

**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 March 2022.**

PRESENT:

COUNCILLORS:

AR Davies (Mayor)

L Beedle, R Collins, P Davies, K Duggan, K Edwards,
A James, P Jenkins, R Lewis, R Martin, W May, C Reeves,
S Smith, G Thomas, L Thomas.

The Mayor started the meeting stating on behalf of the Council that Maesteg Town Council stands in solidarity with the Ukraine.

APOLOGIES: Cllrs R Penhale-Thomas and I Williams

Cllr S Smith attended via telephone through the Deputy Clerks phone due to technical difficulties

DECLARATION OF INTEREST:

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

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

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

Cllrs L Beedle, AR Davies, P Jenkins and G Thomas declared an interest in agenda item 10

455. 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	1	0	0	2	3
Dwelling burglary	0	1	0	0	1
Burglary other	0	0	1	0	1
Theft of vehicle	0	0	0	0	0
Theft from vehicle	0	1	0	0	1

All other theft	4	12	26	0	42
Damage	4	3	2	0	9
Violence against the person	15(3)	9(2)	18(3)	2(1)	44 (9)
Domestic related occurrence	4	3	3	0	10
All crime total	24	26	47	4	101
Anti-social behaviour total	6	8	14	1	29
Drink Driving	0	0	1	0	1

The following was raised:

A member explained that a BCBC road safety officer attended Garth school at the request of the headteacher 2 weeks ago in response to the safety concerns for the pupils with traffic in the street and accessing the school. The member stated that the officer spoke to a parent who threatened the officer verbally and this should be reported to SW Police. The member added that he is requesting for a police presence outside Garth primary in the mornings to avoid any further issues occurring. The main cause for concern is Mission Rd primarily, cars are driving up when cones are out and doing 3 point turns when kids are walking to school. There is an agreement with Maesteg Celtic to act as a drop-off point in their car park as well.

SGT Watts confirmed that they can send officers to educate people in the mornings, with cones put out by the school though they cannot enforce traffic passing these.

Another member raised the issue of parking on pavements through the valley hindering people using the highways especially those using prams and wheelchairs etc. The member stated his frustrations with the issue not being resolved or action being undertaken and stated ‘the *complacency of the police is staggering*’ and the member confirmed that he will write to the chief constable of the police in regards to this. The member reiterated a point raised several times previous calling for the police to action tickets/enforcement of individuals parking outside the New Inn Chinese on Bridgend Road which is increasing the risk of accidents as these people park on the double yellow lines and on a bend.

SGT Watts confirmed that where they see traffic offences such as the ones raised by the member then they do try to educate them and move them along but the only way to enforce this for it not to be an issue is to have a police presence at each spot 24/7 which is impossible as its many individuals at fault and when one is moved along another then takes its place. Further action is also difficult as many of the objections posed by the member is in reference to the highway code which only contain guidelines for road safety and not written law to be enforced by the police.

A member was contacted by the Imperial Club on Cymmer Road stating that antisocial behaviour appears to be on the rise again with individuals attempting to break doors and staff have been assaulted. The member stated that previously PCSO’s have been in attendance and greatly helped reduce the ASB in the area so would request if SGT Watts could provide assistance in the matter.

SGT Watts stated his commitment to ensuring that the work that has gone into making the area safer is continued. He mentioned that PCSO numbers are decreasing so the service is very stretched but will endeavour to help with the issues and send an available PCSO to the area.

A member raised the concern of cars parking on double yellow lines opposite the old rock garage at the top of Picton Street just before the bend, he noted that even driving well below the speed limit it is difficult to anticipate and react to the cars parked illegally.

SGT Watts advised that he will pass this onto the traffic wardens.

Another member queried a previous concern regarding parking at the entrance to junctions in Yr Ysfa and if any action had taken place

SGT Watts advised that officers have attended Yr Ysfa and chatted to residents and when he was there today the situation was much better.

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

RESOLVED: To note the information

456. MAYORAL EVENTS

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

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

RESOLVED: to note the information

457. MINUTES

The Following Minutes;

- Finance Committee – 01/02/2022 emailed 02/02/2022
- Full Council – 01/02/2022 emailed 03/02/2022
- Policy Committee – 08/02/2022 emailed 09/02/2022
- Joint Events & Communication Committee – 15/02/2022 emailed 17/02/2022

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

The recommendations for the Finance Committee were accepted in the February Full Council meeting as this preceded on the same day.

A Member queried the policy committee minutes (minute 451) relating to an accident book in the office stating if it is recorded on the computer system should we use paper as well for physical copies? This was responded to advising that it was a legal requirement to have a physical copy of an accident book in the office.

Cllr G Thomas **proposed**, seconded by Cllr W May that all recommendations be accepted with the exception for item (j) which is not classed as a policy. No objections were made.

A member advised that changes still had to be made to the policy (f) in minute 415 – Press / Media Policy - it was agreed to add the Mayor and Deputy Mayor as signatories so that 2 out of 3 signatures are needed to make changes to the policy not just one individual.

