

**MAESTEG TOWN COUNCIL
COUNCIL MEETING**

Minutes of a **COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE** meeting held remotely via Microsoft Teams on **Thursday, 10th March 2022**.

PRESENT:

COUNCILLORS: **AR DAVIES (Chair)**

P Davies, A James, R Penhale-Thomas and L Thomas. Cllr P Jenkins attended via the invitation of the Chair.

APOLOGIES: NONE

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: NONE

490. TO DISCUSS THE NEWSLETTER AND WARD SECTIONS

Members were provided with the current draft of the newsletter.

A member suggested that as the council will be entering purdah shortly (*pre-election period of the announcement of an election and the appointment of a new council, affects civil servants and is meant to defer advantageous scenarios for potential candidates. Running from 21st March 2022 until the completion of the election in May see Local Government Act 1986*) then it is best to defer the newsletter until the new council is appointed – there were no objections from the committee. The Clerk asked if the newsletter should be amended and include the new council members when it is released and this was agreed with.

491. TO DISCUSS CLLR JENKINS REQUEST TO OPERATE A FACEBOOK PAGE

Members were provided with Cllr P Jenkins proposal for the Council to operate a social media account such as Facebook. A member suggested that, as per the previous minute, with the Council entering purdah shortly then this matter should be deferred to the incumbent Council in May.

The members were in agreement and Cllr P Jenkins stated that he was happy for this to be deferred but would just like to discuss the matter in principle and the logistics of such an issue as the Councillors receive lots of information in regards to local events and services. He said that it would be beneficial to have a broad channel to output it all on and where Maesteg Council can summarise all of the news for the local population as, at the moment, news is scattered between BCBC and Welsh Government websites. Additionally, it was mentioned that this may be extra work for the Clerks so that is also an additional matter to consider.

A member said that a Facebook page can issue news only and disable comments so that news can be forwarded to the community and the potential for discussion that the Clerks would have to police could be limited or avoided completely.

Another member added that he supports the use of technology and mentioned the fact that a social media account can boost the standing of the Council in the community and drive new engagement from an array of audiences.

492. RECOMMENDATIONS

- (a) Incumbent council to consider the newsletter
- (b) Incumbent council to consider the implementation of a Facebook Account.

Minutes emailed to all Councillors to read on 10th March 2022

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

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Mayor