

**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, 5th April 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,
R Penhale-Thomas, G Thomas and I Williams

APOLOGIES: Cllrs C Reeves, S Smith and L Thomas

DECLARATION OF INTEREST:

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

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

Cllr I Williams declared an interest in the matter arising: MTC CAT GRANT – MAESTEG CELTIC BOWLS CLUB

Cllr R Lewis declared an interest in planning application A/22/9/ADV

493. POLICE MATTERS

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

Maesteg Crime Statistics for March 2022

	Caerau / Nanty	Maesteg East	Maesteg West	Llan	Total in category
Robbery	0	1	0	0	1
Drugs	1	0	0	0	1
Dwelling burglary	3	0	2 (1 attempt)	0	5
Burglary other	1	0	0	0	1
Theft of vehicle	0	0	0	0	0
Theft from vehicle	0	0	0	0	0
All other theft	4	2	8	1	15
Damage	6	0	10	0	10
Violence against the person	16(5)	10(3)	16(2)	2(0)	44(10)
Domestic related occurrence	6	3	1	0	10
All crime total	31	23	36	3	93

Anti-social behaviour total	15	5	9	2	31
Drink Driving	0	1	0	0	1

The following was raised:

A member mentioned the increase of antisocial behaviour (ASB) by Caerau Social Club and added that this had previously been remedied when SWP intervened with an event that they had run in the area.

Sgt Lea stated that he is happy to sit down with members of the public who have concerns in the area and come up with another plan to combat the issues and stressed that SWP can only respond to issues effectively when these are reported in real time as they can then pull resources from other Police Services across the borough and allocate overtime.

Another member commented on the senseless burning of the surrounding areas in recent weeks specifically the spirit of the Llynfi Woodland to the rear of Maesteg Comprehensive School and was hoping for an update on any investigations and if charges are brought against anyone then to utilise multimedia networks to display the persons responsible so the public can then be aware of them.

Sgt Lea echoed the sentiment shared by the member and stated that he takes that arson attack very personally. He stated that SWP have identified several people and are interviewing an additional person of interest in the coming days and hoping that charges can be brought as a result.

A member additionally mentioned that in relation to ASB that on Hermon Road, Caerau, in the evenings on Sundays in particular there are front doors being tried and windows knocked. Younger people are walking up to recycling bins and kicking the contents of the road.

Sgt Lea stated again the importance of reporting these issues to the Police when it happens through the many channels available so that higher up peoples within the Police can be approached for more resource allocation.

A member asked about the relationship the Police have with schools in the area as much of the ASB seen appears to be from a younger demographic and they conduct such acts as they feel the only repercussion will be a 'slap on the wrist'.

Sgt Lea confirmed that there are officers who operate within schools to educate and inform them. The member replied stating that he doesn't feel that this is working and that the 'softy softy' approach isn't good enough and when an individual is arrested then they should be charged immediately not given the three chances and then charged approach.

Another member mentioned that other agencies could increase the communication with younger people such as the Fire Service. They could show how fires affect people and how the rebuilding process affects families in the aftermath of a fire. The member mentioned that even though the community are asked to report issues the facilities available to do such things are not up to standard, the wait times on the telephone is far too long and often results in being transferred to another party who cannot solve the issue. The member reiterated points in relation to illegal parking that he has raised in previous months and stated that there still appears to be no resolution.

Sgt Lea advised that his team and Sgt Watts' team have communicated with residents in the areas the Cllr has mentioned in relation to illegal parking and have seen some positive results as a result.

Members thanked SGT Lea for his time and he left the meeting.

RESOLVED: To note the information

494. MAYORAL EVENTS

The Mayor advised that he had not attended any Mayoral events in March 2022 but did give a speech at the gathering in solidarity with Ukraine in Maesteg Market Square.

Cllrs thanked the Mayor for attending and making a speech and also extended thanks to Cllr R Penhale-Thomas for organising the event.

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

RESOLVED: to note the information

495. MINUTES

The Following Minutes;

- Full Council – 01/03/20/22 emailed 04/03/2022
- Communication Committee – 10/03/2022 emailed 10/03/2022

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

The recommendations for the Communications Committee were accepted with the one alteration to amend the word incumbent with incoming in the recommendation

RESOLVED: to note the information

MATTERS ARISING

496. MINUTE 457:

MINUTES

The Following Minutes:

- Policy Committee – Policies have been updated and placed onto the website

- Joint Events & Communication Committee
 - Maesteg Comprehensive School contacted for permission to use the school grounds and toilets for the Keeper of the Colliery run
 - Events companies contacted to tender to run the event – see agenda item 9 for tenders.
 - Just Run Penybont would like to get involved and offer our help for the Keepers of the Colliery 5K & 10K runs
 - Ogmore Phoenix Runners would like to get involved and offer help for the Keepers of the Colliery 5K & 10K runs
 - Porthcawl Runners would like to get involved and offer help for the Keepers of the Colliery 5K & 10K runs

RESOLVED: to note the information

497. MINUTE 461

PLATINUM JUBILEE

Email sent to BCBC and ESAG enquiring whether there was any update or guidance for the Queens Platinum Jubilee and street parties.

