

**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, 6th September 2022**

PRESENT:

COUNCILLORS:

A James (Mayor)

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

APOLOGIES were received from Cllr K Edwards and South Wales Police

DECLARATION OF INTEREST:

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

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

196. 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 August 2022

	Caerau / Nanty	Maesteg East	Maesteg West	Llan	Total in category
Robbery	0	0	0	0	0
Drugs	0	0	2	0	2
Dwelling burglary	5 (2 att)	0	0	0	5
Burglary other	0	0	0	0	0
Theft of vehicle	0	0	0	1	1
Theft from vehicle	4 (1 att)	0	1	0	5
All other theft	4	3	8	0	15
Damage	8	2	4	1	15
Violence against the person	26(8)	5(1)	18	6(1)	55(10)
Domestic related occurrences	11	2	6	1	20
All crime total	47	10	33	8	95
Anti-social behaviour total	11	5	8	1	25
Drink Driving	1	0	0	0	1

RESOLVED: to note the information

197. MAYORAL EVENTS

The Mayor advised that he attended the following events:

- 10th August 22 Caerau Growers – Childrens event
- 11th August 22 Employability Bridgend in Maesteg Welfare Park
- 13th August 22 CDT funday
- 15th August 22 Noddfa Playscheme
- 16th August 22 BMX
- 21st August 22 Civic Sunday
- 23rd August 22 Ukraine Independence Day in Maesteg Welfare Park
- 26th August 22 South Wales Miners Museum – 50th Anniversary
- 28th August 22 Classic Car Show
- 2nd September 22 RBL

RESOLVED: to note the information

198. MINUTES

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
- **Full Council** – 02/08/2022 emailed 07/08/2022
- **Full Council (Confidential)** – 02/08/2022 emailed 07/08/2022
- **Extraordinary Council** – 23/08/2022 emailed 26/08/2022
- **Extraordinary Council (Confidential)** – 23/08/2022 emailed 26/08/2022

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

MATTERS ARISING

199. MINUTE 148

MINUTES – RECOMMENDATIONS FROM MINUTES

Personnel Committee (Confidential) Recommendations

Clerk has contacted Neath Port Talbot Collage regarding the following courses:

- PAT Testing
- 1st Aid at Work
- Basic Accountancy Course (AAT Level 2)

Dates have yet to be agreed for the courses, however there may be Welsh Government Funding available for the courses as all members of staff fulfil the criteria (over 19 years of age, live / work in Wales and earnings under a threshold). Clerk / Deputy Clerk to contact again 1st week in September 22.

NPT College AAT L2 Course is during term time on Tuesdays 1pm – 6:15pm

NPT College 1st Aid at work is a 3-day course starting 15th March 23

Bridgend College AAT L2 Course is 30 weeks Tuesdays & Thursdays 6pm – 9pm
Bridgend College PAT Testing course – still waiting for numbers before giving date for the course.

Members discussed the dates and it was unfortunate that the AAT course dates were on Tuesdays as both Clerk and Deputy Clerk unable to commit to Tuesday afternoon / evening due to full Council meetings. Clerk advised that Deputy Clerk was currently looking for online courses.

It was **agreed** to book places onto the 1st Aid at Work course and to proceed with the PAT Testing Course at either location depending on where runs the course first.

Projects Committee – Recommendations

1. Contact local bus companies for expression of interest in reinstating bus route 37 at a reduced service of 25 – 50 % of the original route for a trial.

09/08/22: to date 2 companies have declared an interest in reinstating route 37, a tender document has been sent to the projects committee before being sent to the interested companies.

It was **agreed** that a working sub-committee is created to meet with the interested companies. The following members were elected to the sub-committee working group: Cllrs F Abedalkarim, A James, R Martin, R Penhale-Thomas and G Thomas.

2. Wait for SW Police and BCBC for progressing the average speed camera project at Heol Ty Gwyn.

Response: No response to date

3. Research the permissions and costings for a memorial to the mining history to be placed into Maesteg Welfare Park

05/08/22: Email sent to BCBC for permission to place a memorial in Maesteg Welfare Park

Response: No response to date

09/08/22: Email sent to the sculptor to request quotes

Response: 23/08/22: Sorry for the late reply I've away in the US, carving in the US Open chainsaw carving competition and I'm still a little jetlagged, I'm off again this weekend for a few weeks.

