

**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, 3rd May 2022.**

PRESENT:

COUNCILLORS:

AR Davies (Mayor)

L Beedle, R Collins, P Davies, A James,
P Jenkins, R Lewis, R Martin, W May,
R Penhale-Thomas, C Reeves, G Thomas,
L Thomas and I Williams

APOLOGIES: Cllrs K Duggan & K Edwards

DECLARATION OF INTEREST:

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

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

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

533. POLICE MATTERS

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

Maesteg Crime Statistics for April 2022

	Caerau / Nanty	Maesteg East	Maesteg West	Llan	Total in category
Robbery	0	0	0	0	0
Drugs	1	0	0	0	1
Dwelling burglary	1	0	1	0	2
Burglary other	0	1	0	0	1
Theft of vehicle	0	0	1	0	1
Theft from vehicle	0	0	1	0	1
All other theft	6	3	15	2	26
Damage	15	0	3	1	19
Violence against the person	18(2)	10(4)	20(4)	2	50
Domestic related occurrence	4	3	3	0	10
All crime total	42	14	40	3	99
Anti-social behaviour total	15	2	8	3	28
Drink Driving	0	0	0	0	1

The following was raised:

A member mentioned the occurrence of antisocial behaviour (ASB) in Rathbone Terrace, Caerau. This includes drug and alcohol abuse, children running riot, things thrown at the Christmas lights (still erected on the lamppost), paint thrown over the road, fly tipping and children knocking on doors demanding money and placing their foot inside the doors stopping the residents closing them.

SGT Lea advised that they were aware of incidents in that area but not to the extent that was reported by the Cllr. SGT Lea requested a follow-up email so that SWP can investigate further.

Council thanked SGT Lea and his colleagues for the success in identifying the persons responsible for the recent arson attacks.

A member added that residents of Maesteg Row have been subject to ASB as well in recent times and have reported the issues but they felt that nothing was being done about it.

SGT Lea advised that Maesteg Row has many issues ongoing which he cannot go into yet but advised that a camera was setup there in the past several months and to expect some significant police action there in the coming weeks.

A member suggested that there appears to be an increase in ASB lately and added that some of the repeat offenders of the younger generation appear to be untouchable by law enforcement and are running a riot in the Llynfi Rd car park and by Asda resulting in the intimidation of elderly people using the shop. The member asked if the SGT was aware of a rise in ASB from PCSO's within the area.

SGT Lea advised that ASB reports have not increased but stressed that people should report everything they are concerned with and the likely fastest way is to report it online to get the fastest response.

A member raised the issue of illegal parking on pavements again on Castle Street and opposite the White Heart Pub in Garth there appears to be certain cars that cause a massive danger by parking near the safety bollards.

SGT Lea advised to send him an email and they will look into this matter further.

Members thanked SGT Lea for his attendance this evening.

RESOLVED: Clerk to contact Centregreat regarding the Christmas lighting feature to be removed

534. MAYORAL EVENTS

The Mayor and Deputy Mayor advised that they had not attended any Mayoral events in April 2022

RESOLVED: to note the information

535. MINUTES

The Following Minutes were agreed and signed by the Mayor;

- Full Council – 05/04/22 emailed 07/04/2022

RESOLVED: to note the information

MATTERS ARISING

536. MINUTE 509

LIST OF PAYMENTS FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH 2022

VAT Q4 reclaim submitted and payment received.

RESOLVED: To note the information

537. MINUTE 524

UNIT AT HEOL TY GWYN

08/07/2022 Email sent to BCBC to advise that the Clerk and CMO wish to view and inspect the unit, should this be acceptable then MTC would like to proceed with the hire of the unit.

RESOLVED: To note the information

538. MINUTE 526

NODDFA DEFIBRILLATOR PADS

New pads arrived 25/04/2022 and delivered to Maesteg Community First Responders

RESOLVED: To note the information

539. MINUTE 528

KEEPER OF THE COLLIERY FUN RUN

07/04/2022 Email sent to Maesteg Comprehensive School to ascertain whether we are allowed to use the grounds and toilets on 10th July 2022.

