

**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, 5th July 2022**

PRESENT:

COUNCILLORS:

A James (Mayor)
F Abedalkarim, R Collins, AR Davies, C Davies,
P Davies, K Edwards, P Jenkins, R Lewis,
R Penhale-Thomas, M Rowlands, G Thomas,
L Thomas, G Williams and I Williams,

APOLOGIES were received from Cllrs C Knight and R Martin

DECLARATION OF INTEREST:

Cllr M Rowlands declared an interest in a financial application for Llynfi Valley BMX Racing in agenda item 10

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.

64. POLICE MATTERS

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

Maesteg Crime Statistics for June 2022

	Caerau / Nanty	Maesteg East	Maesteg West	Llan	Total in category
Robbery	0	0	0	0	0
Drugs	0	0	1	0	1
Dwelling burglary	1	0	1	0	2
Burglary other	1	0	2	0	3
Theft of vehicle	2	0	1	0	3
Theft from vehicle	1	0	0	0	1
All other theft	6	5	7	2	20
Damage	6	3	6	1	16
Violence against the person	22 (4)	14 (2)	14 (2)	2	52 (8)
Domestic related occurrences	6	1	3	0	10
All crime total	39	22	32	5	98

Anti-social behaviour total	13	10	9	1	33
Drink Driving	0	0	0	0	0

The following was raised;

A member asked Sgt Lea if he was aware of motorbikes driving through Tudor Estate to Caerau Park. Sgt Lea advised that he was aware of them but not in a detailed manner so would like to contact the member outside of the meeting to get more information.

RESOLVED: to note the information

65. MAYORAL EVENTS

The Mayor advised that he attended the following event:

- 1st July 2022 Curtain Up One Voice Ukraine Concert

66. MINUTES

The Following Minutes;

- **Full Council** – 07/06/2022 emailed 08/06/2022
- **Full Council Confidential minutes** – 07/06/2022 emailed 08/06/2022
- **Events Committee** – 21/06/2022 emailed 21/06/2022
- **Extraordinary Council** – 29/06/2022 emailed 29/06/2022

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

MATTERS ARISING

67. MINUTE 30

KEEPER OF THE COLLIERY FUN RUN

A member queried on the use of councillors as volunteers for the fun run as they were under the impression none were needed but had received an email recently stating otherwise. A member stated that they had an email from the event organisers stating that councillors can participate in the running of the event if they so wish and asked the member if he had received that email. The member stated that they had received the email but was simply commenting on the timing of it as, being so close to the event, other people have plans in place.

Another member asked what the exact plans are of the events company and how they plan on running the event in terms of support staff, medical assistance and risk assessments etc. He stated we should have more information in regards to this as we are the corporate body responsible for the event so need to safeguard it. The comments were echoed by other members and the council requested that the clerk contact EPM for further information.

Resolved: Clerk to contact EPM for further information about the fun run

**68. MINUTE 31
REFERRALS**

- Streetlighting & Dangerous Bridge - Clerk wrote letter to BCBC Cabinet Member 08/06/2022 and emailed a copy of the letter posted 09/06/2022

Response 13/06/2022: I will investigate further and get back to you in due course.

- 09/06/2022 Chased BCBC regarding dangerous bridge as there is more deterioration.

Response 12/06/2022: BCBC regularly inspect the bridges throughout the entire County, and regular inspections are also carried out on this footpath Bridge, to the South of Cwrt y Mwnws (Leading to Maesteg Comprehensive School).

Unfortunately, amongst other reasons, there have been recent acts of vandalism, where boards have been deliberately pulled/pried up and out of place. We are aware of the condition of the deck and ensure it is maintained safe for use. When defects are identified they are passed through from our inspector for repairs to be carried out at the earliest opportunity.

Should the inspector identify serious risk to pedestrians using the bridge, such that it may cause injury or harm, they will ensure the section is made safe before the structure is re-accessible by the public.

Possibilities for improvements to, or replacement of the existing deck are to be explored in greater detail with our structural design consultants. We will ensure to make you aware of the proposed works when more details are available, and also when resources will permit for its implementation.

I am sorry that you had not received any correspondence regarding this matter before now, your query was brought to my attention at the end of the week.

Members discussed the lack of response from BCBC and stated that this issue has been ongoing for months and were frustrated that BCBC are only now responding to it. A member requested that MTC obtain the details of the structural engineers who inspect the bridge and have further discussions with them down the road as the bridge is an important access route for children to get to Maesteg Comprehensive School. Another member stated that they thought the main route to the school was down Castle Street and then under the railway bridge to Harvey Street.

RESOLVED: Clerk to contact BCBC to obtain the structural engineers report for Cwrt y Mwnws Bridge.

**69. MINUTE 40
REFERRALS**

- 09/06/2022 Chased BCBC: Coal dram at entrance to Nantffyflon in need of maintenance

Response: To date no response received

- 09/06/2022 Chased BCBC: On the steps from Aldi leading down to the bridge the reflective strip is loose causing a trip hazard.

Response 13/06/2022: This has been passed onto the Highway Maintenance team and should be repaired today

- 09/06/2022 Chased BCBC: Japanese Knotweed Wood Street.

Response: 10/06/2022 I have passed this onto the Parks Superintendent for his attention.

- Only sent 06/06/22 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

RESOLVED: to note the information

70. MINUTE 42

CANCER RESEARCH STREET COLLECTION

08/06/2022 Advised Maesteg Cancer research street collection committee that Cllr R Martin will open the building on Saturday 18th June 2022.

