCE FIGURES**

An announcement was placed onto the website regarding the misinformation on Social Media on 12/12/2021

A member queried if this information is leaked on social media and this shouldn't be done. Who is doing it and why? No response was received in the meeting.

**RESOLVED:** to note the information

**379. MINUTE 357**

**COMMUNITY DEFIBRILLATORS**

Clerk has emailed 6 companies that offer supplies for the defibrillators for quotes on 21/12/2021

Has identified the following within each Ward:

Ward Location

Ward	Location	Defib Type	Pads Expire
Caerau	Noddfa	NF1200	January 2022
Maesteg East	Celtic	NF1200	?
Maesteg West	Maesteg Park FC	Zoll	July 2022
	SW Police Station	Zoll	?

Accessory Kits needed for all

Only 3 responded and of these 3 companies only 1 can provide the pads for both NP1200 and Zoll defibrillators.

	1	2	3
NF1200	£40.72 each + VAT	£36 each + VAT	£36 each + VAT
Zoll		£95 each + VAT	
Accessory kits	£6.34 each + VAT	£9.99 each + VAT	

Members discussed the quotes and it was agreed to proceed with company 2 to order the pads as and when needed.

**RESOLVED:** Clerk to order pads and accessory kits from company 2 as and when needed.

**380. MINUTE 358**

**AGENDA ITEM 9 - TO DISCUSS CO-OPTION VACANCY AND COMPLETE THE NOTICE OF CO-OPTION IN READINESS TO BE ADVERTISE**

Co-Option notice placed onto website 09/12/2021 – applications to be discussed later in the meeting.

**RESOLVED:** to note the information

**381. MINUTE 360**

**AGENDA ITEM 11 – TO DISCUSS LETTER RECEIVED FROM CLLR P JENKINS**

Email sent to BCBC Highways and Traffic & Transportation to request bollards  
21/12/2021

To date no response received from BCBC

**RESOLVED:** to note the information

**382. MINUTE 361**

**AGENDA ITEM 12 – TO DISCUSS DATE FOR PRECEPT AND FULL COUNCIL MEETING JANUARY 2022**

Paperwork for the Precept meeting delivered 20/12/2021

**RESOLVED:** to note the information

**383. MINUTE 362**

**FINANCIAL APPLICATIONS**

Letter of thanks received from:

- Urdd Gobaith Cymru

**RESOLVED:** to note the information

**384. LIST OF PAYMENTS FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER 2021**

**RESOLVED:**

That the tables of **Expenditure (£274,324.94)**, **Income (£235,138.10)** during the month of December 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 December 2021 totalling **£290.88**
- A copy of the Receipts and Payments Account which includes expenditure against the budget and the budget remaining.
- An income analysis was also provided.
- Q3 VAT Reclaim – October – December 2021 totalling **£4,915.82**

Chair of Finance advised members that the £240,000.00 payment was to the investment account as agreed previously.

Chair of Finance queried the payment made to Grenkeleasing Ltd and Clerk advised that this was the new photocopier lease company.

Clerk also advised members that a payment had been made to CF Corporate at the beginning of December but had been refunded by CF Corporate on 15<sup>th</sup> December as we had changed lease company for the photocopier.

**RESOLVED:** to note the information

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

### **385. COVID-19 SPECIFIC UPDATES & MEDIA UPDATES**

Emailed to all Councillors for information:

- BCBC Media Updates
- WG updates
- Keep Wales Safe – Disrupt the Transmission

**RESOLVED:** to note the information

### **386. NEWSLETTERS / FLYERS / BRIEFING NOTES/ CONSULTATIONS**

Emailed to all Councillors for information:

- Mudiad Meithrin - Clwb Cwtsh Free Welsh Language Sessions for Learners in the County of Bridgend commencing January '22
- OVW January / February / March training schedule
- BCBC Digital Christmas
- Correspondence from the Minister for Social Justice
- Welsh Government Councillor remuneration and citizen engagement in Wales – reports
- Shaping Wales Future - National Stakeholder Forum
- SW Police - Safety and Security Message
- Boundary Commission for Wales – The representations received by the Boundary Commission for Wales during the Initial Consultation Period have now been published.
- The Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021: Draft Statutory Guidance for Community and Town Councils **CONSULTATION– needs to be completed by 17<sup>th</sup> March 2022**
- Advertisement - Chair to the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales
- Rudolph Cam Film Released
- Town & Community Council Fund - 2022/23
- Welsh Government draft budget 2022-23
- BAVO Development Team - New Facebook Page

Members discussed the above and agreed for Cllr W May to complete the consultation.

