

**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, 10<sup>th</sup> January 2023**

**PRESENT:**

**COUNCILLORS:**

**A James (Mayor)**  
F Abedalkarim, R Collins, AR Davies, C Davies,  
P Davies, P Jenkins, R Martin, M Rowlands,  
G Thomas and I Williams

**APOLOGIES** were received from Cllrs C Knight, L Thomas, R Lewis, R Penhale-Thomas, and G Williams

**DECLARATION OF INTEREST:**

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

Cllr R Collins declared an interest in Maesteg Welfare Park

Cllr I Williams declared an interest in matters relating to Maesteg Celtic Cricket and Celtic Social Club

Cllr C Davies declared an interest in matters relating to Caerau Men’s Shed

Cllr M Rowlands declared an interest in matters relating to Noddfa Community Centre

**The Mayor, Councillor A James and Members of the Council stood for a “minute silence” for the late Rev. Chris Reaney.**

**376. POLICE MATTERS**

The Mayor welcomed Sgt Lea to the meeting, Members were provided with the following Crime figures:

**Maesteg Crime Statistics for December 2022**

	Caerau / Nanty	Maesteg East	Maesteg West	Llan	Total in category
<b>Robbery</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Drugs</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Dwelling burglary</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Burglary other</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Theft of vehicle</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Theft from vehicle</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>All other theft</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>14</b>

<b>Damage</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Violence against the person</b>	<b>21 (5)</b>	<b>11 (4)</b>	<b>12 (3)</b>	<b>3 (1)</b>	<b>47 (13)</b>
<b>Domestic related occurrences</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>All crime total</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>75</b>
<b>Anti-social behaviour total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Drink Driving</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

A member asked Sgt Lea to look into the reoccurring problem of parking on the pavement in Castle street near the railway bridge and on the bend by the Chinese on Bridgend Rd. Sgt Lea requested that the Councillor and himself discuss this outside of the meeting to try and come up with a plan to address the issues.

Members thanked Sgt Lea for his time for attending the meeting.

**RESOLVED:** To note the information

**377. TO RECEIVE BLACHERE ILLUMINATIONS**

Members welcomed the area Manager to the meeting who presented the products and services that Blachere Illuminations offer; these were mainly Christmas lights but also lighting for other events that the Council may run in the future. He outlined that with most other suppliers they buy the lights from China whereas theirs are made in France lessening the carbon footprint that comes with transporting such goods. He continued stating that the lights provided by Blachere are 3D printed out of recycled materials and can offer installation and state of the art storing facilities as well.

Members thanked the officer for his time and agreed to ask for the free survey with Blachere to see what they can do within our budget and with the current infrastructure. It was noted that the current infrastructure is in need of updating according to Centregreat but costings and full details have yet to be given.

**RESOLVED:** to invite the officer to complete a free survey

**378. TO RECEIVE THE TOWN CRIER**

The Clerk advised that the Town Crier was on holidays so unable to attend. When the Town Crier is next available, we will invite him to attend.

**RESOLVED:** to receive the Town Crier at another Full Council meeting

**379. MAYORAL EVENTS**

The Mayor advised that he attended the following events:

- 13<sup>th</sup> December 22    Opened Big Box Bwyd in Nanty Primary
- 22<sup>nd</sup> December 22    Christmas Competition Presentation of Winner

**RESOLVED:** to note the information

**380. MINUTES**

The following minutes;

- **Full Council** – 06/12/2022 emailed 12/12/2022
- **Full Council Confidential Minutes** - 06/12/2022 emailed 12/12/2022
- **Extraordinary Council** – 13/12/2022 emailed 13/12/2022

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

**MATTERS ARISING**

**381. MINUTE 328**

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

Selection boxes delivered to all 6 Primary Schools. Due to a surplus of selection boxes not needed by Santa Selfie Grotto, Mayor agreed for the Flying Start provisions be allocated selection boxes. These were delivered to the following Flying Start facilities:

- Blaenllynfi Flying Start,
- Caerau Primary Flying Start
- Garth Flying Start
- Plasnewydd Flying Start

Any further surplus to be donated to following community projects:

- Bocs Bwyd in Garth Primary School
- Bocs Bwyd in Nantyllyllon Primary School
- Food Pantry in CDT
- Food Pantry in Cwm Calon
- Food Pantry in Noddfa

**RESOLVED:** to note the information

**382. MINUTE 329**

**CHRISTMAS PARADE**

Email received from BCBC Town Centre Manager - Thank you to Maesteg Town Council for staging the town's Christmas parade last Saturday.

On the day the footfall counter (which is situated on Talbot Street) recorded 5562 people compared to 2486 on the previous Saturday, which was an increase of 3077 people.

Thank you once again to all those involved and for their hard work.

Further telephone call received from BCBC Town Centre Manager thanking the Town Council for all the events and partnership working.

19/12/2022: Local PCSO's visited the council offices and advised that some of the senior police officers had concerns over the number of barriers used and number of

stewards. Some also had concerns that there may have been a crush situation and felt that next year there should be more barriers and more stewards to manage the crowds.