RESOLVED: to note the information

71. MINUTE 43

LLYNFI ROAD APC TOILET DAMAGE

13/06/2022 emailed JC Decaux to advise the following:

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

Response 13/06/2022: It is an 18 month notice period which will commence on 01/01/2022. Hope that helps however I have asked a colleague to confirm.

Response 14/06/2022: JC Decaux attended site this morning and upon inspection, there was an issue with the coiner. There was money jammed in the coin deposit stream I have now cleared the money and the unit is now in full working order.

RESOLVED: to note the information

72. MINUTE 44

CHRISTMAS

See Events committee minutes

10/06/2022 Email sent to Chair of Projects – Meeting arranged 12/07/2022

Members queried that a date for a potential parade has yet to be agreed, members unanimously agreed that it should be held on the 1st Saturday in December as in previous years.

RESOLVED: Clerk to pencil in the 3rd December as the date for the Parade.

73. MINUTE 46

PUBLIC TOILETS

10/06/2022 Email sent to Chair of Property, H&S – Meeting to be arranged in August

RESOLVED: to note the information

74. MINUTE 48

BUS SHELTER OUTSIDE 46/47 BETHANIA STREET

13/06/2022 Email sent to BCBC to enquire the costs for moving the bus shelter to an alternative location along the bus route.

Response 23/06/2022: One possible alternative location is outside the former Royal Oak PH on Bethania Street. I've copied in @Traffic&Transportation, in order to confirm if this location is OK for a bus shelter from a traffic management and road safety point of view?

A letter would also need to be sent to nearby residents of the proposed location, which may receive objections from the residents. However, we'll at least get views from my colleagues, and a cost for the relocation (which has been requested to Bus Shelters Ltd, and awaiting a response).

Further Response 27/06/22: Further to my previous e-mail, please see attached quotation from Bus Shelters Ltd. (£1,477.78 inc VAT).

In addition, my colleagues in Traffic Management have raised concerns about the proposed location, due to the width of the existing footpath and the risk of the bus shelter being struck (this view was also shared by Bus Shelters Ltd). Therefore, it is felt that the existing location of the bus shelter is the most suitable location, given the widths of the footway outside the adjacent houses.

A member stated that there is no movement with this issue so the council will have to leave the matter at that unless a more suitable place for the bus shelter is found.

RESOLVED: To wait for further advice from BCBC

75. MINUTE 49

GRANT MONEY BCBC - OUTSTANDING MONEY OWED TO BCBC FROM 2014

09/06/2022 Email sent to Chair of Finance with all previous correspondence regarding this issue.

The Chair of Finance explained that he has contacted BCBC several times and, despite promised a response several times, there has been no update or return contact. He advised that its now best to wait until BCBC contact us again to resolve this.

RESOLVED: to wait for BCBC

76. MINUTE 50

CO-OPTION VACANCY

08/06/2022 Letters sent to all applicants to the addresses used in their application.

09/06/2022 ITCS contacted for new email address and office 365 licence for newly co-opted Cllr G Williams

15/06/2022 Cllr G Williams attended the office to sign declaration of acceptance of office.

RESOLVED: The Mayor welcomed Cllr G Williams to Maesteg Council and said that he looks forward to working with him.

77. MINUTE 51

CLLR P JENKINS REQUESTS

1. Mayors Ball. – See Events Committee minutes

2. Property, H&S Committee to discuss a rental policy for renting gazeboes.

10/06/2022 Email sent to Chair of Property, H&S – meeting to be arranged in August

3. Mayor to write letter to Siderise on behalf of the Council

RESOLVED: to note the information

78. MINUTE 52

WARD FUNDING INCREASE AMOUNT FOR 2022-23

10/06/2022 Email sent to Chair of Finance – Meeting arranged 14th July 22.

Members queried there had been a change in the date from 13th July to 14th July, to which the Clerk advised that the Chair of Finance was now unable to attend on 13th July due to work commitments.

RESOLVED: to note the information

79. MINUTE 53

FINANCIAL APPLICATIONS

09/06/2022 Email & payment sent to Caerau Athletic Bowls Club

10/06/2022 Letter of thanks received from Caerau Athletic Bowls Club

09/06/2022 Email sent to Maesteg Millennium Group 99 advising they did not fulfil the criteria of the policy

10/06/2022 Email received from Maesteg Millennium Group 99 advising they will be contacting Head of Finance in BCBC

RESOLVED: to note the information

80. MINUTE 61
TO DISCUSS GŴYL MAESTEG FESTIVAL

COG'S advised that the date of the Classic Car Show has been pencilled in for Sunday 28th August 22. With the additional email:

I have spoken to the manager of Tesco and he asking if he can have a letter or email to suggest that the council agree to the event taking place the email could come to me or the letter then I can pass it on I did explain that the council in the meeting suggested it was ok to go ahead but he needs confirmation to pass on to head office if that's ok.

Members asked what COG's require from the council. Cllr C Davies stated that they need; banners, flyers and four big bins. He requested also that we write to the manager of Tesco and provided these contact details.

