

**MAESTEG TOWN COUNCIL
COUNCIL MEETING**

Minutes of a meeting of the **FULL COUNCIL** held remotely via Microsoft Teams and at the Council Meeting Room, Council Offices, Talbot Street, Maesteg, on **Tuesday, 7th June 2022**

PRESENT:

COUNCILLORS:

A James (Mayor)

F Abedalkarim, R Collins, AR Davies, C Davies, P Davies, P Jenkins, C Knight, R Martin, R Penhale-Thomas, M Rowlands, G Thomas, L Thomas and I Williams,

APOLOGIES were received from Cllrs K Edwards and R Lewis

DECLARATION OF INTEREST:

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

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

27. POLICE MATTERS

Unfortunately, the SW Police Sgt unable to attend, however the following Crime figures were provided:

Maesteg Crime Statistics for May 2022

	Caerau / Nanty	Maesteg East	Maesteg West	Llan	Total in category
Robbery	0	0	0	0	0
Drugs	0	1	1	1	3
Dwelling burglary	0	0	0	0	0
Burglary other	1	0	1	0	2
Theft of vehicle	0	2	0	0	2
Theft from vehicle	0	0	0	0	0
All other theft	6	1	7 (1attempt)	2	16
Damage	9	2	4	1	16
Violence against the person	18 (1)	11 (3)	17 (4)	5 (1)	51 (7)
Domestic related occurrences	5	3	5	1	14
All crime total	34	17	30	9	89
Anti-social behaviour total	15	2	5	0	22
Drink Driving	0	0	0	0	0

28. MAYORAL EVENTS

The Mayor advised that he attended the following events:

- 28th May 2022 – Golden Wedding Anniversary
- 31st May 2022 – Caerau Chemist
- 4th June 2022 – Jubilee Party in the Sawyers Arms

29. MINUTES

The Following Minutes;

- **Full Council** – 03/05/2022 – emailed to members 04/05/2022
- **AGM** – 19/05/2022 - emailed to members 19/05/2022

copies of which had been circulated to Members, were read, accepted as a true record and signed by the Mayor.

MATTERS ARISING

30. MINUTE 539

KEEPER OF THE COLLIERY FUN RUN

04/05/2022 Email sent to EPM to advise of the preferred website domain to be:
www.keeperofthecolliery.run

EPM advised the website for applications will be live shortly

RESOLVED: to note the information

31. MINUTE 543

REFERRALS

- Received a response to the request for a street light at 13 Cross Street:

Response: I am writing to you in regards to the request for additional street lighting near 13 Cross Street, Maesteg.

We are currently only a maintenance department and therefore we don't have sufficient funding to install and maintain new street lighting.

If this is something that is necessary then it would need to be funded through local community council, if this is something that is feasible we could look at raising a quote to carry out the relevant works

- Dangerous Bridge - leading to Pwll Yr Iwrch from Tesco traffic lights.

Response: Thank you for your email dated the 3rd May regarding the bridge leading to Pwll Yr Iwrch from Tesco traffic lights that is in poor condition.

The Rights of Way team is aware of this issue, but although the bridge is on the cycle track on this particular occasion the maintenance responsibility lies with the Highway Structures team. Therefore, the referral has been passed to that team with a request that they investigate the situation and contact you directly to let you know what if any action they intend to take to resolve the issue.

Members discussed the responses received from BCBC and request that the Clerk write a letter to the Cabinet Member for Communities regarding the Street lighting issue and to chase the progress of the bridge.

RESOLVED: Clerk to write to Cabinet Member for Communities Cllr J Spanswick.

32. **MINUTE 551**
FINANCIAL APPLICATIONS

Letters of thanks received from the following organisation:

- Kids Cancer Charity

Also advised that they have two families going away, one on 15th Aug and one 9th Sept plus they have three families that are seeing and receiving our Play Therapist Treatment

RESOLVED: to note the information

33. **MINUTE 9**
PROPERTY/HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE FOR 2022-23

Cllr Ross Penhale-Thomas wish to rescind my nomination as chair of the property, health and safety committee as per the AGM.

Members discussed the position of Chair of the Committee;

Cllr P Davies **nominated** Cllr F Abedalkarim and was seconded by Cllr R Martin.

Cllr P Jenkins **nominated** Cllr I Williams and was seconded by Cllr F Abedalkarim.