19/12/2022: EPM have advised that they are available for a meeting to discuss the parade and Santa Selfie Grotto on 24<sup>th</sup> January 2023.

### REQUEST FROM BRIDGEND TOWN COUNCIL – PARADE INFORMATION

12/12/2022 emailed Bridgend Town Council with the following:

I took your request to full council and they have agreed that I can advise you, however they did request that you don't do your switch-on on the 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday in December as that is Maesteg date for switch-on.

I have tried to answer all of your questions below, we are lucky in that we have the use of the old Revlon Cooper Standard site for the lorries to congregate before the parade starts. The vehicles are given to us to use free of charge by the companies as it's a form of community partnership and free advertising.

We run a poster competition with the local primary schools to advertise the parade and the winning poster from each school receives a small gift and the overall winner gets to be part of the parade in the Mayor's Limousine and also switches on the Christmas Lights.

Our official video and photographs can be accessed on YouTube via our website <https://maestegcouncil.org/christmas-parade-2022/> or via our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/MaestegTownCouncil>

#### Original message:

I would like to ask for some help please...

One of our Councillors would like Bridgend Town Council to consider arranging a Christmas parade in Bridgend, similar to the one that takes place in Maesteg.

In order for the Council to consider the planning, resource and budget that is involved in an event of that size, please would you be able to give me some information about your event?

In particular would you be able to provide some details on the following please?:

- Who funds the event and are there contributions from BCBC, local business and/or grants?

Maesteg Town Council fund the event, although we usually get a grant from Andrew Highway in BCBC for Christmas approx. £5000 (we have yet to receive this for this year)

- Who plans and organises the event e.g. booking entertainment, planning logistics, H&S/risk assessments, road closures, ESAG process, co-ordinating volunteers, etc.

MTC organises most of the event, however in 2022 we engaged with EPM Creative Marketing for parts of the event:

Lorries / SW Police, SW Fire & Rescue	MTC
Organisations / groups on the lorries	MTC
Licence to use old Revlon Site before parade (for the lorries to be decorated etc)	MTC
Fireworks	MTC
H&S / Risk Assessments / ESAG process	EPM
Co-ordinating volunteers	MTC & EPM
Road Closures	EPM
Barriers / Stewards	EPM
BridgeFM stage & presenter EPM contacted them, however as we had an account with them MTC paid BridgeFM directly	MTC

EPM also supplied some of the characters in the parade (Elf on the Shelf, Minnie & Mickey Mouse, Grinch, Fairy)

- How much community involvement is there in arranging the event and is there a dedicated Council committee or Community committee set-up for the event?

MTC have an events committee to discuss events, this year we also had a Christmas Parade sub-committee who met with EPM

- Is any or all of the organising of the event outsourced?

In 2022 we went to tender for the Parade an only EPM came back to us as all other companies has been booked. We worked alongside EPM for the event

- What is the total cost of the event and how much does Maesteg Town Council pay towards it?

The breakdown for the CHRISTMAS PARADE event is as follows:

	Quoted	Actual PAID TO DATE
Limousine for Mayor	£195.00 + VAT	£195.00 exc VAT
Fireworks	1,280.00 + VAT	£1,100.00 exc. VAT
Nation Radio	2,500.00 + VAT	Haven't been invoiced fully yet, have made an interim payment of £200.00 exc. VAT
Official photographs	£400.00	£400.00
Official video	£1,130.00	£1,130.00
EPM Creative Marketing	Originally £17,380.00 – this was a working quote so they agreed to some of the items but not all	£11,630.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>Approx £21,690.00</b>	<b>£14,460.00 paid to date</b>

N.B. MTC also do other events for Christmas:

- Santa Selfie Grotto – EPM man the Grotto £8,670.00 for the 4 weekends before Christmas starting 26<sup>th</sup> November, MTC provide selection boxes as gifts that is free for families to visit (need tickets via Eventbrite)
- Performances in the market square – have 2 sessions (10:30 – 11:30 and 13:30 – 14:30) on the 4 Saturdays before Christmas starting 26<sup>th</sup> November – each group performing receive a donation

- MTC pay for free hot drink and mince pie from Casey's Café during the performances on Saturdays (we print tickets for them to distribute)
- Selection boxes to the 6 primary schools within our boundary
- Gift bags for the residents of care homes within our boundary
- How much MTC staff time (number of staff & hours) is required for the planning and attending the event?

This is variable, the whole point of engaging with EPM was so that we didn't have to do much, however it didn't work like that and I think I probably spent 2 weeks sorting things.

On Parade day both myself and the Deputy Clerk were working:  
Clerk 8.5 hours, Deputy Clerk 6 hours

04/01/2023: Email received from BCBC Town Centre Manager advising to send BCBC an invoice for a £4,000.00 Grant towards Christmas 2022, an invoice was emailed to BCBC 04/01/2023

05/01/2023 Email received from BCBC Town Centre Manager to confirm MTC has been granted £4,000.00 Grant towards the Christmas festivities and payment will follow in due course.

