

**MAESTEG TOWN COUNCIL
COUNCIL MEETING**

Minutes of a HYBRID meeting of the **FULL COUNCIL** held at the Council Meeting Room, Council Offices, Talbot Street, Maesteg and remotely via Microsoft Teams and, on **Tuesday, 2nd August 2022**

PRESENT:

COUNCILLORS:

A James (Mayor)

F Abedalkarim, AR Davies, C Davies, P Davies,
K Edwards, P Jenkins, C Knight, R Martin, M Rowlands,
G Thomas, L Thomas, G Williams and I Williams

APOLOGIES were received from Cllr R Collins, Cllr R Penhale-Thomas and South Wales Police

DECLARATION OF INTEREST:

Cllrs P Jenkins, C Davies and P Davies declared an interest in items relating to Bridgend County Borough Council.

Cllr C Davies, P Davies and A James declared an interest in items relating to Nantyffyllon Primary School.

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

Cllr M Rowlands declared an interest in items relating to Noddfa Community Centre and Llynfi BMX Club

146. POLICE MATTERS

South Wales Police sent their apologies so were not in attendance at the meeting, however, the following Crime figures were provided:

Maesteg Crime Statistics for July 2022

	Caerau / Nanty	Maesteg East	Maesteg West	Llan	Total in category
Robbery	0	0	0	0	0
Drugs	3	0	1	0	4
Dwelling burglary	1	1	0	0	2
Burglary other	1	0	0	0	1
Theft of vehicle	0	0	0	0	0
Theft from vehicle	0	0	1	0	1
All other theft	3	2	2	0	7
Damage	5	1	3	2	11

Violence against the person	17(7)	14(5)	14	2	47(12)
Domestic related occurrences	7	5	2	1	15
All crime total	30	18	21	4	73
Anti-social behaviour total	18	3	7	1	29
Drink Driving	0	0	0	1	1

RESOLVED: to note the information

147. MAYORAL EVENTS

The Mayor advised that he attended the following events:

- 10th July – Keeper of the Colliery fun run alongside Cllrs F Abedalkarim, G Thomas and L Thomas
- 17th July – BMX Bike Club Event
- 22nd July – Golden Wedding Anniversary
- 29th July – Maesteg Cricket Club 175th Anniversary
- 29th July – Golden Wedding Anniversary

RESOLVED: to note the information

148. MINUTES

All of the below minutes were sent via email, however there was a printing error and not all minutes were provided in hard copy before the meeting, those not provided in hard copy will be printed for the next Full Council meeting in September 2022.

- **Full Council** – 05/07/2022 emailed 08/07/2022
- **Full Council (Confidential)** – 05/07/2022 emailed 11/07/2022
- **Projects Committee** – 12/07/2022 emailed 12/07/2022
- **Extraordinary Council** – 14/07/2022 emailed 14/07/2022
- **Finance Committee** – 14/07/2022 emailed 15/07/2022
- **Finance Confidential minutes** – 14/07/2022 emailed 15/07/2022
- **Communications Committee** – 19/07/2022 emailed
- **Extraordinary Committee (Confidential)** – 20/07/2022 emailed 21/07/2022
- **Personnel Committee (Confidential)** – 20/07/2022 emailed 21/07/2022

The Following Minutes;

- **Full Council** – 05/07/2022 emailed 08/07/2022

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

- **Projects Committee** – 12/07/2022 emailed 12/07/2022

copies of which had been circulated to Members, were read, accepted as a true record, all recommendations were discussed and a member raised the question to recommendation 6 whereby BCBC have already promised to refurbish all 107 play areas and it is prudent to ask which play areas fall with the MTC boundary. Following this request, they were read, agreed and accepted as a true record and signed by the Mayor.

- **Finance Committee** – 14/07/2022 emailed 15/07/2022

The Chair of Finance noticed that under the attendance, the Chair had been listed as the Mayor and not the Chair, Clerk advised this would be changed before the Mayor signs the minutes. The rest of the minutes were read, accepted as a true record.

Members discussed the recommendations and a vote was requested for the following recommendation:

1. Council to oppose the request to raise Ward Funds to £10K and keep the ward fund to £5K with the following vote:

Cllr	For/Against	Cllr	For/Against
F Abedalkarim	For	C Knight	Against
AR Davies	Against	R Martin	Against
C Davies	Against	M Rowlands	Against
P Davies	Against	G Thomas	For
K Edwards	For	L Thomas	For
A James	Against	G Williams	Against
P Jenkins	For	I Williams	For

Results:

8 Against the recommendation

6 For the recommendation

Following the above result the recommendation was not accepted and it was agreed to raise the Ward fund to £10K for 1 year.

Members discussed the remaining recommendations whereby regarding recommendation 5 the Chair of Finance advised members:

During the last finance meeting one of the recommendations to council was that we tender the position of internal auditor and create a new contract. On reflection and after discussion with our “current” auditor Mr W Davies, I would like to propose an amendment to the recommendation to be discussed in full council.

Given our recent financial situation and the difficulties experienced with our previous auditor, I would like to propose the town council enlists the services of Mr W Davies again for next year as our internal auditor on a single tender. Given the current position, the superb support offered by Mr W Davies, and his close relationship with Audit Wales, I think the council should leverage his help for the next year where we are expecting a full and thorough Audit Wales visit. Mr W Davies has offered his services for a 6monthly spot check, and then a full audit at year end to be presented in person by himself to full council, and the cost would be £450 which is 30% less than our previous auditors fees.

I do not believe it is in the council’s interest to tender this work at this point in time with the difficult times ahead we really need someone who has knowledge of our accounts and processes and who can help rebuild confidence in the councils’ finances.

All other recommendations were read, agreed and accepted as a true record and signed by the Mayor.

- **Communications Committee** – 19/07/2022 emailed minutes were read, accepted as a true record. Members discussed the recommendations and the following queries were raised:

(b) Finance committee to review ITCS contract. - the Chair of Finance queried why this would be for the Finance Committee as the Communications Committee would surely look at the content of the contract. It was agreed that the Communications Committee would look into the service provision and content of the contract.