Cllr K Edwards proposed and was seconded by Cllr G Thomas that MTC apply to the T&CC Fund towards the cost of replacing the boilers as new boilers would help to reduce the carbon footprint. Members deliberated the boilers and it was agreed that a



detailed discussion on the type of boilers should be done by the Property, H&S Committee.

**RESOLVED:**

- Cllr W May complete The Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021: Draft Statutory Guidance for Community and Town Councils Consultation
- Complete the T&CC Fund grant application for replacing the boilers.

**387. REFERRALS**

- The road between Crown Road (CF34 0LN) and Cemetery Road (CF34 0LW) there is a illuminated sign to warn drivers of the bend. This sign is now being obstructed by overgrown trees and no longer visible. Please can the trees be cut to make the sign visible again

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

- Outside 21 Lewis Road there are 2 fire hydrant covers that are now sinking into the road

**Response:** no response received

- Dangerous state of a footbridge on cycle track 885.. Repairs have previously been carried out on this footbridge between Cwrt y Mwnws Maesteg CF340AL and the Sustrans cycle track/north entrance Maesteg school,

The deck is rotten in many areas beside the latest hole. It seems as if it is being used illegally for off-road motorbikes - signs have been torn down and the edges of the K gate removed though (though this also may have been for other access issues). This may have worsened the state of the deck.

Clerk forwarded the complaint to BCBC ROW manager

**Response:** Thank you for your email dated 4<sup>th</sup> January 2022 regarding the condition of the surface of the footbridge that provides access between Cwrt y Mwnws and the cycle track/north entrance of Maesteg school.

I can confirm that although this bridge is located on a cycle track/footpath it is actually a Highway Structure. Therefore, the matter has been referred to the Highway Maintenance section for further investigation

Cllr R Penhale-Thomas advised that repairs had been made.

**RESOLVED:** to note the information

**388. DECLARE A CLIMATE EMERGENCY**

Clerk received a telephone call and forwarded information to all Members whereby all T&CC's have to declare a Climate Emergency and reduce Carbon footprint by 60% by 2030.

<https://www.climateemergency.uk/>

A Company called Trility.com are requesting that when energy suppliers' contracts are due to look at getting energy from sustainable sources and require permission from MTC to ask our energy suppliers for information on our usage history and copy invoices and they will then send us recommendations for new suppliers that offer energy from sustainable sources and this in turn will help reduce our Carbon Footprint. They have advised that there is no charge for this service but will claim a commission from any supplier we change to.

Clerk forwarded this to OVW to ascertain whether this was correct information who have advised:

*There is no requirement for a Community or Town Council to declare a climate emergency.*

*Some councils are looking at their carbon footprint and putting in measures to reduce their emissions but there is no requirement.*

*I can see from its website Trility is a utility broker and they are contacting you looking to secure the Council's business.*

A member thanked the Clerk for investigating this further with OVW and it was agreed not to proceed with this company.

**RESOLVED:** to note the information

**389. MTC 2021-22 AGENCY AGREEMENT PAYMENT**

The 2021-22 Agency Agreement payment has been sent to BCBC ROW and received 04/01/2022.

**RESOLVED:** to note the information

**390. ILCA (INTRODUCTION TO LOCAL COUNCIL ADMINISTRATION)**

Both Clerk & Deputy Clerk have now completed the ILCA Qualification and request that we proceed onto the following qualifications:

- FILCA (Financial Introduction to Local Council Administration) a Level 2, online sector specific learning tool to support all new Responsible Financial Officers (RFO's) in England and Wales (or officers who have a financial element to their job role). The aim of the course is to provide an introduction to council finance.

£120 + VAT for members and non-members.