RESOLVED: to note the information

MATTERS ARISING

458. MINUTE 415

MINUTES - POLICIES

Policies have been updated and placed onto the website

RESOLVED: To note the information

459. MINUTE 421

TRAINING

Clerk and Deputy Clerk have enrolled and completed GDPR Training (see copies of the slides provided within the meeting papers)

Clerk and Deputy Clerk have also completed the following modules provided by BCBC:

- Change Management E-Learning Module
- Fire Safety Awareness E-Learning Module
- Hate Crime E-Learning Module
- Introduction to Equality and Diversity E-Learning Module
- Managing Your Priorities E-Learning Module
- Mental Health Awareness E-Learning Module
- Minutes Made Easy E-Learning Module
- Presentation Skills E-Learning Module
- Sensory Loss E-Learning Module
- Time Management E-Learning Module
- Violence against women domestic abuse and sexual violence (VAWDASV) E-Learning Module
- Welsh Language Awareness E-learning Module

RESOLVED: To note the information

460. MINUTE 422

NO HEATING – BOILER REPLACEMENT

Conservation Officer contacted and has responded with the following:

With regard to installation of a new boiler, If there are new openings to be made for new ducting or the flue has to run the full height of the building and roof, it will require listed building consent (8 weeks with Local planning authority and a further 4 weeks with Cadw) I would need to see details of the proposed new works to advise you properly.

The Agent has been contacted and he will add the boiler replacement works to the listed building consent application along with all the other works currently being done on the building.

The winning tender was contacted to provide more detail to the proposed works and the full specifications and plans will be forwarded to the Agent and the Conservation Officer in due course.

The heating within the building remains temperamental some days the heating works with the timer other days staff are having to override the timer settings.

RESOLVED: To note the information

461. MINUTE 426

PLATINUM JUBILEE

BCBC contacted for street party procedure – advised that ESAG will be meeting and details will follow regarding street parties – to date nothing received

RESOLVED: Clerk to chase BCBC and ESAG for guidance

462. MINUTE 430

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

Clerk contacted BCBC to enquire if SID's no longer supported then why are there some located in Cwmfelin and Llangynwyd and other areas within the county.

Response from BCBC and forwarded to all members:

Research on Speed Indicator Devices (SID) and Vehicle Activated Signs (VAS) suggests that the effect on vehicle speeds of VAS's exceeds that of SID's and that SID's lose effectiveness over time, with the recommendation that SID's are moved periodically. This would incur a cost which could fall onto the highway authority in the future.

The SID's in Cwmfelin and Llangynwyd were not authorised by the highway authority and were put in without our knowledge.

Finally, the signs would need to be authorised by both the Department for Transport and Welsh Government.

As mentioned previously as the highway authority we do not support the authorisation of such signs as they can encourage speeding and as a result, we have provided you with quotes for other VAS options for your consideration.

Cllr P Jenkins responded to BCBC response: Thank you for info, it is typical of and indicative of highways adding smoke and mirrors in pursue of their own agenda. At this moment in time, I am of a mind in taking no action on signs until new speed legislation in place. It is then incumbent upon highways to erect signs where necessary, and enforce where and when necessary

Cllr W May **proposed** and was seconded by Cllrs P Jenkins & L Thomas that Maesteg Town Council do not put any new signs in place until the new legislation from Welsh Government changes and the responsibility for highways safety still remains with BCBC.

RESOLVED: Clerk to advise BCBC Transportation that MTC will not be replacing the signs.

463. MINUTE 433

LIST OF PAYMENTS FROM JANUARY 2022

A further £240,000.00 deposited into the CCLA Investment Account

A member queried the interest on the account and the Clerk advised that in January a dividend of £18.35 was received, in February a dividend of £33.73 was received and the Chair of finance advised that these dividends were ‘tenfold’ the amount we get from the bank.

RESOLVED: To note the information

464. MINUTE 435

NEWSLETTERS/FLYERS

Response from Highways to BCBC members regarding the temporary traffic order and the confusion of the traffic signs for the road closure in Tondu forwarded to all members.

RESOLVED: To note the information

465. MINUTE 440

PLANTERS FOR MAESTEG EAST WARD

Permission has been granted from BCBC – 3 x 3-tier planters have been ordered

RESOLVED: To note the information

466. MINUTE 443

BUILDING WORKS

Clerk advised 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.

RESOLVED: To note the information

467. MINUTE 445

T&CC FUND APPLICATION

Clerk sent the T&CC Fund Application to BCBC – to date no response to the outcome received.

RESOLVED: To note the information

468. MINUTE 446

FINANCIAL APPLICATIONS

Letters of thanks received from the following organisations:

- Caerau Primary School
- Garth Primary School
- Nantyffyllon Primary School
- Plasnewydd Primary School
- Caerau Men's Shed / Maesteg 1st Responders

RESOLVED: To note the information

469. LIST OF PAYMENTS FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY 2022

RESOLVED:

That the tables of **Expenditure (£303,419.25)**, **Income (£161.66)** during the month of February 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 March 2022 totalling **£37,889.17**
- A copy of the Receipts and Payments Account which includes expenditure against the budget and the budget remaining.
- An income analysis was also provided.