(d) Maesteg Town Council to trial operating a Facebook page for 6 months and then review the performance/public response– members queried the timescale for this to be implemented due to the current Court Case. It was **agreed** to implement this recommendation in a few months' time.

All other recommendations were agreed and the minutes signed by the Mayor.

- **Extraordinary Committee (Confidential)** – 20/07/2022 emailed 21/07/2022 A member queried the wording of sentence to which the Clerk will revisit the meeting notes and recording.

- **Personnel Committee (Confidential)** – 20/07/2022 emailed 21/07/2022 Given the nature of the minutes and recommendations to be discussed it was decided to exclude the public from the meeting as per

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'

THAT THE COUNCIL COME OUT OF COMMITTE

The Following Minutes;

- **Full Council Confidential minutes** – 05/07/2022 emailed 11/07/2022
- **Extraordinary Council** – 14/07/2022 emailed 14/07/2022
- **Finance Confidential minutes** – 14/07/2022 emailed 15/07/2022

Hard copies will be printed and minutes agreed at next full council meeting in September.

MATTERS ARISING

149. MINUTE 66

MINUTES - RECOMMENDATIONS TO FULL COUNCIL FROM EVENTS COMMITTEE

1. 15/07/22: emailed EPM Creative about costings to Santa Selfie Grotto for Christmas 2022
2. Contact Caerau Menshed to collaborate a santa sleigh through the valley again for Christmas 2022.
3. 15/07/22: emailed BCBC market square manager for use of the market square for a food fayre for Christmas 2022.
4. Contact shared regulatory services for the food safety requirements of organising a Christmas food fayre for 2022.
5. Contact SWP for advice in reinstating the Christmas parade for 2022 and a possible route.
6. 15/07/22: emailed Centregreat for costings relating to Christmas tree near High Street, Nantyllyllon.
7. 11/07/22: emailed COGS to ascertain what involvement they require from MTC. – see below Minute 80 for response.

Cllr G Thomas **proposed** and was seconded by Cllr F Abedalkarim that given the success of the fun run, to ask the same company to organise the Christmas Parade for us.

A member commented stating that the last parade that took place was managed by an external company which went very well as they had trained marshals and procedures for road closures. He also added that at the moment a lorry route is not practical due to works on the Town Hall, the turning circles at the bus station aren't adequate but if we are to tender then all this information must be placed in the document.

The member came back on this claiming that the parade is budgeted for and we should proceed with a tender. Another member said that until the Council knows specifically what can be done for the parade then a tender would not be appropriate until we are in receipt of this information. The member countered this claiming that for those reasons we should tender out to professional companies who can see what is feasible.

Members debated further on the practicality of the parade and if the council should approach South Wales Police for advice on the practicalities of proceeding with the parade.

Cllr K Edwards requested an **amendment** and was seconded by Cllr L Thomas for MTC to contact SWP to discuss what is feasible for the parade route before going out to tender.

The following vote took place on the amendment: *'To approach SWP for information on the running of the parade and ask advice on turning circles for lorries and road closures prior to any tender being awarded'*

Cllr	For/Against	Cllr	For/Against
F Abedalkarim	Against	C Knight	Against
AR Davies	Against	R Martin	Against
C Davies	For	M Rowlands	Against
P Davies	Against	G Thomas	Against
K Edwards	For	L Thomas	For
A James	Against	G Williams	For
P Jenkins	For	I Williams	For

Results:

8 Against the amendment

6 For the amendment

Following the above result the amendment falls and the proposal stands.

RESOLVED: MTC to tender the Christmas parade to events management companies'.

150. MINUTE 67

KEEPER OF THE COLLIERY FUN RUN

On the day plan for the fun run including risk assessment forwarded to all Cllrs on 7th July 2022.

Results and photo gallery are on the website <https://keeperofthecolliery.run/>

The following emails of thanks received:

Just wanted to give out a big thank you shout from Porthcawl Runners for Sundays "Keeper of the Colliery" Run.

You hosted another amazing race; unfortunately, the weather was the complete opposite of your last run (where we had biblical rain), and I think this put a lot of people off!

To give you an example, on your last race (2019), we had over 40 runners – this year, we unfortunately only managed 12. I think both the heat and the clashing of other events (post covid has resulted in a lot of races being crammed together) significantly had a drop in numbers.

The course was amazing, and next year, I am sure with some more notice, we can get you some extra marshals volunteering en-route to help along the course.

Thank you again to you and your team for hosting, and I again reiterate that you consider us for the future if you require any help for any future events.

The Mayor, Cllr A James commented stating that the event was very well run and was well attended

RESOLVED: to note the information

**151. MINUTE 68
REFERRALS**

13/07/22: Email sent to BCBC to request a copy of the Structural Engineers report for the Cwrt Y Mwnws bridge

Response from BCBC: I refer to the above and the request for information relating to this bridge.

As has been previously advised we are aware of the issues that have been occurring with the bridge deck, and when notified of the damage as a result of vandalism we have attended and made safe the bridge deck.

In accordance with standard practice this bridge, as well as the 484 other structures the Highway Authority are responsible for, are inspected on a regular basis. These inspections are undertaken by consultants on our behalf, however any issues you wish to raise regarding your concerns would not be for the consultant to consider, it would be one for the Highways Maintenance Department to comment on and consider. I attach a copy of the most recent inspection which indicates no structural defects. There are no issues that have been brought to our attention relating to the structural integrity of the bridge.

Email and report forwarded to all members.

RESOLVED: to note the information

**152. MINUTE 69
REFERRALS**

11/07/22: Email received from Cllr C Davies to advise that he has checked and the grass have been cut around the coal dram Nantyyffyllon.

RESOLVED: to note the information

**153. MINUTE 80
TO DISCUSS GŴYL MAESTEG FESTIVAL**

11/07/22: Email sent to the manager at Tesco with the following:

Thank you for allowing the conditional go ahead of the classic car show in the Tesco Maesteg overflow carpark on the 28th August 2022.