It was **agreed** that Cllr I Williams would be the Chair of Property, H&S for 22-23

RESOLVED: Cllr I Williams elected as Chair for Property, H&S Committee for 22-23

34. **MINUTE 11**
COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE FOR 2022-23:

Clerk advised that at the AGM no vote was held for the position of Chair of this Committee, an oversight by the Clerk as the Mayor is a committee member.

Members discussed the position of Chair of the Committee;

Cllr A James **nominated** Cllr AR Davies and was seconded by Cllr R Martin, as there were no other nominations Cllr AR Davies elected as Chair of Communications Committee for 22-23

RESOLVED: Cllr AR Davies elected as Chair of Communications Committee for 22-23

35. LIST OF PAYMENTS FOR THE MONTH OF MAY 2022

RESOLVED:

That the tables of **Expenditure (£17,601.19), Income (£331,684.45)** during the month of May 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 June 2022 totalling **£7,870.77**
- A copy of the Receipts and Payments Account which includes expenditure against the budget and the budget remaining.
- An income analysis was also provided.

CMO Summary Report – May 2022

CMO work summary for the month of May have included the following works:

- Weekly building checks that include:
 - fire alarm
 - emergency lighting
 - legionnaires disease
- Weekly bin emptying on the cycle track
- Tidy and Clean public WC
- Repaired leak to disabled toilet and refixed sink
- Inspected and cut the following footpaths:
 - ❖ Fp 2a 6, 20, 23a, 27, 37a, 38, 39, 40, 48, 52, 57, 64, 74, 77, 82, 41, 42, 46, 47
 - Overgrowth removed/cutback near Woodlands Terrace and steps by surgery on Woodlands Terrace
- Delivered correspondence
- Delivered dog waste bags
- Cleared the footpath next to Caerau Primary School

Works to be Carried out Next Month;

- Inspect and, where necessary, cut back overgrowth – Fp 2a, 6a, 36, 41, 42, 46, 47, 57, 62, 64, 72, 77, 82. Areas surrounding Bridge Street and Castle Street.
- Weekly building checks that include:
 - fire alarm
 - emergency lighting
 - legionnaires disease
- Twice weekly bin emptying on the cycle track
- Tidy and Clean public WC

CORRESPONDENCE

36. DECLARATION OF RESULT OF POLL

Email forwarded to all members with the results of the local Town Council elections on 5th May 2022. New Council is made up of the following Councillors:

Caerau (4)	Maesteg East (5)	Maesteg West (5)	Nantyffyllon (3)
Adam Rhys Davies	Fadhel Abedalkarim	Richard Collins	Chris Davies
Paul Davies	Keith Edwards	Rosemary Martin	Rob Lewis
Andrew James	Phil Jenkins	Ross Penhale- Thomas	Gavin Thomas
Matthew Rowlands	Christine Knight	Leighton Thomas	
	Idris Williams	VACANCY	

RESOLVED: to note the information

37. 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
- OVW – Free Training places for 2022-23 - the Welsh Government has decided to offer free places on selected core modules available from the start of May 2022 until 31 March 2023. This is a very generous offer and demonstrates the Welsh Government’s commitment to the sector as Councils strive to enhance their capacity and capability in providing high quality services for their communities. The free places now on offer will apply to all councils subject to the funding level not being exceeded this financial year.

Two free places per Council on each of the following training webinars:

- Council as an Employer
- Understanding the Law
- Local Government Finance (Basic)
- Local Government Finance (Advanced)

Although priority will be given to Council Chairs and Chairs of Finance Committees, Councils can nominate any other Councillors to attend the webinars. Additionally, the Welsh Government has also provided funding for 2

free places per Council on our **Code of Conduct training webinar**. Members also emailed an overview of all training provided by OVW.

- Updated Traffic Order for Maesteg bus station – placed onto website
- Welsh Blood Service – request to advertise the donation session: 27th May 2022
- OVW – Training schedule June 2022
- Curtain Up Youth theatre concert poster

RESOLVED: to note the information

38. ATTENDANCE FIGURES 2021-22

Members Attendance Figures for 2021-22 have been emailed to all members and a summary of the figures has been placed onto the website.

RESOLVED: to note the information

39. RESPONSE TO REFERRAL – sent in March 2022

- 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.