RESOLVED:

- Clerk to email the manager of Tesco
- Clerk to liaise with COG's regarding banners, flyers and bins

81. LIST OF PAYMENTS FOR THE MONTH OF JUNE 2022

RESOLVED:

That the tables of **Expenditure (£16,907.88)**, **Income (£631.87)** during the month of June 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 **£8,745.13**
- A copy of the Receipts and Payments Account which includes expenditure against the budget and the budget remaining.
- An income analysis was also provided.
- VAT Q1 Return

CMO WORK SUMMARY

The month of June have included the following works:

- Weekly building checks that include:
 - fire alarm
 - emergency lighting
 - legionnaires disease – unable to check this as the boilers were being installed and have yet to be made live.
- 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, 6a, 15, 36, 41, 42, 46, 47, 57, 62, 64, 72, 77 and 82
- Other areas cut back:
 - Bridge St and Castle St
 - Around the planter by Crown Rise
 - Caerau Primary School
 - Cut down overhanging branches FP 36
 - Cycle path from Cwrt Y Mynws
- Renewed syphon to cistern in disabled toilet
- Renewed handle to cistern in disabled toilet
- VAN MOT
- Delivered correspondence
- Delivered dog waste bags

Works to be Carried out in July 2022;

- 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

A member queried the payment for the Councils IT contractor. Whilst the amount was correct the member stated that the service they have received on several occasions when dealing with the company has been less than satisfactory and would like to explore alternatives.

It was advised that this issue had been placed onto the agenda for the next Finance Committee Meeting. Another member prompted also that a communications committee needs to be arranged.

A member queried the payments to Berryman Lace Mawer LLB as these were for VAT only. The Clerk and Chair of Finance advised that these were payments that the law firm are asking for as they are working on behalf of MTC and Zurich Insurance to reclaim the money issued in the insurance settlement. The Chair of Finance advised that we pay the VAT and then reclaim it back, therefore is a zero cost to MTC.

Clerk advised that Maesteg Harlequins MTC CAT GRANT – paperwork received for the completion of the grant - See Minute 544 whereby MTC agreed to the change of usage for the grant.

BCBC CAT Officer has also advised; *‘I am able to confirm that Maesteg Harlequins RFC have taken over the self-management of green spaces at South Parade as the first stage of the CAT of the whole site. The container being purchased will be used to store the pitch maintenance equipment required.’*

Members agreed to pay the CAT grant to Maesteg Quins following correspondence from BCBC's CAT grant officer.

A member queried the CMO report and asked if the CMO has the ability and qualifications to spray the weeds around the Town Centre as it has become a very noticeable problem. The member was informed that the CMO currently has no weed killing license so he would need the qualification if the Town Council proceeds with him tackling the weed issue within the town.

Another member stated that there is a Town Centre manager appointed by BCBC and they should be approached as there is now more grass than concrete on the walkways of Maesteg Town Centre.

A member wanted to clarify the role of the CMO noting that during the recruitment process it was agreed that the CMO should add value to the community by doing things that the previous contractor did not outside of the Rights of Way work.

These comments were echoed by another member who supports raising the issue in a personnel committee and to discuss the understanding of the role with the CMO. Another member stated that the personnel committee will need to clarify the role of the CMO for future reference.

Members circled back to the issue of weeds in the Town Centre and a member stated that if we were to pursue our CMO doing this then the chemicals would need a special lock up for safety reasons. Another member added that they have spoken to the BCBC cabinet today about weeds in the Town Centre and advised that when he has a response, he will forward this to all councillors.

CORRESPONDENCE

82. NEWSLETTERS / FLYERS / BRIEFING NOTES/ CONSULTATIONS

Emailed to all Councillors for information:

- TFW services impacted by industrial action
- Insite: The Maesteg Town Hall Newsletter
- OVW – Training schedule July 2022
- 2022 Welsh Government version of the Good Councillor's Guide
- Welsh Government Statutory guidance relating to the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021
- Jobs Fair Maesteg - Maesteg Rugby Club, 10am - 1pm on Friday 17 June 22.
- Consultation - Heronsbridge School – outcome of the consultation
- Ysgol Cynwyd Sant Consultation – outcome of the consultation
- Welsh Government New Vision for Wales' Retail Sector
- #WalesNatureWeek briefing pack
- Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales - Community and Town Councils – statement of payment pro forma

- Work is set to commence on the first installations of new electric vehicle charging points across Bridgend County Borough.
The installations, which have been funded through the Welsh Government's Ultra Low Emission Vehicle (ULEV) Transformation fund and the Cardiff Capital Region will see charging points installed at the following locations:
 - ❖ Neath Road, Heol Ty Gwyn, Maesteg
 - ❖ Maesteg Multi-Storey Car Park, Llynfi Road, Maesteg

RESOLVED: to note the information

83. REFERRALS

- the VA Sign we had installed on Bryn Terrace, Caerau (A4063 Cymmer Hill) does not appear to be working as it should, could we possibly have an engineer to check it out, a resident drove through it a 30mph and it didn't activate

Response: Signed checked, fuse had tripped for some reason, all checked and working.

- Weeds along the edges of buildings throughout Maesteg Town Centre i.e Commercial Street, Talbot Street, Llynfi Road, car park, bridge to Plasnewydd street, Llynfi Lane

Response: No response to date.

RESOLVED: to note the information

84. COMPLAINT – LITTER

I've noticed how bad the litter is at the moment around many walks within Maesteg Town, Garth, Llan etc. Do we have any organised litter picking groups that people can volunteer their time to clean up Maesteg.

Clerk advised: Thank you for your email, the Llynfi Valley Rivercare Group regularly hold litter picking sessions along the river. Additionally, a number of Councillors also go out and litter pick various areas (there is no schedule/group for this).