I spoke with Cllr K Edwards today about possible options, I mentioned possibly a miner and pit pony with their heads touching, if you like this idea the I can do a sketch and meet with you soon as I have a free day

4. 05/08/22: Email sent to BCBC to ask BCBC if bus shelters can be placed at the requested bus stops on Commercial Street and at what cost.

Response: No response received to date

5. 05/08/22: Email sent to BCBC to ask what they plan to do with the land between Bridge Street and Commercial Street.

Response: Having spoken to a few of my colleagues I can confirm the following regarding the site:

Ex-Councillor Tom Beedle was in consultation with our department regarding the possible use of the site for allotments. This was investigated and advised to Councillor Beedle that it was probably not suitable for that purpose due to restricted access. He was advised that he would need to apply for planning permission for change of use and vehicular access and parking would also be required.

I do not believe that any planning permission request have been submitted at this time.

If the town council would like to submit any proposals for the use of the site, I can forward these onto the relevant team members for discussion.

Members **agreed** for the Clerk to approach BCBC to ask what permissions are given for use of the land in its current state. On receipt of this information members would like the Clerk to source costings on potential projects on the land mainly a soft play area.

6. 05/08/22: Email sent to BCBC Cabinet Member for Communities to ascertain which play areas within MTC boundary will be updated and whether they would be consider the CAT of a smaller play area for MTC to maintain in the future. It was noted that the past election promise by BCBC was to refurbish every park in the borough but we are aware now that this is not the case and has moved to only certain parks. Would we be able to have a list of the parks within Maesteg that BCBC plan on refurbishing and an estimate to timescales please?

Response: 05/08/22 - Thanks for your email but I am not sure where your members are getting their information from, but there has not been any change to the election manifesto of the Labour administration to refurbish all play areas during the term of this Council. Perhaps you could clarify where this misinformation came from?

Moving forward if Maesteg Town Council wish to explore the option of a Community Asset transfer of one of the smaller play areas then this may well be possible, and to commence discussions on this please can you make direct contact with BCBC CAT Officer.

05/08/22 Cllr C Davies would like to propose Nantyllyllon park

Members deliberated and noted that with BCBCs election manifesto, all parks in Bridgend County Borough are to be refurbished. It was suggested that MTC take control of the Welfare Park, however noted the sheer expense of fixing some of the equipment within the soft play area would exceed tens if not hundreds of thousands of pounds.

A member noted that Blaencaerau play park is small in size and its ownership is currently disputed between BCBC and V2C. It was mentioned that BCBC accidentally transferred the ownership to V2C during the transfer of social housing and V2C refuse to touch the park. Cllr P Davies **proposed** and was seconded by Cllr M Rowlands that MTC look into the CAT transfer of Blaencaerau playing park.

Members requested that the Clerk write to the BCBC Cabinet Member for Communities to ascertain their definition for 'refurbishing all parks'. It was noted that previously a park on Woodlands Terrace had been 'refurbished' with just 2 apparatus replaced and the rest of the park left as it was and marked as completed.

Finance Committee – Recommendations

3. 03/08/22: Email sent to the Agent to advise Council have agrees to fund the whole amount to complete the outstanding works whilst actively seeking grant funding

Response: 05/08/22: Waiting for scaffolding company to advise when they can re-erect scaffolding for the works.

Clerk also advised that further email was received and forwarded to all members to advise that the conservation company unable to resume until the new year.

RESOLVED:

Personnel Committee (Confidential) Recommendations

- Clerk to proceed and book the available courses – 1st Aid at Work and PAT Testing
- Deputy Clerk to continue to search for AAT Course

Projects Committee – Recommendations

- The following members were elected to the sub-committee working group: Cllrs F Abedalkarim, A James, R Martin, R Penhale-Thomas and G Thomas to meet with the interested bis companies.
- To await a meeting with the wood sculptor
- Chase BCBC regarding adding bus shelters on Commercial Street
- Clerk to approach BCBC to ask what permissions are given for use of the land (between Bridge Street and Commercial Street) in its current state. On receipt of

this information members would like the Clerk to source costings on potential projects on the land mainly a soft play area.