During the April 2022 full council meeting members were advised by a BCBC member that these letters were sent out in error, below is the official response from BCBC received 18/05/2022:

Response: I refer to your email regarding concerns raised by parents/carers following letters they received in respect of the cessation of free home-to-school transport for their child. I apologise for the late response to your enquiry.

I can confirm, that following a review carried out by the local authority's School Transport Team, Ysgol Cynwyd Sant school highlighted a number of pupils whose address details differed to those held on the School Transport Teams database for eligible pupils. Several change of address details were found to fall below the required two-mile policy distance to receive free home-to-school transport. Whereas a number of pupils were correctly identified as being no longer eligible, a number of pupils were issued communication in error, as they retain historic eligibility under the local authority's Home-to-School/College Transport Policy.

Please be assured that these pupils continue to receive free home-to-school transport.

The local authority has since written to the parents of these pupils apologising for this administrative error.

RESOLVED: to note the information

40. **REFERRALS**

- Fencing on cycle track between Cemetery & Maesteg School turning circle - has a number of loose and missing bolts, these need tightening, replacing please.

Response: Thanks for your email advising that one of your outgoing Councillors reported issues with the fencing on the section of cycle track between Maesteg Cemetery and the turning circle for the school.

This a route which the Rights of Way team are responsible for so I will make a visit to the site as soon as possible Once the site visit has been completed, I'll be back in touch to report my findings and to advise on any actions that need to be completed.

- Bin on Duke Street – who will be emptying the bin.

Response: The bin will be emptied by BCBC on a Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

BCBC Members advised that BCBC move bins regularly to avoid residents placing household waste into the litter bins.

- Coal dram at entrance to Nantffyllon in need of maintenance

Response: To date no response received

- On the steps from Aldi leading down to the bridge the reflective strip is loose causing a trip hazard.

Response: To date no response received

- complaint from a lady who lives in Maesteg. 20 Wood Street, CF34 9BB. There is spare ground outside her property what was full of Japanese Knotweed. The council have accepted it as their land as they have twice been out to treat it, last time was about 4 years ago. They treated it twice, told her it needs to be treated 3 times but never came back. She has tried to chase this herself with no luck, keeps getting passed to different people, covid hasn't helped. They haven't done a very good job as the knot weed is now spreading and growing in her garden, her worry is she would never be able to sell her property and it will be massively devalued. I was asked if I could do anything to help or she will have to go to a solicitor. She has been told it was parks and playing fields who attempted to treat the knotweed. Obviously, she is very upset and worried about this situation.

Response: Thank you for your e-mail. We have passed this information onto our Parks Superintendent for his attention.

- Rats Greenfield Street, Maesteg

Response: Unfortunately, the residents would need to contact ourselves to book this pest control call in as we are required to go through certain triage questions before a call can be raised, we cannot send out the pest control team without their permission.

- The rubberised soft flooring in the Garth Welfare Park children's play area has various areas which need repair

Response: to date no response received

- Foul smelling bin on Commercial Street, Maesteg. The smell in the street coming from that bin is unbelievable, swarming with flies. You can smell it across the road. I opened the bin to see the problem, it's full of black backs. The stench when I opened it took my breath away, they are obviously filling it full of discarded food. At the least they need educating, it's unbearable for anyone living nearby

Response: We have arranged for our Cleaner Streets Education Officer to visit the area.

RESOLVED: Clerk to chase outstanding referrals

41. **COMPLAINT OF BUILD UP OF ALGAE & LITTER ALONG LLYNFI RIVER**

Received a telephone call from a resident who is complaining of the following that can be seen from the bridge on Ewenny Road:

- that there is a buildup of algae on both sides of the River Llynfi – this has been reported to NRW

Response from NRW: Thank you for your report of algae in the river Llynfi. I attended site and observed some moss on the river bed and small amounts of algae. There wasn't a large build up when I attended site as described in the report, which may be due to the recent rainfall. I checked for any pollution inputs and did not find any. With algae, it is difficult to tell if it is a natural occurrence due to dry weather or because of nutrient enrichment in the watercourse from diffuse pollution sources, although it is often a combination of the two. There may be high levels of nutrients in the river from diffuse sources such as agriculture, or misconnections in the area. As there was no evident pollution in the river, there isn't anything further that we can do regarding this specific event, but we do have a number of projects in the area to improve water quality and tackle pollution inputs. We do carry out proactive farm visits to reduce nutrient runoff from farms, and we also have a misconnections project in Bridgend CBC with the council and Welsh Water, so we will keep an eye on this area and continue to undertake surveys and tackle these issues when we find them. Please continue to report any pollution incidents you see so that they can be investigated

- there is a buildup of rubbish in the river – this has been reported to Llynfi Rivercare group

Response from Rivercare Group: Thank you for your report of litter in the river Llynfi, this will be cleared as part of our routine litter clearing sessions.