08/04/2022 Email sent to winning tender to advise that as soon as we get permission from Maesteg Comprehensive School we will proceed with the fun run

Maesteg Comprehensive School have provided permission for the run to take place on Sunday 10th July and toilets will be available.

Winning tender contacted to advise that permission has been granted by the school.

NRW have been contacted for permission to run the event on the NRW route.

Request from Ogmores Phoenix running club would like to use MTC risk assessments and running route for their Bridgend County Running league run on 15th June.

EPM Creative would like to know what website name we would like the run to have, the choices are:

www.keepersrun.org

www.maestegkeepers.run

www.keepers.run

www.keeperofthecolliery.run

Request from Ogmores Running Club to use MTC risk assessments for the location of the fun run so that they can run their own event which was agreed by the Council.

Members agreed on the following domain: www.keeperofthecolliery.run

RESOLVED:

1. To advise Ogmores Phoenix Running Club that they can use MTC Risk Assessment and route map
2. To advise EPM of the preferred website domain as www.keeperofthecolliery.run

540. MINUTE 530

FINANCIAL APPLICATIONS

Letters of thanks received from the following organisation:

- Teenage Cancer Trust

RESOLVED: To note the information

541. LIST OF PAYMENTS FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL 2022

RESOLVED:

That the tables of **Expenditure (£9,983.26)**, **Income (£21,538.50)** during the month of April 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 queried when the Precept would be received and the Clerk advised it was received on 29/04/2022 and would be within the tables of income for the month of May as the bank reconciliation was completed on 25/04/2022 in order for the paperwork to be delivered to members by 28/04/2022 (a day earlier due to the bank holiday).

Members were also provided with:

- list of payments to be made in May 2022 totalling **£3462.23**

- A copy of the Receipts and Payments Account which includes expenditure against the budget and the budget remaining.
- An income analysis was also provided.
- Financial Report for the year 2021-22 from the Chair of Finance.

Members thanked the Chair of Finance for the report.

The Chair of Finance then stated that as this years precept had now been received the Clerk should transfer monies to the investment account to safeguard the funds and continue to earn more interest than if it was to sit in the day to day account. Members agreed to proceed.

A member asked for an update to the investigation ongoing with the previous Clerk. The Council then went into Committee as this is an ongoing Police investigation.

RESOLVED: THAT THE COUNCIL GO INTO COMMITTEE

Pursuant to section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 and Local Government Act 1972, ss100 & 102 ‘Members of the public/press can be excluded by resolution if publicity would prejudice the public interest by reason of confidential nature of the business and arising out of the business to be transacted’

RESOLVED: THAT THE COUNCIL COME OUT OF COMMITTEE

CORRESPONDENCE

542. NEWSLETTERS / FLYERS / BRIEFING NOTES/ CONSULTATIONS

Emailed to all Councillors for information:

- BAVO Unsung Hero Awards Poster
- Insite: The Maesteg Town Hall Newsletter
- Contested and Uncontested results from Election Nominations – placed onto website and in outside noticeboard
- SW Police Safer Streets Consultation – response due 18/04/2022
- Adult mental health crisis intervention survey - support to promote

RESOLVED: to note the information

543. REFERRALS

- dropped bin and rotten bench on track by Evans Terrace, Caerau.

Response: We moved this bin slightly further to the end of the cycle track from it's original position, the new position it at the beginning of both cycle tracks. We have also passed your e-mail onto our Parks Department to see if they would deal with the bench.

- We have received information from a Cllr that between numbers 102 and 106 Castle Street, Maesteg, the road is in need of repair. We are under the impression that the road is broken up with potholes and when cars are now driving over it stones are being shot at windows and residents.