**RESOLVED:** To proceed with an extraordinary meeting with EPM on 24<sup>th</sup> January 2023 to include the following:

- i) Christmas Parade
- ii) Santa Selfie Grotto
- iii) Fun Run for 2023

**383. MINUTE 333**

**CONFIDENTIAL MINUTE**

Ombudsman have confirmed they will not be investigating the complaint.

**RESOLVED:** To note the information

**384. MINUTE 335**

**MINERS MEMORIAL**

07/12/22 Site meeting with sculptor, Friends of Maesteg Welfare Park and Officers from BCBC to discuss the project in greater detail and to agree exact location, the below sketch with the location poles was then provided.



22/12/2022 Email received from Friends of Maesteg Welfare Park:

*I know this seems a bit late in the day and especially after all the discussion we had on site, but I have been recently talking to the horticultural team of BCBC and they did mention that they thought the siting of the sculpture could be improved. They said that the flower bed at the very end of that run of the lawns (see the highlight on the attached map and photo) was a very poor bed and they struggle to grow anything in it and that the taking up of the bed we discussed wasn't the sensible option. They also pointed out that if the sculpture was sited at the corner it would be seen from all angles and it would require less of a pathway around. Funnily enough Delyth had been looking at that area today and had come to the same conclusion and she actually took this photo. As you can see from the photo there is enough room and it would solve the problem of the background of the tennis courts as it is quite a nice backdrop I was wondering if this option could be considered before we make any hard and fast decisions.*



24/12/2022 Email received from Sculptor:

*Hi all I don't mind shifting sites for the sculpture, but I would need to do another site visit to see the lay of the land, the sculpture won't be completed until late next year as there's allot of components to get together, so we have time. I've also found someone with wheels, but they are being a bit cagey about price, will let you know if anything comes from it. I'll be away until the 17<sup>th</sup> of January, but happy to book another site visit afterwards*

Clerk has emailed all involved and has suggested Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> or Monday 30<sup>th</sup> January 2023 at 10:30am for a site visit to discuss further.

05/01/2023 Additional email received and forwarded to all members from the Chair of Friends of Maesteg Welfare Park:

*Dear Maesteg Town Council,*

*The Friends of Maesteg Welfare Park are supportive of any investment into the improvement and maintenance of Maesteg Welfare Park. We therefore welcome and support the proposals by Maesteg Town Council to further develop Maesteg Welfare Park.*

*Back in October when you approached us we indicated support for a memorial which you duly noted in your meeting on 1 November. We were engaged by the Council solely on the location of the proposed memorial, rather than on the options on what the memorial would be. We are disappointed therefore that we were not consulted earlier*

*in the process, as we believe we could have added value to your discussion at council on what the appropriate investment in park could look like.*

*We understand that the aim of this project is to commemorate the mining history of the Valley. The proposal to deliver this aim through a statue of a man and a boy was, as indicated by your minutes in July and August the only option put forward by the Council.*

*Given the aim is to commemorate the mining history we would politely question whether the proposed statue meets your intended aims, or has been sufficiently consulted on with Maesteg citizens and users of the park (particularly given this is to be funded directly from Council funds rather than funded from a third party).*

*We wonder whether the Council would consider changes to the monument that better represents the wider mining history of the Valley. We would like the Council to consider a monument to a mining family, with the inclusion of wives of miners. For example, a statue showing a miner coming home to be embraced by his wife and child would better commemorate and educate the citizens of Maesteg that the mining history of the Valley was made by men, women and children. Maesteg already has a monument of a single male miner, we think it would be a farrier reflection of the Valley's history if the contribution of women to the mining history was also recognised. As you may be aware Women did work the mines but following a mining disaster in the 1800's women and children were not able to participate and therefore played a different role in the success of the mining community in the Valley. It would be a shame if we missed a fantastic opportunity to redress this story of our Valley.*

*We hope you will consider this as an improvement to the design put forward, or consider these issues in the final design so that any memorial paints a more representative picture of the mining community, and complements the keeper of the colliery rather than replicates.*

*As you will know the park was established by the families of the miners to improve the wellbeing (welfare) of the residents of Maesteg, offering a place of sanctuary, to enjoy the outdoors and as space for the community to gather. Continuing to maintain and improve the park, and increase the amount of people using the park to improve their health and well-being is, we believe, a better investment and legacy to the mining community.*

*We therefore want to take the opportunity to make the Council aware of our emerging proposals to celebrate the centenary of Maesteg Welfare Park 1925-2025. We have attached to this letter an early visioning document setting out our ambitions to record the stories of 100 years of the park, develop a Centenary Path opening up more of the park and a festival to celebrate and bring the community together. As the Maesteg Welfare Park is one of the biggest and most visible contributions that mining families made to the welfare of Maesteg residents, we see the centenary as an exciting opportunity to work with the Council.*



*We are at present developing a project to start the first phase of the centenary path as part of a Cwm Taf Nature Network funding bid which will start from the outdoor classroom and include a sensory garden. If the Council would wish to consider match funding with this project this would allow us to build more of the first phase of the centenary path. We can share more information about this project if needed.*