Response: Your guide to planning a street party in Bridgend County Borough

A four-day bank holiday weekend will take place between Thursday 2 June – Sunday 5 June 2022 along with a series of national events designed to celebrate the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee.

Bridgend County Borough Council has made a step-by-step guide available to help residents who want to mark the occasion with a street party or other community celebration.

Chief Executive Mark Shephard said: “Residents coming together to organise street parties marking royal or other national events are a British tradition.

“The Platinum Jubilee will offer communities throughout Bridgend County Borough a great chance to get together and hold a celebration with neighbours.

“To support this and ensure that people can mark the occasion safely, the council is publicising the following information so that local communities can plan ahead.”

If you would like to organise your own event in Bridgend County Borough, here’s what you need to know:

- Plan early - think about what you want to achieve, and where you want to hold the event. If the location is on council-owned land or involves a street / highway, get in touch with the local authority as soon as possible.

- Bridgend County Borough Council will support applications for a road closure to enable a street party to be held as long as the location is suitable for such an event – for example, a cul-de-sac or a minor road with a low level of traffic.
- Some roads must remain open if they e.g. carry a bus route or are needed for emergency access. Public highways that are classed at A, B or C roads are not suitable for closure applications.
- While there is no charge for applying for a temporary road closure, all applications must be submitted by 10 working days before the date of the planned event. You can send these to streetparty@bridgend.gov.uk
- Applications will need to demonstrate that residents within the street are supportive of the road closure. A designated organiser who is fully responsible for the street party and closure should be named along with their contact details.
- The designated organiser will need to provide details showing that a risk assessment has been completed, and that appropriate measures are in place to safely close the road, restrict traffic access for public safety and adequately maintain the closure for the duration of the event.
- As a private party, under Licensing regulations you will not need a licence to sell food unless you want to only sell hot food and drink after 11pm. Agreeing with neighbours to bring food to share at the event is a good way to bring different groups of people together.
- If you want a pay bar, intend to provide entertainment to the wider public or charge a fee to raise money for your event, you will need a Temporary Event Notice for which there is a fee and a required notice period of at least 10 working days. If your event is likely to involve more than 500 people, you will require a Premises Licence – visit our Licensing webpage for more details.
- For small residential street parties, public liability insurance is recommended, but is not absolutely essential. However, it would be a good idea to consider it for larger organised events – for more advice about this, visit www.streetparty.org.uk
- Consider whether someone is available at your event who is trained and equipped to provide First Aid. If the event is likely to create noise, please let neighbours and businesses in the area know in advance of the event, and provide them with the organiser's contact details in case of any problems.

Don't forget that you will need to clean up after your street party, so please keep your local area clean and tidy. Let people know in advance what time the party will finish, and have a section set aside for bin bags and recycling.

To find out more about organising and holding a street party, visit www.streetparty.org.uk.

RESOLVED: to note the information

**498. MINUTE 462
TO DISCUSS VEHICLE ACTIVATED SIGN (VAS) ON BRIDGEND ROAD, GARTH**

04/03/22 Email sent to BCBC Traffic & transportation to advise that MTC will not replace the signs at this moment in time.

RESOLVED: to note the information

**499. MINUTE 471
NEWSLETTERS / FLYERS / BRIEFING NOTES/ CONSULTATIONS**

04/03/22 Email sent to Safer Bridgend regarding:

- 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 – what is the protocol of removing the fly tipping?
- PSPO Order Caerau and Maesteg – whether Garth Park and the area surrounding Maesteg Comprehensive School could be added to the order?

Response forwarded to all members:

Thank you for your response to the PSPO Consultation.

- The gate at the rear of Wesley Street and Lloyd Street was removed a few years ago on health and safety grounds.
- Jen will be able to update further regarding fly tipping in the lane.
- We can consider Garth Park and the surrounding area as part of the consultation.

RESOLVED: to note the information

**500. MINUTE 476
MTC CAT GRANT – MAESTEG CELTIC BOWLS CLUB**

04/03/2022 Email sent to Maesteg Celtic Bowling Club to advise of the response from Maesteg Town Council

24/03/2022 Email received from Maesteg Celtic Bowls Club and forwarded to all members:

Please pass on the thanks of Maesteg Celtic Bowls Club to the council for their consideration on changing our Grant allocation from the original intended purpose. My apologies if it caused any disagreements but we thought it would be a simple process knowing Maesteg Welfare Bowls club had already changed there's without a problem. The only concern at the time was it might be our Club. (MTC Minutes 342).

We would also like to thank the council on the clarification from the CAT Officer Mr Smith that we are not being evicted. (MTC Minutes 476). This leaves us in a position

where we no longer need to buy a prefabricated building. What position we are in is confusing. We originally put in for a CAT transfer not through choice but the alternative was to pay BCBC £28,500 per year. We offered to take over our small isolated corner of the pavilion and at our cost we would remove the gas heated radiators put in our own electric consumer board and water meter and install solar panels around the south facing perimeter of the bowls green, we then would have been in a position to export back to the grid. We also would have installed ladies' toilets and even offered to put money into a flat roof bond. This was all rejected. I have to agree with the councillor who voiced his concerns that building new pavilions was not in the spirit of CAT Transfers but the alternative was to sign a blank cheque every year for someone else to fill in.