RESOLVED: to note the information

42. CANCER RESEARCH STREET COLLECTION

We have in the past been fortunate to use Maesteg Town Council Chamber as a base for our Street Collection where one member is present at all times for others to register and collect materials for this purpose.

We have received a permit from Bridgend County Borough Council for our collection which is being held in Maesteg on Friday/Saturday 17/18 June. We would therefore like to request the use of the chamber from 9am to 4pm on the Friday and 9am to 1pm on the Saturday if possible.

I look forward to hearing from you in the hope of a favourable response.

Clerk has advised - currently we do not have access to the front of the building and Western Power have yet to advise how long the works will take. We can provide access on the Friday via the rear of the building however the Saturday will be difficult (I can ask one of the key holders if they can let you in on the Saturday)

Members discussed the request and Cllr R Martin agreed to open the building on Saturday 18th June 2022 for the Cancer Research Street Collection.

RESOLVED: Cllr R Martin to open the building on Saturday 18th June 2022 for the Cancer Research Street Collection.

43. LLYNFI ROAD APC TOILET DAMAGE

Complaint received that the toilet had been removed and there was a trolley inside the unit. Clerk forwarded the complaint and photos to JC Decaux who have attended and advised that the toilet was in the cleaning position and one of their operatives attended to inspect and have rectified these issues.

A member advised that it is showing closed on the unit and a member of public tried to access the toilet and it kept the 20p and said closed.

Chair of Finance asked if there was a confirmed date of when the contract due to end?

Clerk advised that we had advised JC Decaux that we were cancelling the contract in January 2022 and that there was an 18 month cancellation clause, Clerk will check if they have given a date.

RESOLVED: Clerk to contact JC Decaux and ask them:

- to inspect the unit and resolve the closed message
- to enquire when the contract ends.

44. CHRISTMAS 2022

BCBC would like to allocate a sum to Maesteg Town Council as a contribution towards their Christmas events programme, this could be used for some form of event and/or towards enhanced Christmas lights for the town centre.

Alternatively, you may wish to consider other ideas to help the people and businesses of Maesteg celebrate Christmas in their town centre.

In order to offer a financial contribution, Bridgend CBC may need to apply for Welsh Government funding so an early indication of the event/initiative and contribution costs you will need and how any event will be delivered would be helpful.

Members discussed the generous offer from BCBC and agreed that the Events Committee need to start discussing Christmas 2022. Members felt that the Santa Selfie Grotto worked well in 2021.

Members also requested that the Projects Committee also meet to discuss further projects.

RESOLVED:

- Events Committee to meet
- Projects Committee to meet

45. WI-FI IN CHAMBER

The company have finalised the route with the BCBC Conservation Officer and will not require listed building consent. However, the finalised route will need to go through the Chamber door (to the immediate left when entering the front of the building), a locksmith was required as we couldn't find the key for the door. He managed to get the lock out and is unable to source a replacement as they are no longer in production.

Following a site meeting with the BCBC Conservation Officer a compromise has been made and the locksmith is at the building on 07/06/2022 to resolve the issue.

RESOLVED: to note the information

46. PUBLIC TOILETS – REQUEST FROM CLLR G THOMAS

With the council agreeing to terminate the contract for the supply of toilets in the main carpark, it is essential that the council consider alternative provision of public amenities before this facility is removed. I would like to propose that the council look into converting the store room downstairs in the basement (the one adjacent to the current toilet, which has outside access) into a public toilet facility. With the facilities in the next room, it should be relatively cost effective to convert given we will be saving over 40K a year on the existing contract, and we now have a new storage facility at Heol-ty-Gwyn. This would provide much needed permanent amenities in the market square and the nearby bus station. Please can I request that the property committee meet and add this to their agenda at their earliest convenience.

Clerk advised that once the Town Hall re-opens there will be public conveniences available during opening hours. Additionally, should Maesteg Town Council decide to

transform the outside store room into public toilets then Listed Building Consent would be required.

Members agreed for the Property, H&S Committee to look into this.

