

**MAESTEG TOWN COUNCIL
COUNCIL MEETING**

Minutes of a HYBRID meeting of the **FULL COUNCIL** held at the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Talbot Street, Maesteg and remotely via Microsoft Teams and, on **Tuesday, 1st November 2022**

PRESENT:

COUNCILLORS:

A James (Mayor)

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

APOLOGIES were received from Cllr R Collins and South Wales Police

DECLARATION OF INTEREST:

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

Cllr R Penhale-Thomas declared an interest in items relating to the friends of Maesteg Welfare park as Deputy Chair of the board.

Cllr L Thomas advised that he is no longer a trustee on the board of AWEN Cultural Trust.

Cllrs C Davies and P Davies declared an interest in the discussion on Caerau Christmas Celebrations Group request.

271. 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 October 2022

	Caerau / Nanty	Maesteg East	Maesteg West	Llan	Total in category
Robbery	0	0	0	0	0
Drugs	1	0	0	0	1
Dwelling burglary	0	0	0	0	0
Burglary other	1	0	0	0	1
Theft of vehicle	0	0	0	0	0
Theft from vehicle	1	0	0	0	1
All other theft	4	7	4	0	15
Damage	6	2	1	1	10
Violence against the person	20 (2)	5	8 (1)	1	34 (3)
Domestic related occurrences	6 (2)	2	1 (1)	0	9 (3)

All crime total	36	15	12	2	65
Anti-social behaviour total	11	5	2	1	19
Drink Driving	1	0	0	0	1

A member raised the concern that the Council haven't seen the police in attendance for up to 6 months and would ask SWP to try to attend in the future.

Another member requested the Clerk to raise ongoing issues with SWP specifically parking on the pavement on Castle Street and outside the Chinese on Bridgend Road. He also added that the 101 system is not fit for purpose and to mention this to SWP also.

It was noted that Maesteg Police Station front office is to be closed so members would like information on the impact it will have on the Llynfi Valley.

RESOLVED: To contact SW Police and ask them to attend meetings, if not a Sgt then a PCSO.

272. MAYORAL EVENTS

The Mayor advised that he attended the following events:

23 rd October 22	Attended Bridgend Town Councils' Civic Sunday
26 th October 22	Attended Maesteg Comprehensive for a Mary Poppins play
29 th October 22	Attended pantomime at CDT

RESOLVED: to note the information

273. MINUTES

The following minutes;

- **Public Meeting – 29/09/2022 emailed 03/10/2022**

Unfortunately, the public meeting minutes were not in the packs and will be deferred to next month's meeting

- **Full Council – 04/10/2022 emailed 05/10/2022**

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

- **Finance Committee – 18/10/2022 emailed 21/10/2022**

A copy of the proposed budget to be given to Full Council whereby from this the following recommendations have been agreed:

- 1) All budget segments to be increased by 10% to allow for inflation
- 2) CMO budget to be adjusted to £5,000
- 3) Flowers and carriage clocks to be paid for out of S137 budget
- 4) Precept deferred until response from Audit Wales has been considered.
- 5) To discuss the Mayoral Expenditure the current financial climate and the less councils who implement a civic Sunday should Maesteg Council continue to do so?

6) IRP Office Costs – IRP have released figures to pay members to cover office expenses that they may incur during their term see below from page 9 of the consultation document:

Councils must either pay their members £52 a year for the cost of office consumables required to carry out their role, or alternatively councils must enable members to claim full reimbursement for the cost of their office consumables.

It is a matter for each council to make and record a policy decision in respect of when and how the payments are made and whether they are paid monthly, yearly or otherwise. The policy should also state whether and how to recover any payments made to a member who leaves or changes their role during the financial year.

Members voted to discontinue the Civic Sunday due to the current financial hardships being felt across the Country. In regards to office costs the Chair of Finance advised that as most office costs are undertaken by the Office itself then there wont be many costings taken on by Councillors so we should reimburse Councillors on the presentation of receipts.

- **Finance Committee – 26/10/2022 emailed 26/10/2022**

Full Council to review the draft budget and to discuss the items highlighted in yellow

The Chair of Finance advised that certain costings on the budget were difficult to cost effectively due to the previous financial mismanagement so would welcome suggestions from all Councillors. He mentioned that given the decision on the Civic Sunday to be discontinued then the budget will be updated accordingly along with the splitting of the Christmas parade, lights and festival so that the Councils finances will be more transparent.

A member asked if, in relation to the Christmas lighting, if the lights could be turned off at midnight to save on electricity costs. He was advised that Maesteg Town Council are on an unmetered meter for the Christmas lights so that would make no difference.

A member queried the ward specific fund being reduced to £5,000 when only this year it was increased to £10,000 and we have yet to see if this has worked. He was advised that this is a draft budget for the next financial year and is up for debate.

Cllr AR Davies **proposed**, seconded by Cllr A James, that the ward fund remain at £10,000 for the next financial year (23/24).

An **amendment** was brought forward by Cllr L Thomas, seconded by Cllr I Williams and F Abedalkarim, for the ward fund to be £5,000 as recommended by the Finance Committee.

The following vote took place on the amendment; ‘The ward fund to be £5,000 for the financial year 23/24’.