I would also like to clarify that BCBC do own the Pavilion but may not of secured the land before building it. BCBC also hold the Deeds of the land that they built the bowls green on to replace the one in Garth Park. They have no legal obligation to surrender the Deeds that is a choice by the CAT Officer. We are at this moment maintaining the green for BCBC at our cost and have spent over £16,000. We are doing this not just for our club but to keep this asset in the community of Garth.

I would request that the councillors consider releasing the grant for maintenance equipment as originally planned as we can supply the receipts quickly, and before deciding I would respectfully ask you to look at (MTC Minutes 155)

With Many Thanks

Regards

Maesteg Celtic Bowls Club

Further response from BCBC CAT Officer forwarded to all members:

Just to clarify that I as CAT Officer have not decided that the Deed of Dedication for the Bowls Green at Garth Park should be surrendered by BCBC but the CAT Steering Group that is chaired by the Head of Community Operations and also has representation from the Cabinet Member for Communities, Corporate Landlord, Legal Services, Parks Department, Education Department and Finance Department. This decision has also been ratified by the Cabinet and the Corporate Management Board.

The risk that Maesteg Town Council faces is that the land on which the bowls green is located is owned by Maesteg Celtic Sports (MCS) who are in the process of drafting a lease via their solicitor and should this not be agreed with Maesteg Celtic Bowls Club the facility would face closure as BCBC are not in a position due to financial constraints able to maintain the playing surface on a day-to-day basis as the Club will not be able to fund full cost recovery (estimated at circa. £15,000 per year) or be granted self-management by BCBC as we would be in breach of the Deed of Dedication.

Maesteg Celtic Bowls Club have demanded that the Club is issued a corresponding Deed of Dedication by MCS for more than 3 years which based on advice provided to MCS appears legally to be an impossibility as Deeds of Dedication can only be issued

to public bodies such as local authorities. I have repeatedly suggested that the Club seek appropriate legal advice and offered to fund this under CAT Business Support and to date this offer has not been taken up.

I can also confirm that the Club are not “maintaining the green for BCBC” but specifically requested that the Parks Department ceased green maintenance on 12 September 2022, i.e. they are managing the green for the landowner, MCS.

BCBC have previously allocated Maesteg Celtic Bowls Club funding of £10,000 via the CAT Fund for green maintenance equipment and a further £5,000 for transitional bowls grant which cannot be released until an agreement such as a lease or licence to use is finalised.

RESOLVED: Members deliberated and concluded that there is no change here since this was discussed last month and await until the terms have been met as set out previously before transferring the CAT grant.

501. MINUTE 477
PLANNING AID WALES TRAINING

Item has been added to the AGM agenda

RESOLVED: to note the information

502. MINUTE 478
REFERRALS

- A recycling vehicle knocked a public pathway sign opposite number 18 in Wood Street, Maesteg and its now unstable and posing a danger.

Response: Advised that the sign was reset into the ground 02/03/2022

- Letter to BCBC Cabinet Member for Communities - the lack of response regarding Blossie Street sent 08/03/2022

Response: I will submit this as a referral and ask for an update that once received, I will pass onto you.

RESOLVED: A member confirmed that the issue on Blossie Street has now been concluded and a member referral will be sent out to confirm which was received after the meeting.

503. MINUTE 480
ONE VOICE WALES MEMBERSHIP 2022-23

Membership renewed 03/03/2022

Received email from Cllr Jenkins to advise that he couldn't hear the section of the meeting regarding OVW membership renewal and wishes his objections to the renewal to be noted.

RESOLVED: Cllr Jenkins confirmed that he did not hear this discussed in the previous meeting and would just like it recorded.

A Member did query the progress on the council chamber being fitted to conduct hybrid meetings and it was confirmed that we have only received the one tender to date. Cllr G Thomas asked to move this to the finance committee to move progress and this was seconded by Cllr W May.

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

Email received from BCBC to advise that this is not their responsibility.

Awaiting response from V2C

RESOLVED: A member confirmed that the works had now been completed.

505. MINUTE 482
COMPLAINTS – FOOTPATHS & BRIDLEWAY 46

Deputy Clerk visited footpath 42 on 03/03/2022 and the CMO visited on 07/03/2022 – works have now been completed

Bridleway 46 - BCBC have issued another temporary closure for up to 6 months.

RESOLVED: to note the information

506. MINUTE 483
THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND ELECTIONS (WALES) ACT 2021: DRAFT STATUTORY GUIDANCE FOR COMMUNITY AND TOWN COUNCILS CONSULTATION

Consultation response was submitted 02/03/22.

23/03/22 received the following email from Welsh Government:

Thank you very much for the response on behalf of Maesteg Town Council to the consultation on the Draft Statutory Guidance. The comments have been noted and will be taken into account.