- **ILCA to CiLCA**

Enhanced knowledge

Specifically designed for students in England and Wales who have completed ILCA and aspiring to complete CiLCA.

Launched on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021, this online course, equivalent to Level 2, will develop your knowledge, confidence and skills for your work with your council, bridging the gap between the two courses to support you in your studies for CiLCA.

£120 + VAT for members and non-members.

Cllr G Thomas proposed and was seconded by Cllrs W May, S Smith and L Thomas that the Clerk and Deputy Clerk enrol onto the courses.

Clerk also advised that the Clerk and Deputy Clerk had also been completing some free courses provided by BCBC.

**RESOLVED:** Clerk & Deputy Clerk to proceed with enrolling on the courses.

**391. NO HEATING**

21/12/2021 – Clerk advised that the boilers are not working and there is no heating in the building. The Plumber was contacted and has advised that there is an electrical fault on the boilers. Until an electrician comes to look at the fault it is unknown how much this repair will cost.

Are you happy to proceed with repairs? However, it may be more realistic to replace the boilers – still waiting for 3 quotes only one company have visited and they have yet to provide a quote as there may be issues with the flue output.

Cllr P Jenkins advised: *Boilers must have gone out, or thermal couplings failed, this is a safety device. contact industrial heating contractors. Have supplied various Cardiff Swansea specialising in older buildings. Plus, Bosh heating boilers, we require complete flush, and renew with same style only NEW radiators. Safe draining down sending old for complete refurbishment. This is urgent now send to chair of property please also.*

23/12/2021 – Heating thermostat exploded.

04/01/2022 – Plumber advised that he and an electrician will visit on 6<sup>th</sup> January 2022#

06/01/2022 – Plumber and electrician managed to get the heating working on a timer, however are not confident that they have resolved the issue

07/01/2022 – Clerk and Deputy Clerk contacted a number of plumbers to come and give quotes.

10/01/2022 – Plumber telephoned to advise:

- The current issue suggests that there is wiring with a relay within it, that he and the electrician are unable to source.
- Pump number 1 is not working and would require ordering parts (up to £3.5k to repair and needs a full system shut down to install) should Pump number 2 stop working then there would be no heating – requesting whether Council wish to proceed with repairing pump 1?
- The flow switch is sticking
- We're finding problem after problem with the system
- Should Council wish to proceed with replacing the boilers - need Conservation Officer permission to install flues (Conservation officer currently on Jury Service)
- Need full survey of the radiators as some within the building are modern radiators and others are the originals – a number of valves are faulty

Members discussed the current issues and Cllr R Penhale-Thomas advised that the Conservation Officer's manager would be able to advise on the flue issues as no heating could lead to further deterioration of the building.

Members also noted that new boilers need to be purchased carefully as most use a pressurised system which would not be compatible with the current system.

It was agreed that further discussion of new boilers would be for the Property, H&S committee to discuss.

It was agreed that there was a duty of care as an employer that if the heating fails adequate heaters are purchased.

**RESOLVED:** Property, H&S committee to discuss boiler replacement quotes.

### **392. REQUEST FOR SELECTION BOXES FOR OAKWOOD ESTATE**

A resident approached the Mayor who then forwarded the request onto Cllr R Penhale-Thomas.

The resident would like selection boxes provided to the children of Oakwood estate to the sum of £100. Obviously with a full council meeting in January Cllr Thomas has suggested using the ward funds to facilitate this by Christmas. This request was sent to all Maesteg Ward members.

Maesteg Ward Members agreed to the request and after searching a number of stores, Wilko Maesteg had enough to fulfil the request. The resident has been advised that in the future any requests need to be made in November at the latest in order for Full Council to agree to purchasing selection boxes as there is no guarantee that wards have funds available.

A non-West Ward member queried why this was granted as surely the children of Oakwood would attend a school within Maesteg Boundary? The Mayor advised that a number of children attended schools outside of the boundary and it was agreed by the Maesteg West Ward members to support the request.

