

**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, 1st February 2022.**

PRESENT:

COUNCILLORS:

AR Davies (Mayor)

L Beedle, R Collins, P Davies, K Duggan, K Edwards,
A James, P Jenkins, R Lewis, R Martin, R Penhale-Thomas,
S Smith, G Thomas, L Thomas and I Williams.

APOLOGIES: W May and C Reeves

Cllr W May provided his apologies through a voicemail just prior to the meeting start so this was not discovered and then stated during the meeting.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST:

Cllrs AR Davies and A James declared an interest in S137 applications received from Caerau and Nantyffyllon Primary Schools.

Cllr L Beedle declared an interest in S137 application from Nantyffyllon Primary School.

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 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.

Cllr S Smith called as he was experiencing technical difficulties during the meeting and could not be heard. He wanted to declare an interest in matters relating to Caerau and Nantyffyllon Primary Schools.

413. POLICE MATTERS

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

Maesteg Crime Statistics for January 2021

	Caerau / Nanty	Maesteg East	Maesteg West	Llan	Total in category
Robbery	0	0	0	0	0

Drugs	0	0	1	0	1
Dwelling burglary	0	0	1 (attempt)	0	1
Burglary other	0	0	0	0	0
Theft of vehicle	0	0	1	0	1
Theft from vehicle	0	0	1	0	1
All other theft	5	1	12	0	18
Damage	5	3	2	1	11
Violence against the person	23(7)	14(2)	9(1)	6(2)	52 (12)
Domestic related occurrence	4	3	3	2	12
All crime total	33	18	27	7	85
Anti-social behaviour total	11	12	8	1	32
Drink Driving	0	1	0	0	1

The following was raised:

A member explained that he was completing a highway safety application for traffic calming measures to be installed, due to excessive speeding on Bridgend Rd by Maesteg Celtic RFC, he was told by GoSafe that an application must be sent in with supporting documents from SWP before this can be considered. The member advised that he had contacted SWP but has received no response yet so would like an update. Sgt Watts stated that Maesteg Police can do a speed scoping exercise within the area concerned over the coming weeks and gather information to support the members application with GoSafe.

The member did query the location of the mobile speed cameras within the valley and suggested that these do not appear to be in optimal positions to prevent speeding but rather to act as a revenue generating endeavour.

Sgt Watts requested assistance from the Council as the build-up to spring is where they would like to prevent the large grass fires that are purposely started. He has asked his officers to survey the areas where grass fires usually occur within the valley and asked for help in clearing any debris or waste that may provide fuel to the fires. A member stated that in previous years he has seen what looks like potential fires being started behind the Duffryn Pub on Coegnant Road just off the cycle track and that he has reported this previously. Sgt Watts thanked the member for raising this and asked if any other councillors have information such as this then to bring this to his attention.

The Clerk advised that Maesteg Town Council does not own any land in the valley so permissions and manpower will not be there to remove waste etc. It was stated though that this is within the remit of the County Borough and SWP should contact them for such assistance and that if MTC can help then it will.

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

RESOLVED: To note the information

414. MAYORAL EVENTS

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

The Mayor advised that he had not attended any events in January 2022 only the birth of his son.

The Deputy Mayor advised that he had not attended any events in January 2022.

Members congratulated the Mayor on the birth of his son.

RESOLVED: to note the information

415. MINUTES

The Following Minutes;

- Full Council – 11/01/2022 Emailed 13/01/2022
copies of which had been circulated to Members, were read, accepted as a true record, all recommendations agreed and signed by the Mayor.

- Policy Committee – 18/01/2022 Emailed 20/01/2022
copies of which had been circulated to Members, were read, accepted as a true record, all recommendations were discussed and was agreed that the following policies are adopted and placed onto the website:

- a) Freedom of Information Policy – Clerk asked to clarify the schedule of Charges and it was agreed to charge 5p per sheet for black & white copies and 10p per sheet for colour copies. It was also agreed to place the finalised budget and precept onto the website.
- b) Information & Data Protection Policy – it was agreed to add an annual review date
- c) Information Security Policy – a member queried whether MTC currently complete all the procedures within this policy and Chair of Policy advised that you need a policy before procedures are introduced. Once a Policy is agreed we can then determine a procedure. Cllr G Thomas requested his objection to this.
- d) Grievance Procedure - it was agreed to add an annual review date
- e) Disciplinary Procedure - it was agreed to add an annual review date
- f) Press / Media Policy - it was agreed to add an annual review date and that under section 7 of the policy any two of the following can make changes to the policy: Clerk, Mayor and Deputy Mayor.