*Finally, we want to reiterate that we remain excited by the prospect of investment into the park by Maesteg Town Council and hope to work with you on our centenary proposal.*

*This letter has been agreed by all committee members of FMWP.*

Request for Site visit:

**23<sup>rd</sup> January 2023**

Sculptor

Friends of Maesteg Welfare Park

Cllr P Jenkins

**30<sup>th</sup> January 2023**

Cllr C Davies

06/01/2023 contacted the Coalfields Regeneration Community Grant Scheme for funding towards the project and they have emailed the following response:

*Unfortunately, Town and Community Councils are not eligible for funding via our Coalfields Community Grant Scheme. The friends of group may be; however they would need a lease on the land with a minimum of 5 years remaining and a maintenance plan in place. I appreciate this may not be possible as it is welfare grounds and likely to have restrictive covenants. I would therefore recommend speaking with Ryan Parry at the Coal Industry Social Welfare Organisation (CISWO) A search online has identified that the park was originally funded through the Miners Welfare Fund which CISWO now manage on behalf of the South Wales Miners Trust Fund <https://coflein.gov.uk/en/site/416091/>*

*The contact details for CISWO are:*

*The South Wales Miners Welfare Trust Fund c/o CISWO, unit 5 Maritime Offices, Woodland Terrace, Maes-y-Coed, Pontypridd. CF37 1DZ or email [wales@ciswo.org.uk](mailto:wales@ciswo.org.uk)*

*Other potential sources of funding may be <https://www.heritagefund.org.uk/in-your-area/wales> or [http://www.memorialgrant.org.uk/eligibility\\_checklist.html](http://www.memorialgrant.org.uk/eligibility_checklist.html)*

*The Chair of the Friends of Maesteg Welfare Park (FMWP) attended the meeting and was invited to speak but he asked to listen to the Councils ideas prior to doing so.*

A member mentioned that this was the first time he was aware of the 100<sup>th</sup> birthday of Maesteg Welfare Park and suggested that the council fully support the planned event for next year and incorporate the funding for the Maesteg Festival into this. A member stated that with the amphitheatre being cleared this allows the opportunity for outdoor performances within the park.

Members **agreed** to contact the sculptor to see how far along he is with the initial proposed design and determine if there is any scope for changes to be made to reflect the letter received from FMWP.

It was **agreed** to set up a Maesteg Welfare Park sub-committee to liaise with the Friends of Maesteg Welfare Park (FMWP) in its centenary celebrations. The following Cllrs agreed to be on the Maesteg Welfare Park sub-committee:

Cllrs F Abedalkarim, R Collins, A James and M Rowlands

The Chairman of FMWP, thanked the Council for its consideration of the letter and looks forward to working with the Council in the future. He added that the FMWP want to ensure that the sculpture is representative of the entire mining community as it used to exist.

**RESOLVED:**

1. contact the sculptor to see how far along he is with the initial proposed design and determine if there is any scope for changes to be made to reflect the letter received from FMWP.
2. Set up a Maesteg Welfare Park sub-committee meeting with FMWP

**385. MINUTE 337**

**BUS SHELTERS IN COMMERCIAL STREET**

08/12/22 – email received from BCBC and forwarded to all members to advise: *Bus Shelters Project Manager has now surveyed the sites at Commercial Street, Maesteg and his notes are as follows:-*

*Both shelters can be 2 Bay open front, Staggered Entry or DFE (double front entry) fitted screen to front. Both locations have an area over 4.5m in length and the pavement width is over 5m wide.*

*In both locations the bin will need to be moved and both locations can use a layby/parking area to work within if it is coned off the night before. We can install the shelter from this location only temporarily blocking the road while the shelter is lifted and swung into position (a couple of minutes). The High Street was very busy when I was there at 11am with constant queuing of traffic up to the traffic lights.*

*My only concern is the roof of the shelter outside Peacocks might block vision of a road sign. The bottom edge of the road sign is 2.45m high above the pavement.*

*I have attached a quotation for the staggered entry shelter and attached a drawing so that you can review the dimensions. This option would be best suited here, there's a lot going on with planters/signs/poles etc so rather than having a DFE screen to road with pedestrians walking out and around the shelter to board the bus, a staggered entry would make more sense. There is plenty room at the rear.*

*Please note as per the above notes the bins will need to be moved prior to shelters being installed and the layby would need to be closed the day before the installations (which we can do).*

*Additionally, you will know the area better than us in terms of the traffic flow and you may want to consider additional TM or possible Sunday installations for the shelters (additional costs will apply)?*

*I hope that this information will assist the Town Council in making their decision and I look forward to receiving an update.*

Options available:

1. 1 Cantilever no ends = £5,256.85
2. 1 Cantilever with full ends = £6,070.21
3. 1 2 bay enclosed, front left / rear right entry = £6,729.01

**RESOLVED:** Members agreed to option 1. The Clerk reminded Cllrs that this is for the purchase of two bus stops thus price would be doubled – this was accepted.