Members were also provided with the following report from the CMO from works completed in February:

- Weekly building checks that include:
 - fire alarm
 - emergency lighting
 - legionnaires disease

- repairs to disabled toilet seat – keeps getting loose
- Weekly bin emptying on the cycle track
- Tidy and Clean public WC
- Researched new fire door fixing – for a key from outside but remains open from the inside.
- Planed fire door that was swollen
- Inspected and repaired door knobs and latches throughout building
- Replaced light bulbs in Council Chamber
- Met Taliesin contractors, gave them a tour of the building, provided them with keys and had them sign the asbestos register.
- Met Dawsons Stonemasonry contractors
- Met with plumbers and electricians
- Repaired the fire exit door – added a key access lock that remains open from the inside but access can be gained from the outside.
- Fixed window opening mechanisms in office and lift room
- Replaced faulty light bulbs in kitchen
- Worked on the handrails – removed, dried, sanded and varnished ready to be reinstalled.
- Delivered grey bags to Wilko
- Arranged for equipment to be serviced and have dropped off and picked up
- Attended path 43 and cut this back
- Attended Footpath 42 to assess complaint from member of public
- Inspected stiles on footpaths 35 and 36 near cemetery – need repair works completed.
- Inspected 52 and put plan in place for felled tree and uproots
- Cleared old paths where new bin has been installed to allow for easier access
- Delivered Dog Waste bags to Caerau Development Trust, Special Families and MAWS bookshop

The Chair of Finance updated members to advise that as we were nearing the end of the financial year, he has made contact with the internal auditor to make arrangements for the audit to be completed before the end of April in order that the accounts be ready for May 2022. A member queried whether the internal auditor will come and present his report to Council, to which the Chair of Finance advised this will be part of the discussion with the internal auditor.

RESOLVED: to note the information

CORRESPONDENCE

470. 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

471. NEWSLETTERS / FLYERS / BRIEFING NOTES/ CONSULTATIONS

Emailed to all Councillors for information:

- BCBC Public Space Protection Order Consultation - Anti-social behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 - consultation will be open until **2nd May 2022**
N.B for Maesteg this includes extending the PSPO's for:
 - Rear lane of Wesley Street and Lloyd Street, Caerau (pg 1-3)
 - Rear lane of Plasnewydd Street and Talbot Street, Maesteg (pg 4-6)
 - Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) Caerau & Maesteg (pg 7-8, 10 & 11)
 - Dog Control throughout all open spaces within the borough
- Heart Research UK Funding Opportunity - Healthy Heart Grants
- BCBC Play Sufficiency – Town and Community Council Survey response required by **31st March 2022**
- Welsh Government's 'Consultation on how to measure the inclusion of migrants in Wales - response requires by **25th March 2022**
- OVW February / March training schedule
- Boundary Commission for Wales Secondary consultation – response
- RE: ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 SECTION 14
BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL
(EWENNY ROAD, GARTH) (TEMPORARY CLOSURE) ORDER 2022
- BAVO Development Team Poster – also added to the website

Members discussed the BCBC PSPO Consultation and deliberated the following:

- Gated lane rear of Wesley Street and Lloyd Street query whether this was still gated as it was believed that the gates have been removed.
- Gated lane rear of Plasnewydd Street and Talbot Street – many issues with traders using the lane to fly tip waste
- PSPO Order Caerau and Maesteg – whether Garth Park and the area surrounding Maesteg Comprehensive School could be added to the order.

RESOLVED:

- Clerk to query the BCBC PSPO as above
- Cllr G Thomas to complete the BCBC Play Sufficiency – Town and Community Council Survey response.

- Cllr A R Davies to complete the Welsh Government's Consultation on how to measure the inclusion of migrants in Wales.

472. GŴYL MAESTEG FESTIVAL

AWEN Cultural trust have emailed requesting to link in with the organisers of Maesteg Festival for this year and see if they can contribute in anyway?

Clerk has advised that to date the Events Committee have yet to meet to discuss 2022 events as they are a bit apprehensive at the moment not only due to the pandemic but there is an election in May whereby the makeup of the council could change dramatically and they are cautious as to what an incumbent Council may want to spend the budget on.

Members agreed that it would be for the incumbent council to agree to dates for the festival, however were disappointed that previous requests for hire charges were yet to be given only to be told that the 1st hire charge would be the same as our last hire charge although this figure hasn't been given in writing. Members were advised by Cllr L Thomas that AWEN have yet to finalise the hire charges.