Following the above the minutes were agreed and signed by the Mayor.

MATTERS ARISING

416. MINUTE 370 MINUTES - ADVICE NEEDED REGARDING MEMBERS NON-ATTENDANCE SENDING IN COMMENTS

Response received from OVW and forwarded to all members:

There is nothing in law that says a clerk or councillor cannot read out comments regarding an agenda item submitted by a councillor who cannot attend the meeting unless of course the absent councillor has a pecuniary or prejudicial interest in the subject when they would have the same rights as a member of the public (see Public Service Ombudsman guidance attached Page 51 onwards).

Any member of the council can comment on the minutes of a previous meeting even if they were not in attendance, it is up to the council whether they wish to have regard to the comments being made.

RESOLVED: to note the information

417. MINUTE 371 HYBRID MEETINGS USING MTC COUNCIL CHAMBER

Advised ITCS not to proceed with 0800 phone number 12/01/2022

To date 2 companies have been to look at Wi-fi in the Chamber - awaiting quotes

RESOLVED: to note the information

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

12/01/2021 - Emailed BCBC & Agent to enquire if we could apply for some of the work to be completed before end of March 2022 and then reapply for funding in 2022-23.

Scaffolding will be in the front of the building from 23rd January 2022 for the works to the portico – access will not be available via the front entrance.

Response received from BCBC and forwarded to all members - to be discussed further in Agenda Item 9.

RESOLVED: to note the information

419. MINUTE 379

COMMUNITY DEFIBRILLATORS

13/01/2021 – Ordered NF1200 pads for Noddfa and 10 x accessory kits
Maesteg Community First Responders have collected the pads and accessory kits and will notify us of expiry dates and whether replacements are needed.

The Mayor advised that the defibrillator in Noddfa was faulty and the manufacturer has replaced the defibrillator and housing.

RESOLVED: to note the information

420. MINUTE 384

LIST OF PAYMENTS FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER 2021

13/01/2021 – Q3 VAT reclaim submitted and payment received

RESOLVED: to note the information

421. MINUTE 390

TRAINING

Clerk and Deputy Clerk have enrolled onto FiLCA Training and ILCA to CiLCA Training.

Clerk & Deputy Clerk completed FiLCA

Clerk & Deputy Clerk to attend weekly webinars for ILCA to CiLCA on 9 Thursdays.

Clerk is requesting that we send the CMO onto a PAT Testing course with Bridgend College, 2-day course £425 + VAT. This will enable the CMO to test all electrical equipment within the building without the need for a qualified electrician. Clerk advised members that previously PAT testing had not been kept up to date within the building and was last completed as part of the EICR in November 2020. Previous quotes for PAT testing were £4 per item + VAT. Members agreed that PAT testing is an essential requirement and for the CMO to complete the training and to PAT test electrical items within the building.

RESOLVED: CMO to complete PAT testing training.

422. MINUTE 391

NO HEATING

To date plumbers have attended on the following dates to provide quotes for boiler replacements:

- 12/01/2022
- 13/01/2022 x 2
- 18/01/2022
- 20/01/2022
- 25/01/2022

- 26/01/2022

Clerk advised that 3 quotes had finally been received and that the Chair of Property, H&S advised to discuss this tonight.

The Clerk went through each quote and verbally advised what was included in each one:

Quote 1	Quote 2	Quote 3
£15,974.00 + VAT	2 options: £12,246.00 + VAT £25,579.00 + VAT	£17,895.00 + VAT

Members queried the following:

Whether we had any discussion with the conservation officer? – Conservation Officer is aware we need to replace the boilers.

Taking into consideration thermostatic valves on radiators? - No primarily boilers and the radiators can be looked at again.