**386. MINUTE 338**

**MAESTEG FIRST RESPONDERS REQUEST - MINUTE 304**

07/12/22 – ordered the defibrillator cabinet

07/12/22 – advised Maesteg Community First Responders MTC will fund the replacement of all defibrillator consumables within our boundary.

Response 12/12/22: Many thanks for your email and apologies for the delay in responding; I've been hit by the winter cold that is going around, so been offline for a few days.

This is amazing news!! Thank you very much to all at the town council for this continued support to the community and our public access defibrillators. This decision will ensure that PADs are offline as little as possible and so will be available to the Welsh Ambulance Service for cardiac arrest situations. Every minute counts in a cardiac arrest and so lives will continue to be saved across the valley.

I will contact Llangynwyd Middle Council also to ascertain as to whether they will follow MTC's example for the defibs listed above.

Thank you again for your support.

12/12/22 – emailed Llan Middle CC to see if they would also fund the defibrillator consumables within their boundary.

Response: 12/12/22 – Clerk will take the request to full council in January 2023.

**RESOLVED:** To note the information

**387. MINUTE 344**

**LIST OF PAYMENTS FOR THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER 2022**

Trade waste:

Clerk completed an online form <https://compareyourbusinesscosts.co.uk/commercial-waste-collection> for trade waste service.

Compared to Kier = £6 per bag + £80 per year duty of care notice.

21/12/22 Email received: QUOTE

1 X Roll of 50 General waste bin emptied weekly £150.00 plus vat  
Duty Of Care Waste Transfer Note £96.00 plus vat per annum. (This is a legal document every business in the UK is required to have by law)

Caerau & Maesteg War Memorials

Email received from Caerau Ward members

*Dear Clerk(s),*

*We are writing to dispute the works carried out on Caerau's War Memorial by a contractor called Marmor Memorials. We have a number of concerns regarding this, namely that work has been replicated following extensive works conducted by a contractor using the Caerau Ward Specific Fund only in recent weeks prior.*

*It is our understanding that the contractor in question visited the site when our contractor was conducting their duties to restore the memorial. The contractor, Marmor Memorials, ended up leaving the site aggrieved, stating that there must have been some confusion or crossed wires, but was equally advised that the work they intended to carry out had already been complete; particularly with regards to the cleaning of the pillar and lettering repairs.*

*Could you please clarify the following:*

- 1. Who instructed this contractor to commence works or did the contractor contact the office prior to indicate they would be proceeding?*
- 2. What contract is in place and does it clearly state what work is to be conducted?*
- 3. Has the contractor been asked to provide tax, NI and liability insurance documents as the council have suggested our contractor should have done prior?*
- 4. Did the contractor contact the office to confirm they should go ahead with any works following the altercation with our contractor?*
- 5. Is there evidence of work carried out in the form of before and after photographs (please note, we have a full report from our contractor outlining a full breakdown of works as well as before and after photographs - EVIDENCE is PARAMOUNT to paying any such bill)?*
- 6. Does the contractor have full permission from this council to carry out any works without any such guidance and subsequently bill as they see appropriate?*
- 7. Did the contractor seek any such permission from BCBC to gain access to the surrounding area that is maintained by them and carry out works to the monolith which would have a detrimental impact on the land surrounding the monument which maintained by BCBC?*

*We simply do not accept any answer that any such precedent is in place for works to be carried out without permission because of previous works being carried out in years gone by. This has been extensively debated and nullified following comparisons of work between the stone pillars and the war memorial in recent weeks.*

*We are formally requesting that this payment be put on hold, using the 28 day rule initiated prior over the war memorial restorations, until all questions have been answered, a full investigation is conducted and suitable evidence is submitted. It is astonishing that this council would consider making a payment to a contractor for another contractor's work when that contractor in question has still not had their invoice settled. It is actually scandalous and deeply concerning that this proceed forward, unchallenged, given the issues highlighted over the war memorial in the past month.*

*It is of a minimum expectation that this contractor is instructed NOT to carry out any further works to memorials without full instruction to do so from full council, following quotes of intended works for consideration and additional tenders sought for comparison purposes and value for money.*

*Additionally, evidence of works conducted is a minimum requirement before any such payment is processed because without it, what are we paying for? As it stands, this allows any contractor to carry out any works in the community, without any such permission from this council or a representative, and just bill the council as they see appropriate. I cannot see how we can legally pay this invoice as no member of this council or employee has instructed the work to be carried and the work in question would be a duplication of what has already been completed.*

*Dymuniadau Gorau / Best Wishes,*

*Caerau Ward Members*

Following last week's full council and the above email. Marmor Memorials came into the office on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> December and has advised the following:

Marmor Memorials are instructed every year (in October) to clean both Maesteg and Caerau war memorials, this is a long-standing agreement that was agreed in 2004.