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

Results:

7 Against the amendment

9 For the amendment

With 9 votes for the amendment, the proposal falls and the Ward Fund for 2023/24 is to remain at the recommended £5,000

MATTERS ARISING

274. MINUTE 236

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM MINUTES

- 19/10/2022 – Emailed Sub-committee working group (Cllrs F Abedalkarim, A James, R Martin, R Penhale-Thomas and G Thomas) to meet with the interested bus companies. – Date for meetings to be agreed with the sub-committee

Cllr P Jenkins offered to take the place of Cllr G Thomas to attend meetings that take place when Cllr G Thomas is in work and thus unable to attend meetings

- 21/10/2022 – Emailed response to BCBC Cabinet Member

Response 21/10/22 from Cabinet Member:

Many thanks and I take this to be Cllr. Phil Jenkins who made the factually incorrect statement. Please can this be brought to the attention of all Council members that there was no substance behind his misleading claim and I can assure you that the Labour manifesto pledge to refurbish all BCBC play areas during the term of the Council is ongoing and has not been broken.

Therefore, I respectfully request that Cllr. Jenkins correct his statement and look forward to confirmation of this in due course.

Cllr P Jenkins stated that he has never made a misleading claim and requests that the reverse of Cllr Spanswick’s request happen.

- 21/10/2022 – Emailed V2C to ask them about their plans for the park in Blaencaerau as they would not be part of the CAT process. It was noted that

Maesteg Town Council want to take over ownership of the park and not just maintain it this will hopefully allow for the investment of monies into the park.

Response 24/10/2022 from V2C: *We have been trying to organise a meeting with BCBC and V2C for some time and the recent email was sent on 3rd October 22 to Head of Operations – Community Services, Parks Manager, and a number of V2C staff:*

Are we able to arrange some time to meet to discuss the future of Blaencaerau playground please? Playgrounds were discussed at the Strategic Partnership meeting between BCBC and V2C on 7 September 2021 and it was noted that a meeting to discuss Blaencaerau playground was to be arranged.

Can you suggest some dates that are suitable for you over the next few weeks?

A member queried the ownership of Blaencaerau Park as he was under the impression that the Council were going to obtain costings before attempting to take ownership of the park. Cllr M Rowlands gave a delegates report on the case and advised the he is awaiting further information from the Chief Executive of V2C and will update Councillors accordingly. A member commented thanking the Councillor for his work but advised these things should come through the office, the member was advised that Cllr Rowlands has been involved in this for years prior to becoming a Councillor so is best placed to continue to undertake the issue.

RESOLVED: To note the information

275. MINUTE 239

MAESTEG BRANCH RBL – REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

- 06/10/2022 – Emailed Maesteg Branch RBL to advise that the empty unit in the market square currently unavailable
- 06/10/2022 – Emailed Sunbelt to advise that the quote had been accepted
- 11/10/2022 – Emailed BCBC with Road Closure application for Remembrance Sunday.
- 21/10/2022 advised members with the arrangements for Remembrance weekend:
 - **Friday 11 November:** A service will be held in Llangynwyd commencing at 10:30 at the Llangynwyd Village Hall. Shortly before 11:00, those gathered will proceed outside to the War Memorial, where the two minutes' silence and wreath-laying will commence.
 - **Sunday 13 November:** A service will be held in St. Michael's Church commencing at 9:30. This will end by 10:15, allowing the parade to begin from St. Michael's Church to the War Memorial in Maesteg.

Clerk advised members that previously the Mayor would attend Maesteg, Deputy Mayor would attend Caerau and that a representative would need to attend Llangynwyd.

Members discussed this and agreed to the above and Cllr I Williams agreed to lay the wreath in Llangynwyd.

RESOLVED:

- Mayor Cllr A James to lay wreath at Maesteg
- Deputy Mayor Cllr r Martin to lay wreath at Caearau
- Cllr I Williams to lay a MTC wreath at Llangynwyd.

**276. MINUTE 241
DAFFODIL BULBS**

Bulbs delivered to all requested organisations.

Members queried how many organisations, Clerk advised 23 organisations.

RESOLVED: To note the information

**277. MINUTE 242
CHRISTMAS GIFTS FOR RESIDENTIAL HOMES & SELECTION BOXES FOR 6 PRIMARY SCHOOLS WITHIN MTC BOUNDARY**

- Selection boxes ordered and due for delivery on 7th November 2022.
- Gifts for the care homes ordered and will be delivered throughout October and November.

RESOLVED: To note the information

**278. MINUTE 243
FOI REQUESTS**

05/10/2022 - Responded to the FOI request with copies of the AGM minutes since 2015.

RESOLVED: To note the information

**279. MINUTE 244
CHRISTMAS PARADE**

- 06/10/2022 – placed the date for the parade on the MTC website.
- 06/10/2022- emailed Caerau Men Shed to see if they can supply a Santa for the Parade.

Cllr C Davies queried the lorry for Caerau Men's Shed needing to be at the Men's Shed prior to the parade. Clerk advised that LBS had been asked and was waiting on confirmation from LBS headquarters

- 07/10/2022 - emailed EPM to meet with the Christmas Parade working committee Cllrs: AR Davies, F Abedalkarim, A James, R Martin, R Penhale-

Thomas, M Rowlands and L Thomas to discuss the parade in more detail.