RESOLVED: Property, H&S Committee to meet to discuss.

47. COMPLAINT

Complaint from a resident that has mobility problems and needed to go into the framing shop and most of the free spaces are taken up by council that work in the office and could not park anywhere near the shop employees that are working in the street by the framing. The council employees should be encouraged to use the free car parking in Maesteg.

Clerk advised that none of the MTC employees park on the main road and that the complaint should be directed to BCBC.

RESOLVED: to note the information

48. BUS SHELTER OUTSIDE 46/47 BETHANIA STREET

The new owner of the property at 46/47 Bethania Street has contacted Cllr R Penhale-Thomas regarding the bus shelter directly in front of the property which is causing issues.

BCBC tell me it belongs to Maesteg Town Council.

Can we seek an agreement in principle that it can be removed so long as it's in a more suitable location along the bus route?

Members deliberated this request including where could the shelter be moved to? Clerk advised that BCBC and First Cymru would need to be consulted as it is linked to the bus route. It was **agreed** to consult BCBC and get costings for moving the shelter to another bus stop along the route. Once costings are agreed, Maesteg West members should visit the area to look into an alternative location and to consult with the residents.

RESOLVED: Clerk to enquire with BCBC for costings to move the shelter to another suitable location along the bus route.

49. GRANT MONEY BCBC - OUTSTANDING MONEY OWED TO BCBC FROM 2014

BCBC have advised as an update, the new Transforming Towns, placemaking programme is not yet active. We are hopeful that in the coming weeks we will be in a position to proceed with the programme and I will let you know as soon as I have further information.

In the meantime, I do need to bring to your attention an outstanding historic debt against the Locals Authority that was picked up during our evaluation of the Town Council's application.

From what I can ascertain an invoice (Ref- EPHWI07996) was raised 12 October 2018 for £29,436.63 which related to a pelican crossing project at the Garth and works associated with the projects design, construction, and services. This remains outstanding.

I appreciate that you may not be aware of this project and thus the associated debt, yet in order for us to go forward with any potential grant aid, a way forward needs to be agreed the existing debt.

Clerk has advised BCBC that previously members were advising that the debt had been paid as it was BCBC share of the costs that remained

Members discussed this outstanding debt and the Clerk advised that the crossing had been installed in 2014 and no paperwork could be found apart from a number of discussions at full council meetings from 2011 onwards. Clerk also advised that MTC were unable to locate the finance files for 2014 and are unable to trace back with the bank any further than 5 years. It was **agreed** that the Chair of Finance contact BCBC to resolve the issue.

RESOLVED: Chair of Finance contact BCBC

50. AGENDA ITEM 9 - CO-OPTION VACANCY

Members were provided with 3 applications for the co-option vacancy for Maesteg West Ward. Clerk read out all the applications at the meeting.

APPLICANT 1 – JOHN HUGHES

Please receive this letter as an application for the vacancy of Councillor for the Maesteg West Ward.

I set out below the three elements that were noted in the advert, placed on the Maesteg Town Council website:

The contribution that I believe I could make to the work of Maesteg Town Council

- An understanding of the procedures of meetings of a Town Council; Experience as a Community Councillor with Llangynwyd Middle Community Council – for the period June 2018 to May 2022 – having also undertaken the role of Chairperson for the period October 2019 to May 2021 and Vice-Chairperson for the period May 2021 to May 2022.
- An understanding of the financial administration of a Town Council; Local Government financial experience – a Chartered Accountant with 23 years' post qualification experience in public sector finance and accounting (plus additional experience beginning April 1987).

- An understanding of working in the public sector – in particular Borough and Community Councils;
I have been an employee of Bridgend County Borough Council since April 1996 and, prior to that, an employee of Ogwr Borough Council (from April 1987 to March 1996) – in that time I have worked in a variety of roles and obtained experience in senior positions in finance and public sector administration.
- An understanding of local government legislation and administrative practices;
As a Senior Accountant, within Bridgend County Borough Council, my role was to interpret statute and case law for the financial benefit of the County Borough Council.
- An understanding of employment law, practices and procedures;
Experience gained as a senior trade union representative for over 30 years.