**RESOLVED:** to note the information

**393. OPERATION LONDON BRIDGE**

Request from Llangynwyd Middle Community Council:

*As I do not have an office located in Llangynwyd Middle, would you be kind enough to ask your Council if residents from this area can come to Maesteg Town Council Offices when Queen Elizabeth II passes, to write in the book of condolences, and if approval is given, can you also advise if a contribution towards any costs is necessary*

Members **agreed** to this request as residents of Llangynwyd Middle are within the valley.

**RESOLVED:** to advise Llan Middle CC that MTC agree to the request.

**394. BEREAVEMENT IN CAERAU**

A family in Caerau have lost their father/husband Saturday morning at the very young age of 50. He was a very well-known individual as are his family. Mayor is requesting that MTC send a bouquet of flowers to the family offering our condolences on behalf of the Mayor and Council.

Members deliberated this request as this would set a precedent within the area and bouquets of flowers are not offered to other families within the area.

Cllr R Lewis **proposed** and was seconded by Cllrs A James and R Martin that a bouquet of flowers is sent to the family.

Cllr R Penhale-Thomas requested an **amendment** and was seconded by Cllrs L Beedle and W May that a compromise is reached and a letter of condolence is sent to the family and signed by the Mayor.

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

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

Agree = 9

Disagree = 7

Following the vote, the **Amendment** stands and the proposal falls

Cllr AR Davies advised he will purchase the flowers on behalf of the ward members, Cllr R Lewis happy to contribute as well

**RESOLVED:** Letter of condolence to be written and signed by the Mayor

**395. DOG WASTE BIN IN NANTYFYLLON**

Following the agreement in Full Council in October 2021 – BCBC have agreed that they will install the Dog Waste Bin in Nantuffyllon in the next few weeks.

**RESOLVED:** to note the information

**396. PLATINUM JUBILEE**

Email received from the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities regarding The Queen's Platinum Jubilee forwarded to all members.

**RESOLVED:** to note the information

**397. CHANDELIERS**

Quote from electrician has arrived:

Costs as follows:

- Testing - £120.00 note that this excludes any materials that may be required, we will advise any associated costs if indeed there are any.
- Installation – £480.00 this will need two guys and we will bring our own equipment to access the ceilings.

Members **agreed** to the works being carried out.

**RESOLVED:** Clerk to contact the electrician to proceed with works

**398. AGENDA ITEM 9 - TO DISCUSS APPLICATIONS FOR CO-OPTION**

Members were provided with 2 applications for Co-Option.

**1. Chris Davies:**

I have been asked by constituents of the Caerau ward, to forward my name for co-option to the vacant seat in the Caerau Ward.

I respectfully request that you consider my application, and my personal statement which is listed below.

I believe I can make a valuable contribution to the council, having been a fair and equitable person all my life, representing members of my trade union, and representing the ward in ILC, I also support members of the community in a variety of ways, and I am also a trustee of Two Charities in the ward, I will also map out below a part of my CV as I have worked and lived in the ward virtually all my life, and I can identify with the needs of the area, and do what I can to help meet those needs.

Without listing my personal qualities, which I am sure you will be able to identify within my statement, I have a strong Passion to do the best for my ward, and I have compassion for those who are struggling within the ward, which strongly motivates me to continue the charitable work within the community. I have lived in the Llynfi valley all my life, living for over 50 years between Nantyffyllon and Tudor Estate in the Caerau Ward.

I am a former Miner at Coegnant Colliery, and after the pit closure programme I worked in the Bridgend papermills, I am currently Chairman of Llynfi Valley Ex-miners' association, which I helped set up with the help of CISWO, and I have recently become a Trustee of Nantyffyllon Miners Institute.

I have a strong association with Nantyffyllon Primary School, which began as a pupil, then as a parent attending the school with my children, I then became a volunteer working with the children in the Junior School, before being employed in a supervisory capacity, for over 10 years.

I was elected as a Union Rep and FOC in my previous workplace, and I also worked in the Health and Safety Department for my employer.

I have always been a keen sportsman, I played rugby for Nantyffyllon from 1974- 1994, and I also coached both junior and senior teams.