Meeting was arranged for 11/10/2022

- Advised EPM that at the moment the empty market square unit is unavailable
- 06/10/2022 - emailed Casey's Café about supplying hot chocolate and mince pies on Saturdays for performances in the market square.
Response: 06/10/2022 - prices have risen since but won't be much different from last year thanks
- 24/10/2022 – Advised members - Unfortunately, Green Top Events have informed BCBC that they will not be staging a Christmas Market in Maesteg. Commercial Street was always a difficult location and we did try and make it work.

The Market Place is clearly the best and most appropriate location for a street market in Maesteg and Green Top Events will now be seeking permission for an Easter Market in 2023 within the Market Place, so there is a plan to bring these successful markets to the town in 2023.

- Emailed Pencoed Town Council and Maesteg Rotary for the companies they use for fireworks display as the company MTC used previously hasn't responded. N.B. in 2018 the fireworks cost £1320.00 inc. VAT. Following this Clerk has contacted 3 companies to quote for the fireworks display, however will need to know how long the display is to last and how much MTC willing to pay for the Fireworks this year.

Quote 1	Quote 2	Quote 3
£1,000.00 depending on length of display	Have advised that in other areas this type of display would usually last approx. 7 minutes = £1,280.00 excluding VAT	

Members discussed the above quotes and Cllr G Thomas **proposed**, seconded by Cllr A James to agree to Quote 2. Members agreed to this proposal.

- In 2019, MTC engaged with Colour Black productions to film the parade and fireworks at a cost of £400. Do MTC want to engage with Colourblack Productions again in 2022?

Members discussed this request and Cllr G Thomas **proposed**, seconded by Cllr L Thomas that this will be the 1st parade in a few years and would be good publicity for the Council. Members agreed to this proposal.

- BridgeFM have advised EPM that as MTC already have an account with BridgeFM they will invoice MTC directly after the event. EPM have therefore reduced the parade event costs to minus the BridgeFM fee of £2,500.00 ex VAT.
- Llynfi Valley Voluntary Aid are unable to assist on Christmas Parade day this year as many of their members are unavailable. Clerk has contacted EPM to advise of this.
- Members of the Caerau Christmas Celebrations group would like to order a Christmas Tree to be placed at Caerau Square this December, and would be very grateful if Maesteg Town Council could, once again, pay half of the cost of the tree, as our fundraising activities this year have been limited by Covid restrictions during the winter months.

We are planning to have the tree lit up on Friday 2nd December at 5.00pm and would like to invite the Mayor and all the Councillors of Caerau Ward in both Maesteg and BCBC Councils to join us at this Community Event.

Cllrs C Davies and P Davies declared an interest in this request, therefore did not partake in the discussion.

Members agreed to fund the requested 50%.

- Christmas Tree in Nantyffyllon – depending on the location.
 - i) High Street - Cost for New Pit, Feeder Pillar, Tree, Lights (Coolwhite) and Transformer and Electrical Conversion for Power **£2,675.00**
 - ii) Opposite Nantyffyllon play area - Cost for New Pit, Tree, Lights (Coolwhite) and Transformer and Electrical Conversion for Power **£1,960.00**

Nantyffyllon Ward Members agreed to location ii) Opposite Nantyffyllon Play Area.

RESOLVED:

- Proceed with quote 2 for the fireworks
- Ask Colourblack productions to film the parade and fireworks
- Advise Caerau Christmas Celebrations group that Maesteg Town Council will fund the requested 50% costs.
- Advise Centregreat that Nantyffyllon Ward members agree to location ii) opposite Nantyffyllon play area for the Christmas Tree.

280. MINUTE 247

IN MEMORY OF HRH QUEEN ELIZABETH II

A letter has been sent to Buckingham Palace to advise that there was a book of condolence at Maesteg Town Council and that 238 residents signed the book.

RESOLVED: To note the information

281. MINUTE 254

REQUEST FROM CLLR M ROWLANDS - ARBED UPDATE FOR CAERAU RESIDENTS:

21/10/2022 Emailed letter to BCBC Leader and Chief Executive with the above request that if BCBC can take monies out of reserves and lend this to other councils then they should be able to take monies out of reserves to help the resident affected by the Arbed scheme.

21/10/2022 Emailed a letter to Welsh Government to ask why this has yet to be signed off as it was sent for approval in March 2022.

26/10/2022 Response from WG = This is a standard acknowledgement to confirm receipt of your correspondence to the Welsh Government dated 21/10/2022. Our reference for this correspondence is JJ/02419/22.

We aim to respond within 17 working days from receipt in the Welsh Government. This means you should receive a response before 18/11/2022. We will respond via e-mail, but it may not be from this e-mail address – so please ensure that you check your junk mail folder.

RESOLVED: To await a response from Welsh Government

MINUTE 255

REQUEST FROM CLLR G THOMAS

- 18/10/2022 - Finance committee met to discuss the responses to the email sent from Chair of Finance
- 19/10/2022 – Email sent to the Consultation working group to meet to discuss a consultation document

RESOLVED: To note the information

282. MINUTE 257

MEMBER TRAINING PLAN

Website has been updated with the Member training plan.