The personal qualities that I would bring to the role of Maesteg Town Councillor

- A commitment to representing the needs of the electorate of Maesteg;
Experience of representing the electorate of Llangynwyd Middle Community Council;
Experience of representing Unison (and formerly NALGO) members since 1987 – at Branch, Regional and National levels – I am currently a member of the Convenor Group and Regional Treasurer for the Cymru Wales Region of Unison and Vice-Chair of the Chief Officers' and Senior Managers' Committee at national level (and sit on the Service Group Executive and National Joint Council for Unison).
- Communication and presentation skills to express needs of local residents during meetings and become a voice for the Community and the Town Council;
Experience of advocating on behalf of members of a trade union.
- Financial acumen;
A Chartered Accountant with 23 years' experience of public sector finance and accounting.
- Interpersonal skills;
Experience in negotiating, empathy and understanding,

My availability for attending meetings

- I would be able to attend meetings of the full council and any sub-committee that I would be nominated / elected to;
Experience of on-line virtual meeting applications – e.g. Teams, Zoom, Skype, GoToMeetings, Google.

Reasons for wanting to sit on Maesteg Town Council

- As I hope I have set-out, I am an advocate for giving something back and working for the community.
- I wish to be able to contribute further to the electorate and citizens of Maesteg and those of the Llynfi Valley.

Yours faithfully,

John Hughes
(signed and sent via e-mail)

AND CV:

A Chartered Accountant, working in the public sector, with 23 years' post-qualifying experience and a Registered Welfare Officer, with 17 years' post-qualifying experience. I am a senior local government professional with a wealth of experience spanning finance and administration (e.g. electoral services); together with considerable direct experience of trade union participation at local, regional and national levels. I have a thorough respect for the concept of local democracy.

Participation in organisations / political or social activity

Labour Party – delegate to the Ogmore Executive Committee; formerly Treasurer, Llynfi Valley Branch.

Co-operative Party – National Executive Committee member; Wales Executive Committee member; former Secretary to the Ogmore Constituency Party (now merged).

Trade Union Activities

Unison – currently Cymru Wales Treasurer and a member of the Cymru Wales Convenor Group of Unison; National Vice-Chair of the Chief Officers' and Senior Managers' Committee; National Service Group Executive Committee member; National Joint Council member; Cymru / Wales Local Government Committee member; 34 years' experience as a branch activist.

The Co-operative Group

National Members' Council – elected member for the Cymru / Wales constituency; member of the National Members' Council Senate; Chairperson of the Member Value and Business Performance Committee; member of the Non-Executive Directors' Fees Committee.

School Governing Bodies

Garth Primary School and Plasnewydd Primary School.

Directorships – current and previous

Bridgend Lifesavers Credit Union – Board Director and Anti-Money-Laundering Officer.
Llamau Limited – former director of a homelessness charity for women and young people.

Professional Qualifications and membership

Fellow of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants;
Fellow of the Association of Accounting Technicians;
Member of the Institute of Welfare – with the Diploma in Welfare Studies.

John Hughes

APPLICANT 2 – KYLE DUGGAN

I am writing regarding the Vacancy for Maesteg West.

During the lockdowns I have organised litter picking groups in areas that were identified as a problem for litter, which I continue to do by myself in problem areas. I also ran a personal online campaign on Facebook to support local businesses which are assets to our community. I have lived in the area for most of my life and have grown up here and am now raising a family of my own.

As a former Bridgend Youth Council and Maesteg Town Council councillor for Nantyffyllon I feel I can bring experience and a different point of view to the council. In 2007 I was awarded a Respect award for taking a stand as a forum leader for Anti-bullying on the Youth Council.

I have also volunteered and worked in customer service based services, working for BCBC as a youth worker and the Bridgend Mentoring Plus Scheme as a mentor. Although I now work in the finance sector, I am customer service based and I find pragmatic solutions to problems in my every day work.

I have a passion for sustainability and currently in dialogue to see how community orchards will benefit Maesteg as a whole. I have also submitted a motion to my political party which will hopefully be debated at our national conference solidifying the need and benefits they bring to communities. Currently I am developing a social media group with sustainability in mind to engage the public and businesses to work together county wide to ensure less goes to landfill.

As a younger person involved in politics it is vital that our voice and ideas for our communities are heard to ensure and encourage the younger generation, they can make a difference.

I will be able to attend evening meetings although I work some evenings in the week, I will be able to try and arrange time of to ensure my attendance.