During the first year of the Covid Pandemic, I was a volunteer at Caerau Development Trust, helping with the collection and distribution of food for local people who were in need. I also volunteered with Special Families working on several projects to help those who were self-isolating, including providing over 150 Christmas Hampers, with the help of local businesses, for residents in need. My desire to make a difference was recognised in a letter from the Lord Lieutenant of Mid Glamorgan, Peter Vaughan, who greatly appreciated my contribution at this exceptionally difficult time.

A founder member of the Caerau Christmas Celebration group, I have not only helped raise money for the Christmas tree in Caerau Square but also took on the role of Santa in his grotto in CDT.

I have been chairman of Caerau Men Shed for over 4 years, helping the group grow in numbers. I can be reached every day of the week, at Caerau Men's Shed Workshop, volunteering to make requested items, at a low cost from recycled

wood, for residents, schools, and other community organisations, including Santa's Sleigh and Grotto for the children of the community.

I am an active member of Invest Local Caerau. And a long-standing member of the Maesteg Glee men Male Voice Choir

I have been a member of Maesteg Gleeman Male Voice Choir for over 10 years taking part in many events raising money for local charities throughout the Llynfi Valley and beyond.

I received The Bridgend County Mayor's Citizenship Award in 2019, for outstanding services to Bridgend County Borough.

I believe you will find me a suitable candidate for the role of Town councillor for the Caerau Ward

Warm and sincere regards  
Christopher Davies

## **2. Kyle Duggan:**

I am writing regarding the Vacancy for a councillor. During the lockdowns I have organised litter picking groups in areas that were identified as a problem for litter as well as running a personal online campaign on Facebook to support local businesses which are assets to our community. I have lived in the Maesteg area for most of my life and have grown up here and I am now raising a family of my own.

I feel I can offer a different point of view not only because of my age but also with my political beliefs. As a firm centralist I can see viewpoints from across the political spectrum and provide a balanced point of view as I am not polarised by the left or right of the political spectrum. As a past candidate in the Caerau and Nantyffyllon Ward by election held in December I can communicate to the council the concerns of local residents which were brought up during my campaigning. One of the suggestions that were brought up during the campaign was to have more litter bins and ones suitable for depositing dog fouling bags as they are often thrown or hung from trees along the cycle path from Evans Terrace in Caerau down to Nantyffyllon swing park. I have worked in a customer service role for a large majority of my working life, I feel this will help me engage with the public if I am selected for the role as I find it easy to communicate with the general public.

I will be able to attend evening meetings although I work some evenings in the week, I will be able to try and arrange time of to ensure my attendance.

Kyle Duggan



Members discussed both applications and requested a vote for the Co-Option:

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

Applicant 1. Chris Davies = 8

Applicant 2. Kyle Duggan = 9

Following the vote, the Mayor had the casting vote and he voted Kyle Duggan

The Mayor welcomed and congratulated newly co-opted Cllr Kyle Duggan to the meeting.

**RESOLVED:** Clerk to complete the co-option paperwork

**399. AGENDA ITEM 10 - TO DISCUSS THE LAYING OF THE ELIGIBLE COMMUNITY COUNCILS (GENERAL POWER OF COMPETENCE) (QUALIFICATIONS OF CLERKS) (WALES) REGULATIONS 2021**

Members were provided with the Welsh Government letter regarding the Laying of the Eligible Community Councils (General Power of Competence) (Qualifications of Clerks) (Wales) Regulations 2021.

It was agreed that the Clerk and Deputy Clerk continue with their requested training and to proceed onto the CiLCA qualification.

**RESOLVED:** Clerk and Deputy Clerk to continue with training.

**400. AGENDA ITEM 11 - . TO DISCUSS WORKING FROM HOME FOR CLERK AND DEPUTY CLERK**

Following Welsh Government Guidelines advising that everyone should be working from home and that employees and employers can now be fined for ignoring this legislation.

The Clerk has messaged the Mayor who agrees that both Clerk and Deputy Clerk should now be working from home, however there is only 1 work laptop and the Deputy Clerk is unable to connect to the MTC Server as his laptop is not maintained by ITCS. ITCS have advised that they do not like giving links from a personal laptop to the server as they have no control on the anti-virus software and this could lead to a breach of the files.

Members deliberated the issue and **agreed** that both Clerk and Deputy Clerk should be equipped for working from home not only due to Covid guidance but with the additional ongoing heating problem.