RESOLVED: to note the information

507. MINUTE 486
IRP ANNUAL REPORT - FEBRUARY 2022

Item has been added to the AGM agenda

RESOLVED: to note the information

508. MINUTE 487

FINANCIAL APPLICATIONS

Letters of thanks received from the following organisation:

- Llangollen International Eisteddfod

RESOLVED: to note the information

509. LIST OF PAYMENTS FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH 2022

RESOLVED:

That the tables of **Expenditure (£110,779.34)**, **Income (£25,242.62)** during the month of March 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 **£1,119.47**
- A copy of the Receipts and Payments Account which includes expenditure against the budget and the budget remaining.
- An income analysis was also provided.
- VAT Quarter 4 claim totalling **£21,221.39**

Cllr G Thomas advised that we have transferred £25,000 from the CCLA investment account to ensure all payments can be paid in this financial year and advised that the monthly interest from this account is now over £100 compared to the average of £9 we were receiving previously.

A member advised that the council should have the funds clearly earmarked as holding unallocated funds won't be seen favourably by the auditor and mentioned that funds have previously been paid to the Town Hall in advance so there is no monies owed to them.

Cllr G Thomas **proposed** that the finance be accepted, this was seconded by Cllr W May.

A member stated that the finance sheets provided were difficult to read. Clerk advised that this is due to requesting the printouts on one page. The Chair of finance advised that he will work with the clerk to provide an easier to read summary of accounts.

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

During the month of March, I have been taking 2 days per week as Annual Leave. The remaining 3 days have included the following works:

- 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
- Inspected the following footpaths:
 - ❖ Fp 41 – cleared overgrowth with hand tools
 - ❖ Fp 6
 - ❖ Fp 6a – cleared sections of overgrowth
 - ❖ Fp82 – cleared trees, branches and overgrowth
 - ❖ Fp 57
 - ❖ Fp 42 – cleared overgrowth
 - ❖ Bridleway 46 – needs further work up to the section that has been closed
 - ❖ Fp 62 – cleared overgrowth
 - ❖ Fp74 – cleared overgrowth
 - ❖ Fp 23a
- Started to inspect the benches, bus shelters and handrails:
- Inspected fly tipping to the rear of Wood Street
- Delivered correspondence

Proposed work to be done in April

The following proposed works will be cleared during April, depending on the weather and any other unforeseen works required:

- Footpaths: 2a, 6, 6a, 23, 27, 36, 40, 48, 52, 62, 64, 74 & 82
- Bridleway 46 up to the emergency closures
- Step behind Woodland Terrace
- Path between Bridge Street and Castle Street
- Path behind Woodland Terrace
- Emptying the bins on the cycle track twice weekly

Cllr P Davies would like to extend his gratitude to the CMO for the works he has completed since joining the Council last year and this was echoed by the Mayor as well.

RESOLVED: to note the information

CORRESPONDENCE

510. 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

511. NEWSLETTERS / FLYERS / BRIEFING NOTES/ CONSULTATIONS

Emailed to all Councillors for information:

- BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL (EWENNY ROAD, GARTH) (TEMPORARY CLOSURE) TEMPORARY TRAFFIC ORDER 2022
- Focus Future Flyer – placed onto website
- CCFC Veterans Hub poster – placed onto the website
- Gathering of solidarity with Ukraine – poster placed onto website
- TFW (Transport for Wales)– community defibrillators scheme
- BAVO Unsung heroes awards
- Audit Notice 2021-22
- Hartshorn House April Newsletter
- Consultation – to relocate Heronsbridge School – **Consultation ends 16/05/22**
- RE: ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 SECTION 14 BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL (BRIDLEWAY 46 MAESTEG) (TEMPORARY CLOSURE) ORDER 2022
- Advice from BCBC Town Centre Manager: A notice of election will be announced on Monday 21 March advising that local council elections will be held on 5 May.

In line with national guidance, we will be limiting council publicity and announcements while the formal pre-election period is in effect between these two dates.

Normal services will resume on 6 May.

- The Corporate Joint Committee (General) (No.2) (Wales) Regulations 2022 The draft regulations and consultation can be accessed via the Welsh Government website: The Corporate Joint Committee (General) (No.2) (Wales) Regulations 2022 | GOV.WALES - The closing date for response is Monday 23 May – consultation placed on website
- Smarter working: a remote working strategy for Wales
- BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL (LLYNFI LANE, MAESTEG) (TEMPORARY CLOSURE) ORDER 2022

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Council as the Highway Authority for Maesteg in exercise of its powers under Section 14(1) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 (as amended) intends in not less than 7 days from the date of this Notice to make an Order which will temporarily introduce the restriction set out in the schedule below.

The Order is necessary due to insufficient width of carriageway to maintain vehicular access during installation of new electricity main and it is in the interest of public safety.