APPLICANT 3 – GWYN WILLIAMS

My name is Gwyn Williams and I have lived in the Maesteg area for most of my life. Initially from Nantyffyllon, I now reside in the Maesteg West area. I narrowly missed out on being elected in May in the Nantyffyllon area and would be keen to represent the area in which I now live within. I am formally expressing an interest in the available seat for co-option on to Maesteg Town Council as an Independent member.

I believe I am in a suitable position in which to apply for such a vacancy by already being an active member within the Llynfi Valley community. I am a member of a local choir, volunteer at a local level with community projects and have my own allotment plots. I enjoy keeping active and walking within the community, and on such walks, I have a keen eye for identifying little aspects which could make a significant difference for the betterment of people's lives who reside within our valley.

I am a passionate member of the community who wants the best for the community in which I live and the people I reside alongside. I believe I can make a difference to the community if co-opted on to Maesteg Town Council with regular attendance and input at council meetings by putting forward ideas in which could benefit the wider Llynfi Valley as a whole.

If members put their trust and confidence in me, I can assure you wholeheartedly that I will give my all in contributing locally to help my fellow colleagues and local constituents. I promise to not just represent Maesteg West but to work hard with colleagues across the Llynfi Valley area to make Maesteg a better place for all to live from Caerau down to Maesteg. Thank you for taking the time in considering my letter of application

Members discussed the 3 applications and voted on the co-option with the following results:

Name	Vote	Name	Vote
Cllr F Abedalkarim	John Hughes	Cllr C Knight	Gwyn Williams
Cllr R Collins	John Hughes	Cllr R Martin	John Hughes
Cllr A R Davies	Gwyn Williams	Cllr R Penhale-Thomas	Gwyn Williams
Cllr C Davies	Gwyn Williams	Cllr M Rowlands	Gwyn Williams
Cllr P Davies	John Hughes	Cllr G Thomas	Gwyn Williams
Cllr A James	Gwyn Williams	Cllr L Thomas	Gwyn Williams
Cllr P Jenkins	Gwyn Williams	Cllr I Williams	Gwyn Williams

Result:

Name	Votes	Co-opted
John Hughes	4 votes	
Kyle Duggan	0 votes	
Gwyn Williams	10 votes	Co-Opted

Following the vote, Gwyn Williams has been co-opted to Maesteg West Ward.

RESOLVED: Clerk to complete the co-option paperwork

51. AGENDA ITEM 10

TO CONSIDER CLLR P JENKINS REQUESTS

1. Please place on agenda, to discuss Mayor's Ball 2021/22 plus Mayor's (Charity) ball for 22/23.

Clerk advised: There will not be a ball for Mayors Charity 2021-22 as there was not a Mayor's Charity committee – there hasn't been a Mayor's Charity committee since past Councillor Steve Smith was Mayor in 2019 – 20. Any decisions to hold a Mayor's Charity Ball is for the Mayor's Charity to decide as they are a separate entity to Maesteg Town Council and is not administered by Maesteg Town

Council, therefore any decisions to hold a ball is not one that Maesteg Town Council can make.

Should the new Mayor wish to re-instate a Mayor's Charity Committee that would be for them to decide and to contact the old committee for advice and a copy of the committee's constitution.

Cllr Jenkins advised that he felt that a Mayors Ball should be discussed as a good event for the community.

Members **agreed** to add this to the Events Committee to discuss

2. Please can I borrow the gazeboes for my great-granddaughter's 1st birthday in June, if agreed could the CMO deliver them.

Cllr Jenkins advised he would like to rescind this request, however members discussed that there should be a policy for renting out the gazeboes that includes the necessary insurance / damage / H&S.

Clerk advised that in the past the gazeboes were given to community groups to use/rent free of charge and that it was the groups responsibility to collect and return the gazeboes. It was **agreed** that the Property, H&S Committee to discuss a rental policy.

3. Having just seen on Facebook Cllr Ross Thomas at Side rise congratulating them on investment and expansion, in our valley, would you send on behalf of council our thanks for their investment and commitment to our valley. Furthermore, would welcome talks on any further community involvement they may have in the. Future plus should they wish, the Mayor would be more than happy to attend any event they have planned.

Members discussed this request and **agreed** that the Mayor should send a letter on behalf of the Town Council thanking them for their commitment to the valley.

RESOLVED:

1. Events Committee to discuss a Mayors Ball.
2. Property, H&S Committee to discuss a rental policy for renting gazeboes.
3. Mayor to write letter to Siderise on behalf of the Council.