There is a BCBC & Keep Wales Tidy litter hub based at Caerau Development Trust (CDT) whereby they loan litter pickers and bags to individuals and groups and arrange for the bags to be collected - contact is Cllr Paul Davies:

cllr.paul.davies2@bridgend.gov.uk

Some wards also have litter pickers for the public to borrow and the following contacts were given:

Cllr Andrew James, Cllr Ross Penhale-Thomas and Cllr Rob Lewis

Clerk also advised that unfortunately Llangynwyd and Cwmfelin is not covered by Maesteg Town Council.

RESOLVED: to note the information

85. CHRISTOPHER WILLIAMS PAINTINGS

The BCBC Historical Buildings Conservation Officer has advised that Maesteg Town Council should get the 6 Christopher Williams paintings restored and protected from further UV damage. Clerk has spoken to the Heritage Development Manager at AWEN Cultural Trust and she has provided 3 specialist contacts who specialise in painting restoration.

Clerk is requesting whether we could go to tender for the historic paintings to be restored and to include UV protection for the future.

A member stated that these paintings are being looked after by Maesteg Town Council on behalf of BCBC so paying a large sum of money for something not owned by us would be a waste of tax payer funds. Another member mentioned that the artist was Maesteg born so evaluating the works would be of a local historic interest.

RESOLVED: Clerk to contact BCBC to confirm ownership of paintings

86. VERNON HARTSHORN EXHIBITION

In August 2021 Maesteg Town Council agreed to temporarily store the exhibition until the town hall becomes available. This was agreed on a 12 – 18 months storage.

On 15th June, AWEN's Heritage Development Manager (HDM) visited MTC and advised they were unaware that the Town Hall would be receiving and storing the exhibition. The HDM then emailed the South Wales miners museum to advise of that:

I'm writing as I visited the Maesteg Council Offices this week, and had a look at the Vernon Hartshorn exhibition panels. It's a lovely display and the panels look lovely, but they are a bit bigger than I imagined!

The only place we could show them in Maesteg Town Hall is in the main hall itself, and only when the space isn't required for events or performances - we won't have any further storage space for the panels.

Realistically we would only be able to host the display for a very short period, and that period would be some time away as work on the Town Hall is still ongoing.

With that in mind, I was wondering if perhaps other venues had been considered to (temporarily) display the exhibition? Or perhaps I can help you to find other spaces/venues?

Following this email Clerk also advised the South Wales Miners Museum that MTC only agreed to temporarily store the exhibition. We would be keen for the exhibition to be stored elsewhere as the exhibition has taken over our basement store rooms and anytime we need to supply meter readings we have to remove the exhibition in and out. Additionally, we had a fire risk assessment done and the exhibition is blocking some fire exit routes which is against fire regulations.

A member noted that the people in charge of the exhibition are actively looking for a new location to store it and will provide an update when they have one.

RESOLVED: to note the information

87. UNIT AT HEOL TY GWYN

Clerk, Deputy Clerk, CMO and Chair of Property, H&S visited Unit 6, The New Cornstores, Heol Ty Gwyn Industrial Estate. Further inspection showed that the roller shutter did not operate and would need to be repaired before MTC take on the lease. Clerk emailed BCBC Property department to advise that MTC would like to proceed with the lease of the unit, pending the roller shutter being repaired.

Property Department have emailed the following terms and conditions:

- 3-year term
- Rent = £3,950 per annum
- Service charge = £25 per calendar month = £300/year
- Insurance = £5 per calendar month = £60/year
- Rates & Utilities = MTC responsible
- Fees = £250 surveyors fees & £250 solicitor fees = £500
- Bond = £610 (returnable upon surrender of tenancy)

Initial Costs: £5,420.00 + rates and utilities

Costs per year = £4,310.00 + rates and utilities

Members deliberated this issue and asked the following:

- ❖ what was the purpose of the unit and what would be stored in it. It was advised that the CMO van and equipment will be stored in the unit and there is room to move items from the store rooms in the Council Offices up to the unit.
- ❖ Several members agreed with the purchasing of the unit as this would be effective especially if the role of the CMO is expanded. It was also noted that the units are highly sought after and for good reason given their size and location.
- ❖ Some members declined the purchase of the unit based on the contract of the CMO is likely to be reviewed in the near future so until that is decided then MTC should not purchase the unit.
- ❖ A member countered this by stating that the CMO is currently housing the equipment and fuels etc in his own personal garage which is not acceptable so the unit should be purchased to rectify this. Another member mentioned that this is only a decline for potentially a few weeks whilst the issues with the ongoing nature of the CMO role are carried out. Members deliberated on the fact that BCBC will simply move on as they need to fill the unit now and if that is the case then that will be accepted.
- ❖ Members asked if there was any room to adjust the lease period of the unit from the 3 years as outlined by BCBC to 6 – 12 months instead or alternatively sell the building to Maesteg Council. The clerk will contact BCBC to clarify these requests.

❖ The issue of insurance for goods within the unit came to light also as BCBC annual costs for the unit have additional costs for insurance that cover the unit itself and not items contained. It was noted that MTC have insurance covering their assets and the van insurance also covers fuel and equipment for the CMO.

Cllr G Thomas **proposed** and was seconded by Cllr I Williams to accept the terms of the 3-year lease with BCBC and for Maesteg Council to lease the unit at Heol Ty Gwyn.

Cllr L Thomas asked for an **amendment** that was seconded by Cllrs AR Davies and P Jenkins to delay the decision until the personnel committee has met to review role of CMO and to ask BCBC if a 1-year lease could be agreed.