I have been advised that the boundary:

- Maesteg is pillars and chains surrounding the war memorial
- Caerau is the circle surrounding the war memorial and ends where the green and steps are located

Marmor Memorials is registered with BRAMM (BRITISH REGISTER OF ACCREDITED MEMORIAL MASONS) BRAMM Scheme was set up in 2004 with the aim of establishing a network of nationally accredited businesses and registered

fixers that will ultimately replace individual Registration Schemes, to be part of this scheme persons need to be:

1. Success in BRAMM's BFL Training and Assessment gives a BRAMM Fixer Licence.
2. Full NVQ / SVQ Level 2 or Level 3 in Stonemasonry ~ Memorial Mason (must include Fix & Secure Unit\*) or VR/QCF194 (Fix & Secure NVQ Unit) ~ the applicant must successfully complete an online CPD test.  
\*Please Note: We cannot accept any applicants who have not successfully completed the 'Fix and Secure' Unit.
3. NAMM qualification (City & Guilds RQMF) ~ the applicant must successfully complete an online CPD test.

He advised he spoke to the other contractor and then left, there was no altercation.

If council require Tax, NI etc he has this and is willing to show us.

He hasn't done the surrounding area outside of the war memorial boundary as he has never been asked to so this.

The lettering in Caerau can't be infilled with paint as they are lead lettering and they need to be replaced using lead that is shaped and hammered into the memorial. This morning he has also been contacted by a member of the public to advise that a number of the letting has fallen off the memorial, however he won't be looking at this as MTC haven't requested this.

Mr James also advised that he has cleared the Caerau war memorial free of charge in the past an example of this is when there was a vigil at the war memorial whereby candles were placed next to the war memorial that marked the war memorial, he cleared these away and cleaned the damage without charging MTC.

He has also advised that he has gone to his solicitor for legal advice over the dispute in the works he has carried out.

Clerk has contacted BCBC regarding responsibility boundary for Caerau war memorial: **Response:** 14/12/2022:

*We do not hold any documentation regarding responsibilities for the cleansing and maintenance of either site.*

*BCBC hold the freehold title of the land at these sites and the Maesteg Cenotaph is Grade II listed status.*

*We have a note on the terrier stating that at the Caerau Cenotaph the Maesteg Town Council are responsible the war memorial and the circle surrounding with BCBC Property responsible for the surrounding area beyond that, following an enquiry in 2004.*

**RESOLVED:**

- 1) Tender documents for Trade waste to be reviewed in February Full Council
- 2) Cllr G Thomas **proposed**, seconded by Cllrs F Abedalkarim and R Martin, that the Marmor Memorials invoice be paid as we have requested works to be completed by them – there were no objections.
- 3) A member requested that all contracts and works go through the office and, by extension, the Council from now on. It was noted that long term contracts that the Council have are brought to Full Council to make decisions on and that these contracts are reviewed annually by the finance committee. Another member commented stating that a works program should be utilised so we and the contractors understand what is required from each. It was requested to add these concerns to the agenda of the next finance committee meeting.

**388. MINUTE 348**

**REQUEST FROM MAYOR CLLR A JAMES – INTRODUCTION OF A MAYORS CHILDRENS AWARD**

Email received from former Cllrs P John & J Terry –

Whilst on line at MTC meeting tonight's and on the discussions about Cllr. Andrew James wishing to start a MTC Mayor's Children's Award he stated that he had had conversations with a past Cllr, namely 'Jen John' about such an award that used to be run within the Council ...Jen wishes it to be known that she has had 'No' recent conversation with Cllr. James on this topic.

Jen actually ran this award whilst a councilor and it was a past Cllr. (Terry Mizen) employer 'Undertakers' who sponsored the printing of the booklet and we at the time designed the booklet and the Council endorsed all including allowing the use of the MTC crest

We both support the re- introduction of such an award for young children, but would request recognition on the initial idea.

**RESOLVED:** The Mayor advised that he had this conversation with former Cllr Jen Terry a long time ago.

**389. MINUTE 356**

**LITTER BIN OUTSIDE WILKO**

15/12/22 – replacement bin ordered

Bin arrived 04/01/2023, CMO went to deliver the bin to Wilko, whereby the manager advised that there was nothing wrong with the original bin as they acquired a new key and therefore no longer require a bin

Cllr R Martin requested that this new bin be placed by the Llynfi Road car park just before the bridge where a bin always used to be situated but was removed. It was noted that the previous bin was replaced several times in a short space of time and BCBC stopped replacing it because the bin was always subject to being set alight.

**RESOLVED:** To ask BCBC for permission to install our spare bin at this location and offer to empty it ourselves.

**390. MINUTE 362**

**MAESTEG WEST WARD FUND – STREETLIGHT, REAR OF NEATH ROAD**

07/12/2022 **Response** from BCBC:

There would normally be a request for commuted sums covering cost of energy and maintenance over the expected life of the unit, this would normally be 20 years.

As the pole is going to be on a western power pole and the power consumption low with the new LED lanterns, I think on this occasion I can wave that cost.

We will need to apply to WPD for permission to attach a lantern to their columns so it will still take around 3 to 4 weeks to complete

15/12/22: emailed BCBC to enquire whether there is a western power pole near 13 Cross Street, Maesteg

16/12/22 **Response:** To be clear the extra light we have agreed based on it being paid for in Neath road is a one off and not to be treated as something we can do for everyone wanting more lighting.