Has BCBC have given us permission to apply for enhancement fund that need spending by 31st March? – BCBC have not responded to this, however we are able to claim under the decarbonisation section of the T&CC Fund which is to be discussed in agenda item 11.

What about the flue? – Currently it is out through the chimney, however access to the chimney is difficult due to the ongoing works with the Town Hall.

Cllr I Williams proposed and Cllr L Thomas seconded that Quote 3 is accepted pending confirmation from the conservation officer in relation to flue exiting the building.

RESOLVED: Quote 3 accepted and Conservation Officer contacted with regard to the flue.

423. MINUTE 393

OPERATION LONDON BRIDGE

Llangynwyd Middle Community Council advised that residents of Llan Middle CC area welcome to sign book of condolence in Maesteg Town Council.

RESOLVED: to note the information

424. MINUTE 394

BEREAVEMENT IN CAERAU

13/01/2022 Letter of condolence sent to the Mayor to sign and give to the family

RESOLVED: to note the information

425. MINUTE 395

DOG WASTE BIN IN NANTYFYLLON

Received email to advise that the bin has been installed and the Tikspack post will be installed shortly.

RESOLVED: to note the information

426. MINUTE 396

PLATINUM JUBILEE

A member queried requests for Street Parties and how to get the road closures. Clerk advised that for Remembrance Sunday a road closure form had to be completed, legal notices paid and a road closure company to manage the road closure that amounted to approximately £1,500.00 for Talbot Street only. Clerk advised that she was unsure as to the procedure for street parties and it would depend whether Maesteg Town Council were organising them or individual Streets organising them. The Clerk advised that for Christmas events an application had to be sent to the BCBC ESAG team for discussion with Public Protection, Licensing, Trading Standards, BCBC Town Centre Manager, Highways, SW Police, SW Fire & Rescue and SW Ambulance Service.

RESOLVED: Clerk to enquire with BCBC the procedure for Street Parties.

427. MINUTE 397

CHANDELIERS

12/01/22 Email sent to electrician to proceed with the necessary inspection and fitting of the 2 chandeliers.

13/01/22 Electricians aim to have works done week beginning 17/01/2022 however have yet to attend due to other work commitments.

RESOLVED: to note the information

428. MINUTE 398

APPLICATIONS FOR CO-OPTION

- Letter of congratulations sent to newly co-opted Cllr K Duggan
- ITCS contacted to arrange Office 365 license and @maestegcouncil.org

RESOLVED: to note the information

429. MINUTE 400

WORKING FROM HOME FOR CLERK AND DEPUTY CLERK

13/01/2022 ITCS contacted to arrange all necessary equipment for Deputy Clerk to work from home.

New laptop to be delivered 02/02/2022.

RESOLVED: to note the information

430. MINUTE 401

TO DISCUSS VEHICLE ACTIVATED SIGN (VAS) ON BRIDGEND ROAD, GARTH

12/01/2022 Email sent to BCBC to enquire costs to replace existing signs with VAS signs

Response received from BCBC and forwarded to all members costs for the 2 signs = £5,200 + VAT

Further email sent to BCBC to request Speed Indicator Display signs (SID) to which BCBC advised they no longer support this type of sign due to the need to be bilingual.

Members deliberated these signs as SID's are in use across the Borough and are dumbfounded that they are no longer supported. Members felt that when new legislation comes into effect changing from 30 mph to 20 mph that costs to change the signs again would be money wasted. Clerk advised that the costs for this are included in the quote. Members also advised that there are 2 SID signs in the adjoining Community of Cwmfelin and Llangynwyd and that BCBC supported the installation.

Members also queried the types used in the recent traffic calming scheme in Caerau and it was confirmed that they flash 30 and say Slow / Araf.

RESOLVED: Clerk to contact BCBC Traffic & Transportation again asking about SID signs as per the ones located in Cwmfelin and Llangynwyd.