Members voted on the **amendment** with the following result:

Cllr F Abedalkarim	For	Cllr R Lewis	For
Cllr R Collins	For	Cllr R Penhale-Thomas	For
Cllr AR Davies	For	Cllr M Rowlands	For
Cllr C Davies	For	Cllr G Thomas	Against
Cllr P Davies	Against	Cllr L Thomas	For
Cllr K Edwards	For	Cllr G Williams	For
Cllr A James	For	Cllr I Williams	Against
Cllr P Jenkins	For		

Results:

For = 12

Against = 3

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

RESOLVED:

- Clerk to contact BCBC to establish if a 1 year lease can be agreed
- Personnel Committee to meet to discuss the role of the CMO

88. CIVIC SUNDAY

The current Mayor, Cllr A James has requested that we reinstate Civic Sunday and has asked that this be held in August 2022.

To date Clerk has contacted other T&CC's within BCBC and most have advised that they are not holding Civic Sundays this year.

Clerk has also contacted Rev B Reaney in St Cynfelins Church to ascertain the maximum numbers allowed in the church, from this we can then search for venues to hold the Civic Reception / Afternoon tea afterwards.

We have also been contacted local venues for availability and approximate costs – awaiting costs from various venues (Maesteg Celtic, Nantyffyllon RFC & Masonic Hall) have received costs for Maesteg Golf Club.

A member stated that Civic Sunday has always been between the Mayor and the Clerk and the council have nothing to do with it as the budget comes out of part B of the Mayors allowance. Clerk advised it was placed under correspondence the last Civic Sunday was in 2019 and wanted to check that members were happy to reinstate.

The only question to raise is the seating available in the church this was answered with 300 people can fit into the church.

RESOLVED: Clerk and Mayor to liaise and arrange the Civic Sunday

89. NOTICE OF ELECTORS RIGHTS FOR 2021-22

The Notice of Electors Rights 2021-22 has been placed on the Council's noticeboard and onto the Website.

Clerk also advised that following the advice from Audit Wales the notice had been amended to run from 18th July – 12th August 2022.

RESOLVED: to note the information

90. ACTIVE 4 LIFE SUMMER HOLIDAY PROGRAMMES 2022

Email received from BCBC to enquire whether Maesteg Town Council has allowed for support for the school holiday programmes that we would traditionally have supported at Maesteg Sports Centre and also at Caerau.

We are looking at what might be able to be delivered this year and can provide more information on that if it is the intent to support.

Clerk has advised that MTC have budgeted for this.

RESOLVED: to note the information

91. UNADPOTED LANES

The issue of unadopted lanes and what Maesteg Town Council can do has been raised recently. Members were provided a list of unadopted lanes by Ward.

It is not the responsibility of Maesteg Town Council to maintain these lanes. The Ward specific fund was created for wards to remove fly tipping from these lanes.

We have recently been contacted regarding Coronation Terrace and the overgrowth. The CMO has cut back some of the overgrowth near the steps as a good will gesture but residents need to know that this is not the responsibility of MTC.

Should the land ownership need to be ascertained the residents can contact BCBC / V2C and if unadopted they can then apply to the Land Registry (at a cost).

Response from Cllr AR Davies:

If MTC aren't willing to step in to help these residents then we essentially have no hope for unadopted lanes. It is a constant dog fight between V2C and BCBC over who is responsible for what. We have seen this at Caerau Market Garden all too often.

MTC can offer a solution here as opposed to putting yet another barrier in place for residents. We should be proactive and share the fact we have helped our residents, not simply say it isn't our responsibility. 9/10 people will not approach Land Registry, particularly at a cost, and the resulting consequence is a mess for residents to live amongst. It's not acceptable for us to just do nothing.

Can we please agenda this for further discussion at the next meeting, if the Mayor is of course happy to do so, as we need a policy moving forward. We can't just say yes to a few, as we see fit, whilst others live with amongst the mess. Everyone is paying their fair share of council tax so why it is fair to say that one person on one side of the street can have clean living whilst the other cannot is ludicrous.

Cllr AR Davies outlined that his statement is clear and we need a means of deciding what jobs around the Town are given yes or no answers to. A member sympathised and mentioned that years ago when Maesteg District Council transferred its assets to Ogwr Borough Council and then to BCBC many of the lanes were not up to standard so could not be adopted, the list of these lanes is large and MTC do not have the funds to bring them all up to standard.

Another member stated that outside their door is a lane that is half adopted and the other half is not. He mentioned that even if the lane becomes adopted then the maintenance costs are so large that he understands why many stay unadopted. The Mayor stated that we should judge each case on its merit and help out where we can.

A member asked if there is a minimum standard that we could get lanes to for BCBC to adopt them. This was confirmed as correct and then mentioned that if MTC focus on getting the lanes that are near to the minimum standard to that standard then this would be beneficial to local residents throughout the valley.

A member mentioned that they do not mean this request is to tarmac every lane but to simply remove fly tipping where it exists and things of that nature so that it is not solely left to the residents to deal with. Another member confirmed that this is what the Ward Specific Fund was established for but was countered with the CMO contract having terms to attend to fly tipping at the council's request.

A member mentioned that the CMO is mandated to do Rights of Way (ROW) work and doesn't see how he would have the time to do more work. Another member stated that the work does seem excessive for just one man so would encourage the council to employ another CMO so that the community can see an overall benefit. It was

mentioned that if another member of staff of similar wages and hours is to be taken on then a third of the precept would be spent on wages which will not be feasible.

RESOLVED: Members agreed to discuss this in a following budget meeting.

92. OUTSTANDING BUILDING MAINTENANCE COSTS

Clerk contacted the Agent to enquire when Taliesin Conservation would be on site to continue with the maintenance works?