We were advised by Cllr Chris Davies that Tesco just need written permission from the council confirming that things our end are confirmed and the correct insurances and safety measures are in place.

We can confirm that the event is supported by ourselves and have checked with the relevant authorities for running such an event and all have given the green light.

We will be supplying the event with banners, fliers and some bins and our community officer will be available either on the Sunday of or the following Monday just to ensure the area is as kept as prior to the event starting.

Additionally, another email sent to COG's advising of this and to request whether Cllr C Davies is our contact to arrange the printing of posters and banners.

12/07/22: Email received from Cllr C Davies to advise COG's have already ordered the banner and leaflets I thought we were ordering the banner and leaflets and invoicing you sorry

15/7/22: Email received from Cllr C Davies - Will it be possible for MTC to purchase the flyers I will send you the design you just need to add the MTC logo to it the number of flyers requested is 1000 we will sort out the banner.

16/07/22: Email received from Cllr C Davies - Choose which one you prefer and send to the printers we will need 1,000 please

18/07/22: email received from Cllr C Davies - I spoke to the Mayor and he suggests this poster to go to print

18/07/22: Flyers ordered and should be delivered by 19/07/22.

Cllr C Davies mentioned that Tesco have a new manager who has been brought up to speed on the arrangement thus far and will be meeting with him over the coming weeks to confirm the details.

RESOLVED: to note the information

154. MINUTE 81

LIST OF PAYMENTS

07/07/22 MTC CAT GRANT sent to Maesteg Harlequins

07/07/22 40% grant reclaim sent to BCBC CAT Officer and received

13/07/22 VAT Q1 reclaim sent to HMRC and received

RESOLVED: to note the information

155. MINUTE 85

CHRISTOPHER WILLIAMS PAINTINGS

13/07/22: Email sent to BCBC to advise that the paintings were on loan to MTC from BCBC as part of the transfer of the building.

A member stated that the painting in the large room upstairs within the Council Offices, was damaged by BCBC when they placed the painting on the wall and made a repair with sticky tape.

A member queried that because they are only on loan to MTC from BCBC then the costs to refurbish should land be with BCBC? This was confirmed to be true and also requested that BCBC heritage officer should be made aware of the painting ownership and that they are on loan to MTC as part of the asset transfer when MTC took ownership of the building from BCBC.

RESOLVED: to advise the BCBC Building Heritage Officer that the painting ownership; that they are on loan to MTC as part of the asset transfer when MTC took ownership of the building from BCBC.

156. MINUTE 90

ACTIVE 4 LIFE SUMMER HOLIDAY PLAYSCHMES

Received the following email from BCBC and forwarded to all members:

We are looking ok for our scheme based at Maesteg Sports Centre and even looking to extend activities beyond the normal 4 to the full 6 weeks. We have also added some funding to support a range of other things at the site.

We may however have an issue in terms of trying to deliver the same programme as in previous years at Caerau as there have been very limited applications for summer work. We have started a discussion with Matthew Rowlands at Noddfa in terms of whether their youth work staff and colleagues may be able to support a programme - but it may look a little different. Through other grants available we are looking to support Noddfa, Nntyfyllon youth club, Caerau bmx also so it may make sense to ensure it all joins up.

I will keep you informed but wanted you to be aware of this as early as possible. Very few people have expressed an interest in the roles we have advertised which is sad.

RESOLVED: to note the information

157. MINUTE 91

UNADOPTED LANES

Clerk has contacted all T&CC's within Bridgend County Borough and One Voice Wales (OVW) to see what their Town / Community Council policy is for Unadopted Lanes. The following email was sent:

We currently clear fly tipping from them as long as the ward members are happy to use their budget for this.

I am receiving more and more requests to remove overgrowth from these lanes as BCBC won't touch them. I've tried explaining that this is not the responsibility of the Town Council to maintain these lanes and that it is for the residents to check landownership with Land Registry etc, but members are then saying I am being obstructive in not cutting back the overgrowth and that our Community Maintenance Officer should be doing this. Likewise, I have also mentioned that many of these lanes

have severe potholes and that we do not have the expertise or manpower to infill the potholes etc.

Any policy / legislation you can provide that covers why we are not responsible for these lanes would be gratefully received.

Have received the following responses:

Bridgend Town Council from our Facilities Officer.

The Clerk is right – it's not their responsibility if the lane is unadopted and whilst I appreciate the Cllrs want to win votes & get them cleared and tidy up the area they live in, it could end up a huge financial burden on the TC for something that it is not the public's duty to maintain– which is the whole reason why BCBC won't touch them as they don't have the budget to adequately maintain what IS actually maintainable - and by the TC clearing fly-tipping from off what may well actually be private land, could possibly just encourage more fly-tipping as whoever is dumping it will know it'll just get cleared up, with no comeback on them, so they'll do it again.

I would suggest that, perhaps the adopted highway records for BCBC, may not be entirely accurate. Depending on the age of the lanes in question it may always be worth a Clerk double checking with BCBC as to how the highway came into existence in the first place to see if BCBC should actually be doing something about it, but then again I can predict that their answer would now be along the lines that the up to date records are all now held electronically and the old records have all been shredded so they couldn't look it up.

However, I suppose in order to answer the email unsure if BTC has a policy on unadopted lanes?

Coity Higher CC don't have a policy other than we don't clear them.

Garw Valley CC don't have a policy other than we don't clear them.

Llangynwyd Lower CC has never taken responsibility for unadopted lanes and never will.

You correctly state that residents should contact Land Registry and take the matter from there. They may be surprised to see who actually owns them. I believe you will be opening a can of expensive worms if you take responsibility for these lanes.

Llangynwyd Middle CC have not come across the problem yet, but I wouldn't encourage doing it as it will 'open the floodgates'.

Merthyr Mawr CC Thanks for your e-mail, but to my knowledge we do not have any unadopted lanes in the Community Council's area

Pencoed Town Council have no such lanes; however, we have a number of unadopted roads which are the responsibility of contractors who built the estates etc.

Porthcawl Town Council Sorry for the delayed response. We are having the same issue and we currently do not have a policy.