431. MINUTE 402

FINANCIAL APPLICATIONS

Letters of thanks received from the following organisations:

- Caerau Community Growers
- Ysgol Cynwyd Sant
- St Mary's and St Patricks RC

RESOLVED: to note the information

432. MINUTE 403

DELEGATES REPORT

- email sent to EPM Creative with the comments made on the report
- Letter of thanks sent to Casey's Café

RESOLVED: to note the information

433. LIST OF PAYMENTS FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY 2022

RESOLVED:

That the tables of **Expenditure (£13,663.38)**, **Income (£12,000.25)** during the month of January 2022; 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 February 2022 totalling **£18,626.08**
- A copy of the Receipts and Payments Account which includes expenditure against the budget and the budget remaining.
- An income analysis was also provided.

Chair of Finance requested that the Investment Account is also added to the Bank Reconciliation in order that members are aware that MTC have also invested money.

Chair of Finance advised that the Finance Committee had met before Full Council and it was agreed to recommend that a further £240,000.00 is invested into the investment account.

Members queried where the summary of works completed by the CMO was? Clerk advised that CMO thought it was for the cutting season only, Members request that a summary is provided each month.

RESOLVED:

- Add the Investment Account to bank reconciliation
- Invest a further £240,000.00 into the investment account
- CMO to provide a summary of works completed monthly

CORRESPONDENCE

434. 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

435. NEWSLETTERS / FLYERS / BRIEFING NOTES/ CONSULTATIONS

Emailed to all Councillors for information:

- BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL (A4063 TONDU TO THE WEPA BRIDGEND PAPER MILL) (ROAD CLOSURE)(CLEARWAY) TEMPORARY TRAFFIC ORDER 2022
- One Voice Wales - News Bulletin
- Vacancy -- Non-Executive Director for Welsh Government Board
- Support to engage people to share their views of NHS Services with the Community Health Council
- OVW January / February / March training schedule

Members discussed the misleading signage placed along the route for the Road Closure as the traffic order states 11pm – 5am and the signs state 7pm - 7am. The County Borough Members advised that it was an error on the traffic management company and that it should have said no parking from 7pm – 7am

RESOLVED: to note the information

436. REFERRALS

- Request for dog mess to be removed from cycle track

Response: To date no response received

RESOLVED: to note the information

437. BOLLARDS – BRIDGEND RD, GARTH

Response received from BCBC following Minute 360 from December 2021 and forwarded to all members:

The introduction of bollards at this location is currently not supported by the Traffic Management department as it would not prevent vehicles from stopping on the highway.

Currently the parking restrictions at this location do not prevent vehicles from loading and unloading. The introduction of additional parking restrictions requires the local authority to undertake a consultation process with statutory bodies, residents and local businesses to gauge their views on such a proposal. It is very likely that objections would be made to a proposal to introduce additional parking restrictions to prevent loading and unloading due to local residents and businesses requiring deliveries, and this being the case a Traffic Order would be unlikely to progress. Such a traffic order is also subject to funding.

Our department have informed the parking team of your concerns and we have requested they attend the location, when possible, to enforce any contravention to the

current traffic order. Obstruction of the highway is a matter that only the police can enforce. We would ask that anyone experiencing a perceived obstruction of the highway report the matter to the Police via 101, or via 999 if the road is completely blocked-in order for them to attend and deal with any offending vehicles.

The Traffic Management team have undertaken an interrogation of personal injury road traffic collisions for Bridgend Road between its junctions with Duke Street and Cemetery Road over the last 3 years which is the latest available data (the verified data supplied to us does not include damage only collisions) and there has been 0 incidences.

Moving to the concerns of speeding. Vehicles parking on the highway act as informal traffic calming however rule 243 of the highway code states 'DO NOT stop or park on a bend except when forced to do so by stationary traffic'. It is likely that this location will fall within the 20mph scheme proposed by WG which is supported by the police. WG predict that vehicle speeds will lower as drivers comply with the proposed new 20mph speed limit across Wales on restricted roads which as mentioned is supported by the police and speeding is a matter that only the police can enforce.

Finally, you mention the high volumes of traffic, unfortunately this is not a matter that the council can control, as any individuals who pay tax legally have the right to be on the road and therefore no action can be taken to prevent this.

We are sorry we cannot provide a more positive response but trust the above information is of assistance.