Clerk and Deputy Clerk advised that they would need to come to the office at least once a week to sort photocopying and paperwork etc.

**RESOLVED:** Clerk to contact ITCS to arrange for equipment and phone license for Deputy Clerk to work from home.

**401. AGENDA ITEM 12 – TO DISCUSS VEHICLE ACTIVATED SIGN (VAS) ON BRIDGEND ROAD, GARTH**

Members were advised that the Traffic Calming sign located on Bridgend Road near the junction to Mill View is not working.

BCBC have advised this was installed by Maesteg Town Council directly with highways and not via Traffic and Transportation. Therefore, the responsibility for maintenance sits with the town council.

BCBC have had the site investigated and the issue is with the sign itself, meaning that in order to fix any underlying issues Westcotec will need to be called out at a minimum of £500 plus any remedial works.

Further, this location is likely to see the speed limit dropped to 20mph under WG guidance. When that happens, the sign will become redundant, and will need to be removed or replaced with a 20mph sign. The Town Council may wish to consider whether it's a viable option to replace at this time or wait until May 2023 when the 20mph legislation comes into force.

Clerk advised that the sign on Llwydarth Road was also installed by Maesteg Town Council and may also need replacing.

Cllr K Edwards **proposed** and was seconded by Cllrs R Martin, L Thomas and I Williams that Council enquire the costs for changing the unit to a Variable Speed Sign

**RESOLVED:** Clerk contact Traffic & Transportation for the costs for changing the units to Variable Speed Signs

**402. FINANCIAL APPLICATIONS**

Cllrs AR Davies and A James declared an interest in items relating to Caerau Community Growers and left the meeting; therefore, took no part in the discussion on S137 from Caerau Community Growers. The Chair of Finance was asked to chair this agenda item.

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

### **1. CAERAU COMMUNITY GROWERS**

Request for a £485.00 for the following:

We have recently received funding for materials to replace our large members polytunnel skin and wooden structures. Whilst we have managed to secure this funding for all the required materials, this does not cover the financial implications of having to have the skin professionally fitted. Given the size of the polytunnel structure, members of our organization are only able to carry out the repair works to the wooden structure. We require a professional polytunnel fitter to come and attach the skin in time for the upcoming growing season of 2022. We would be grateful if Maesteg Town Council would fund the remaining funds required in order to get this project completed in time for the new growing season.

Last received S137 in June 2020

**RESOLVED:** Council donate the requested sum of £485.00 under Section 137 of the Local Government Act (as amended).

### **2. ST MARY'S & ST PATRICKS RC PRIMARY SCHOOL**

Due to Covid 19, many of our pupils have returned to school needing extra support with their well-being and mental health.

The school has purchased a summer house which will be used for the pupils to have a quiet space to go and talk about their problems / feelings with a trusted adult within the school.

We would like to use this Grant to furnish the summer house. We would sit down with the pupils and discuss what they would like to go in the summer house, in terms of seating / resources.

We are looking to run LEGO intervention within this time with the pupils too. So LEGO kits will be purchased to these also.

**RESOLVED:** Council donate the sum of £300 under Section 137 of the Local Government Act (as amended).

### **3. YSGOL CYNWYD SANT**

Background

- We have been focusing upon developing our outdoor teaching and learning areas for a 2yrs.
- To date we've invested in outdoor equipment, new colourful benches and new yard markings.
- We enjoy collaborating with our local community and have completed several jobs with Caerau Mens Shed to repair and develop what resources we had on site.

- We've also worked with a local artist twice to spray paint and decorate exterior walls and our shed.

#### New Project

- Our School Council would like to invite the artist to return to us to spray paint x2 Friendship Corners /areas on our Foundation Phase and KS2 yard.
- The School Council hope that in choosing and decorating specific areas and designating them as Friendship Corners will have a positive impact on pupils' wellbeing i.e. if an individual is feeling low or lonely they will know where to go and sit. Other Pupils will then venture over to the pupil and support them.