My budget only caters for maintenance of existing lighting and not adding lights across the borough. We generally dismiss any requests for additional lighting as we have no additional finance.

Members discussed this response and requested that the Clerk go back to BCBC and advise that the Town Council are happy to fund the purchase and installation of new streetlights in certain locations. A member suggested that the Council put in an official application outlining the fact that the Council will pay for the light and for it to be installed as recommended by a BCBC officer.

**RESOLVED:** To enquire with BCBC Streetlighting the costs for installing a new streetlight in Cross Street

**391. MINUTE 363**

**CAERAU WARD FUND REQUESTS**

**CRIW CYMRAEG PROJECT**

08/12/22 – advised the project that this has been agreed in Full Council, telephoned Caerau Primary who have requested a cheque payment.

12/12/22 – Cheque posted to Caerau Primary



### BUS STOP – HERMON ROAD

14/12/2022 – emailed BCBC to see if MTC can replace the bus shelter

19/12/2022 **Response:** It would need to be option 1 (no ends), due to the width of the footpath at this location.

I've asked Bus Shelters Ltd to provide a quotation, which on receipt I will forward to you for Maesteg Town Councils consideration.

Cllr P Jenkins stated that Maesteg Town Council own and maintain a number of bus shelters already so would **propose** that new bus shelters come out of the Councils main budget and not ward specific funds – this was seconded by Cllr F Abedalkarim and had no objections.

**RESOLVED:** To purchase bus shelter for Hermon Road from Capital Projects.

### 392. MINUTE 367

#### FINANCIAL APPLICATIONS

Letter of thanks and acknowledgement for financial support received from:

- Llynfi Valley Historical Society
- Garth Senior Citizens Association
- Urdd Gobaith Cymru
- Welsh Air Ambulance

**RESOLVED:** to note the information

### 393. MINUTE 368

#### DELEGATES REPORTS

15/12/2022 Letter sent to former Cllr K Edwards.

**RESOLVED:** to note the information

### 394. MINUTE 371

#### FIRE ESCAPE DOOR REPLACEMENT

15/12/22 – emailed winning tender to ask for details of the proposed replacement door in order that MTC can send it to BCBC building conservation team for approval before the door is replaced.

In addition to this I have been asked to ask you to also varnish the door to preserve the wood against the elements.

20/12/22 – telephone call received from the contractor to replace the fire escape doors. Unfortunately, the doors that were quoted are no longer in stock and his supplier has changed their supplier. This means that the doors cannot be purchased at the original price and this has now gone up by £170.00 making the overall cost £900.00 this information was emailed to all members.

In addition to this Clerk advised members that the BCBC Conservation Officer has requested Technical Sheets for the fire escape doors Maesteg Town Council which were provided, however she has since requested to see how the new door will look before giving permission to which the carpenter has what style door does BCBC require and he can try and source a suitable door replacement. In response to this the Conservation officer advised: *I'm afraid I don't have the time resources to source a door for the Town Hall for you. You do however have an architect in Ashleigh Davies who can recommend an appropriate, fire regulation and compliant door for you and possibly a reliable source for the supply of the door.*

*What I would recommend is that you utilise the full building survey that was undertaken by Ashleigh Davies and use it to create a programme of works going forward:*

- *Immediately necessary*
- *Necessary*
- *Yearly maintenance*
- *Future projects*

*This will assist you in forward planning work and whether or not listed building consent will be required and give you the time to apply for it, rather than have continued retrospective applications which could cause concern with Cadw.*

*If you are unable to contact Ashleigh Davies within the next week, my advice would be to photograph the front door, this will give you the style and form of the door for the rear but it will be less ornate as this is installed at the rear of the building but is still within the public domain and visible.*

*Doors are now made with fire compliance as an integral feature, so your carpenter needs to source a few options of what you think will work well with the existing building fabric. Send those on to me and I can guide you on which will work best and be acceptable from a listed building point of view.*

Clerk has advised that she has contacted the agent but has yet to receive a response.

Members discussed this issue and felt that BCBC Conservation Officer is delaying the installation of a fire escape door. Members asked Clerk to invite the Conservation Officer to attend the building and to advise on the style of the new fire doors when visiting the Town Hall. Members commented stating that the doors being in the state that they are is contributing to the buildings demise with water easily entering the building and the doors sealing damp into the basement. Members also requested that the Clerk write to the Chief Executive and appropriate cabinet member to achieve a fast result for this as there is no benefit to anyone delaying the process and further erosion of the Town Council building.

**RESOLVED:**

- i) Maesteg Council to request that the conservation officer attend the Council offices when next at the Town Hall
- ii) Write to the Chief Executive and Cabinet member

**395. MINUTE 375**

**TO SET THE PRECEPT FOR 2023-24**

13/12/22 – emailed BCBC with the precept requirement for 2023-24.