The Order will come into force on **17/04/2022** and will be operative from **08:00 to 18:00 on the 17/04/2022, 24/04/2022, 01/05/2022 and 08/05/2022 or until such time the works are completed up to a maximum of 18 months, whichever is the sooner.**

Schedule 1

No person shall cause any vehicle to proceed on Llynfi Lane, Maesteg, from its junction with Talbot Street to the rear of 12 Commercial Street (a distance of approximately 45 metres)

Schedule 2 (Suspension of One-way Traffic Order)

1. The existing one-way traffic order will be temporarily suspended on Llynfi Lane from the rear of 12 Commercial Street to the Church Street junction.

The restriction shall however only apply at such time and to such extent as shall from time to time be indicated by traffic signs prescribed by The Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions 2016.

The alternative route is via Talbot Street, Church Street, Llynfi Lane.

Access will be maintained for pedestrians.

RESOLVED: A member mentioned that incorrect polling cards had been distributed in Maesteg West and that new cards will be sent imminently. The Clerk stated that this was for the county elections only so bears no relevance in Town Council proceedings.

512. CAERAU CENOTAPH – MILLIE MEMORIAL

Contacted by Stonemason David James as there was some burn marks on the Caerau war memorial after the candlelit vigil for Millie. He advised that he will clean the war memorial at no cost to the council but wanted to pass on the memorial property and not throw away. He spoke to Caerau Social Centre and is working with them as Maesteg Town Council were not notified of the memorial.

RESOLVED: Cllr P Davies extended his thanks to Mr D James for cleaning the Cenotaph.

513. FLY-TIPPING WOOD STREET

Cllr R Martin advised us of a sofa that had been dumped in the unadopted lane behind Wood Street. The CMO was advised of this and investigated but this was taken away before he got there by BCBC.

RESOLVED: to note the information

514. UNWALKABLE RIGHT OF WAY

The CMO contacted us in regards to footpath 6a, the deep bog from the recent bad weather has meant that he cannot fix the fallen posts on the pathway.

RESOLVED: to note the information

515. ELECTORAL NOMINATION PACKS

Nomination packs received via email from BCBC on 2nd March 2022, emailed to all members and placed onto website.

RESOLVED: to note the information

516. CLLR G THOMAS – RESIGNATION FROM LABOUR PARTY

Advised that Cllr G Thomas has resigned from the Labour Party – the website has been updated.

RESOLVED: to note the information

517. REQUEST FOR UKRAINIAN FLAG

Cllr K Edwards requested that a Ukrainian flag is purchased and placed onto the flagpole below the Welsh flag. Members were emailed for support and 10 members responded that they support the request. Ukrainian flag was ordered on 07/03/2022, once received it will be placed onto the flagpole. Deputy Clerk placed the flag onto the flagpole 14/03/2022.

RESOLVED: to note the information

518. REFERRALS

- Metal tree surrounding a tree next to Llynfi Rd car park has been removed and is causing a tripping hazard.
Cllr R Collins tried to replace the metal surround but it was too heavy to move.
Response: To date no response received
- Bridgend Road and Junction of Duke Street – water running down Duke Street and into the properties opposite.
Response: The scheme mentioned above was a number of years ago by the highways department.
We believe that the build out was not progressed due to concerns/objections from local residents.
We have been advised that with the initial scheme to move the bus stop to the running lane away from the northern kerb, it was proposed to introduce back-to-back kerbs which would help prevent flooding however with the introduction of the dropped kerb back in approximately 2011 it would appear that these have been removed and therefore we have requested a highways inspector attend the location and assess the current layout with regards to your concerns of flooding. Unfortunately, this is not a road safety issue and therefore the traffic management department are unable to progress a scheme and we are unaware of any planned works at this time.
We trust the above is of assistance.
- Loading bay on Talbot Street – damaged kerb stone causing tripping hazard.
Response: To date no response received
- Falling roof tiles on Bethania Street, Maesteg, CF34 9EJ. The person stated that it looks likely that more will continue to fall off and, as it's a busy road, will be a potential danger to life.
Response: Issue has been forwarded onto the Area Building Control Officer.
- Castle Street – dip in the road where gas board put new main in
Response: To date no response received

- Complaint received that from September 2022 there will no longer be any home to school transport for those attending Ysgol Cynwyd Sant. Clerk has requested a response from BCBC school transport.

Response: To date no response received. A member advised that these letters were sent out in error

RESOLVED: to note the information

519. NALC NATIONAL SALARY AWARD 2021/22

The NALC National Salary Award for 2021/22 has now been received and forwarded to members - all staff on the NALC scheme will be reimbursed from April 2021 as set out within the NALC National Salary Award document.

RESOLVED: to note the information

520. COMPLAINT REGARDING MTC DISABLED TOILET

Complaint received from a resident about access to the toilet. His mother had attempted to use the toilet but, as she was in a wheelchair, she was not able to negotiate her way through the scaffold. We advised that the scaffold was for essential works to make the building safe for passers-by and have emailed the building agent to ask when the scaffold will be removed as we have been advised that the majority of works have been completed.

Our Agent has advised that Daswsons Stonemasonry are hoping to remove the scaffolding to the rear of the building on the 25-27 March weekend, or possibly a little earlier.

Clerk advised that on Monday 04/04/2022 scaffolding to the front and rear of the building has now been removed.