**RESOLVED:** Council donate the sum of £300 under Section 137 of the Local Government Act (as amended).

### 403. **DELEGATES REPORT** **MAESTEG SANTA SELFIE EVENT REPORT**

Members were provided with the event report from EPM Creative which included photographs and comments from families.

#### **The concept:**

Due to the changing covid restrictions we proposed more of a Santa Selfie set up – featuring a family of reindeers, Santa's sleigh and some Christmas themed props.

#### **Ticketing:**

We had the following tickets distributed for the three weekends.

32 family tickets per day

Total for the three weekends 192 family tickets

Average of 3/4 people per family but also a few over 4

Approx. 1200+ people over the three weeks.

We had quite a few families turn up on spec due to the fact the tickets went quickly – first batch went in 1 hour 45 minutes

#### **How it worked:**

Tickets where free via an online event ticketing platform Eventbrite. Families were greeted by Santa's elves at the entrance to the grotto.

The family entered the grotto where they were greeted by Santa who is standing by his fireplace and sleigh preparing to go out to deliver presents.

The children then get into Santa's sleigh, chat to Santa and the elves.

Once the children have told Santa what they want for Christmas they receive a present (the family are told the present is from Santa and from Maesteg Town Council)

The family can then take pictures with Santa and the elves in the grotto.

They also receive a commemorative, keep sake polaroid picture from the elves.

They wave Santa goodbye and leave the grotto, as they do the elves warn them to be careful as they have heard it may snow!

As the family go through the exit door the snow machine comes on and a mini blizzard greets them as they leave.

### **Summary**

Considering the short run up time to the event and the fact that a lot of the props and decorations we wanted had already been allocated, we managed to get a suitably Christmassy grotto situated in the shop unit in Market Square.

The concept of a covid friendly Santa Selfie grotto worked very well and the families were all more than happy that covid rule were observed.

### **Highlights of the grotto were:**

- Keepsake polaroid picture for the family
- The friendliness of the elves and Santa
- How happy the families where that this was all done for them for free by the Town Council
- The snow which the children loved

### **Considerations if the event was to be staged in December 2022 would be:**

- More time to plan and a prepare
- Start earlier, last week of November to spread the offer to more families
- More branding form Maesteg Town Council
- Hopefully more live music in the square if covid free

Overall, we had no complaints and nothing but praise for the Town Council, once people knew who had provided this especially as the parade was cancelled.

Members discussed the report and that there was a lot of positive feedback around town people thought it was excellent and well run.

It was **agreed** that the Events committee should consider this for next year and possibly engage with the events company for the summer festival. One comment from members was that consideration should also be made for children with autism.

Members also thanked the Clerk and Deputy Clerk for additional work throughout December and special thanks was also given to Casey's café for supporting activities.

### **RESOLVED:**

- Events Committee to engage with the events company for summer festival and next Christmas
- Letter of thanks to be sent to Casey's Cafe

**404. AGENDA ITEM 15 - TO RECEIVE A CONFIDENTIAL UPDATE FROM CHAIR OF FINANCE**

The chair of finance stated that there was no new information to disclose

**RESOLVED:** to note the information

**405. PLANNING**

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

The following had **no objections** to the following applications;

Ref: P/21/1080/FUL  
Applicant: Mr O Shepherd  
Location: 2 Duffryn Madog Maesteg CF34 0BE  
Proposal: First floor rear extension and alteration to roof to ground floor extension  
Ask For: David Netherwood

Ref: P/21/832/FUL  
Applicant: Mr M James  
Location: 46 Cwrt Coed Parc Maesteg CF34 9DG  
Proposal: First floor side/front extension to replace existing dormer  
Ask For: Euan Sexton

**406. PLANNING APPEAL DECISION FOR ALDI (EXTENDED DELIVERY HOURS)**

Appeal Ref: APP/F6915/A/21/3280373  
Site Address: Aldi, Unit 1, Llynfi Walk, Llynfi Road, Maesteg, CF34 9DS

The case was DISMISSED.

Members advised that local resident were pleased that this had been dismissed.

**Minutes emailed to all Councillors to Read on 13<sup>th</sup> January 2022**

**Minutes accepted at a remote meeting of the Council held on 1<sup>st</sup> February 2022**

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Mayor