St Brides Minor CC don't have a policy other than we don't clear them.

Response from OVW:

Unadopted lanes are the responsibility of the landowner. Although the Council could undertake actions to remove overgrowth it would set a precedent and open, up the door for anyone to request that an unadopted road or lane be maintained by the Council.

It could rely on S137 of the Local Government Act 1972 to undertake such maintenance work but the precedent this would set could become problematic going forward.

The Council could try to establish ownership of the lane(s) but it is possible that they may be in shared ownership and difficult to establish who owns each section.

We are of the view that the Council should not seek to repair potholes as they do not have the expertise and would need to engage a contractor which could be very expensive, and we would anticipate that an even more dangerous precedent would be formed in that the community would expect the Town Council to manage ongoing maintenance requirements.

We suggest that the council speak with the Head of Highways to ascertain why the County Council does not take, action in relation to unadopted roads. This intelligence could then be shared with the Council.

A member advised that you can find out more details on the ownership of these lanes by going to the Glamorgan Archives in Cardiff, however this is very time consuming.

RESOLVED: to note the information

158. MINUTE 93

MTC CAT GRANT – MAESTEG CELTIC RFC

13/07/22: Email sent to BCBC CAT Grant Officer & Maesteg Celtic RFC to advise MTC agree to the change of use for the Grant and require a copy of the following before processing the payment:

- BCBC license is given to manage the playing surfaces
- Copy of invoice for the pitch maintenance equipment

RESOLVED: to note the information

159. MINUTE 94

MAESTEG BRANCH RBL

13/07/22: Email sent to Maesteg Branch RBL to advise the Mayor will liaise with them for a meeting. To date no meeting has been arranged.

RESOLVED: to note the information

160. MINUTE 96

PROPOSED PERMANENT TRAFFIC REGULATIONS ORDER – MAESTEG BUS STATION

11/07/22: Email sent to BCBC Traffic & Transportation with Cllr F Abedalkarim comments.

Following response from BCBC following MTC response to the proposed traffic order: *Unfortunately, the introduction of a drop off bay is out the proposal of the current scheme.*

Please can you confirm whether you support or object to the proposal?

With regards to the issue of speeding, it should be noted that Welsh Government have proposed new legislation that aims to change the default speed limit from 30mph to 20mph in built-up areas by April 2023 without local authorities requiring a Traffic Order. The Change in legislation aims to 'reduce traffic related injuries and fatalities and make walking and cycling safer and more attractive'. Due to the location and residential density, we would anticipate that Church Street will qualify for 20mph.

Further, we are restricted by the measures we can implement due to this section of road being a bus route. Currently the council has limited funding to introduce measures therefore it is prioritised at areas where there are concerns over road safety. The Traffic Management team have undertaken an interrogation of personal injury road traffic collisions for Church Street over the last 3 years which is the latest available data and there has been zero incidences along the entire length of the road. This collision history does not indicate that there is a safety issue and therefore we cannot prioritise this location at this time.

Cllr F Abedalkarim response:

I disagree with the planning department and the highway department on their proposal. It's unthoughtful and inconsiderate. It's a repeat of Commercial Street planning. It's lacking vision to the future. No thoughts for the elderly and disabled, they must cross the bus lane to get a taxi. I respect Welsh Government decision to reduce speed limits to 20 miles P/H in the future, but lack of resources will prevent policing these changes. I am asking for a ramp just before the bridge to slow down the traffic to avoid any accidents that may happen and save lives of children attending primary school and dancing school in the area. I am urging all members of this council to reject BCBC proposal. Thank you

Members discussed the BCBC response and Cllr F Abedalkarim response and agreed that Cllr F Abedalkarim comments have a valid point and yellow lines and signs won't stop people parking in the bus station due to the use of the Post Office and more consideration should be placed on the overall use of the area.

Cllr F Abedalkarim **proposed** and was seconded by Cllr G Thomas that MTC should object to the proposed traffic order

RESOLVED: to advise BCBC Traffic & Transportation that MTC object to the proposal

161. MINUTE 98

T&CC FORUM AGENDA ITEMS

The following sent to BCBC: At our recent full council meeting members asked if we could add to the agenda;

- Issues with contacting BCBC – telephone system not working
- Lack of response from BCBC
- When will BCBC staff will be back in the offices and reopen to the public.

BCBC advised that they would agenderise the above for a Clerks T&CC meeting and not to the T&CC Forum meeting.

RESOLVED: to note the information

162. MINUTE 99

REQUEST TO USE PHOTOCOPIER

13/07/22: Email sent to advise they can use the MTC photocopier for copying resources for the Ukrainian families.

Clerk advised that all photocopying would be sent by email for printing and collecting at a time and date suitable for the group.

RESOLVED: to note the information

163. MINUTE 100

REQUEST TO CLEAR FOOTPATH

CMO has been asked to clear the footpath for the residents of Pond Mawr

The CMO has attended the path and cut back some overgrowth. The path had already been trimmed by a resident who is happy to now hand over the cutting of it to the CMO as bushes and brambles need more specialist equipment.

A member commented on the swiftness of the clearing of the path by the CMO and looks forward to future works being completed in the same manner

RESOLVED: to note the information

164. MINUTE 101

MAESTEG GLEEMEN REQUEST

08/07/22: Maesteg Gleemen collected the Armorial Bearings and Plaque from the office ready to take to Cornwall.

RESOLVED: to note the information

165. MINUTE 102

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Have received thank you emails from the following organisations:

- Bronfair Allotments – also provided receipt for the purchase of the shed
- Hope Rescue
- Llynfi BMX
- Ty Hafan

Further email received from Llynfi BMX Club:

We would like to thank Maesteg Town Council for your support of our round of the South West Regional Race event this year.

We had a very successful weekend, with glorious weather, too hot at times with the hottest days on record, with the work preparing leading to the event and over the weekend itself. Over 150 competitors entered the racing and there were over 150 spectators, with riders both local and as far down the South West as Cornwall travelling here for the weekend.