We were informed that there are white markings already spray painted in the area so likely you are already aware of the issue just passing on that the issue is appearing to be getting worse

Response: To date no response received

- new road sign for Belmont Close, Maesteg as the sign is battered and worn and not clearly visible. There is also confusion between Belmont Close and Brodawel as the access to both streets is via the same road. Neighbours are often either directing deliveries to right site or delivering to rightful address themselves this is frequent including the odd item of post.

Response: To date no response received

- Footbridge opposite Tesco: the bridge that has become dangerous to cross with the wooden slates being broken. The repairs made are not up to standard and already causing a different hazard to the people who use it.

Response: To date no response received

- Lewis Rd Playing Fields: area of old goal posts now have deep hole with remnants of old posts in ground. Area needs reinstating to good condition

Response: Thank you for your email, a report has been logged and forwarded onto the appropriate officer to action.

- We have received a number of complaints regarding access to the entrance footpath to NCN885 NRW Community route. They are complaining that there are 'A' frames preventing access for users with mobility issues - one located near to Maesteg Cemetery and another one located by Old Anne's Enterprises / Caerau Men's Shed workshop

Response: To date no response received

- Now due to the ill designed access and egress to the new school combined with withdrawal of school buses the increase in traffic has become unacceptable, dangerous in so much that many near misses at the junction of Lewis Rd new School and Crown Rd. Many drivers and pedestrians are requesting a box junction at this precise location. This would facilitate safer crossing of road for our school children, reduce near misses for drivers, slow traffic crossing in front of oncoming vehicles

Response: To date no response received

- Please can you cut back the banking at base of Golden Terrace at the junction of Goodwin Street leading to River Street – the overgrowth is pushing vehicles further out on bend that is already narrow.

Response: To date no response received

- Requests for another street light in Cross St, Maesteg, CF34 9YT to be installed near no number 13 as this is a narrow access road built up either side with housing the area is in darkness, a few shift workers experiencing anxiety when coming home early or leaving houses late, particularly through winter months.

Response: To date no response received – a BCBC member advised that they had also asked for streetlights at other locations and was advised by BCBC that there is no budget to install new streetlights and should additional lights be required that the community pay for the entirety of the product such as running costs, maintenance and installation

- Dangerous Bridge - leading to Pwll Yr Iwrch from Tesco traffic lights. This has been reported a number of times yet nothing has been done. Please can you look into the safety of this bridge and make necessary repairs as it is used daily by residents

Response: to date no response received

Members also raised concerns that referrals are not being responded to and works that need doing such as cutting back overgrowth are left for months or years. A member suggested that the council visit a way that the CMO cover the works if not done in a respective time by BCBC. A member responded stating that we need BCBCs statutory permission to do anything to the land that they own.

Another member stated that perhaps we should look at going above the normal point of contacts for BCBC and try to get matters resolved. Members agreed and additionally another member stated that we should, out of courtesy, write to the Chief Executive of BCBC to try and get this fixed before going any further.

RESOLVED: Clerk write to the Directors and the Chief Executive of BCBC regarding the lack of response or acknowledgement to referrals.

544. MAESTEG HARLEQUINS CAT GRANT – CHANGE OF USAGE REQUEST

Telephone conversation and email received from Maesteg Harlequins - request that their MTC CAT grant allocation is subject to a change of use, namely they would like to change from a spend on paths to a spend on storage containers and hand tools to enable them to securely store their maintenance equipment.

The proposals have been discussed with BCBC CAT Grant Officer and he is in agreement that it would be a suitable change of use. Maesteg Harlequins have agreed a “License to Manage” with the legal department of BCBC which allows the club to begin the maintenance and management of South Parade from the end of the current rugby season, expected to be mid-May 2022.

Their current timescale to take over the running of the playing fields from May and to improve the playing surfaces during this summer and to then start the construction

works to the pavilion and surrounds in the spring of 2023 with a view for completion before the start of the rugby season in September 2023.