- MTC look into the CAT transfer of Blaencaerau playing park.
- Clerk to write to BCBC Cabinet Member for Communities to ascertain their definition for ‘refurbishing all parks’. It was noted that previously a park on Woodlands Terrace had been ‘refurbished’ with just 2 apparatus replaced and the rest of the park left as it was and marked as completed.

200. MINUTE 155

CHRISTOPHER WILLIAMS PAINTINGS

04/08/22 – Email sent to BCBC Heritage Officer

Response: 05/08/22 - I’ve asked a colleague for guidance on this for you. As soon as I have an answer for you, I’ll come back to you.

Response from BCBC Heritage Officer 01/09/22: Apologies for the delay in responding to you.

Attached is some helpful information from my colleague in Regeneration regarding your enquiry.

The CW paintings at the Town Hall are being conserved, restored and stored by Rachel Howells’ based in Cowbridge.

Awen commissioned for these works directly- if you need any further info let me know.

Clerk advised that MTC contacted Property department on 13th July with no response and in our August Council meeting were advised to contact you as Council advised that the paintings belong to BCBC and were loaned to MTC as part of the building transfer.

Members feel that restoration costs should come from BCBC and not MTC as MTC don’t own the paintings.

Please can you find out who has the maintenance responsibility for these paintings and how we proceed.

Response from BCBC Heritage Officer 01/09/22: Apologies, I’ve forwarded your email for guidance on how to address the enquiry.

Members discussed the responses received and stated that if BCBC wish to transfer ownership to MTC then MTC would be happy to accept them and have them restored. Members also discussed if these paintings were currently covered under the current insurance policy as they are currently not owned by the Council, to which the Clerk advised she was unsure and it was agreed that this be checked with the insurance provider.

RESOLVED:

- To ask BCBC if they would transfer ownership of the paintings to MTC
- To check if the paintings are covered within the insurance policy

201. MINUTE 157

UNADOPTED LANES

08/08/2022 – Email sent to BCBC following a post on social media advising that BCBC will be spending £500K on upgrading a number of unadopted streets within BCBC in readiness for adoption. Email is requesting whether any of the unadopted lanes within MTC boundary will be included within the scheme.

Response: No response received to date, however members queried whether any of the BCBC councillors knew anything of the matter. It was mentioned that none of the planned works are to be completed within the Maesteg boundary. It was also mentioned that BCBC spent £300,000 of this budget on one street in Porthcawl. Cllr P Davies advised that he recently had a meeting with the Cabinet Member and Director of Communities whereby they visited the lane near the Riverboat in Caerau, questions were asked why this area couldn't be adopted as the area is almost to standard. The Director for Communities was unable to answer given its standard. It was added that many roads in Maesteg are so close to the standard of being adopted that the monies would be better spent making slight improvements and adopting these lanes rather than spend a massive budget on one/two roads/lanes.

Another member also asked if BCBC members could ascertain why BCBC don't respond to requests. The BCBC members also advised that they do not get responses from officers / departments.

RESOLVED: To ask BCBC that as many roads in Maesteg are close to the standard of being adopted would the money be better spent making slight improvements and adopting these lanes rather than spend a massive budget on one/two roads/lanes.

202. MINUTE 159

MAESTEG BRANCH RBL

Meeting arranged for 15/08/22 – it was agreed that the RBL can store the wreaths in the basement as per previous years.

It was also agreed that the RBL can present the collection of articles - medals, dog tags, and documents - connected a veteran from Maesteg on Friday 2nd September at 5.30pm

A member asked how they obtain wreaths going forward and were advised to contact the Maesteg representative of the RBL and MTC will facilitate the storing and distributing of said wreaths. It was agreed to double check this in readiness for remembrance Sunday.

RESOLVED: Clerk to double check the procedure for wreath ordering and collection with Maesteg Branch RBL.

203. MINUTE 160

PROPOSED PERMANENT TRAFFIC REGULATIONS ORDER – MAESTEG BUS STATION

05/08/22: Email sent to BCBC Traffic & Transportation advising MTC object to the proposal.