The use of the gazebos has once again been invaluable for the event for our catering, registration, first aid, and providing much needed shade from the sun to riders lining up for their races in the pens.

Please take a look at our Facebook page to see photos and write ups about the racing and weekend, and a host of fantastic comments.

A big thank you also for the grant of £480 towards the hire of the six portable toilets for the event. We're really appreciative of this as we don't have onsite toilets and this an additional cost to hosting the regional event every year.

In relation to the grant, we do have a question. This Regional BMX Race we host annually, the date can vary depending on what were allocated for the season, so the 2023 race could be much earlier, say April next year, if this was the case as we've received the MTC grant in July this year (and it's only one application per year per organisation) would this mean we wouldn't be able to apply next year for our race unless it was held in July again?

Thank you.

Deputy Clerk advised:

Firstly, that's great news that the event was a success we'll include your comments in next week's full council meeting.

Unfortunately, with the grant yes, its 1 grant per 12 months from when you apply so you may not be able to apply for grant funding next April. What you can do though is approach other Town and Community Councils that have residents who benefit from the event and ask them for a S137 grant. Llan for example may be a good option if you have kids who attended from there.

I'm not sure if BCBC would offer any grant at all for a community event such as the BMX race you would have to check.

Members deliberated this request as many thought that the S137 Policy was for 1 application per financial year and not calendar year. Clerk and Chair of Finance advised that the policy does state 1 application per calendar year.

Cllr G Thomas **proposed** and was seconded by Cllr P Davies that the policy is changed to 1 application per financial year.

Members queried that the previous minute would need to be rescinded and requested that the clerk checks the process for rescinding a minute and to advise further in the next meeting.

RESOLVED: clerk checks the process for rescinding a minute and to advise further in the next meeting.

166. MINUTE 121

GRANT MONEY BCBC - OUTSTANDING MONEY OWED TO BCBC FROM 2014

Cllr G Thomas: Having met with BCBC officers and our internal Auditor, MR Wyn Davies we discussed the matter of the alleged outstanding debt owed by Maesteg town council to BCBC. During the meeting we were presented with an invoice for a total value of £51,282.52 for the work completed. BCBC acknowledged receipt of a payment from us of £26,752 which then left an outstanding balance of £24,530.52 owed by us. Discussion ensued over agreed grant funding, and myself and Wyn were presented with a BCBC Cabinet report presented 19th June 2012 entitled "REPORT OF THE HEAD OF ICT AND PROPERTY

TOWN & COMMUNITY COUNCIL FUND 2012-13 AND 2013-14" this report clearly identifies that Maesteg town council were awarded a grant of £20,000 towards the installation of a puffin crossing on Bridgend Road. After a discussion, BCBC officers have agreed to award Maesteg town council the grant of £20,000 if we settle the outstanding balance of £4,530.52.

Given the lack of any information or correspondence held by Maesteg Town council and given our previous financial issues it is the **recommendation** from myself and the internal auditor that Maesteg town council accept this offer and pay the outstanding balance.

For practicalities and to allow Maesteg Town Council to reclaim the VAT on the transaction Maesteg town council will be required to pay the full balance owed by us of £24,530.52 but then BCBC will issue us the £20,000 grant return with immediate effect.

Please can the council consider approving this request to settle a long-standing issue and move on with our relationship with BCBC.

It was **agreed** that Chair of Finance would **recommend** to Full Council that MTC pay the outstanding invoice £24,530.52 plus VAT = £29,436.63 and then reclaim the £20K T&CC Fund Grant and the VAT.

A member wanted to confirm that we have the correct proof that BCBC will pay this in order that MTC is protected going forward by paying such a large amount and we may not receive the monies back for an amount of time. It was confirmed that the Chair of Finance has written confirmation of this via email. Another member thanked the Chair of Finance for his hard work in resolving this matter

RESOLVED: MTC pay the outstanding invoice £24,530.52 plus VAT = £29,436.63 and then reclaim the £20K T&CC Fund Grant and the VAT.

167. LIST OF PAYMENTS FOR THE MONTH OF JULY 2022

RESOLVED:

That the tables of **Expenditure (£24,427.35)**, **Income (£20,588.52)** during the month of July 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 July 2022 totalling **£20,109.25**
- A copy of the Receipts and Payments Account which includes expenditure against the budget and the budget remaining.
- An income analysis was also provided.

A member asked if a payment to M Morris settles the councils' relationship with him – it was confirmed to be correct during the finance section of the meeting.

The Chair of Finance advised he would like to hold the payment to one invoice for £439.20 as he would like to know why additional payments are being requested.

CMO Work Summary

The month of July have included the following works:

- Weekly building checks that include:
 - fire alarm
 - emergency lighting
 - legionnaires disease – unable to check this as the boilers have yet to be made live.
- Twice weekly bin emptying on the cycle track
- Tidy and Clean public WC
- Inspected and cut the following footpaths:
 - Fp 2a, 20, 52, 6, 37a, 38, 39, 23, 27, 57, 82, 62, 74, 36, 78
- Other areas cut back:
 - Path for Pond Mawr residents
 - Steps to Woodlands Terrace
 - Cycle path by Tesco
- Delivered correspondence
- Delivered dog waste bags
- Took van for servicing
- Attended Fun Run event and met organisers, opened and closed barriers

Works to be Carried out in August:

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

A member asked for a list of the rights of way for all new councillors – it was confirmed that this has already been done.

168. TO GO INTO COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS A CONFIDENTIAL ITEM

Given the nature of the business and the discussion 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’

169. RESOLVED: THAT THE COUNCIL COME OUT OF COMMITTEE

CORRESPONDENCE

170. QUESTION TO BCBC MONITORING OFFICER

13/06/2022: In the past 20+ years any member who is also a BCBC Councillor has to leave our full council meeting when discussing planning applications in order to safeguard those members from conflict-of-interest issues etc.

In our recent Full Council meeting a newly elected BCBC Councillor wanted to stay for the planning application section and rationalised this by saying he wasn't on BCBC planning committee.

My question is do those BCBC Councillors need to leave the meeting or can they stay if they are not on BCBC Planning?