RESOLVED: to note the information

438. TAXIS IN MAESTEG

Response received from BCBC Licensing Dept following Minute 360 from December 2021 and forwarded to all members:

The Knowledge test is a common requirement across Councils as a pre-licensing requirement. The Council is a regulatory body and a licence approves a driver to work anywhere within the County boundary rather than to a specific town or valley. A driver is therefore expected to have a basic knowledge of the whole of the County Borough. There is also a common misconception regarding the Knowledge Test, that it is route based only. It covers other topics relevant to the role of a taxi driver including questions on safeguarding, taxi legislation, and equality duties.

The Council has no powers to restrict applicants to those who are resident in the County Borough or introduce a byelaw to that effect.

The experience in Maesteg and valleys is unfortunately being seen across the Wales. Operators have seen a significant decrease in the number of taxi drivers actively working as a result of the pandemic or ongoing issues with them isolating due to infection. Speaking to colleagues in Wales across the Licensing field there is anecdotal evidence that some drivers have switched profession to become delivery drivers prompted by the Covid restrictions on the night time economy and their subsequent loss of income. It is hoped that in due course the supply of drivers will pick up as we move out of the pandemic and this will enable an improvement in service levels to customers.

RESOLVED: to note the information

439. COMPLAINT ABOUT THE SCAFFOLDING TO THE REAR OF MTC BUILDING

Following complaint received via Cllr Penhale-Thomas:

Can you please take a look at the entrance of the toilet behind the council offices. I realise that the contractors have had to put scaffold and Harrison fencing up to do the other chimney but access to the toilet can be improved. You have to negotiate the scaffold and fencing and it just doesn't feel right, as if you're in a place where you shouldn't be walking ie a building site.

Response sent back to Cllr:

The walkway was a requisite of the scaffolding to ensure that no debris falls onto anyone whilst they access the toilet. We have no influence on how the scaffolding was erected as this was done by a scaffolding company and not MTC.

Please advise the complainant that it has been set up that way to ensure the safety of the public (which MTC requested) and that MTC staff also have to use the walkway as we no longer have access to the front of the building. You could also mention that there is a toilet facility in the car park.

RESOLVED: to note the information

440. PLANTERS FOR MAESTEG EAST WARD

Permission request for installing 3 octagonal 3-tier planters in Maesteg East Ward has been sent to BCBC – Awaiting permission before ordering the planters.

The current floral display contractor has also been contacted to provide a quote to install the planters and planting with summer bedding = £665.00

RESOLVED: to note the information

441. QUESTION FROM CLLR R MARTIN

Dear Clerks

I was wondering if we can consider putting on an event on for the Queens Jubilee, there will be a long bank holiday weekend.

It's been a difficult time for the community, so something to look forward will lift spirits. A street party is the ultimate way for the community to get together or a treasure hunt or a performance in the Welfare Park.

All outdoors of course and provided there isn't another pandemic and obviously looking into the restrictions at that time.

We need to plan ahead and not be caught out like we were at Xmas; the clerks did a wonderful job at short notice. It's only a suggestion for the events committee.

Regards Cllr Martin

Members agreed that this had been discussed earlier under matters arising.

RESOLVED: to note the information

442. KEEPER OF THE COLLIERY FUN RUN

Queries are being received as to whether the Keeper of the Colliery fun run will be taking place in 2022?

Members deliberated this as it would be for the Events Committee to discuss, however it was noted that this event did attract a lot of interest from all across South Wales and not just the Llynfi Valley.

It was suggested that the Clerk contact the local running groups to enquire about the running calendar and when would be a good time to run the event. It was also mentioned that running this event would require a lot of member time and volunteering on the day. Due to the election in May, it would be for the incumbent council to decide.

It was **agreed** to pass this to the Events Committee and to respond to queries that it is the intention of Maesteg Town Council to run the event but it would be for the incumbent Council (following May Elections) to make the final decision.

RESOLVED: pass to the Events Committee and to respond to queries that it is the intention of Maesteg Town Council to run the event but it would be for the incumbent Council (following May Elections) to make the final decision

443. AGENDA ITEM 9 – TO DISCUSS THE BUILDING WORKS FOLLOWING UNSUCCESSFUL GRANT WITH BCBC FOR 2021/22

Following the response from BCBC regarding the Grant – they have not responded to my question about whether we can utilise some of the grant for this year and then reapply for next year.