RESOLVED: To note the information

283. MINUTE 260

FINANCIAL APPLICATIONS

Letters of thanks received from the following organisations:

- Cerebral Palsy Cymru

RESOLVED: To note the information

284. MINUTE 269

ADVICE FROM AUDIT WALES

Re: Capital Projects – Traffic Calming

Clerk and Cllrs G Thomas & L Thomas met with BCBC, Go Safe and Gwent Police to discuss the project.

In attendance were:

J Williams from Gwent Police but is also the police liaison with Go Safe and all 4 police forces in Wales.

P Angell, S Frampton and E Bail from BCBC

Police advised that the road had been looked at by GoSafe and it just fell short for a speed camera due to no fatalities at the location. BCBC advised that they did a speed survey in 2020 with an average speed of 36mph. Also advised that the scheme doesn't not have the support of GoSafe, however would need to mirror the national framework. This has been asked at national level and no response has been received to date. There are a number of questions that need to be answered that include who will fund the initial costs, maintenance and insurance?

Cllr G Thomas advised that in the original quote it was agreed that MTC would fund the installation costs, 3-year maintenance plan and that the insurance would be covered by MTC insurance. Cllr G Thomas asked if ethically this is the right thing to do with the 20mph scheme coming into effect in 2023?

BCBC advised that GoSafe originally agreed in principle, but then disagreed due to there being no fatalities at the location. BCBC also advised that their legal team also had reservations. They currently have 10 traffic orders per year but with the new 20mph this will increase to over a 100 traffic orders needed by September 2023.

Police advised that there is another quarterly meeting with the national police council framework soon and this is to be discussed, he will update everyone by week beginning 14th November for the outcome.

Cllr G Thomas advised that they had looked at other options that included a VAS displaying vehicle numberplates alongside speed. BCBC discarded this option due to GDPR and this was in relation that these types of VAS can record & store information. BCBC also advised that in some areas the speed racers have used this type of technology to log their speed against another speed racers speed and have made the situation worse.

Cllr G Thomas advised that although no fatalities have occurred the area is high risk due to there being a play area and hospital within the area.

Cllr L Thomas and Cllr G Thomas agreed that this could be discussed further in tonight's meeting.

Members deliberated this project, there were many queries that included the below, attendees at the meeting advised accordingly:

- To what length of this road is to be included as many residents have had walls demolished?
The whole of the road from the junction of Neath Road
- Should keep the funding in place as its through no fault of MTC that this hasn't completed.
- To clarify it was discussed that the project in its current form not viable
- Should wait and see what impact the 20mph changes will have.
Still need to ringfence money for a project.
- Can we look at other areas?
All Wards were asked to find suitable projects previously.
- Why can't we put ramps?
This was discussed in the original projects meetings, BCBC will not allow speed ramps due to the close proximity to both residential and industrial areas and noise concerns.
- This could be a floodgate situation as there are many roads that are dangerous in the valley.

Cllr G Thomas **proposed**, seconded by Cllrs R Lewis & R Martin that MTC ringfence the funding whilst investigating the costs.

RESOLVED: To ringfence the funding whilst investigating costs for VAS

285. LIST OF PAYMENTS FOR THE MONTH OF OCTOBER 2022

RESOLVED:

That the tables of **Expenditure (£31,619.99)**, **Income (£36,174.38)** during the month of October 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 October 2022 totalling **£5,266.24**
- A copy of the Receipts and Payments Account which includes expenditure against the budget and the budget remaining and an income analysis.

A member asked if the Councils van milage could be presented each month as previously requested. The member was advised that the CMO will be asked to present the milage on his monthly reports ongoing. The member asked if the newly purchased unit is now accessible for the Town Councils vehicle and was informed that this is not the case and that the roller shutter is to be fixed within the next 3 weeks so the CMO is driving the van home to Bridgend each day.

A member asked for a rent rebate due to the unit not being fit for purpose. He was advised that a pro rata refund has already been issued on the initial cost of the unit but the monthly costs have remained the same.

286. TO GO INTO COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS A CONFIDENTIAL ITEM

Given the nature of the business and the discussion on an item of finance 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'

289. RESOLVED: THAT THE COUNCIL COME OUT OF COMMITTEE

CORRESPONDENCE

290. NEWSLETTERS / FLYERS / BRIEFING NOTES/ CONSULTATIONS

Emailed to all Councillors for information:

- OVW – Oct / Nov / Dec Training dates
- Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales Draft Annual Report - February 2023 - consultation needs to be answered by 1st December 2022
- Welsh Language being used in online fraud attempts
- Invitation to Caerau Men's Shed Calendar Launch
- South Wales Police and Crime Commissioner Annual Community Survey - survey closes on Tuesday 13th December 2022
- HAVE YOUR SAY! SW Fire Services – Survey closes 13th January 2023.
- Ysgol Cynwyd Sant - Decision Letter
- BCBC NOTICE OF SUBMISSION OF A LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN TO THE WELSH GOVERNMENT AND PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT DECISIONS WALES
- Cwm Taff Community Council Bridgend Local Area Committee meeting – 16/11/2022 invite/agenda/poster – poster placed onto website
- Information forwarded from Huw Irranca-Davies MS - The importance of Community & Town councils in building resilient spaces for nature