RESOLVED: to note the information

204. MINUTE 163

REQUEST TO CLEAR FOOTPATH – POND MAWR

Further request received to clear this again, CMO visited the area 09/08/22.

RESOLVED: to note the information

205. MINUTE 166

GRANT MONEY BCBC - OUTSTANDING MONEY OWED TO BCBC FROM 2014

Payment made to BCBC on 05/08/22. Grant received from BCBC 17/08/22.

The Chair of Finance commented stating that this matter has now been resolved.

RESOLVED: to note the information

206. MINUTE 175

COMPLAINT FROM RESIDENT – CCTV IN BUS STATION

09/08/22: Email sent to BCBC requesting that MTC & BCBC go into partnership to reinstate the CCTV camera in Maesteg Bus Station

Response received 10/08/22: After liaising with colleagues in our Property Department and the CCSU Team, we can confirm that a CCTV camera has been replaced on the mini roundabout (taxi rank) at Maesteg Bus Station.

The new camera is fully working and monitors the bus station.

RESOLVED: to note the information

207. MINUTE 180

INSURANCE RENEWAL

3 additional insurance companies contacted, however all advised that they were unable to provide the same level of cover as our current provider.

Current provider quoted the following Long-Term Agreement (LTA) whereby LTA exchange a level of discount in return for your commitment to stay with us over the selected number of years.

- 1 Year: £3,689.16 (including IPT)
- 3 Year (LTA): £3,514.08 (including IPT)
- 5 Year (LTA): £3,338.97 (including IPT)

(Additions / Increases and Removals / Decreases can still change the premium throughout this period).

These quotations have been based on our understanding on information held from last year.

Members commented on the current insurance provider and claimed that they were happy with the service received and that, due to the current trajectory of inflation, fixing the policy for 5 years would be advantageous.

A member did comment stating that the insurance company previously provided training on its policies that may be beneficial to members to attend so would like the Clerk to find out.

RESOLVED:

- To proceed with a 5-year LTA
- To enquire whether they still offered training for members

208. MINUTE 182

S137 FINANCIAL APPLICATIONS

06/08/2022: Email of thanks received from MAWS along with a recent vets' bill for £2,358.44 which the S137 payment will be used towards.

RESOLVED: to note the information

209. LIST OF PAYMENTS FOR THE MONTH OF AUGUST 2022

RESOLVED:

That the tables of **Expenditure (£62,719.53)**, **Income (£70,814.13)** during the month of August 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 September 2022 totalling **£1,441.63**
- A copy of the Receipts and Payments Account which includes expenditure against the budget and the budget remaining and an income analysis.

The Chair of Finance advised that the having contacted Clyde & Co and it is expected to go on for another 6 months as they have an ongoing serendipity clause with the proceeds of crime act due to the defrauding done by the prior clerk. The Chair of Finance also advised that HMRC are also to be contacted to double check the legality of these payments.

The Clerk advised that the current budget for the Mayors Part B didn't include budgeting for Civic Sunday and request that this be looked at during the next finance meeting. Members agreed to add this to the next finance committee meeting and to also add the potential feasibility for a public toilet when the Llynfi Rd car park toilet contract has ended.

CMO Work Summary

The month of August have included the following works:

- to be made live.
- Twice weekly bin emptying on the cycle track
- Tidy and Clean public WC – Daily due to staff illness
- Inspect and, where necessary, cut back overgrowth – Fp 2a, 6, 23a, 36, 37a, 40, 41, 42, 43a, 45b, 46, 48, 57, 62, 64, 74, 77, 82.
- Llynfi Woodland Group volunteer day – 9th August 22
- Caerau Market Garden – children's event 10th August 22
- Other areas cut back:
 - Path for Pond Mawr residents
 - Steps to Woodlands Terrace
 - Cycle path by Tesco

Works to be Carried out Next Month;

- 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
- Inspect and, where necessary, cut back overgrowth in September – Fp 6, 20, 23a, 24, 27, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 48, 52, 57, 64, 74, 77, 82,
- Additional areas requested: Part Coronation Terrace + steps next to school, lane by school, Woodlands Terrace, Castle Street & Bridge Street steps and path, Park View

Cllr R Lewis thanked the CMO for his work on clearing the overgrowth to the requested path as well.