The Agent has asked whether MTC still want these works to carry on regardless of grant funding? Currently MTC have budgeted for 75% of the costs in next year's budget = £60,029.00

Taliesin Conservation will be on site completing the CADW Grant works shortly and we need to advise them whether or not we will be proceeding with the other works. Chair of Property, H&S Cllr R Penhale-Thomas has requested that this is placed onto the Agenda for February Full Council Meeting.

Clerk advised that at a recent online meeting with Agent and Contractor, works will begin on site for the CADW Grant from 1st February 2022, whereby they hope to complete all the works for the CADW Grant that includes the Portico Roof & Soffit, the Glazing, the Roof Insulation and, maybe, hacking off some of the effected Plaster. A set of keys has been cut to allow the contractor access to the building for the various works and welfare facilities.

Members were all disappointed that we didn't receive the Grant from BCBC for 21-22 and it was noted that the only reason being that the works could not be completed by the end of the current financial year.

Members agreed that MTC has a duty of care to maintain the building. Cllr G Thomas **proposed** and was seconded by Cllr R Penhale-Thomas that MTC pay for a further £50,000.00 of works to enable the contractor to remain on site and re-apply for the grant from BCBC for the remaining works.

RESOLVED: Clerk to advise the Agent that MTC will fund £50,000.00 to enable the contractor to continue with the works and that MTC will re-apply for the grant for the remaining works.

444. AGENDA ITEM 10 - TO DISCUSS THE ANNUAL MTC NEWSLETTER

Members were provided with a draft newsletter, members agreed that this should go to the communications committee to finalise before going to print.

RESOLVED: Communications Committee to meet to finalise.

445. AGENDA ITEM 11 - TO APPROVE THE T&CC FUND APPLICATION

Members were provided with the T&CC Fund Application completed by the Clerk. MTC is applying to receive a grant towards the following project:

The boilers with Maesteg Town Council are currently 50+ years old. Since 2020 members have been advised that the current boilers used within the building have been deteriorating with minor water leaks being recorded on the annual gas safety inspections. In December 2021 the boilers ceased to work and have been temporarily repaired with a view that they need to be replaced as a matter of urgency.

New boilers would be far more economical and environmentally friendly and would assist with reducing Maesteg Town Council's Carbon Footprint.

By also adding thermostatic valves to the radiators the heat within the building can be managed more economically and reduce the need for overheating rooms when not in use.

Previous works within the building to reduce our carbon footprint have included:

- Changing all Emergency lighting to LED Emergency lighting
- Upgrading our fire alarm system to modern sensors
- Changing light bulbs to LED bulbs as and when needed
- Gas meter smart meter installed

The grant would be used towards the costs of replacing the boilers, installing new pumps, installing a new flue and checking all radiators within the building as many have faulty valves and none have thermostatic valves fitted.

Additional time constraints and costs include the need to consult with BCBC Conservation Officer as the building is Grade II* listed meaning that any alterations would need to fulfil the required constraints for listed building works.

Members thanked the Clerk in providing a well written application and agreed for this to be submitted to BCBC.

RESOLVED: Clerk to submit the T&CC Fund Application to BCBC.

446. FINANCIAL APPLICATIONS

Cllrs AR Davies, P Davies, A James and S Smith declared an interest in items relating to Caerau Primary School and Nantuffyllon Primary Schools; therefore, took no part in the discussion on S137 from Caerau Primary School and Nantuffyllon Primary School.

Cllr L Beedle declared an interest in items relating to Nantuffyllon Primary School; therefore, took no part in the discussion on S137 from Nantuffyllon Primary School.

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

1. PLASNEWYDD PRIMARY SCHOOL

We are developing our provision for nurture and wellbeing to support those learners who have been adversely affected by lockdown and COVID 19. We have identified

particular children who sometimes need a different environment or a place to retreat to when they feel anxious. We have created a “nurture room” in foundation phase for individual pupils to use to calm down, relax and have some time to reflect. The room needs to be painted and furnished to support a calming atmosphere for the pupils when they need it. The room will have sensory resources for the pupils to use to help calm down.