- Llynfi Woodland Group volunteer session: Tuesday 1st November 10am – 12pm - Preparation of the social area by the waterfall (Swn y Dwr) area. (CMO will assist)
- Llynfi Woodland Group volunteer session: Saturday 12th November is our Community Bulb Planting event on site. Thanks to Maesteg Town Council, we have lots of daffodil bulbs to make the site even more welcoming for Spring! (poster placed onto website)
- Resources: Welsh Government Fuel Support Scheme

RESOLVED: To note the information

291. CONCERNS WITH PUBLIC USING DISABLED TOILET FOR ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

MTC cleaner was informed that four men were smoking what appeared to be a crack pipe which issued an unpleasant smell on the bus.

The individual stated that she informed the bus driver who threw them off the bus and the four men proceeded to occupy the Council's public loo to the rear of our building, locked themselves in and caused a queue of people waiting to use the public convenience whilst they continued smoking their 'crack pipe'.

MTC Cleaner said she hasn't found any drug paraphernalia and the member of the public had informed the police as it happened although we have not been contacted by SWP on the matter.

MTC Cleaner has voiced concern about the emptying of the bins and is worried that this could lead to needles and other harmful objects being found in this, she is still happy to clean in the toilet but wants Council to be aware that additional to the constant alcohol use in the toilet there appears to be people who view the toilet as a comfortable place to do drugs with no worry of consequence.

A member asked if it would help to place a sign in the WC outlining that any ASB will result in the Council contacting SWP and also adding a no smoking sign to the WC to remind people not to smoke in there.

RESOLVED: To create a poster and place in the disabled toilet advising no smoking and any anti-social behaviour will not be tolerated.

292. COMPLAINT FP62

The Rights of Way team have received a complaint from a local resident advising that they have walked along Fp 62 Maesteg a couple of times recently and it's very overgrown.

The complaint was passed to the CMO and he has visited and cut back the overgrowth.

RESOLVED: To note the information

293. REFERRALS

- Potential for injury Old Travellas Shop - has been reported as having a large chunk of cement due to fall on the people using the pavement below.

The reference to the form when filled out is Acknowledgment of FS-Case-456797812

Response: No response to date.

A BCBC member advised that this has been chased.

RESOLVED: To note the information

294. UTILITY BILLS

A member of the finance committee queried when the utility bills were fixed until. The Clerk has looked at the accounts with the following information:

Location	Electricity / Gas	Company	Type of Contract
Llynfi Rd Toilet	Electricity	EDF	Fixed business tariff ends 21 January 2024 25 pence per day standing charge 17.90 pence per kW/hour
Town Council building	Electricity	EDF	Fixed business tariff ends 30 June 2023 25 pence per day standing charge 17.60 pence per kW/hour
Town Council building	Gas	British Gas Lite	Acquisition 3 Year Fixed Rate Tariff type: Fixed Ends on: 23/06/2024
Unit 6, The New Corn Stores, Heol Ty Gwyn	BCBC have not advised who the electricity is with.		

N.B. EDF have advised that when the Llynfi Road Toilet is removed we are liable for the daily standing charges until the electricity meter is removed. Once removed we will have to notify EDF and there may be an early cancellation charge.

Whilst on the phone to EDF, clerk enquired about the electricity for the unit at Heol Ty Gwyn, they were unable to assist as the account is not with EDF. They suggested contacting SSE. Clerk contacted SSE who advised that the unit is not registered with them and maybe British Gas.

Contacted British Gas who confirmed that they were the supplier. Clerk has provided meter reading from 3rd October and they have changed the tenancy from 3rd October 2022 to Maesteg Town Council.

British Gas business have also advised the following options available to Maesteg Town Council:

	Standing Charges	Price per pence per KW/hour
Currently Invoiced monthly with British Gas Business	£2.58 per day standing charge	47.05 pence per kw/hour
Change to Direct Debit with British Gas Business	£1.55 per day	91.1 pence per kw/hour
Change to British Gas Lite	40 pence per day	78.5 pence per kw/hour

Cllr G Thomas **proposed**, seconded by Cllr F Abedalkarim that as the CMO won't be in attendance in the unit for long periods of time MTC should change to the British Gas Lite plan and to review in 6 months.

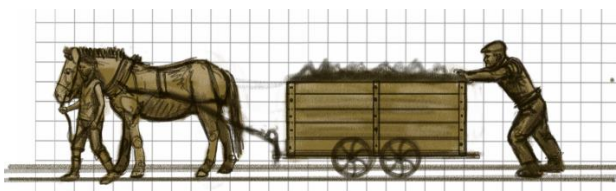
RESOLVED: To advise British Gas business that MTC will change to British Gas Lite.

295. MINERS PROPOSED MEMORIAL

Cllr R Penhale-Thomas declared an interest in this item, therefore did not participate in the discussion.

Cllr K Edwards and Clerk met with the sculptor Chris Wood to discuss a mining memorial to be located in Maesteg Welfare Park.