RESOLVED: To note the information

473. EVENTS FOR ST DAVID'S DAY

Email received from the events company that ran the Santa Selfie Grotto:

Do you do anything for St David's day (well 5th / 6th March as 1st is mid-week)

We have the option to hire a dragon suit to do a dragon parade - photo attached - this would be with a 4-piece marching jazz band. We could add Maesteg to the rounds if you have funding available. Probably last about an hour start to finish.

We are also placing Welsh flags in all the Christmas tree brackets in Swansea City Centre, Mumbles and Porthcawl

Is there any funding you can tap into to put Welsh flags in all the tree brackets for St David's Day and the month of March? We are doing Mumbles, Porthcawl and Swansea City Centre for Traders and BID. The idea is they go up for 1st March and down at the end of March but Swansea may want theirs to start up and replace in May with summer flags.

RESOLVED: To note the information

474. CAERAU STONE PILLARS COMPLAINT

Complaint received regarding the stone pillars in Caerau, have advised the complainant that MTC is waiting for tenders to be received – to date only one tender received, the local stone mason has agreed to provide a tender but this has yet to materialise.

A member asked if we had only contacted stone masons when a good brick layer would suffice to bring these up to standard. He was advised that stone masons and builders have been contacted but many have not wanted to provide a tender. Members queried who the stones were originally built and maintained by. Members were advised that it was Communities First who installed the stone pillars and that BCBC had no record for maintenance. Members were advised that there was no formal minute that Maesteg Town Council would maintain these pillars but it was assumed that MTC would. Cllr A James advised that Caerau Ward members have agreed to fund the repairs from the Caerau Ward Fund. Another ward member agreed with Cllr James that this should be the case as the stones are the only entity as such within the Valley and should be funded through ward specific funds.

RESOLVED: Further tenders to be received and the Caerau Ward Fund to be used to fund the repairs.

475. DOG WASTE BAGS

Before February half term, Clerk did an inventory of the dog waste bags and there are were 18 boxes in the basement; contacted all locations that are dog waste bag collection points and the CMO delivered the following before half term:

- CDT x 6 boxes
- Special Families x 6 boxes
- MAWS bookshop x 2 boxes
- Llangynwyd Middle CC have advised that they will require 4 boxes in March

15/02/22 Re-ordered dog waste bags, however the supplier has advised: *unfortunately, we are currently out of stock of the vest bags. We've been having terrible trouble trying to get stock in because our container keeps getting delayed so delivery would be around the second week in March*

Clerk has looked into other suppliers but their costs are considerably more in comparison.

RESOLVED: To note the information

476. MTC CAT GRANT – MAESTEG CELTIC BOWLS CLUB

Following email received from Maesteg Celtic Bowls Club:

I am writing on behalf of Maesteg Celtic Bowls Club to request the release of the £5,000 earmarked for our club under the CAT transfer scheme. As we are the only club in Bridgend County to be rejected at the expression of interest stage it was agreed we would receive the grant when we took over the maintenance of the Green from BCBC. We have also been told by the BCBC CAT Officer that we can put that fund towards new changing rooms as we are likely to be evicted from Garth pavilion in the near future.

We took over the full maintenance and upkeep of the green on the 13th September 2021. Which is why we are now requesting the Grant.

I would also like to take this opportunity to apologise to the council, that we will no longer be in a position to keep the Toilets open to the public who use Garth Park. We have done this for the past twenty years under our old Key holder self-management agreement with BCBC.

Hopefully a favourable response.

Originally Maesteg Celtic Bowling Club applied for the grant for Bowling Green Maintenance to which Maesteg Town Council approved the application, however the request has now changed from green maintenance to new changing rooms. Advice has been sought from BCBC CAT Officer who has advised:

As regards your queries relating to Maesteg Celtic Bowling Club I would advise as follows:

1. Has Maesteg Celtic Bowls Club completed the CAT transfer? No – they have taken over the self-management of the Bowls Green. BCBC does not own this parcel of land and the landowner is preparing a lease to allow the bowling club to occupy for 35-years.
2. Is the new request allowable under CAT as they originally requested the funds for bowling green maintenance? I would support the switch for funding towards the planned modular building but this needs to be based on the proviso that a lease is agreed with the landowner, consent to build is also forthcoming from the landowner (already agreed in principle) and planning approval is also received.
3. Usually, we release the funds once invoices are received and not before? Based on 2. above I would fully agree that an invoice is requested.

The statement in Mr. Brown's email that the bowling club is "likely to be evicted from Garth pavilion" is incorrect. The Club have previously confirmed that they wished to develop a separate facility as they could not commit to paying any of the running costs of the existing pavilion. This was under discussion for more than two years.

My suggestion would be that the Town Council considers reallocating funding to assist with the purchase of a dedicated bowls pavilion subject to a lease and planning permission being agreed. The member proceeded to propose that the council accept the reallocating of funds under the CAT scheme provided condition 2 is met as mentioned above.

Members deliberated this request and it was noted that the CAT grant has been discussed over a very long period as it's not an asset that BCBC control but it was long ago decided to be treated as if it was so that it will be of benefit to the bowls club and the community. A member stated that funds should be reallocated provided that the conditions set out in clause 2 (above) is met. A member questioned this stating the

nature of CAT grants was to transfer community assets from the County to the sports clubs and funding a new pavilion is not a use that would fit this criterion.