Also, to note that at the beginning of our full council meeting all the BCBC Councillors advise that they declare an interest in items relating to Bridgend County Borough Council, including Development Control and Licensing.

Response 06/07/22: I can't see any reason why Members who are not on DC (Development Control) can't stay and take part on the discussion in Maesteg TC.

If they were subsequently appointed to DC they could declare an interest if the same application came before them.

RESOLVED: to note the information and for BCBC members to stay if they wished to.

171. TELEPHONE CONVERSATION FROM YNYSAWDRE CC

Received a telephone call from the new clerk at Ynysawdre CC. They were enquiring about Hybrid Meetings and what was required. Clerk provided an email response with the following information:

1. Hybrid Meetings – once you have internet in the building
We used Audio Visual Direct to install an internet connection from our internet point into the Council Chamber as part of this they had to consult with the BCBC Heritage Officer as our building is Grade II* listed.

Contact details for AVD was provided.

2. IT Support
Maesteg Town Council use ITCS for our IT support, they provide the following services:

- IT Support

- ITCS Disaster Recovery Services (DRS)
- DRS Offsite Storage (1TB)
- MASTERSVR
- Microsoft 365 Business Basic (email, word, excel, powerpoint, Microsoft Teams)
- Microsoft 365 Audio Conferencing (to allow people to telephone into a Microsoft Teams meeting)
- Web Site Monthly Package (this is designed & managed by ITCS and we have the access to update the pages)
- Telephone and Broadband

Contact details for ITCS was provided.

3. BCBC Training for Clerks

Contact for the BCBC E-learning modules for T&CC Clerks and these include the following modules (free of Charge)

- Welsh Language Awareness E-Learning Module
- Violence against women domestic abuse and sexual violence (VAWDASV) E-Learning Module – don't get a certificate for this one
- Sensory Loss E-Learning Module
- Time Management E-Learning Module
- Presentation Skills E-Learning Module
- Minutes Made Easy E-Learning Module
- Mental Health Awareness E-Learning Module
- Managing Your Priorities E-Learning Module
- Introduction to Equality and Diversity E-Learning Module
- Hate Crime E-Learning Module
- Fire Safety Awareness E-Learning Module
- Change Management E-Learning Module

4. Other training for Clerks

SLCC/OVW provide the following training for Clerks (at a cost):

- ILCA Wales (Introduction to Local Council Administration) – e-learning have 1 year to complete
- FILCA Wales (Financial Introduction to Local Council Administration) – e-learning have 1 year to complete
- ILCAL to CILCA (– Webinars have 1 year to complete)
- GDPR - e-learning have 1 year to complete
- CILCA (Certificate in Local Council Administration)

Planning Aid Wales – Basic Planning from start to finish. They offer individual course access approx. £36 per person or they also offer a one year subscription for up to 20 people for £150. Contact details for Planning Aid Wales given.

RESOLVED: to note the information

172. REPAIR CAFÉ OPENING

Please can you invite all Councillors to the opening of Caerau Mens shed Repair Cafe at our workshop on 13th July 2022 at 10am.

Cllr C Davies stated that the event was a great success. The next session is scheduled for the 10th August 2022.

RESOLVED: to note the information

173. NEWSLETTERS / FLYERS / BRIEFING NOTES/ CONSULTATIONS

Emailed to all Councillors for information:

- New soft play facility opens at Maesteg Sports Centre
- PSDF June Factsheet
- Welsh Government - It's for Them toolkit (minimal grass cutting for wildlife)
- BAVO online session re: Bowel Cancer Awareness
- OVW – Training schedule July 2022
- Welsh Government - A Fairer Council Tax Consultation - **response by 4th October 2022**
- TfW Bwletin: June to July 2022
- Welsh Government - Extending the Well-being of Future Generations Act's well-being duty Consultation – **response required by 20th October 2022**
- BAVO - Volunteering Youth Led Grants offering up to £2,000 now open
- Increase in Taxi Fares - Rising fuel costs and the cost-of-living crisis have prompted an increase in taxi fares within Bridgend County Borough for the first time in three years. Following a formal request from the Bridgend County Hackney Association, Cabinet members recently agreed that the first half-mile 'flag rate' can increase to 70p. They also approved a request to increase the meter rate by 2p for every tenth of a mile, and to increase waiting charges from £15 to £20 per hour. The proposed increases will now be advertised with a view to introducing them on **26 September 2022**
- Maesteg Town Hall Time Capsule
- OVW WEEK 1&2 - AUGUST TRAINING DATES

RESOLVED: to note the information

174. REFERRALS

- Litter bin sited outside children's play area has rusted away and snapped off at its base, needs removal and replacing.
Both bins inside the play area are badly rusted and need replacing.
Response: No response to date
- Outside 29 Bridgend Road - A sharp object sticking out of the ground on the pavement. I believe it too be dangerous and may cause a child or an elderly

person some injury if not addressed, I would ask the relevant department as it's their responsibility to send someone out to take inspect this finding and make the pavement safe for residents.

Response: No response to date

RESOLVED: to note the information

175. COMPLAINT FROM A RESIDENT

Could you please explain to me why Bridgend bus station has cameras on site yet there is nothing at Maesteg bus station the camera has been removed. The camera car is never seen at Maesteg and parking at the bus station is as bad as ever.

Clerk advised that this is not within the remit of MTC and the complaint should be directed to BCBC.

Cllr G Thomas **proposed** and was seconded by Cllr F Abedalkarim that MTC work with BCBC to reinstate a camera in the bus station.

RESOLVED: to contact BCBC to ask if MTC could work in partnership with BCBC to reinstate the camera at the bus station.