Cllr P Davies declared an interest on behalf of BCBC members so they took no part in this discussion

The Clerk confirmed that BCBC CAT Officer had confirmed that the change of use was allowable.

Cllr L Thomas **proposed** and was seconded by Cllr P Jenkins that MTC allow the change of use for the grant.

RESOLVED: Clerk to advise Maesteg Harlequins that MTC authorise the change of use of the CAT Grant.

545. DISABLED TOILET OUT OF ORDER

The disabled toilet to the rear of the Council Building is experiencing a leak so is marked as 'out of order' until this is fixed – this has now been resolved.

A member stated that the toilet was out of order today but this was in reference to the Llynfi Rd toilet

RESOLVED: The Clerk to contact JCDecaux regarding the Llynfi Road APC Unit.

546. NEW BOILER INSTALLATIONS

Advised that the new boiler installations now have a start date for installing the new boilers at the council office in Maesteg Town - week beginning 23rd May 2022. Please be advised that you will be without heating and hot water until the completion of the job, which will take approximately 2 weeks

RESOLVED: to note the information

547. FRONT OF BUILDING WORKS

Members were advised that the pavement to the front of the building being dug up by Western Power. The safety fencing surrounds the front so all entering the building must use the rear if needed. It is unknown how long the works will take place – a request to BCBC for clarification has been sent but no response received.

RESOLVED: to note the information

548. BENCH ON FFORDD DYSGU

BCBC were contacted again following no response from email sent 28/09/21 whereby MTC enquiring the following:

At September Full Council meeting it was discussed that many residents find the steep incline on Ffordd Dysgu (between Crown Road and Maesteg Comprehensive school) extremely tiring and are requesting that a bench is installed halfway up?

They were thinking that the area near the car turning circle would be a good place as its just before the entrance footpath to NCN885?

Would permission be needed from BCBC for Maesteg Town Council to install a couple of benches at this location or would BCBC install them?

Response received from BCBC:

Are you able to mark a plan with the location you wish the benches to be sited.

Can you confirm the Town Council would be happy to enter into a standard licence agreement (similar to the one for planters)

Members discussed this and hadn't gone into a standard licence agreement for other benches installed in the past, however agreed to enter into a standard licence agreement for this bench.

RESOLVED: Deputy Clerk to complete all the relevant standard licence agreement and to respond to BCBC.

549. REQUEST FROM CLLR P JENKINS

Please place on agenda for June meeting discussion to seek council support for a suitable safe crossing at or around Nanty play park. Given there is a new safe crossing at TONDU play area. This road is busier with traffic particularly HGV,S

RESOLVED: members agreed to add this to a projects committee agenda to be discussed in more detail as it was noted that there are several locations within the valley that would benefit from such a crossing.

550. REQUEST FROM CLLR R MARTIN

Please can we have a short discussion on Tuesday to add to the agenda of the first meeting of business following the AGM and election of committees, I would like to agenda, the town council and bus services in all wards. I have recently been knocking doors and have been told many times what we the Town Council are doing regarding a bus service to one area of the Llynfi Valley.

Whilst I don't disagree, we cannot do this in isolation the council serves all wards.

- A bus service how it could work
- A detailed plan

- Partners and expert advice
- Feasibility study (all members involved)

This of course will be covered by the projects committee.

Regards Cllr Rosemary Martin

A member stated that they had brought up this issue previously and then the second wave of COVID hit so nothing came of it so would be happy to revisit this within the projects committee.

A member raised the issue of finding a permanent new location for the Post Office.

A member stated that a feasibility study was conducted previously when MTC were looking into facilitating the Post Office and without the power of competency nothing can be done withing MTC's power.