1st thoughts were agreed to have a memorial to the Victorian era miners, with a child leading a pony who is pulling a dram and a miner pushing the dram. Please see below copies of the sketch diagram that is 20cm x 20cm scale and the suggested location – the memorial would be just over 5 meters in length.



Permission is still being sought from BCBC Parks Department and Friends of Maesteg Welfare Park.

Response 24/10/2022 - from Maesteg Welfare Park:

I am replying on behalf of the Friends of Maesteg Welfare Park with absolute delight that you are considering such a memorial! We are aware of Chris Wood's work and would love to have a piece of his work in the park.

I have to say that we are disappointed with the lack of response from BCBC since August and hope that they can now address your request for permission as soon as possible.

Please keep us in the loop via this email address and thank you for contacting us

It was noted that the artist is still to come back with a quote and is looking to source dram wheels for the sculpture, more information will be provided as it comes. All members were happy with the design. A member advised that if a drawing to scale of the wheels could be provided TATA Steel may be able to assist with producing them.

RESOLVED: To await permission from BCBC and quote from sculpter

296. FREE FIX IF TV INTERFERENCE OCCURS IN MAESTEG

Mobile networks are being improved in Maesteg, boosting the speed, performance and coverage of mobile services in the area.

There is a small chance that these upgrades may cause interference to TV services received through an aerial such as Freeview, BT, TalkTalk and YouView. Signs include intermittent sound, blocky images or loss of TV signal.

If viewers do experience interference caused by mobile network upgrades, free support is available from Restore TV. Restore TV is an independent programme run by Digital Mobile Spectrum Limited that resolves TV interference caused by the upgrade of mobile signals. The below press release provides more information about the possible interference and how Restore TV provides help and support to viewers that receive TV through an aerial.

Maesteg, October 2022: Mobile networks are being improved in Maesteg boosting speed, performance and coverage. There is a small chance these upgrades may cause interference to TV received through an aerial such as Freeview, BT, TalkTalk and YouView.

Symptoms could include intermittent sound, blocky images (pixelation) or loss of TV signal.

Free support is available from Restore TV. Restore TV's role is to ensure people can continue to enjoy free to view TV when mobile is upgraded in their area. It provides help to anyone experiencing interference to TV services caused by mobile signals. Restore TV offers additional support for people who are 75 years of age or older, are registered blind or partially sighted or receive any of the following benefits: personal independence payments (PIPs); attendance allowance; constant attendance allowance or War Pensioner's Mobility Support.

Ben Roome, CEO of Restore TV, said: “We know just how important TV is to inform, entertain and provide welcome company. Restore TV exists to ensure we all can continue to access free to view TV as mobile services are improved across the country.”

“If you see new TV interference, we’re on hand to help you resolve the issue. We can send a Restore TV filter, free of charge, for you to fit between your aerial lead and TV or set-top box to remove mobile signals and allow you to watch free to view TV as normal. Full instructions are included, and we can provide further advice online and by phone if needed.

“In most instances, fitting the filter will resolve any issues, but if this isn’t the case, we may also be able to arrange a follow-up visit from a Restore TV engineer at no cost, depending on eligibility.”

Cable and satellite TV, such as Sky or Virgin, are not affected. However, viewers with these services, who also watch free to view TV through an aerial, can receive a free Restore TV filter.

Residents are more likely to be affected if they live in an area with weak digital television reception, have a TV signal booster and whose TV aerial is close to a mobile mast.

For residents in flats or communal buildings, Restore TV provides landlords or property managers with support to resolve the problem.

Any viewers who experience new interference to free to view TV should contact Restore TV on:

- 0808 13 13 800 (free from landlines and mobiles)
- restoretv.uk

For more information, please visit restoretv.uk

RESOLVED: To note the information

297. WINTER / SUMMER PLANTING

Rowan Garden Design have provided a quote for the Winter 22/23 & Summer 23 floral displays.

WINTER 22/23

Preparation and planting of flower beds in Garn Rd along with maintenance throughout the winter.

Total for works = £570

Preparation and planting of fourteen street planters with winter bedding along with maintenance throughout the winter.

Total for works = £1,150

SUMMER 22

Installing 96 hanging baskets throughout town centre

Total for works = £1,450

Preparation and planting of flower beds in Garn Rd along with maintenance throughout the Summer.

Total for works = £570

Preparation and planting of fourteen street planters with Summer bedding along with maintenance throughout the Summer.

Total for works = £1.150

WATERING VISTS

- Hanging baskets £140 per visit (with plant food added every week)
- Street planters £75 per visit (with plant food added every week)

Members agreed to the above quotes

RESOLVED: To advise the contractor, MTC agree to the quote.

298. SUMMER HANGING BASKETS

Council have not instructed to go out to tender for the hanging baskets in 2023. The current supplier has advised that it is the same cost for 2023 i.e. £19.50 for the 94 larger hanging baskets and £18.00 for the 2 smaller hanging baskets.

Members agreed to proceed with the same hanging basket supplier for 2023.

RESOLVED: To advise the contractor, MTC agree to the quote.

299. BLACHERE ILLUMINATIONS

As a manufacturer of Christmas Illuminations, including bespoke ones, we could assist you with a new scheme while you continue to use Centregreat for the installation.