176. ADVICE RECEIVED FROM OVW REGARDING GIFTS TO RESIDENTS

Llan Middle CC asked for advice from OVW regarding gifts given to residents for 50th / 60th wedding anniversaries, 100th birthdays and wreaths for remembrance Sunday. Llan Middle then forwarded the below response from OVW:

Some gifts of this nature are permissible under S137 of the Local Government Act 1972. The power can be used for the following:

- a) Modest gifts to members of the community who reach a certain milestone such as a wedding anniversary (50 years plus) or 100th birthday.*
- b) Although S137 does not enable gifts to be purchased for individuals it is considered by Audit Wales that provided the Council has an approved written policy in relation to gifts of this nature and that anyone in the community reaching this milestone will receive the gift then it may be viewed as a gift granted to a group of individuals who meet the stated criteria.*

A council also has the power to purchase a poppy wreath under Section 137.

The Chair of Finance requested that this be added to the next finance meeting where they will discuss the creation of a policy for gifts to residents.

RESOLVED: to add to the agenda of the next Finance Committee meeting.

177. REQUEST FROM LLAN MIDDLE CC

Llan Middle CC are requesting to hold a number of their meetings in Maesteg Town Council Chamber, in order to also use our HYBRID meeting facilities.

Members agreed to allow the use of the Chamber to Llan Middle CC to the cost of £10 per meeting.

RESOLVED: to advise Llan Middle CC that there would be a cost of £10 per meeting to use MTC Chamber.

178. COMPLAINT RECEIVED VIA BCBC ROW SECTION

Following reports to the Council's Rights of Way team of overgrown vegetation on Footpath 43 Maesteg, which links Llwydarth Road and Oakwood, a site inspection took place on the 6th of July 2022, during which the attached photographs were taken. You will see that, although the tarmacked path is accessible the surface vegetation alongside is rather tall, making it fall across the footpath in places. They supplied a map showing the area.

Under the terms of the Agency Agreement that currently exists between our two Councils for the maintenance of public rights of way in your area, I would be grateful if you would arrange for your contractor to give the highlighted section alongside Footpath 43 a minor cut to, prevent the vegetation immediately falling back over the path, unless you are aware that this has been done since the site inspection. I should be grateful if you could please let me know when the works have been completed for our records.

Response to the complaint:

Thank you for your email, I'm not sure when you received the request as this has been cut by our maintenance officer in recent times but we will send him to check out the area once more and do any necessary works.

Could we request the rights of way maps you have attached for all the rights of way in Maesteg please? We recently brought the rights of way service in house and only have the instruction of the previous contractor as to where certain paths start and end but the new CMO has found many paths that have long since been without maintenance and we just need to know where we stand on cutting areas legally as we want all the rights of way to be accessible.

Response from BCBC:

Thank you for your prompt response to my email dated the 15th of July and sorry for the delay in replying to you.

In response to your question, I can confirm that a Council Member Referral about overgrown vegetation on Footpath 43/2 Maesteg was received by the Rights of Way team on the 4th of July 2022. Thank you for agreeing to ask your maintenance officer to check out the area and to carry out any necessary works; that is very much appreciated.

The referral also mentioned concerns that overhanging vegetation may be obstructing street lights along the line of the footpath, so this has been reported to the Council's

Street Lighting team; they have agreed to carry out a site visit and undertake any works should they be required to resolve this issue.

Regarding your request for maps showing all of the rights of way in Maesteg, I will request that my colleague Mathew Palmer, Rights of Way & Access Land Officer, provides these for you as soon as possible.

Thank you for confirming that your Council would like to assist with ensuring that all of the rights of way are accessible moving forward; the Rights of Way team will be happy to provide advice and support wherever possible in order to achieve this.

RESOLVED: to note the information

179. TOWN AND COMMUNITY COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE ON BRIDGEND LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

Please find attached a self-explanatory letter regarding the County Borough Council's statutory duty to re-appoint Members to the Bridgend Local Access Forum and the proposals for the election of a Town and Community Council representative to become a Member of that Forum.

I should be grateful if you could advise your Council of this matter and ask them to determine whether they wish to nominate anyone to take part in the ballot to become the Town and Community Council representative. Should your Council wish to nominate someone then that person must return the completed application form to me at the address below by the 23rd September 2022. The application form and Guidance Notes are attached for your/their information.

Please note that if your Council does not wish to nominate anyone then I should be grateful if you could inform me, or my colleague Helen Mills, as soon as possible so that we can keep an accurate and up to date record of the process.

Note – Cllr C Davies is already on this committee through BCBC

Members **agreed** that MTC members who are also BCBC members and sit on this forum to provide updates to Maesteg Town Council.

RESOLVED: BCBC members that sit on this forum to provide updates to Maesteg Town Council.

180. INSURANCE RENEWAL

The insurance renewal notification has been sent to the Clerk advising that the policy is due for renewal and your renewal premium is £3,689.16 including tax.

It's important that you read the following documents carefully:

* Schedule of Insurance

- * Select for Local Councils Policy Document
- * Notice to Policy Holders (which explains key changes to your cover this year)

To ensure your cover continues, please pay your renewal premium by 25 September 2022. Full details on how to pay can be found on your invoice.

Members mentioned to ensure that this policy covers the new assets MTC has undertaken recently i.e. Heol ty Gwyn unit and then to get quotes from other companies to discuss next month. It was also **agreed** that Cllr L Thomas would also read through the documentation and provide additions and removals from the schedule – the clerk advised that the portable toilets were still on the schedule and these would need to be removed, additionally all the tools used by the CMO should be added.

RESOLVED:

- Cllr L Thomas to read the renewal documents
- To tender the insurance policy with other sector specific insurers to include a 1 year premium and a long-term premium option.

181. AGENDA ITEM 9

REQUEST FROM CLLR AR DAVIES:

I would like to gather the opinions of councillors on the possibility of Maesteg Town Council entering a “summer recess” throughout the month of August from next year onwards. With parliaments going into recess for the summer, there is no real requirement for this council to have to meet either. I am proposing that the council has its full meeting in July and any subsequent committee meetings but that no further meetings take place until 1st September from 2023. My rationale is simple; attendance is poor, councillors are away on holidays, everyone deserves a rest from the political arena and unless there is an urgent pressing matter, there is no requirement for the council to meet.

Cllr AR Davies clarified his point during the meeting stating that BCBC, The Welsh Assembly and the UK Government do not meet in August so does not see the point of MTC meeting.