52. AGENDA ITEM 11

TO CONSIDER MAYOR CLLR A JAMES REQUEST

Please place on agenda, to consider raising the budget for the Ward Specific Funds from £5,000 to £10,000 for 2022-23

Clerk advised that the Ward Specific Funds was created for wards to use on fly tipping removal and to enhance their areas for the benefit of the community. The amount decided was agreed at the budget meeting.

Members queried the following:

- why only for 1 year?
 - General request to see if Wards could use further money
- concerns on £40K out of budget
- deviations to the budget set should be discussed by Finance Committee
- will be having an in-depth audit for 2022/23
- all spend is authorised by Council with invoices received and paid in the same way as other payments. The only difference is that the ward members have to agree to the Ward spend before any works can be carried out.

RESOLVED: Finance Committee to discuss

53. FINANCIAL APPLICATIONS

Members were provided with application forms from the following organisations:

1. MAESTEG MILLENNIUM GROUP 99

Date on form = 24/04/2022

Telephone call received 11/05/2022 to enquire when the grant funding would be agreed as they sent the form recorded delivery at the end of April, Deputy Clerk advised that due to the works outside the building the postmen were unable to deliver post, Deputy Clerk walked over to the Royal Mail sorting office who provided a bundle of undelivered letters. The sorting office advised that if we wanted mail redelivered there would be a cost for this as they are unable to deliver to another property.

Request £480 grant. To assist in financing a local street party for the Queen's Jubilee on 5th June 2022. Have not applied for S137 before and have not included a bank statement.

The application had the group name of Maesteg Millennium Group, however when requesting a bank statement, they advised that there was no such group just a couple of street residents. A number of emails were sent to and forth with the organiser as the application did not arrive at Maesteg Town Council until 11th May 2022. It was also noted that on social media they were charging for children to attend the party.

Unfortunately, the application does not fulfil the requirement of the policy as Maesteg Town Council are unable to pay grants to individuals. It has to be paid to a community organisation with a constitution and bank account.

RESOLVED: the application does not fulfil criteria of the policy and no grant awarded.

2. CAERAU ATHLETIC BOWLS CLUB

Date on form = 20/05/2022

Request £500 grant to assist in financing team shirts. Have not applied for S137 before and have included a bank statement.

Members queried whether Maesteg Town Council should also be requesting copies of receipts for the grant to be spent on and it was **agreed** that the Finance Committee should look at the policy.

RESOLVED:

1. Council donates the sum of £500 under Section 137 of the Local Government Act (as amended) to Caerau Athletic Bowls Club
2. Finance Committee to look at the policy

54. DELEGATES REPORT

No delegates reports received.

RESOLVED: To note the information

55. Given the nature of the business and the discussion on recruitment processes it was decided to exclude the public from the meeting as per

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'

57. RESOLVED: THAT THE COUNCIL COME OUT OF COMMITTEE

58. PLANNING

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

The following applications had **No Objections**:

Ref: P/22/287/FUL

Applicant: Mr B Preece

Location: 3 Cwmcwryn Cottages Maesteg CF34 9PT

Proposal: Remove conservatory; construct single storey side/front extension to link with front porch; new windows to porch

Ask for: David Netherwood

Ref: P/22/250/FUL
Applicant: Mr S Hill
Location: Maes Yr Haf Keir Hardie Road Maesteg CF34 9NG
Proposal: Single storey annex with glazed link to dwelling; single storey front extension
Ask for: Lee Evans

Ref: P/22/345/FUL
Applicant: Mr J Witts
Location: 61 Bethania Street Maesteg CF34 9ET
Proposal: Demolition of a single storey side and rear extension and its replacement with a two storey side/rear extension
Ask for: Julie Earp

Ref: P/22/283/FUL
Applicant: Mrs N Rees
Location: 2 South Parade Maesteg CF34 0AB
Proposal: Retention of boundary wall
Ask for: David Netherwood

Members **Supported** the following application;

Ref: P/22/243/FUL
Applicant: Garth Primary School
Location: Garth Primary School Mission Road Garth Maesteg CF34 0ND
Proposal: 2no. shipping containers for the Big Bocs Bwyd shop project and meeting space
Ask for: Lee Evans

RESOLVED: To note the information.

Minutes emailed to all Councillors to Read on 8th June 2022

**Minutes accepted at a Hybrid meeting of the Council
held on 5th July 2022**

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Mayor