We are a family run business with over 45 years of experience, with 3 sites in the UK and provide over 70,000 products, maintenance, hire schemes, installation/removal, storage and more for all your festive requirements. We have a wide range of products and it's a good point to note that our motifs are created using 3D printers with either

recycled bottles or sugar cane, making our products the most sustainable on the market. All our products are manufactured in Europe and come with a 2-season warranty. Please look at our catalogues <https://www.blachere-illumination.co.uk/product-info/> , especially the Ex-Hire which are refurbished stock with the price showing a 50% discount.

I am available to visit this season if you would like to look at your existing scheme and go through our catalogues to see how we can improve on previous years. The benefit of hiring gives you the option to change the lights every few years, instead of purchasing, but we offer both services.

We can also make bespoke products unique to Maesteg, and a good way of doing this is by involving the local children in a Creative Kids Competition to draw their own motif.

Council agreed to invite the company to a Full Council meeting

RESOLVED: To invite the company to a Full Council meeting.

300. PROJECT LINUS COMPLETION

I am delighted to confirm that the Project Linus 75 quilt challenge for Special Families has now been completed, and delivered.

Each of the quilts had a name tape attached which documented where the funding for the project originated - and for your funding we are very grateful

You may also be interested to know that whilst in the area, quilts were also donated to the Maesteg Food bank, (Peniel Church Food Bank in Station Street) and also left in their safe keeping some baby quilts for the Mother and toddler group which they share their premises with.

So all in all Project Linus Bridgend and County Borough has donated just over 100 cosy warm quilts in to your area today.

This has been a great project and the funding you have provided to us has really made a difference in getting this project finished.

If the council finds itself so minded in the current economic situation to continue to support our efforts in the Maesteg area, we would gladly continue to make quilts specifically for the area and distribute them to the poorest and most needy children in the area.

Additionally, if you are made aware of a need in your area, please do not hesitate to let me know.

RESOLVED: To note the information

301. BUS SHELTERS ON COMMERCIAL STREET

SEE MINUTE 110.2 from Projects Committee that was agreed in August Full Council.
25/10/2022 Response from BCBC:

The message below is also from the Sales Manager at Bus Shelters Ltd:

The locations look a little tight - I've attached 2 x quotes:

1. 1 Cantilever no ends = £5,256.85
2. 1 Cantilever with full ends = £6,070.21

I'd say we'd really need to survey to check proximity of existing stop poles/signs/seating/bin etc, but at least the quotes will give the Town Council an idea on costs.

With regards to TM (Traffic Management) – we would pop to site the day before to place cones in the layby and a Temp Works sign, allowing our lorry to park there for most of the install. They would only move onto the highway whilst lifting the shelter into place. Give and take would be adequate as, although this is a High Street, the traffic doesn't appear to be particularly heavy. We would arrange to be on site for 8am. I've quoted for the Transit, our most competitively priced shelter but please let me know if they're looking for the principle or any of our higher quality structures, please let me know.

A member asked the reasoning for this proposal and why 2 bus shelters? It was explained for people awaiting to go to Caerau and not be waiting in the rain for a bus. The member stated that people would simply wait in the main bus station in the Town Centre. Another member asked if we could consult business owners on Commercial Street before taking this further and was advised that this has already taken place and permission given.

Members agreed to wait for the outcome of the survey before making any decisions.

RESOLVED: To await the outcome of the survey before agreeing to the type and cost.

302. RADIUS TELEMATICS

Telephone call and email received from the above company following a Cllr contacting them about vehicle tracking. Clerk has advised the company that no Cllr can commit to any purchase and that Full Council have not given permission to contact companies.

We provide market leading tracking and camera systems to suit all kinds of businesses, from those with just a few assets up to large fleets of vehicles. So, we will always have the right solution for you.

We can offer FREE installation on hard wired devices, PLUS, offer Pay as You Go plug-in devices if a flexible approach is needed.

What does it cost?

Option 1 – 24-month contract, £25 activation fee and £7 per month

Your device subscription charges will commence 21 days from the date you sign your agreement.

Option 2 – Pay as you go, £25 activation fee and £7 per month

Members noted the information as this hadn't been authorised by Council to seek costs.

RESOLVED: To note the information

303. TV LICENSING

Letter received asking if MTC are watching TV either on a TV or online. Clerk completed the online form to advise no TV's or Online watching of BBC programmes. The form states that this must be updated every 3 years.

Thank you for declaring you don't need a TV Licence at this address.

We will confirm this in a letter or email within 10 working days. If you receive a letter from us in the next few days, you don't need to respond. Our records are being updated. If your circumstances change, and you start to watch or record live TV programmes on any channel or device, or download or watch BBC programmes on iPlayer, you need to be covered by a TV Licence. You can buy one quickly and easily at www.tvlicensing.co.uk/pay
TV Licensing

RESOLVED: To note the information

304. MAESTEG FIRST RESPONDERS UPDATE

Email received and forwarded to all members regarding the Maesteg First Responders.

Within the letter they request pads for the defibrillators based in Noddfa, Celtic and Red Cow, these pads have been ordered and once delivered Maesteg First Responders will be contacted.