RESOLVED: to note the information

521. AUDIT WALES – AUDIT NOTICE 2021-22

The following documents received and forwarded to all members:

1. Audit notice 2021-22 – to be displayed from 20th June 2022 to advise public:
2. Annual return 2021-22 –The annual return and supporting documents should be sent to the auditor as soon as possible after approval. We must however receive them by 15 July 2022 at the latest.
3. Guidance notes for completing the annual return
4. Audit cycle 2021-22 onwards – this explains when we will undertake our detailed audit work at councils. Further instructions will be sent to those councils receiving a detailed audit for 2021-22.

MTC - for the financial year 2021-22 we are having a basic audit and that the full audit will now be 2022-23

RESOLVED: to note the information

522. QUERY FROM CLEANER

The cleaner has enquired why a member who is a key holder is in the building when the Clerk and Deputy Clerk are not in the building as the building is not open to the public and they have not been requested to be in the building?

Members asked who was in the building and requested to know the purpose of this. The responsible member stated that it was them and claimed that he pops in to inspect the building and see the Clerks when they are in the building. He stressed that when the Clerks are not in the building the main office is closed and he has no access so cannot be privy to any confidential information.

Members asked the Clerk if there were rules on keyholders attending the building to which it was responded that there is not. The member did state that when they pop into the building, they do sometimes leave a bag of shopping whilst they go out to get some more shopping as carrying as many bags as they used to be able to in their youth is now difficult.

Members asked if the member signs the signing in book which is used for fire safety and the member confirmed that they do. And another member asked if any formal notice has to be given for an individual to attend the building and this was answered with no.

A member suggested that progressed be moved, the keyholders are responsible people and should be trusted to inspect the building from time to time.

RESOLVED: To note the information

523. MAESTEG - LOVE IT DONT TRASH IT

Email received from BCBC and forwarded to all members:

Our team are now in the planning stage to launch the Love it Don't Trash it project with the schools in the Maesteg area starting in September 2022.

Our plans have needed to be altered due to covid restrictions, so fingers crossed we will be ready to go in Sept as we were pre covid.

The schools we will be making contact with are

- Caerau Primary
- Nantyffyllon Primary
- Plasnewydd Primary
- Garth Primary
- Ysgol Cynwyd Sant
- St Marys and St Patricks
- Cwmfelin Primary

- Llangynwyd Primary

N.B. MINUTE 478 at Full Council 04/05/2021 MTC agreed to fund the project in the schools at a cost of £300 per primary school = £1,800.00

RESOLVED: To note the information

524. UNIT AT HEOL TY GWYN

BCBC have advised that notice has been served on a unit at New Corn Stores, Heol Ty Gwyn. The unit will be returned to BCBC in June, if not before. BCBC is advised that the Town Council's requirement is now at the top of the waiting list and can provide the information as below.

The unit measures 790sq.ft. and will have a quoting rent of £3,950 per annum and a service charge of £25 pcm.

If a unit of this size and rental value is suitable for the Town Council and June works, then I would be more than happy to arrange a viewing of the unit (allowing the existing tenant enough notice to do so) and take steps to secure the unit for you following or usual new tenant protocols.

Cllr R Penhale-Thomas proposed that Council accept this in principle as the CMO currently takes the vehicle home which is not appropriate. This was seconded by Cllr R Lewis.

RESOLVED: Accept in principle on basis of an inspection and viewing of the unit.

525. COMPLAINT FOOTPATH 36

Email received to advise that former volunteer Mr R Meredith tried to walk footpath 36, as it is forms parts of the route for one of my walks. The section I walked with great difficulty starts at Brookfields House on the Cwmdu Road, Grid Ref, 8692 9126 and ends at Maesteg Cemetery Grid Ref. 8634 9133.

Part of the route is totally overgrown with the path hard to follow, in other places the path is narrow and hardly visible at Grid Ref. 8678 9128 is what remains of a Stile, with the way marking discs still in situ.

The Path is indicated at both ends with Footpath sign posts to encourage the public to use the path.

Mr Meredith also received the following email from Llanelli Walking Group to which he has written:

Please read the below email, to say I am disappointed would be an understatement After 31 years of volunteering for the council largely concerning rights ways to receive

this email yesterday makes me ashamed to have had any connection with what I now consider to be an inept council.

An agency agreement as be entered into with the County Borough Council, Rights of Way Department which it appears you are upholding.

Could this email be read out at the next Full Council Meeting.

I believe a reply is necessary so that I can apologies to the Llanelli Walking Group

-----Original Message-----

Sent: Sun, 3 Apr 2022 20:36

Subject: Re: Your proposed walk in the Llynfi Valley

Thanks Roy. No I have heard nothing from the council since they said they would let me know when the path which was completely impassable near the farm was cleared.

This year after a 2-year forced break we are putting on our annual Festival of Walks which attracts people from all over the UK. It's going to be a parred down 3-day event. The Maesteg walk was going to be offered but since there was a deadline for the brochures to be printed, we have now opted for Blaenavon. An opportunity missed for Maesteg council!