The Agent has advised that MTC will need to issue Taliesin with a new Letter of Intent and asked the question: *do you think it needs to be for 'only' £50k, which won't cover all the works left; or the full works? We could be open with Taliesin and say that there is a risk of a £50k cap, but please gear up for all the work. However, we would still need to identify the £50k work, with an extension of the Letter of Intent to the rest of the work.*

Clerk asked for clarification as to how much in £'s is outstanding to complete the maintenance on the building.

RESOLVED: Members agreed to continue with £50,000 of funding for building works.

93. MTC CAT GRANT – MAESTEG CELTIC RFC

BCBC CAT officer has emailed on behalf of Maesteg Celtic RFC with the following: *I met with representatives of Maesteg Celtic RFC last night and understand the Club has been assigned funding of £5,000 from the Town Council for the transfer of Garth Park.*

The Club are looking to progress the self-management of the playing surfaces at Garth Park in partnership with Maesteg Celtic Cricket Club as a matter of priority and have asked whether funding previously awarded by the Town Council primarily for pitch improvements could be switched to pitch maintenance equipment instead due to the increased costs currently being experienced in the market place.

I would be supportive of this suggestion and would ask the Town Council to consider their request.

RESOLVED: Members agreed to the change in use for the CAT grant.

94. MAESTEG BRANCH - ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

Email received from Maesteg Branch Royal British Legion advising our new Chairman, Mr. Robert Reed, has come across a collection of articles - medals, dog tags, and documents - connected with a veteran from Maesteg.

The Branch committee agreed at its previous meeting on 19 April that these articles should be presented to Maesteg Town Council and displayed along with the laid

Standard in the Council Offices. Would we be able to arrange a meeting to discuss the planning for an event for presenting these articles to the council?

Additionally have an initial discussion on this year's Poppy Appeal.

Members advised that previously there was an RBL Sub-Committee to meet with the Maesteg Branch of the RBL. Clerk advised that the committee had not been discussed at the AGM and a new committee would need to be created. Following this it was agreed that the Mayor meet with the Maesteg Branch RBL.

RESOLVED: The Mayor will meet with RBL to discuss this years Poppy Appeal and display of the items discussed.

95. MAESTEG BMX CLUB REQUEST USE OF THE GAZEBOES FOR EVENT WEEKEND 16TH & 17TH JULY 2022

In the past Maesteg Town Council have loaned the gazeboes for the BMX race weekend. The BMX club have requested the use of the gazeboes this year for the weekend 16th & 17th July 2022. If approved they will collect the gazeboes on Friday 15th July and return them on Monday 18th July 2022. Unfortunately, the CMO is unavailable on the Friday and Monday due to annual leave days.

Also invite the Mayor and Councillors to attend the race day.

RESOLVED: Members agreed the use of the gazebos for the event.

96. PROPOSED PERMANENT TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDER - MAESTEG BUS STATION.

Members were provided with the following engagement letter and drawing number, for the proposed introduction of a permanent traffic regulation order at Maesteg Bus Station.

This letter provides notification of the proposed introduction of a permanent Traffic Regulation order to replace the current temporary order in place at Maesteg Bus Station. The restrictions are necessary to restrict parking for highway safety and are in the interest of public safety.

This order does not affect the existing prohibition of entry which is in place.

The Order is proposed to permanently introduce the 'No Waiting or Loading at Any time' parking restrictions that are currently laid in Maesteg Bus Station. The proposed traffic order is shown on the attached Drawing Number EB22.08

The scheme is being funded by the Properties Department.

As part of our consultation process, we are writing to you to seek your views on the proposed measures in accordance with the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, the Local Authorities' Traffic Orders (Procedure) (England and Wales) Regulations 1996.

Cllr F Abedalkarim advised:

I had a good look at the plan and I had a chat with taxi drivers this morning, we are in agreement that there is a need for a drop off bay near the cafe (not parking) for taxis and disabled persons to benefit the use of the bus station or the library in the future. All other restrictions, looks reasonable as it's a bus station and a taxis rank.

It has also been drawn to my attention the speed that some vehicles use coming down Church Street, this raises concerns for the public safety and a look at possible speed ramps be placed on this particular stretch of the road as many school children use this walk to attend the local schools. This should be a priority.

RESOLVED: Members agreed to forward Cllr F Abedalkarim comments onto BCBC

97. COMPLAINTS RECEIVED -REPORTING CHILD ABUSE

A number of emails (at least 3 per day) from different people are being received to report child abuse. The body of each email is as follows:

I AM REPORTING A CRIME THAT WILL BE COMMITTED AGAINST CHILDREN UNLESS YOU ACT. IT IS YOUR DUTY TO DO SO.

BUT MOST IMPORTANTLY ID LIKE AN INVESTIGATION DONE INTO THE MANAGERS OR MANAGERESS, THE ASSISTANT MANAGERS AND SUPERVISORS OF THESE LIBRARIES. I WILL DO SOME RESEARCH AND FIND OUT THEIR NAMES IF YOU REQUIRE THEM.

I have become aware that libraries throughout the UK will be doing a "Drag Queen Story Hour" for children soon and I just wanted to express my serious concerns with regards to this. There are laws in the UK that state clearly this "show" violates these laws.

Obviously, you already know this, this to psychological abuse, mental abuse, sexual abuse and child grooming. Childlawadvice.org.uk states

Sexual Abuse

Child sexual abuse involves persuading or forcing a child to take part in sexual activities, or encouraging a child to behave in sexually inappropriate ways. It includes child grooming, causing a child to witness sexual activity, sharing indecent images of children, paying for the sexual services of a child, and encouraging child prostitution or pornography.