CORRESPONDENCE

210. NEWSLETTERS / FLYERS / BRIEFING NOTES/ CONSULTATIONS

Emailed to all Councillors for information:

- Maesteg Town Hall – Update
- Llynfi Woodland Group work day – 10/08/2022 and foraging event (poster) on 13/08/2022
- Pizza delivery issues in Talbot Street
- BAVO - Volunteering Youth Led Grants offering up to £2,000 now open
- Employer Engagement Event at Maesteg Construction Centre of Excellence – 23/09/2022 invitation
- OVW – August/September Training dates
- 9th September 2022 Keep Wales Tidy - Community Orchard package
- Noteworthy Mixed Choir - Together Again Poster
- BCBC New Initiatives to Ensure Safer Streets

RESOLVED: to note the information

211. REFERRALS

- Commercial Street - overgrowth of brambles and berries are over whelming and causing obstruction to the public when walking along the pavement.
Response: No response to date. Cllr F Abedalkarim advised that this has now been completed
- Himalayan Balsam encroaching onto Bron Fair allotments, Maesteg
Response: 09/08/22: Your e-mail has been passed onto our Asset and Compliance Surveyor for her attention
- Unadopted Roads - Facebook post on 6th August 2022, can you advise if you are planning on upgrading the unadopted lanes / streets within Maesteg Town Council boundary?
Response: No response to date
- Complaints about the poor state of our important part of Local history the iron works ruin near the sports centre needs maintenance, Blast furnace on Tesco car park overgrown with vegetation.
Response: 08/08/22: BCBC met with a firm of tree surgeons last week to discuss clearance of vegetation from the above site. Despite it having been cut back 3 years ago we were all shocked at the amount of tree growth since. Unfortunately, at this time we are not able to cut back vegetation from the structure itself as this needs Scheduled Monument Consent from Cadw and will need to be done with roped access. However, we are able to have vegetation clearance carried out at ground level and that is scheduled for some time in September

- Overgrowth on Crown Rd, Maesteg – Cllr P Jenkins has received several complaints since May outlining the overgrowth on the only pavement heading into town. He has asked to forward these concerns onto BCBC Highways department.
Response: No response to date. Cllr P Jenkins advised that this has been completed and thanked the only 4 workers of BCBC who are employed to do this type of work – they did a wonderful job.
- Llynfi railway memorial plaque located at Llynfi Road car park is in absolutely filthy condition and being in the main car park is a very detrimental sight for visitors to our town.
Response: 31/08/22: We have passed your e-mail onto our Cleaner Streets Operations Officer, who has replied saying work will be carried out when resources are available.
- Overgrowth near 102 High Street, Nantyffyllon (one of the three houses over the river bridge, with no other access off footpath 46) resident states he sold the path to Maesteg Urban district Council, on condition they are tarmarced and maintained the path and the drainage channel alongside the path. Obviously over time responsibility to maintain this path etc. has been forgotten, or just not been maintained. Resident is requesting the overgrowth and drainage channel be trimmed and serviced.
Response: 26/08/22: BCBC - Looking on our systems, the path itself is not owned by us however the green areas around it where the overgrowth is an issue is owned by our highways team. I have reported this issue and they will be out to cut back the overgrowth in due course.
- Overgrowth from Maesteg Welfare Park obstructing the footpath at Heol Ty Gwyn.
Response: No response to date, however Cllr C Davies advised that he had recently cut this overgrowth.
- The Nant bus stop in Nantyffyllon is a bit of a mess
We need a rubbish bin and also find out who owns the bricked up old bus shelter please
Response: We have passed your request onto our Cleaner Streets Operations Officer for her attention about the bin and also passed your e-mail onto the Highways Department to deal with the bus shelter issue
- Road by Asda, outside of Helens hair dresser is very bad. I was told wheelchair users find it very difficult to pass as Road is so uneven and rough, also an exposed drain. I've been to inspect the drain is Actually a water meter cover but I agree the Road is very uneven
Response: Both of these issues have been logged with the relevant departments.