04/04/2022 - Clerk has responded to Mr Meredith with the following:

This was passed to the CMO in February and I have again passed it to him this morning. I have also given the CMO your phone number for him to discuss this with you. As you know cutting back is not normally done until April/May, however the CMO has done some small areas during the winter months, whilst also only working 1-3 days per week in order to use up his annual leave entitlement. I shall take the complaint to full council tomorrow evening and ask for a formal response.

Kind Regards and thank you for the emails, grid references and photographs

Members discussed this complaint and were informed by a Maesteg East ward member that this footpath had been impassable for many years and the public rights of way signs were taken down continually by the farmer who used to own Ffos Farm.

Cllr W May **moved** that we rebuild the wooden stiles. Another member suggested that when the new council comes in to being from May that we review all the rights of way that MTC are in charge of maintaining and bring them back up to spec.

RESOLVED:

- The footpath and stiles reinstated.
- The new council reviews all the rights of way that MTC are in charge of maintaining and bring them back up to spec.

526. NODDFA DEFIBRILATOR USED 03/04/2022

The Noddfa defib was deployed 03/04/2022. We retrieved, replenished and set the defib live within the hour. Could we request a new set of pads please?

NF1200 Pads ordered 05/04/2022

RESOLVED: The Clerk advised that new pads have been ordered and are awaiting delivery as this was the terms of MTC undertaking the maintenance of many defibs in the community.

527. REQUEST THAT MTC GIVE USE OF A ROOM FOR UKRANIAN REFUGEES TO MEET

Request from Cllr R Penhale-Thomas that council give consideration to free use of a room in the building to act as a weekly hub for Ukrainian refugees in Maesteg in order that they can connect, Cllr Penhale-Thomas also stated that Maesteg is due to receive 4 Ukrainian refugees over the coming weeks and it only right that we come together and offer a free community space so they can meet people of similar circumstance.

A member asked about the practicalities at the moment due to the building being closed to the public. Cllr Penhale-Thomas confirmed that this was only to be for a few hours per week so if staff can be worked with to facilitate this then that would be appreciated.

Members unanimously agreed to the request and Cllr G Thomas **proposed** that we accept the request made by Cllr R Penhale-Thomas and delegate powers to him as chair of property to run the room for the refugees.

RESOLVED: Cllr R Penhale-Thomas to liaise with the families and room required.

528. AGENDA ITEM 9 - TO CONSIDER TENDER APPLICATIONS TO RUN THE KEEPER OF THE COLLIERY RUN

Members were provided with 2 tenders.

Tender 1 provided much information as to how they would run the event but provided no costings or quote for the council to consider. They also stated that charging for the event would be the way forward for them.

Tender 2 gave a breakdown of what they would provide to run the event and gave a quote of £7,530.00

Cllrs deliberated and a member stated that the first tender wanting to charge for the event pushes them towards tender no.2. Another member agreed stated that this is meant to be a fun run and not a serious event and the amount that they would like us to charge people would be insulting to the community. Another member added that when the event has been run previously they were amazed that there is no fee and suggested that if the event grows then fees may have to be added to cover the costs. The member

also asked if Maesteg Comprehensive had confirmed access to the grounds on the day MTC need it and the Clerk responded confirming that we have emailed the school but still awaiting a response.

Cllr G Thomas **proposed** and was seconded by Cllr W May that we accept Tender 2 on the proviso that permission is granted by Maesteg Comprehensive School

The winning tender was revealed by the Clerk as being EPM Creative.

RESOLVED: Accept Tender 2 on the proviso that permission is granted by Maesteg Comprehensive School

529. AGENDA ITEM 10.

TO CONSIDER REQUEST FROM CLLR JENKINS

Members were provided with Cllr Jenkins request which was the following; 'Iconic people associated with town hall. Dear clerk please place on agenda for discussion the possibility to placing plaque in hall to the memory of the contribution by Cynwyd Thomas and others John Thomas and Ann Phillips.

The request was not completed as it was placed in the subject header of an email.

Cllr Jenkins finished his request off during the meeting stating that Cynwyd Thomas, John Thomas and Ann Phillips created the Friends of Maesteg Town Hall group and were instrumental in keeping the town hall open and operational when it faced possible closure years ago. Cllr Jenkins requests that a plaque should be sought to commemorate those people and the work they did in securing this valuable community asset for future generations.

Members discussed this request and it was counter-argued that the Town Hall was not facing closure and the running of the Town Hall fell to a committee within MTC for a period of time. Members asked about a piano that was funded by MTC to the cost of circa £6,000 and also a sound system. The location of the piano is unknown so the clerk will contact Awen Cultural Trust to establish its location and the sound system is going to be reinstalled when the building works have been completed

RESOLVED:

- To write to AWEN Cultural Trust to request that a commemorative plaque is sought.
- To enquire where whereabouts of the piano and sound system that was purchased by Maesteg Town Council.