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

2. CAERAU PRIMARY SCHOOL

To enhance our outdoor learning space

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

3. GARTH PRIMARY SCHOOL

We have been a platinum eco school for several years and pride ourselves on long term commitment to environmental education, and sustainability.

We have been lucky enough to have bees for a number of years now. Our school is committed to promoting the importance of bees as pollinators of nearly $\frac{3}{4}$ of the worlds plants.

Our pupils absolutely loves bees and raising the awareness of their importance. Pupils are very knowledgeable of their importance have been involved in caring for the bees and also harvesting local honey.

Unfortunately, our hives have been subjected to three occasions of vandalism which have resulted in great damage and the loss of our hives. This news devastated the pupils of Garth Primary School

We would be extremely grateful for the grant money in order to help us replace the colony of bees we have lost as well as replace damaged equipment. We would also like to invest in more bee keeping suits for pupils. This is so we can provide more opportunities for pupils to be able to develop a positive and strong awareness of the natural world for the future generations

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

4. NANTYFFYLLON PRIMARY SCHOOL

For the purchase of Lego to use with Lego Therapy sessions with children throughout the school. The sessions will be available to those that have suffered trauma or in need of emotional and well-being support

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

5. CAERAU MEN'S SHED – DEFIBRILLATOR

The Chair of Finance advised that the Finance Committee had met before Full Council to discuss this application whereby Members unanimously agreed to **recommend** to Council to fully fund the defibrillator and casing. With a caveat that this is Caerau Men's Shed only application for S137 for this year as per the S137 Policy.

RESOLVED: Council purchase the defibrillator and housing at a cost of £1,625.39 under Section 137 of the Local Government Act (as amended) on behalf of Caerau Men's Shed.

447. DELEGATES REPORT

REPORT FROM ONE VOICE WALES AREA COMMITTEE 24/1/21

Guest Speaker - Rachel Carter, Local Places for Nature Officer, One Voice Wales to give an update about Local Places for Nature Packages.

Scheme is to increase biodiversity and increase members of the community to get involved in nature. It's a chance to transform areas that increase biodiversity. A number of measures have to be met, increase water retention, improve public supplied to water. Food for people to forage in their local environment.

There were Keep Wales Tidy packages available, applications closed before Christmas. Next cycle is in the beginning of April. Particularly interested in applications for community gardens and urban areas. (It would be useful for this council to make enquiries with Keep Wales Tidy to make grant applications) There are also heritage fund capital grants (please contact Rachel for further details, she will also do site visits if wanted). Also grants are available to increase numbers of swift bird nesting sites.

(I'll forward the slides when I receive them)

Cllr Ceri Reeves

Clerk advised that the slides had been received and forwarded to all members.

RESOLVED: to note the information

448. 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.

At the most recent full council meeting the following applications had no objections.
Thankyou

Ref: P/21/1143/FUL
Applicant: Mr J Thomas
Location: 62 Yr Ysfa Maesteg CF34 9AG
Proposal: Single storey side extension; Raise height of roof; Dormer extension to side over extension; First floor windows to front & rear elevations
Ask for: Julie Earp

Ref: P/22/22/FUL
Applicant: Mrs L Lewis
Location: 9 Cavan Row Maesteg CF34 0AN
Proposal: Enlarge existing porch to front elevation
Ask for: Euan Sexton

Ref: P/22/39/FUL
Applicant: Mr C Bowen
Location: 7 Mill View Estate Maesteg CF34 0DD
Proposal: First floor extension above an existing single storey flat roof structure
Ask for: Julie Earp

Members had **concerns** with the following application that included drainage, access and size of development:

Ref: P/21/1057/OUT
Applicant: First Rate Products Ltd
Location: Land rear of 37-46 Salisbury Road Maesteg CF34 9EG
Proposal: Outline application for 4 dwellings (to reserve scale and layout)
Ask for: Lee Evans

Minutes emailed to all Councillors to Read on 3rd February 2022

Minutes accepted at a remote meeting of the Council held on 1st March 2022

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Mayor