Members were advised that this is a very unique application that has been reviewed by BCBC CAT office and allowed to be treated as a CAT transfer.

Cllr K Edwards **proposed** and was seconded by Cllr W May the CAT Grant funds is used for the above request provided that a lease is agreed with the landowner, consent to build is also forthcoming from the landowner (already agreed in principle) and planning approval is also received funds provided criteria 2 is met. As per our policy that an invoice is requested.

A member wanted clarity on this stating that the current pavilion they own is not owned by BCBC. He was advised that it is owned by Maesteg Celtic and they are not prepared to enter an agreement with Celtic to use part of the pavilion which they class as a demountable building and want something to use as a changing room. The member, responded saying that he is not comfortable going outside of boundaries of CAT. Its support for a club to lease land and erect a new facility I feel like this is not the correct means of supporting this Cllr G Thomas made an **amendment** and was seconded by Cllr AR Davies that we do not support this request.

Following the amendment, a vote ensued on the amendment with the following results:

Cllr L Beedle	Against	Cllr R Lewis	For
Cllr R Collins	No response	Cllr R Martin	Against
Cllr AR Davies	For	Cllr W May	Against
Cllr P Davies	For	Cllr C Reeves	For
Cllr K Duggan	Against	Cllr S Smith	No response
Cllr K Edwards	Against	Cllr G Thomas	For
Cllr A James	For	Cllr L Thomas	Against
Cllr P Jenkins	Against		

Against the amendment = 7

For the amendment = 6

No response = 2

Following the above results, the amendment falls and the proposal stands.

RESOLVED: Change in use of the CAT Grant funding is approved providing a lease is agreed with the landowner, consent to build is also forthcoming from the landowner and planning approval is also received funds provided criteria 2 is met. As per our policy that an invoice is requested.

477. PLANNING AID WALES TRAINING

Email received from Planning Aid Wales and forwarded to all members. Clerk advised that it may be wise to consider having the Planning Aid Wales training portal Planning: From Start to Finish course for the incumbent Council. Full access to the course can be provided to up to 20 members of a single community councils for £150/year.

Produced specifically for Town and Community Councils, this course is a perfect introduction to or refresher on all aspects of the planning system in Wales. The course will take around 2 hours to complete in one sitting or can be viewed in parts (the course is broken into 20+ short video sections).

This course provides an introduction to the following topics:

Overview how planning works & who's who in planning in Wales.
Planning Policy national policy, Local Development Plans and Place Plans
Planning Applications how planning applications are processed, how decisions are made and how to respond to planning applications.

The role of Community and Town Councils in all of the above.

RESOLVED: for planning aid Wales training to be put forward to new council on first meeting for everyone to complete.

478. REFERRALS

- A recycling vehicle knocked a public pathway sign opposite number 18 in Wood Street, Maesteg and it's now unstable and posing a danger.
Response: To date no response received
- Wall adjacent to number 20 Wood Street that does not look structurally sound so that would need to be inspected also.
Response: To date no response received

A member queried what had been received regarding Blossie Street? Following no further information received from BCBC it was agreed to send a letter to the Cabinet Member for Communities.

RESOLVED: Clerk to write to BCBC Cabinet Member for Communities to advise of the ongoing issues with Blossie Street and lack of response from BCBC.

479. NHS QR CHECK-IN POSTERS

Email received to advise that all NHS QR check-in posters are now to be removed – all posters within the MTC building have now been removed.

RESOLVED: to note the information

480. ONE VOICE WALES MEMBERSHIP 2022-23

Email received and forwarded to all members regarding One Voice Wales 2022-2023 Renewal of Membership details at a cost of £2,936.00 for the year.

Members agreed that this service had been invaluable over the recent year, Cllr W May **proposed** and was seconded by Cllrs G Thomas & L Thomas that we renew this membership for the coming year.

RESOLVED: Renew membership with OVW

481. REQUEST FOR WORKS – REAR LANE OF ALEXANDER ROAD AND IN FRONT OF CAERAU MARKET GARDEN

Could you please ask the CMO if he could attend and clear this brambled area at the lane rear of Alexander Road and in front of Caerau Market Garden? The work is rather urgent as we have Drain Force ready to begin further exploratory works to clear flooding and collapsed pipes. The members of the garden have cut back a significant amount but now have to concentrate on removing the brambles inside our perimeter instead of the outside. Any help would be much appreciated.

Request forwarded to BCBC and V2C as land ownership / responsibility needs to be ascertained before any works can be done.

A member did request who has ownership of this land and another member replied stating that previous works to the area was conducted by V2C so will have to check with them before any work is done by the council.