- Broken kerb stone and pavement outside Pen Y Bryn independent evangelical church, Duffryn Road, Caerau, CF34 0UA

Response: This has been logged with the relevant department

In addition, Cllr P Davies as spoken to the complainant and has asked for a more permanent repair to be carried out

RESOLVED: to note the information

212. REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE

A new estate agency in the Maesteg Town Centre is shortly to be launched, and we intend on purchasing two company cars (increasing to 6 over 3 years) for our staff to use. We are fighting very hard to try and ensure that these cars are full electric, but we are struggling with charging points within the town centre. We welcome any support or suggestions you may have to help us do our part in contributing towards a cleaner, greener town centre. We have conducted some research, and outside of London we can't find any estate agents that have gone full electric and we would love to help Maesteg gain some press by being the front runners in providing Maesteg with a new estate agent that is providing services with a minimal carbon footprint.

We welcome any support you can provide.

Clerk has advised of BCBC installation of Electric Charging points as provided 28/06/22 email:

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

This rollout is part of a regional project supporting users of electric cars and vans in Wales to access vehicle charging points in public car parks.

The first installations in the county borough are expected to be operational by September 2022.

You can read the full press release by following this link to the council's website:
<https://www.bridgend.gov.uk/news/electric-vehicle-charging-points-set-for-rollout-across-county-borough/>

Clerk also advised members that work on these points in Llynfi Rd car park has begun.

RESOLVED: to note the information

213. MEDIA REQUEST - BROWN BOB PRODUCTIONS - BBC1'S FRAUD SQUAD

Brown Bob Productions are beginning production on the fifth series of the hit BBC television show Fraud Squad this summer. The show focusses on the people prosecuting fraudsters who steal from the public purse.

The series is part of Brown Bob Productions' popular Fraud Squad brand, which has previously explored the work of NHS, council and police counter fraud teams as well as the work of the CPS. The investigators were really happy with how the series portrayed them, and have subsequently seen an uptick in reports of fraud since the show aired.

Each episode of the new series will feature three stories of real-life fraud, as told by the investigators themselves. Each story will be a closed case that resulted in a conviction, recounted through a mixture of interviews and reconstruction. It is an opportunity to share successes with a wider audience. Fraud Squad had the highest weekly average of 2021 in its time slot, meaning each episode reached more than 1.5 million viewers.

On our hunt for cases, we found that this case that happened against Maesteg Council <https://www.walesonline.co.uk/news/highly-respected-council-clerk-jailed-24721859> I'd love to have a conversation with someone about featuring it within the series with a view to have one of the officers from the team talk about their investigation on camera and showcase the wonderful work of the counter fraud team at Maesteg Council.

Members discussed the request and agreed to decline the request.

RESOLVED: to decline the request.

214. PUBLIC TOILET OUT OF ORDER

26/08/22 – advised that the handle on the toilet has been damaged. On inspection the handle has been broken off and a new toilet handle would be needed. Luckily the last time this occurred 2 handles were purchased (08/06/22) and the CMO visited and replaced the handle the same day and reopened the public toilet.

Clerk advised that 2 more handles would be purchased as spares.

RESOLVED: to purchase 2 more handles as spares.

215. DAFFODIL BULBS

Clerk is requesting whether daffodil bulbs can be ordered as per last year whereby 05/08/2021: 45 x 25kg sacks of Spring bulbs were ordered and delivered to various community groups within the boundary of Maesteg Town Council.

Cllr P Davies **proposed**, seconded by Cllr C Davies, that we bulbs.

RESOLVED: to re-order bulbs

216. CHRISTMAS GIFTS FOR RESIDENTIAL HOMES & SELECTION BOXES FOR 6 PRIMARY SCHOOLS WITHIN MTC BOUNDARY

Clerk is requesting whether MTC will be giving gift bags in Dec 2022 to the residents of the care homes as per December 2021 and whether MTC will be giving selection boxes to all the primary school pupils within the boundary of MTC. As both would need ordering ASAP to ensure delivery.

Cllr G Thomas **proposed**, seconded by Cllrs F Abedalkarim and L Thomas, that with the cost of living crisis the more the council can do the better so would support this.