A member stated that attendance for today’s meeting had good attendance. Also, from a financial standpoint MTC has to approve all its invoices each month so some creditors would not receive funds for a long period of time if the Council were to not meet in August so disagrees with not meeting in August.

Cllr AR Davies **proposed** and was seconded by Cllr A James that no meetings are held in August.

Due to the difference of opinion members voted on the proposal with the following vote

Cllr	For/Against	Cllr	For/Against
F Abedalkarim	Against	C Knight	Against
AR Davies	For	R Martin	Against
C Davies	Against	M Rowlands	Against
P Davies	Against	G Thomas	Against
K Edwards	Against	L Thomas	Against
A James	For	G Williams	Against
P Jenkins	Against	I Williams	Against

Results:

12 Against the proposal

2 For the proposal

Following the above results the proposal falls – Maesteg Town Council will continue to meet in August.

RESOLVED: MTC to continue with August meetings.

182. FINANCIAL APPLICATIONS

Members were provided with application forms from the following organisations:

1. MAWS

Date received: 19/07/2022

Request £500 grant. To assist in neutering cats & dogs and vets bills. Annual vets bill is approximately £18,000 per year.

Have not applied for S137 before, have included June 2022 bank statement and Accounts year end 30th June 2021 (their accounts year is 1st July – 30th June and the 21-22 year report has not yet been submitted)

Members agreed that the work MAWS do not just for the community but outside of the community as well is exceptional. Given the policy of S137 grants they agreed to pay the grant at £500 following the providing of an invoice for a vet bill, it is fine if this bill exceeds the £500 MTC are ensuring the monies are paid to the stated cause.

RESOLVED: Council donates the sum of £500 under Section 137 of the Local Government Act (as amended) to MAWS and to request a copy(ies) of vets bills that amount to £500.

183. DELEGATES REPORT

Clerk met with BCBC Cleaner Streets officers regarding the ‘Love it Don’t Trash it’ project. BCBC advised they would be initiating this project to all 8 primary schools within the Llynfi Valley (6 within MTC boundary and 2 within Llan Middle CC boundary) in September 2022.

Previously MTC had agreed to pay the £300 per school and the officers advised the cost is the same so £1,800.00 and it covers the costs of the workshops for years 5 & 6 in each primary school. Additionally, the primary schools will also be given some online workshops for no extra cost.

Initially BCBC would like the primary schools to run a competition for a poster for the Llynfi Valley Campaign, whereby each school would have one winner and the 8 winning posters would then be judged by BCBC, Mayor of Maesteg Town Council and Chair of Llangynwyd Middle Community Council. From this the overall winner's poster would be used throughout the valley to advertise the project. BCBC will liaise with the schools and organise everything. The only input from Maesteg Town Council and Llan Middle CC would be to judge the overall winning poster and pay for the workshops.

MTC = £1,800.00

Llan Middle CC = £600.00

Cllr K Edwards advised that he had attended the Town and Community Councils forum last night where they discussed: 'Cwm Taff nature network managing green infrastructure'. He mentioned that 11 green spaces had been highlighted in the borough but only the 1 in Maesteg which is Maesteg Welfare Park who will be approached to develop a relationship going forward.

RESOLVED: To note the information

184. RESOLVED: THAT THE COUNCIL GO INTO COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS A CONFIDENTIAL ITEM

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'

185. RESOLVED: THAT THE COUNCIL COME OUT OF COMMITTEE

Due to the time passing 9pm the Mayor requested to suspend standing orders in order to complete the meeting.

Members agreed to suspend standing orders

186. PLANNING

The following application was **supported** by council:

Ref: P/22/420/FUL
Applicant: Mr G Morris
Location: South Parade Playing Fields, Maesteg
Proposal: Installation of a high cube steel storage container to house power unit and maintenance equipment, together with a washdown facility to ensure washdown flow is treated prior to discharge to existing foul sewer manhole within the site
Ask For: Euan Sexton

The following applications had **No Objections**:

Ref: P/22/408/FUL
Applicant: Mr A Fawcett
Location: Bryn Mawr Farm Maesteg CF34 9PS
Proposal: Two storey rear extension and front porch extension with mobility aides added internally
Ask for: David Netherwood

Ref: P/22/458/FUL
Applicant: Mr S Baker
Location: 103 Yr Ysfa Maesteg CF34 9BE
Proposal: Two storey side extension with first floor side extension
Ask for: David Netherwood

Ref: P/22/444/FUL
Applicant: Mrs C Jenkins
Location: 58 Heol Ty Gwyn Nantyffyllon Maesteg CF34 0EU
Proposal: Dormer to rear elevation to provide bedrooms and shower room
Ask for: Julie Earp

Ref: P/22/457/FUL
Applicant: Mr & Mrs A Howells
Location: 5 Pleasant View Caerau Maesteg CF34 0RD
Proposal: Ground floor and first floor extension to rear of dwelling
Ask for: Julie Earp

Ref: P/22/485/FUL
Applicant: Nantyffyllon Primary School
Location: Nantyffyllon Primary School Garnwen Terrace Maesteg CF34 0ET
Proposal: Siting of container for use as shop (Pay as you Feel), container for storage and raised beds
Ask for: Julie Earp

Ref: P/22/493/FUL
Applicant: Mr C Thomas
Location: Land adj 10 Blossie Street Maesteg CF34 0HP
Proposal: Detached garage
Ask For: Julie Earp

The following application was **not supported** by Council with reasoning being parking and access with special note being the removal of parking from existing properties with the proposed plans on the road:

Ref: P/22/34/FUL
Applicant: Pendragon (Design & Build) Ltd
Location: Former Blaenllynfi Infant School Grosvenor Terrace Maesteg CF34 0RW
Proposal: Residential development of 20no. affordable dwellings and associated works [reduced number of units, amended plans received]
Ask For: Rhodri Davies

RESOLVED: To note the information.

Minutes emailed to all Councillors to Read on 5th August 2022

Minutes accepted at a Hybrid meeting of the Council held on 6th September 2022

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Mayor