RESOLVED: To await response from BCBC & V2C

482. COMPLAINTS – FOOTPATHS & BRIDLEWAY 46

Email received regarding the ongoing temporary closure of Bridleway 46 and forwarded to BCBC Rights of Way manager. – to date no response received

Email received regarding footpath 43 (Llwydarth Rd to Oakwood Estate) – CMO has been and cleared the obstructions/overgrowth

WhatsApp & email received regarding footpath 42 – CMO has been to the location a number of times and has yet to find the overgrowth. Deputy Clerk will attend with the CMO to check the footpath again this week.

RESOLVED: Deputy Clerk to visit footpath 42 with CMO

483. AGENDA ITEM 9 - TO AGREE THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND ELECTIONS (WALES) ACT 2021: DRAFT STATUTORY GUIDANCE FOR COMMUNITY AND TOWN COUNCILS CONSULTATION- RESPONSE TO BE COMPLETED BY 17TH MARCH 2022

Members were provided with a completed consultation response and asked to provide comment or any amendments to the document.

Cllr W May highlighted the following from the consultation:

- From 8th May 2022 it will be compulsory for T&CC's to have facilities for the public to attend meetings
- By November 2022 it will be mandatory for T&CC's to publish training plans for Members & Staff

Members were advised that OVW had been contacted regarding training plans and they advise that the guidance also covers Training Plans see page 22 the Act does not introduce compulsory training for councillors but the guidance suggests that all councillors should at a minimum undertake training in the basics such as:-

- Basic induction for councillors
- The Code of Conduct

There is no mention of sanctions for councillors who refuse to undertake training.

It will however be a requirement that the council publish a training plan and it will be essential for the Clerk to hold the CILCA qualification as part of the criteria for a council to resolve that it is eligible and able to use General Power of Competence

RESOLVED: To submit the consultation response before the 17th March 2022 deadline.

484. AGENDA ITEM 10.
TO CONSIDER WHETHER CWMFELIN & LLANGYNWYD PRIMARY SCHOOLS CAN APPLY FOR S137 FUNDING

Due to the following request being received from the Mayor, it was advised that the Mayor Cllr AR Davies leave the meeting and for the Deputy Mayor to Chair this agenda item.

Cllrs L Beedle, P Jenkins and G Thomas also declared an interest in this agenda item.

Following email received from the Mayor:

I was speaking with the Head of Llangynwyd Primary School this morning regarding funding for schools we have recently approved.

Whilst I know that Llangynwyd and Cwmfelin fall outside of MTC's jurisdiction, it doesn't technically bar them from applying for any such funding I believe I am correct in saying? We have after all funded a defibrillator in the Llan area previously and have also funded charities in the Bridgend area and nationally.

Equally, Chris makes a valid point that their intake includes children who naturally reside in the Maesteg area and they are part of the Maesteg cluster of schools with Maesteg Comprehensive and as far north as us in Caerau Primary School.

Therefore, is it possible for an S137 form to be emailed across to me please so I can pass it on to the Head so he can apply for a project for the school to the sum of £300?

I am happy for you to share this email with full council if you deem it necessary.

Clerk advised that unfortunately Maesteg Town Council won't support S137 applications outside of the boundary of Maesteg unless they are a charity or sports club with members from Maesteg.

Llan Middle give out S137 grants so maybe they should contact Llangynwyd Middle Community Council as they state on their website that they support the 3 local schools: <https://www.llangynwydmiddlecommunitycouncil.co.uk/services/>

We have had this conversation in the past when we used to just give the S137 automatically without the request for a project and members also used to bring up Cwmfelin Primary, Llangynwyd Primary, Ysgol Gyfun Llangynwyd comprehensive and Archbishop McGrath Catholic Comprehensive as the 2 comprehensives also have a number of pupils from the Maesteg Town boundary area. It was agreed at the time that as they are outside our boundary, they could apply to their local community councils for the grants and that they could potentially be doubling up of the grants available to them. Maybe you could advise the head of Llangynwyd to contact the Clerk of Llangynwyd Middle Community Council as I asked Cllr I Williams yesterday and yes they have given grants to Cwmfelin and Llangynwyd in the past and they just need to request it.

Further email from the Mayor:

I've passed the details on regarding Llan Middle and I've also emailed the Llan Middle CC Clerk yesterday to see what procedures they have in place be it application form or just letter of application.

I understand the doubling up of grants position the council may have taken at the time but they've no qualms when doubling up is acceptable for sports clubs and national charities accessing the same grant format across multiple councils. It just makes absolutely no sense to cut off schools on our boundary which cater for our kids yet we willingly pump money out of our valley into a national charity's bank account with tens of thousands just sitting there for a rainy day.

How we would be able to justify that position to the public is baffling. We seen this happen at last month's meeting when a national charity shared their bank balance with us with thousands just sitting there and clear evidence that money was being withdrawn in large sums on a regular basis into another one of their current accounts, presumably to make the account look less well off...

Is it possible to have this put on the agenda for the next full council or finance meeting please? Whichever suits really. I just can't understand why the council would have taken a position like this against a local school.