Please take your time and read through

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2003/42/contents>

Libraries involved in this are Awen, Blackpool, Bexley, Cardiff, Cornwall, Portsmouth, Brighton Hove, Leeds, Powys, Vale of Glamorgan, Rochdale, Somerset, Oxfordshire, Workingham, Reading, Crewe, Guernsey, Stockton and Bolton.

The above is nothing but the sexualisation & gender confusion of Children and exactly what PEDOPHILES do to groom Children before abusing them!

The above is absolutely abhorrent and they (the library managers) should be absolutely ashamed of themselves but also investigated.

This is nothing to do with Homophobia, Transphobia etc. It is sexualising Children which is absolutely disgusting and unacceptable!

I am so pleased that in our country we have an organisation like yourselves to act on this matter, lets let kids be kids and make our stand on this, many many people of LGBTQ+ community are appalled by this and do not agree with exposing children to confusing ideologies.

Also a few stories below you might want to have a read of....this is pure Filth and the normalization of Pedophilia and WILL NEVER BE ACCEPTABLE!!!

Clerk has responded with the following response:

Thank you for your email, any concerns should be addressed to SW Police and Bridgend County Borough Council as libraries and Social Services do not fall within the remit of a Town Council.

Additionally, I have received information from the BCBC Group Manager IAA & Safeguarding advising:

I have made some enquires in relation to the matter raised and see no evidence of any safeguarding issue. Should this gentleman feel a crime is being committed I would advise him to contact the Police. However, from a Children's Services perspective, children being read to by a man dressed or identifying as a woman is in no way a contravention of any law.

Should parents choose to attend such an event with their child, that is their right to do so.

RESOLVED: to note the information

98. BCBC T&CC FORUM MEETING

The next meeting of the above is as shown below to be held remotely via Teams on Mon 1 August at 4.00pm

If you have any suggested items for placing on the agenda at this meeting, then please could I receive details of these by no later than Friday 15 July 2022.

Members asked the Clerk to forward onto 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.

RESOLVED: to forward the above agenda items

99. REQUEST TO USE PHOTOCOPIER

I am a local retired teacher and I have recently volunteered to assist the adult Ukrainian refugees in Maesteg, to learn to speak English. As a volunteer I have no funding to do this. My biggest problem will be accessing a photocopier so I can make resources to help these people learn the relevant vocabulary.

I was wondering if you might be able to ask Maesteg Council if they might be prepared to help me with this and if so, how much it would cost me?

Members agreed to allow use of the photocopier for such a cause as the clerks' discretion with no cost.

RESOLVED: to note the information

100. REQUEST TO CLEAR FOOTPATH

The residents in Pond Mawr asking to clear the footpath of weed growth as matter of concerns. The footpath is well used by residents in the area, and it's situated between Pit Street and Pond Mawr bungalows in front of properties number 54 & side of 53 . The footpath is not an adopted highway and the BCBC will not take the work.

The footpath is not an adopted highway and the BCBC will not take the work. The help of MTC to clear the weed will be much appreciated by the residents in the area

Members agreed to ask the CMO to attend to clear the path

RESOLVED: CMO to clear this path

101. MAESTEG GLEEMENT REQUEST

Maesteg Gleemen have requested Armorial Bearings and Plaque to take with them to Cornwall in 2 weeks' time.

Members agreed to this request.

RESOLVED: Clerk to provide Armorial Bearings and Plaque

102. FINANCIAL APPLICATIONS

Members were provided with application forms from the following organisations:

1. TY HAFAN

Date received: 09/06/2022

Request £500 grant. To assist in financing the Stay and Play project.

Received £100 S137 grant in May 2018 and have included annual report and financial statement for year ending 31st March 2021

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

2. CAERAU WELFARE BOWLS CLUB

Date received: 15/06/2022

Request £500 grant to assist in financing team shirts.

Have not applied for S137 before and have included a bank statement

A member raised the question of S137 being used for uniforms, he argued that this doesn't help the community through growing the club or offering better services to serve the community. Another member advised that this issue is on the agenda for the finance committee so will not agree to pay this application until this has been done.

RESOLVED: Finance Committee to look at the S137 policy along with clarification from OVW on the use of S137 for uniforms

3. BRONFAIR ALLOTMENTS

Date received: 21/06/2022

Request £500 grant to assist in financing a community shed for families on low income to share.

Have not applied for S137 before and have included a bank statement

A member raised an objection to this application stating that the applicant wants a shed for him and his friends so we should decline the request. Another member mentioned that Maesteg Council have worked with Bronfair Allotments in prior years and they have made disabled plots that are offered out to charities and have over 40 plots available so any investment would have an overall benefit to an array of people.

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

4. **HOPE RESCUE**

Date received: 22/06/2022

Request £500 grant to assist in ongoing vet bills for the rescued dogs.

Received £200 S137 grant in March 2021 and have included a bank statement.

A member suggested that this is granted as the charity is based in Llanharan. Another member stated that the charity works across Wales and regularly helps rehome dogs from Maesteg with many posts circulating social media to find lost owners and to rehome abandoned animals.

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

5. **LLYNFI BMX RACING CLUB**

Date received: 04/07/22

Request £480.00 grant to assist in Financing the regional BMX race on 16th & 17th July 2022 for hiring portable toilets, medals, trophies, gas, fuel for generator.

Received £200 S137 grant in April 2018 and have included a bank statement.

