

**MAESTEG TOWN COUNCIL
PROJECTS COMMITTEE**

Minutes of a **HYBRID** meeting of the **Projects Committee** was held remotely via Microsoft Teams and at the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Talbot Street, Maesteg, on **Tuesday, 12th July 2022.**

PRESENT:

COUNCILLORS: **A James (Mayor)**
 K Edwards, R Penhale-Thomas and G Thomas

APOLOGIES for absence received from Councillor M Rowlands

109. TO REVIEW PREVIOUS AND OUTSTANDING PROJECTS AGREED PRIOR TO MAY 2022

Members were provided with the following projects committee meeting minutes:

Projects Committee - Monday, 19th October 2020.

Traffic & Transportation - Wednesday, 4th November 2020

Projects Committee - Tuesday, 20th April 2021.

1. Speed Traffic Survey Recommendations

Speed surveys were completed by BCBC and a report was given to MTC
Members noted that this item is complete.

2. Bus Subsidy for Maesteg Park Circular Service

It was agreed to include Caerau, Garth, Maesteg Park and Llangynwyd and for the Clerk and Cllr R Penhale-Thomas to look into costings for a bus subsidy with a local bus contractor.

Still outstanding as the pandemic halted the meetings.

Cllr R Penhale-Thomas advised that this hadn't progressed due to the pandemic, however the issue was still prevalent to the residents that feel isolated from the town centre. BCBC originally removed the bus subsidy from Service 37 that cost approximately £30K/year for a 6-day service. Welsh Government are also pushing for more resident to use public transport, however the facility for this here in the Llynfi Valley is minimal with an unreliable train service and continued reduction in bus services.

Cllr Penhale-Thomas **proposed** and was seconded by Cllr A James that the committee **recommend** to full council to seek expression of interest from local

bus companies to provide a reduced service for maybe 25 – 50 % of the original bus route 37.

3. Road Safety Measures within the Town Council boundary

1) Heol Ty Gwyn

Average Speed Camera system with an initial outlay for equipment is £77,098.88 with a maintenance and service costs of approximately £4,585.60 per annum.

Please see attached email from Sarah Frampton BCBC and Cllr G Thomas advising that the scheme is still undecided by Welsh Government and SW Police

Cllr G Thomas advised that currently BCBC Traffic & Transportation are waiting on SW Police as they have a backlog with their ICT to link these cameras to their ICT and have yet to give a definitive timescale but were looking at approximately 6 months. Once this backlog is completed, we can then look at proceeding with the project. Cllr G Thomas also advised that the original quotes were quoted 2+ years ago and that there may be an increased cost due to inflation.

Cllr G Thomas **proposed** and was seconded by Cllr A James that we wait for SW Police and BCBC.

2) Caerau / Cymmer Hill

- i) Introducing a new gateway along Cymmer Hill whereby the road marking and speed changes at a cost of **£7,532.00**
- ii) Installing a VAS double bend sign on Cymmer Hill at a cost of **£9,656.11**

Members noted that this project had been completed.

3) Nantyffyllon Play Area

Installing ARMCO barrier outside Nantyffyllon Play area at a cost of **£20,000.00**

Armco barrier installed = works Completed

Members noted that this project had been completed.

110. TO DISCUSS FUTURE PROJECTS

- 1) Cllr K Edwards had provided the following request prior to the meeting: to discuss the possibility of a memorial to the mining community of this valley to be sited at the welfare park, given the difficulty being experienced in accessing the keeper of the colliery which generates much interest a fitting memorial sited in the park I believe is something sadly lacking in the valley.

The woodcarver who carved the keeper has recently done a magnificent job on a memorial in Nantymoel with some of the cost being met by coalfield regeneration

Clerk has contacted Ogmore Valley Community Council but they have yet to reply.

Cllr K Edwards advised that this is something that is lacking from this community whereby the community was built on the mining past. Cllr K Edwards advised he has spoken to the wood carver who advised that he could incorporate the coal dram at the front of the building into a fitting memorial to the mining history. He stated that for £10K we could get a good memorial but for £20K we could get something spectacular.

Members questioned the need for permission from BCBC and the Friends of Maesteg Welfare Park to install a memorial in Maesteg Welfare Park, and the financial regulations whereby we would need a minimum of 3 tender quotes for the work although it is suspected that this kind of project would require a specialist tradesperson. It was also noted that there may be grants available from the Coalfield Regeneration fund.

Members agreed to **recommend** to full council to research the costings and permissions needed for this project.

- 2) Cllr F Abedalkarim emailed the Clerk with the following project request:
I would like to ask the council members to talk about new project to install two modern up to date bus shelters in commercial street. (Photos for recommended places attached within the email)

Members discussed this request as MTC have a number of bus shelters that were inherited from Maesteg Urban District Council. Members believe this was looked at previously (a number of years ago) when BCBC regenerated Commercial Street and this was not progressed due to the aesthetics of the regeneration. Members also felt that this would be a good project to provide shelter from the weather at these bus stops.

Members agreed to **recommend** to full council that we look into the costings and permissions needed for this project.

- 3) Cllr F Abedalkarim emailed the Clerk with the following project request:
I would like to ask the members to discuss the idea of creating a new soft play area on the green next to bridge street and the side of commercial street for soft children rides like the play area outside the Celtic club.

Members discussed this request and Cllr K Edwards advised that prior to the May election BCBC were considering utilising this land for allotments although no final agreement had been made. Additionally, members queried the whether the location being next to a main road was a good place for a play area. Members agreed to **recommend** to full council that MTC ask BCBC what they plan to do with this land.

- 4) Cllr G Thomas requested that MTC look at all the play areas within our boundary and the possibility of CAT whereby BCBC bring the play area up to standard and MTC obtain the maintenance and upkeep via CAT.

Members discussed this as BCBC have previously advised that they will continue to update and maintain the play parks within the Borough. Additionally, the Labour party manifesto for the May Elections included that they would update all play areas.

Members agreed to **recommend** to full council that we contact the BCBC Cabinet Member for Communities to ascertain which play areas within MTC boundary will be updated and whether they would be consider the CAT of a smaller play area for MTC to maintain in the future.

- 5) Cllr G Thomas advised members that the recent Keeper of the Colliery run was a success and engaged with many residents including a few who ran the 5km with pushchairs. There is an opportunity for the Council to develop this further. Members discussed this and **agreed** that this would be for the Events Committee to discuss and to start planning the event for next year.

111. RECOMMENDATIONS TO FULL COUNCIL

1. Contact local bus companies for expression of interest in reinstating bus route 37 at a reduced service of 25 – 50 % of the original route for a trial.
2. Wait for SW Police and BCBC for progressing the average speed camera project at Heol Ty Gwyn.
3. Research the permissions and costings for a memorial to the mining history to be placed into Maesteg Welfare Park
4. Ask BCBC if bus shelters can be placed at these bus stops on Commercial Street and at what cost.
5. Ask BCBC what they plan to do with the land between Bridge Street and Commercial Street.
6. BCBC Cabinet Member for Communities to ascertain which play areas within MTC boundary will be updated and whether they would be consider the CAT of a smaller play area for MTC to maintain in the future.
7. Events Committee to agenda the Keeper of the Colliery run for next year

Minutes emailed to all Councillors to Read on 12th July 2022

**Minutes accepted at a Hybrid meeting of the Council
held on 2nd August 2022**

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Mayor

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