They also request that MTC pay for the defibrillator pads for those that weren't purchased with a donation by MTC, unfortunately the pads are not universal. Currently 28/10/2022 the pads cost:

- NF1200 pads currently cost £45 ex.VAT for a single pack or they currently have twin packs on offer for £89 ex.VAT.
- Zoll pads currently on sale at £89 ex.VAT for a single pack

Maesteg First Responders are also looking for areas to install more defibrillators as there are gaps within the communities of Garth and Nantyyffyllon.

RESOLVED: To note the information

305. V2C TREE PLANTING IN MAESTEG AND CAERAU

We're teaming up with the Woodland Trust this autumn to brighten up Bridgend by planting 300 trees across the county.

One area we are looking to plant is Maesteg. I have attached maps to this email which show the areas we are looking to plant in and the planned quantities.

More information can be found here-

<https://www.valleystocoast.wales/2022/10/21/get-involved-in-our-plan-to-plant-300-trees-across-bridgend/>

We are currently asking the community to share their views on our current plans. We have shared it on our Facebook page with a link to a form where people can provide feedback. As always we would really appreciate it if you could share it on any community social media pages you are on.

We are also conducting a door knock on Thursday 10th November on Oakwood Estate and Tuesday 15th November in Caerau to speak to the residents surrounding the area that we plan to plant in.

Planting is planned for the first 2 weeks of December. We will confirm dates nearer the time.

If you have any questions please let me know and I will endeavour to answer them.

Cllr P Jenkins emailed: Could you identify named specific areas to be absolutely sure where these trees are planted plus the type of tree also a cast iron undertaking to manage such trees when mature, Reason when fully mature no one claims responsibility for them and leaves produces a hazard in particular to the elderly.

RESOLVED: To advise V2C of the concerns raised regarding long term maintenance of the trees.

306. AGENDA ITEM 9

TO CONSIDER SECTION 6 – BIODIVERSITY ACTION PLAN

Members were provided with a draft biodiversity action plan. Which the Clerk advised that all T&CC's are required to complete although to date not many T&CC's had completed this.

Members agreed to add the action plan to the website.

RESOLVED: to place the action plan onto the website

307. AGENDA ITEM 10

TO CONSIDER ANNUAL REPORT

Members were provided with a draft Annual Report. Which the Clerk advised that

under the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021: Statutory Guidance for Community and Town Councils it is a statutory requirement that an annual report is published each year. It was also noted that not all T&CC's in Wales had completed this. The Clerk advised that some of the information within the report was extracted from previous MTC publications.

A copy of this report can be found by following this link - [ANNUAL-REPORT-2021-22.pdf \(maestegcouncil.org\)](https://www.maestegcouncil.org/ANNUAL-REPORT-2021-22.pdf)

RESOLVED: to place the report onto the website

308. TO CONSIDER FINANCIAL APPLICATIONS

Members were provided with application forms from the following organisation:

1. CANCER RESEARCH UK – MAESTEG FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE

Date received: 25/10/2022

Request £500 grant

The grant will be spent on hiring venues, printing costs, promotional materials, performer fees and in particular our next event which is our Annual Christmas Concert which is being held on 4 December at St Michael & All Angels Church featuring Noteworthy Mixed Choir and Bridgend Male Choir. The cost of the church alone is £275 to hire for this event.

Have included a bank statement.

Received S137 grant of £200 in December 2018.

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

2. LLYNFI VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Date received: 28/10/2022

Request £400 grant

The grant will be spent to replace the damaged plaque situated on the hill up to the comprehensive school and marks the site of the Maesteg Iron Works any money not used will help fund the costs for speakers at the meetings.

Have included a bank statement and statement of accounts for 2021/22.

Have not received S137 from MTC before.

Members had concerns with providing grants towards revenue spending and have asked the Clerk to ask the Llynfi Valley Historical Society for the costs for repairing the plaque and to advise that MTC can't pay towards revenue costs.

RESOLVED: contact Llynfi Valley Historical Society and ask for the costs for replacing the plaque only.

309. DELEGATES REPORT

There were no delegates reports received

310. PLANNING

The following application had no objection:

Ref: P/22/664/RLX

Applicant: Siderise Insulation Ltd

Location: Land east of Siderise Insulation Ltd Forge Industrial Estate Maesteg CF34 0AH

Proposal: Vary condition 1 of P/22/71/FUL to refer to amended plans

Ref: P/22/700/FUL

Applicant: Mr M Waldron

Location: Land off Dyffryn Madoc Maesteg CF34 0BQ

Proposal: Change of use and conversion of the existing barn to a single residential property;

Ask for: Steven Jenkins

A member requested that the following application have comments raised in regards to a lack of parking with the proposal of shops being placed on the ground floor but with the plans accepted if this is adhered for:

Ref: P/22/661/FUL

Applicant: S & E Properties Development Ltd

Location: Station Hotel Caerau Road Maesteg CF34 0PB

Proposal: Redevelopment of the former Station Hotel and associated Coach House for the construction of 11 apartments and a new commercial unit

RESOLVED:

- To forward responses to Planning department.

Minutes emailed to Councillors to Read on 10th November 2022

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

.....
Mayor