The Clerk advised that BCBC were leading with this issue as MTC are unable to run a post office as MTC do not possess the general power of competency. Currently MTC are ineligible to receive the General Powers of Competency until we have received 3 years of unqualified accounts and a CiLCA qualified Clerk. The Clerk did advise that both the Clerk and Deputy Clerk have now completed the ILCA to CiLCA qualifications and will be looking at the CilCA qualification in a couple of months.

RESOLVED: To be discussed by the Projects Committee

551. FINANCIAL APPLICATIONS

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

1. KIDS CANCER CHARITY

Request £500 grant. The grant will help fund the cost of sending a family from Maesteg on a Compassionate Care Respite Break to one of our Luxury mobile homes situated around the Welsh coast, as their child has been affected by cancer. Normally children will suffer painful treatments for months and sometimes even years, and they need a break away from the hospital environment.

Members queried whether the charity would let the council know when the family have been sent on the holiday. The Clerk advised we can ask but the names and information of the people would need to be withheld by the charity under GDPR rules.

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

552. DELEGATES REPORTS

Cllr C Reeves attended and provided the following report from One Voice Wales Area Committee 25/4/22

Report from Alun Michael PCC – there will be a greater role for PCSO's
Delays in 101 call responses – all cases that have been investigated have been due to major incidents etc – encourage councillors to use the other methods available to report issues.

Assistant Chief Constable, Jenny Gilmer, also spoke – an opportunity to refresh neighbourhood policing. PCSOs when used properly. New chain of command for neighbourhood policing, which will keep focus.

Question asked about scams – they are publicised by South Wales Police Twitter.

Want to work together with councils, on local issues.

I made the point that its very disappointing the lack of interest of the police, when I was threatened by a fellow councillor on a zoom meeting, I made the point that this is one of the reasons why this will be my last meeting. I believe it may also have an impact on the lack of people putting themselves forward for council. The PCC agreed, and mentioned the social media posts that people have to put up with. The Deputy Chief Constable will look into this further.

Local Government and Elections Wales Act 2021 – Community and Town Council new legislation requirements were discussed, including the requirements for training for this new legislation, attached for information. Requirement for annual reports, residents have to be able to attend and ask questions. A proportion of the council is to be elected. General power of competence will replace the power of wellbeing,

Cllr Ceri Reeves

Members thanked Cllr Reeves for the report.

RESOLVED: To note the information

Before BCBC members left the Mayor thanked all councillors for their work over the past 5 years and wished the standing members luck in the following election.

Members were reminded that they remain councillors until the 9th of May and the Mayor was reminded by the Clerk that he remains the Mayor until the new Mayor is elected in the AGM which follows 2 weeks post-election.

553. PLANNING

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

There were no objections to the following;

Ref: P/21/1145/FUL
Applicant: Mr M Thomas
Location: 4 Priory Terrace Maesteg CF34 9PE
Proposal: Retention of garage as built
Ask For: Julie Earp

Members were also provided with the following Planning Appeal – details of which were noted.

PLANNING APPEAL

Planning Reference No: P/21/85/FUL

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990
TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT
PROCEDURE) (WALES) ORDER 2012 REFUSAL OF PERMISSION

Whereas you did on the 4 February 2021 make application in writing for permission to develop, short particulars of the development being as follows:

Applicant Name: Mr A Watkins
Development: Change of use of ground floor to residential accommodation to be used with existing first floor residential accommodation (property to become one residential unit)
Location: White Hart Inn 42 Bridgend Road Maesteg CF34 0NN

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL as the Local Planning Authority, hereby REFUSE TO PERMIT the proposed development for the following reason(s):

1. Insufficient information in the form of appropriate marketing evidence, has been submitted with the planning application to justify the loss of the existing community facility. The planning application is therefore contrary to Policies SP13 & COM7 of the Bridgend Local Development Plan (2013) and advice contained within Planning Policy Wales (Edition 11, 2021).

Dated: 30 July 2021 Signed:
Group Manager Planning & Development Services

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

Minutes accepted at a hybrid meeting of the Council held on 7th June 2022

.....
Mayor