If it can be put on the agenda then I will submit a letter outlining my reasons to support it going forward. For all schools that cater for Maesteg children. If it's ok for sports clubs and, moreover national charities, it should be ok for our local schools.

Clerk of Llangynwyd Middle Community Council has advised:
Llan Middle Community Council does not have a large budget under S.137 but if schools, the village hall, the football club, etc. write in for a donation towards something, it will be considered at the monthly Council meeting.

I would expect the Headteacher to write to his own community council in the first instance, and if the donation is not agreed for some reason, he can always write to MTC then.

The Clerk advised that during a recent webinar on the Law the funding of grants to schools is not advised as they receive funding from the unitary authorities, however the provision of S137 is allowable for projects not covered within their unitary authority funding. We were also advised that S137 is to be spent within the boundary of the T&CC although charities are able to request as they potentially assist residents from within the boundaries of individual T&CC's.

Members agreed that unfortunately as it was not within our statutory power, we are unable to give S137 grants to Cwmfelin or Llangynwyd Primary Schools. Any requests should be directed to Llangynwyd Middle Community Council.

RESOLVED: MTC unable to support S137 grants to Cwmfelin or Llangynwyd Primary Schools. Any requests should be directed to Llangynwyd Middle Community Council.

485. AGENDA ITEM 11.

TO CONSIDER IF MTC SHOULD OPERATE A SOCIAL MEDIA PAGE SUCH AS FACEBOOK

Cllr Phil Jenkins has requested: 'a suggestion to have a Facebook profile similar to other council's, this would contain all or any information about council business, highway info, weather info, schools' info etc, as it seems there is conflicting and repeated info on such pages, it would be nice to have official info particularly from that of BCBC. Just a thought as this site has numerous and varied reports on its Maesteg hub etc.'

Members discussed the above request and agree that this should be for the Communications Committee to discuss further.

RESOLVED: Communications Committee to meet to discuss this request further.

486. AGENDA ITEM 12
INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL FOR WALES ANNUAL REPORT
- FEBRUARY 2022

Email received and forwarded to all members the above report.

In accordance with the requirements of Section 147 of the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011, the email contained a pdf document and link to the IRPW's Annual Report, February 2022 and a covering letter from the Chair, Mr John Bader.

Section 13 relates specifically to Community and Town Councils.

Implementation of the Panel's Determinations

For the period 1 April 2022 to 8 May 2022, all of the determinations contained in the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales' Annual Report 2021/2022 will continue to apply in respect of principal councils and community and town councils.

With effect from 9 May 2022, the determinations set out in this Report will apply to principal councils and community and town councils

Please note the following:

- **Table 9** – currently MTC falls within group A (pg 48)
- **Table 10** – current electorate is 13,322 and precept is over £200,000 therefore MTC falls within Group 1 (pg 48)
- **Table 11 (pg 53)**

Type of payment	Requirement
Group 1	See Table 10
Basic Payment	Mandatory for all members
Senior Role Payment	Mandatory for 1 member; optional for up to 7
Attendance Allowance	Optional
Financial Loss	Optional
Travel & Subsistence	Optional
Costs of Care	Mandatory

- **Table 12 (pg 54 & 55)**

Determination Number	Is a decision required by council?	Council Decision
44 Community and town councils must make available a payment to each of their members of £150 per year as a contribution to costs and expenses.	No - the payment of £150 is mandated for every member unless they advise the appropriate officer that they do not want to take it in writing.	No decision required.
45 The payment for members undertaking a senior role is an annual amount of £500 as set out in Table 11	Yes - a council must decide how many payments of £500 it will make – mandatory for 1 member and optional for up to 7 members.	

46 Community and town councils can make payments to each of their members in respect of travel costs for attending approved duties.	Yes - the payment of travel costs is optional.	
47 If a community or town council resolves that a particular duty requires an overnight stay, it can authorise reimbursement of subsistence expenses to its members.	Yes - the payment of overnight subsistence expenses is optional.	
48 Community and town councils can pay financial loss compensation to each of their members, where such loss has actually occurred, for attending approved duties.	Yes - the payment of financial loss compensation is optional if claimed.	
49 Each council can decide to introduce an attendance allowance for members. The amount of each payment must not exceed £30. A member in receipt of financial loss will not be entitled to claim attendance allowance for the same event.	Yes - the payment of attendance allowance is optional.	
50 Community and town councils can provide a payment to the mayor or chair of the council up to a maximum of £1,500.	Yes -the payment to a Civic Head is optional.	
51 Community and town councils can provide a payment to the deputy mayor or deputy chair of the council up to a maximum amount of £500.	Yes -the payment to a Deputy Civic Head is optional.	
52 The application of the Remuneration Framework by relevant Group.	As set out in Table 11	
53 Members in receipt of a Band 1 or Band 2 senior salary from a principal council (that is Leader, Deputy Leader or Executive Member) cannot receive any payment from any community or town council, other than travel and subsistence expenses and contribution towards costs of care and personal assistance.	No - Members in receipt of a Band 1 or Band 2 senior salary from a principal council (that is Leader, Deputy Leader or Executive Member) can only receive travel and subsistence expenses and contribution towards costs of care and personal assistance; if they are eligible to claim, and wish to do so.	No decision required.