530. FINANCIAL APPLICATIONS

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

1. TEENAGE CANCER TRUST

Request £500 grant. The grant will help fund the cost of running the specialist cancer treatment unit within University Hospital of Wales in Cardiff – where we bring young people together for treatment alongside others their own age, in an age-appropriate space designed just for them. Having treatment in a place that feels more normal, and alongside other young people they can relate to makes a huge difference. It will go towards staffing costs, running of advocacy groups, workshops and physical running costs of the unit.

Previously received £100 in June 2020

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

The Clerk advised Members that from April 2022 the policy will be updated with the following updated expenditure limit:

This is to notify you that the appropriate sum for the purposes of section 137(4)(a) of the Local Government Act 1972 (the 1972 Act) for Community and Town Councils in Wales for the financial year 2022-23 is £8.82.

Section 137(1) of the 1972 Act permits each Community or Town Council to incur expenditure for purposes for which it has no other specific powers if the Council considers that the expenditure is in the interests of, and will bring direct benefit to, the area or any part of it, or all or some of its inhabitants, providing that the benefit is commensurate with the expenditure incurred. Community and Town Councils are also permitted under section 137(3) to incur expenditure for certain charitable and other purposes. The maximum expenditure that can be incurred under both section 137(1) and (3) for the financial year 2022-23 will be £8.82 per elector.

531. DELEGATES REPORTS

None to report

RESOLVED: To note the information

532. PLANNING

Before the BCBC members exited the meeting members stated that they would like to thank all those members who would be departing the Council in the May Elections.

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

Cllr R Lewis declared an interest in A/22/9/ADV; therefore, took no part in the discussion and left the meeting at that time.

The council supported the below applications;

Ref: P/22/132/LIS
Applicant: Welsh Religious Buildings Trust
Location: Capel Bethania Bethania Street Maesteg CF34 9EX
Proposal: Listed Building Consent for replacement of a defective suspended timber floor, to vestrys ground floor corridor, with a new limecrete floor construction; removal of modern hardboard wall linings and associated battens from former classroom; addition of 1no. air brick within each existing blocked up window opening within former classroom and former ministers room
Ask For: Lee Evans

Ref: P/20/988/FUL
Applicant: Caerau Football Club
Location: Recreation ground rear of Hermon Road Maesteg CF34 0SU
Proposal: Phase 1 Development comprising the construction of an access ramp and security fencing to the existing football pitch [amended proposal and amended plans received 28-2-22]
Ask for: Hayley Kemp

Ref: P/22/133/FUL
Applicant: Systems Pipework Ltd
Location: Systems Pipework - Systems Hydraulics (Maesteg) Forge Industrial Estate Nantyffyllon, Maesteg CF34 0AH
Proposal: Proposed factory extension
Ask for: Euan Sexton

There were no objections to the following;

Ref: P/22/116/FUL
Applicant: Mr S Boast
Location: 48 Heol Ty Gwyn Maesteg CF34 0EU
Proposal: Remove Conservatory; construct two storey rear extension and single storey rear/side extension; dormer to front; porch to front (resubmission of P/21/979/FUL)
Ask for: Julie Earp

Ref: A/22/8/ADV
Applicant: Wildstone Estates Limited
Location: Land opposite 65 Bethania Street (south of Scout Hall) Maesteg CF34 9ET
Proposal: Freestanding hoarding sign (48 sheet) 6m x 3m
Ask for: Lee Evans

Ref: A/22/9/ADV
Applicant: Greggs plc
Location: Greggs 8 Talbot Street Maesteg CF34 9BT
Proposal: Externally illuminated fascia and projecting signs
Ask for: Julie Earp

Ref: P/22/182/FUL
Applicant: Mr J Price
Location: 21 Wood Street Maesteg CF34 9BB
Proposal: Single storey bedroom extension for registered disabled person
Ask for: Julie Jenkins

Ref: P/22/169/FUL
Applicant: Mr & Mrs Williams
Location: 46 Ystad Celyn Maesteg CF34 9LT
Proposal: First floor extension above garage
Ask for: Julie Jenkins

Ref: P/22/196/FUL
Applicant: Mr I Petty
Location: 87 Yr Ysfa Maesteg CF34 9BE
Proposal: Two storey side extension to rear of garage; first floor side extension over garage
Ask For: Julie Earp

Ref: P/22/197/FUL
Applicant: BAH Properties
Location: 88 Picton Street Nantylffyllon Maesteg CF34 0HH
Proposal: Change of use of part ground floor retail to C3 use; reconfiguration of existing rear ground and lower ground floor two bedroom flat to form two self-contained flats comprising rear two storey extension with associated external works and elevation changes
Ask for: Julie Earp

Members commented on the access for the below application and acknowledge that planning permission has been declined previously due to access.

Ref: P/21/1022/FUL
Applicant: Ms G Reeves
Location: Ebenezer Chapel Celtic Bungalows Maesteg CF34 0DB
Proposal: Demolish existing chapel and schoolroom; construct 3no. dwellings (2 detached houses and 1 detached bungalow) [amended plans and amended proposal]
Ask for: Hayley Kemp

Minutes emailed to all Councillors to Read on 7th April 2022

Minutes accepted at a hybrid meeting of the Council held on 3rd May 2022

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Mayor