RESOLVED: To purchase selection boxes and items for gift bags

217. BCBC T&CC FUND 2022/23

Further to Maesteg Town Council's application for funding from the Town and Community Council Capital Fund and the discussion by the Council's Cabinet at their meeting on 19th July 2022, I regret to inform you that your application for £8,947.50 towards a new boiler and thermostatic radiator valves has been unsuccessful. I would like to apologise because the length of time it has taken to reach an official decision has been more than normal, and also take the opportunity to thank you for your submission to the project and hope you will make a submission under the next round of funding.

I would like to take the opportunity to inform you that applications for the next round of funding will be available from January 2023 for submission in February 2023. A decision on grant awards is expected to be made by Cabinet in March 2023.

RESOLVED: to note the information

218. MAYORAL CHAIN AND COLLAR:

In September 2018 Full Council meeting a request was received by the then Mayor to have the Mayors Chain and Collar repaired and restored. From the full Council minutes, dated Tuesday, 4th September 2018. Minute 120 states:

MAYORAL CHAIN AND COLLAR:

*A very important part of Council's Assets and it is essential that it be maintained to standard. Currently insured for £4500.00. It is a silver gilt chain; and it has been confirmed by Thomas Fattorini, that it is needed to be re-finished in polished hard gold plate, to restore to silver gilt. It has been tarnished over the years. **Cost £311.30** To replace Velvet backing, doubled to take weight of the Mayoral Chain. **Cost £214.88.***

Following discussion, a proposal was received and seconded "not to progress this request". Following a vote taken by Members it was

RESOLVED: *Not to agree to this request.*

The current Mayor has advised that the Chain is now in need of repair and restoration as several links have had to be re-stitched and the pendant recently fell off during an event. Additionally, the safety chain is also in need of repair.

Cllr M Rowlands **proposed**, seconded by Cllr G Thomas that we frame and hang the current Mayors chain as it holds the names of previous Mayors and Chairmen of the Council, then look to source new chains. It was also agreed to look to refurbish the Deputy Mayors Chain also along with purchasing a regalia for the Town Crier.

RESOLVED:

To investigate the cost for sourcing new Mayoral Chain, refurbish Deputy Mayor Chain and to cost new regalia for the Town Crier.

219. RESOLVED: THAT THE COUNCIL GO INTO COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS A CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

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'

223. RESOLVED: THAT THE COUNCIL COME OUT OF COMMITTEE

224. PLANNING

The following applications **Supported** the following application:

Ref: P/22/523/FUL

Applicant: Mr D Skinner

Location: 11 Crown Road Maesteg CF34 0LN

Proposal: Demolish existing single storey extension and form two storey extension to rear; form flat roof dormer extension to existing roof to rear elevation

Ask for: Julie Earp

The following applications had **No Objections** to the following applications:

Ref: P/22/560/FUL

Applicant: Mr K Murray

Location: 1 Llynfi Road Maesteg CF34 9DS

Proposal: Change of use from professional offices (Use Class A2) to a dwellinghouse (Use Class C3)

Ask for: Steven Jenkins

Ref: P/22/575/FUL

Applicant: Mr A Butler

Location: Old Bake House Garn Road Maesteg CF34 9AS

Proposal: Conversion of bakehouse/store/office to 2-bedroom dwelling

Ask for: Steven Jenkins

The following application was **objected to** by Council with the following reasons:
being detriment to wildlife especially birds and the changing of the land requires the
ruining of the current habitat and increase risk of flooding due to large areas of
concreting required to erect such structures:

Ref: P/22/549/OBS

Applicant: Neath Port Talbot C B C - Planning Dept.

Location: Foel Trawsnant Bryn Port Talbot

Proposal: Request for comment: Amendment to condition 3 of reference
P2014/0825 to allow for approval of revised plans for the development.
The revised plans include increases in rotor diameter of five turbines (T5,
T6, T9, T10 and T11) up to 133m and increase in rotor diameter up to
117m of three turbines (T1, T2 and T8) with no increase in overall turbine
height. The number of turbines to be constructed will be reduced from 11
to 8 (turbines T3, T4, and T7 removed). (NPT ref P2022/0517)

Ask for: Phil Thomas

RESOLVED: To note the information.

Minutes emailed to Councillors to Read on 8th September 2022

Minutes accepted at a Hybrid meeting of the Council held on 4th October 2022

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Mayor