Members discussed the report and agreed that it would be for the incumbent council to agree to the recommendations set out in table 12 during the AGM.

RESOLVED: Incumbent Council to agree to the recommendation at the AGM

487. FINANCIAL APPLICATIONS

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

1. LLANGOLLEN INTERNATIONAL EISTEDDFOD

Application form received and forwarded to all members whereby they are requesting a £250.00 donation to assist with the substantial general running costs of the event, which attracts around 30,000 visitors annually, from Wales, the North West of England, the Midlands and around the world.

We will use this invaluable support to help realise our 2022 programme goals to showcase Welsh artists, and we are developing our Welsh language offering, with a number of events which will explore Welsh, while still being accessible for non-Welsh speaker. We are also introducing a new strand of talks and debates around using culture to achieve peace (one of our founding aims) and its relevance in our world today.

Last applied for S137 in March 2019 and received £100

RESOLVED: Council donate the sum of £250 under Section 137 of the Local Government Act (as amended).

488. DELEGATES REPORTS

None to report

RESOLVED: To note the information

489. PLANNING

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

Cllr C Reeves declared an interest in P/22/100/FUL; therefore, took no part in the discussion.

The following applications had **no objections**:

Ref: P/22/63/FUL

Applicant: Mr C Lucas

Location: 21 Garth Avenue Maesteg CF34 0UJ

Proposal: Loft conversion with flat roof dormer to rear and pitched roof dormer to front

Ask for: Julie Earp

Ref: P/21/531/FUL

Applicant: Fleissig Property Investments Ltd

Location: 23 Talbot Street Maesteg CF34 9BW

Proposal: Provide new access to flats and new office space via existing front elevation, convert existing storage areas into office space (include 2 no. roof windows) new rear window and door (Amended description and plans received)

Ask For: Hayley Kemp

Ref: P/22/62/FUL

Applicant: Mr D Williams

Location: Former Cwmdu railway sidings to east of Caer Gymrig Maesteg CF34 0JD

Proposal: Stable block for 2 horses

Ask for: Alexandra Richards

Ref: P/22/91/FUL

Applicant: Mr W Videan

Location: Purnell and Tanner Ltd Building Contractors Castle Street Maesteg CF34 0AW

Proposal: Alteration to pitch of roof to raise rear and elevation improvements

Ask for: Julie Earp

Ref: P/22/100/FUL

Applicant: Mr I Wells

Location: 51 Ystad Celyn Maesteg CF34 9LT

Proposal: Remove conservatory & convert garage to garden store; single storey rear extension; single storey side extension to front of garden store

Ref: P/22/90/FUL

Applicant: Nantyffyllon RFC

Location: Nantyffyllon Rugby Football Club Nant y Ffyrlling Maesteg CF34 0BU

Proposal: Provision of 3no. external "open" smoking shelters

Members **supported** the following applications:

Ref: P/22/35/FUL

Applicant: Maesteg Cricket Club

Location: Maesteg Cricket Club Queen Street Maesteg CF34 9YN

Proposal: Erection of new cricket nets - 8m width base x 11.4m length with a steel framework and netting structure of 4m in height.

Ask For: Lee Evans

Ref: P/22/71/FUL

Applicant: Siderise Insulation Ltd

Location: Land east of Siderise Insulation Ltd Forge Industrial Estate Maesteg CF34 0AH

Proposal: Erection of a new building for training and office space alongside with access, parking, landscaping and drainage infrastructure works [Affecting Footpath]
Ask for: Lee Evans

Members had **concerns** with the following application that included:

- They would like to ensure that adequate parking is allocated for each dwelling, at least 1 space per house as a standard given that the area is not overly large for parking around the streets surrounding the development.
- Also there is a flying start nursery nearby so members would like to ensure the safety with dust and traffic etc for very small children. With that considered the members would then support this application.

Ref: P/22/34/FUL
Applicant: Pendragon (Design & Build) Ltd
Location: Former Blaenllynfi Infant School Grosvenor Terrace Maesteg CF34 0RW
Proposal: Residential development of 22no. affordable dwellings and associated works
Ask For: Hayley Kemp

Members had **concerns** with the following application that included:

- The access and egress of the site would need to be looked at

Ref: P/21/1022/FUL
Applicant: Ms G Reeves
Location: Ebenezer Chapel Celtic Bungalows Maesteg CF34 0DB
Proposal: Demolish existing chapel and schoolroom; construct 4no. dwellings (2 detached bungalows and 2 detached houses)
Ask for: Hayley Kemp

Minutes emailed to all Councillors to Read on 4th March 2022

Minutes accepted at a remote meeting of the Council held on 5th April 2022

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Mayor