Members agreed to pay £480

RESOLVED: Council donate the sum of £480 under Section 137 of the Local Government Act (as amended).

6. **PROJECT LINUS – BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH**

Date received: 05/07/22

Request £500.00 grant to assist in running costs for September project with Special Families.

I am Melanie and I am the area co-ordinator for Project Linus in Bridgend and County Borough, we have a community network of lovely ladies who knit and quilt and donate

around 120 quilts a month in to the local community. We provide a ‘hug’ to children who are living in difficult circumstances.

We provide quilts to a variety of establishments - from local schools/families in distress, the children’s ward at POW, Ty Seren, The Bridge - and so on

We have been speaking (see email below) to Ann at Special Families, and she has sent me a ‘named’ list of children that she would like quilts for. The list runs to 75 children.

I have to find around £500 funding a month just to keep the current project supplied with fabric and wadding, even where the ‘top’ has been made, to finish the quilt sandwich and put backing on it you can be looking at £7-10 per quilt

As such we are looking to see if Maesteg council would support us with a small funding request. WE see this project for ‘Special Families’ could incur an additional cost for us of between £500 and £750, but in return we will happily source and sew in to every quilt provided to ‘Special Families’ a name tape with the words “Aided by Maesteg Town Council” in recognition of your support.

A member stated that this application is being made through Special Families so, by our rules, that would be their application for the year. Another member argued that the wording is ambiguous and Special Families place orders with the charity to help those in need so the grant should be supported. It was confirmed that the monies would be paid to the charity and not special families so would not count as an application from special families and so members agreed to pay £500.

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

103. DELEGATES REPORT

Cllr L Thomas advised that he had attended the One Voice Wales AGM last night and when the minutes are produced he will forward them onto all Cllrs.

RESOLVED: To note the information

104. TO GO INTO COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS A CONFIDENTIAL ITEM

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'

106. RESOLVED: THAT THE COUNCIL COME OUT OF COMMITTEE

107. 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.

Cllr I Williams declared an interest in P/22/399/FUL therefore, took no part in the discussion on this planning proposal.

Cllr AR Davies declared an interest in P/22/387/FUL therefore, took no part in the discussion on this planning proposal.

The following applications had **No Objections**:

Ref: P/21/1057/OUT
Applicant: First Rate Products Ltd
Location: Land rear of 35-46 Salisbury Road Maesteg CF34 9EG
Proposal: Outline application for 3 dwellings (all matters reserved except access) – amended description and plans received 8-6-22
Ask for: Lee Evans

Ref: P/22/368/FUL
Applicant: Ms L Morris
Location: 61 High Street Nantyffyllon Maesteg CF34 0BS
Proposal: Bedroom extension to first floor to rear elevation
Ask for: Julie Earp

Ref: P/22/399/FUL
Applicant: Mrs D Power
Location: 23 Cemetery Road Maesteg CF34 0LW
Proposal: Remove existing garage; construct single storey extension to side/rear to provide bedroom/ensuite and utility room
Ask for: Julie Earp

Ref: A/22/14/ADV
Applicant: Merson Signs Ltd
Location: TSB 18-19 Talbot Street Maesteg CF34 9BW
Proposal: Proposed external signage comprising: fascia, trough downlighter, 'tsb.co.uk' vinyl, illuminated TSB logo, illuminated projection sign, ATM tablets x3, 'come in' window vinyl, address panel x2
Ask for: Julie Earp

Ref: P/22/387/FUL
Applicant: Ysgol Cynwyd Sant
Location: Ysgol Cynwyd Sant Pen Yr Ysgol Maesteg CF34 9LN
Proposal: Siting of container for use as shop (Pay as you Feel), container for storage and raised beds
Ask for: Julie Jenkins

Ref: P/22/301/OUT
Applicant: Mr A Richards
Location: Former Steakhouse Bridgend Road Maesteg CF34 0AX
Proposal: Proposed residential development and new access road along with hard and soft landscaping
Ask for: Lee Evans

Ref: P/22/424/FUL
Applicant: Mr Daniel
Location: 70 Ystad Celyn Maesteg CF34 9LT
Proposal: Lean-to conservatory to front elevation of property in black upvc, clear glass to frames, blue glass to roof
Ask for: Julie Earp

Ref: P/22/451/FUL
Applicant: Mr C Bowen
Location: 7 Mill View Estate Garth Maesteg CF34 0DD
Proposal: First floor side extension (re-submission of P/22/39/FUL)
Ask for: Julie Earp

108. PLANNING APPEAL

OUR REFERENCE: A/22/8/ADV

APPEAL BY: Wildstone Estates Limited

Land opposite 65 Bethania Street (south of Scout Hall)

We are in receipt of an advert appeal against the refusal of planning permission in relation to the above.

There will be no further opportunity for interested parties to comment at this appeal stage, only to withdraw any previous comments made. However, any representations that you have made regarding the original advertisement application will be forwarded to PEDW and the Inspector will take full account of these when deciding the appeal.

The appeal documents can be viewed on our website – by typing in A/22/8/ADV at: www.bridgend.gov.uk/planning and all appeal documents are listed as ALFORM.

The Inspector's decision (when it is issued) and information regarding the progress of this appeal, can also be accessed by entering the PEDW case reference into the Appeals Casework Portal <https://planningcasework.service.gov.wales/>

Arrangements will be sent to me about the PEDW Inspector visit to the appeal site.
The Inspector will conduct the site visit alone with no representation to either party.

RESOLVED: To note the information.

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

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

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Mayor