14/12/22 – acknowledgement received from BCBC

**RESOLVED:** to note the information

**396. LIST OF PAYMENTS FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER 2022**

**RESOLVED:**

That the tables of **Expenditure (£34,101.85) Income (£5,517.33)** during the month of December 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 December 2022 totalling **£4,998.56**
- A copy of the Receipts and Payments Account which includes expenditure against the budget and the budget remaining and an income analysis.
- Q3 VAT reclaim totalling **£6,834.63** be reclaimed from HMRC

The Clerk advised that the payment to Caseys Café had been declined by an authoriser as they had not provided bank details on the invoice. The Clerk advised that the Council have Caseys Café details on file so made the payment but a paper trail for this payment is requested by the authoriser.

The Clerk requested that the rent payment for the unit at Heol ty Gwyn be setup as a direct debit and this was approved by members.

It was agreed that:

- Reclaim the Q3 VAT from HMRC
- When invoice is provided with bank details pay Caseys Café
- Unit rent to be setup as direct debit

**CORRESPONDENCE**

**397. NEWSLETTERS / FLYERS / BRIEFING NOTES/ CONSULTATIONS**

Emailed to all Councillors for information:

- AWEN Cultural Trust: Miracle on 34th Street Play at Maesteg RFC on 15th December 2022 7:30pm

- Welsh Government - Electoral Administration and Reform White Paper – response required by 10<sup>th</sup> January 2023
- Small Grants Fund - Western Bay Community Cohesion Grant. Groups in Bridgend, Swansea and NPT are welcome to apply.
- Warm spaces update from BCBC
- Welsh Government
- Vacancy - Deputy Director Equality, Poverty and Children’s Evidence Division
- OVW – January, February & March 2023 training dates
- All Welcome at Coffee at the Hub in Maesteg - Employability Bridgend are launching a new support service at their Maesteg Hub which will be held every Friday from 6 January 2023. The free sessions will be held between 9:30am and midday and residents will be able to find out more about the local community, meet new people and access employability support. Free tea, coffee and biscuits will also be available.
- BCBC Budget Consultation Launched – surveys to be completed by 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2023.
- BCBC New Christmas Film - 'He likes to shop local' <https://youtu.be/R5im8gKj5gE>
- Christmas Card from Bridgend Town Councils Mayor
- Welsh Water Christmas Bills poster – placed onto the website
- SW Fire and Rescue - HAVE YOUR SAY! Survey closes 13 January 2023.
- BCBC Warm spaces update w/c 02.01.2023
- BCBC Town & Community Council Fund - 2023/24
- AWEN Cultural Trust - Free History Talk at Maesteg Library 06/01/2023
- M4 slip road closures - Public Urged to Plan Ahead

**RESOLVED:** to note the information

**398. DOG POO BAGS REQUESTS**

Requests from the following organisations:

- MAWS – 6 boxes in December
- Special Families – 6 boxes delivered

**RESOLVED:** to note the information

**399. FLY TIPPING REMOVAL – CLEARED BY CMO**

Requests for the following areas:

- Dumped rubbish - lane accessed from Ferriers Row (from Asda)

**RESOLVED:** to note the information

**400. NOTICE OF VACANCY - MAESTEG EAST WARD**

The above notice of vacancy for Maesteg East Ward has been placed onto the website, Facebook page and in the outdoor notice board.

06/01/2023 Email received from BCBC Electoral to advise an election was not requested and you may now go ahead and co-opt the vacant seat.  
Co-option advert placed onto website and Facebook page with closing date as 6<sup>th</sup> February 2023.

**RESOLVED:** to await Co-option applications

**401. CELTIC CRICKET CLUB**

Request received via Cllr P Jenkins for Maesteg Celtic Cricket Club who are enquiring about the MTC CAT Grant:

*Dear clerk,*

*could you furnish me with all details on how can this club claim a grant on the same basis as all other clubs in our valley were awarded. Plus to boot the two bowls clubs in Caerau each were awarded the grant, yet operate from the same green. Celtic is one of the valleys oldest sporting club, having over a hundred years have not only promoted the ethos of the game, has produced national players plus, they instil in their youth team and junior teams all that is good in sport and life. The upheaval during the now Celtic Sports and Social Clubs transition into their new form not only had impacted upon them. The realignment and movement of their green combines with transforming the club to enable survival of cricket. They lost sight of the grant award given to all eligible clubs. I would appreciate all the information to help them progress an application. Not the £500 mac MTC fund. Thank you.*

Clerk advised:

The MTC CAT Grant applications were sent to all the clubs going through CAT with BCBC in 2020 with the deadline for submitting an application as 31<sup>st</sup> August 2020.

Unfortunately, Celtic Cricket Club did not submit an application form and have therefore missed out from MTC CAT grant funds. I have spoken to Guy Smith who has advised that Celtic Cricket Club are in discussions with Celtic RFC to go into partnership.

It would have to go to Full Council to see if we could give Celtic Cricket club a CAT GRANT as our scheme ended in 2020 and the money is in reserves for those clubs that applied.

We have the following clubs who have yet to receive their funding as they have yet to complete their CAT with BCBC:

- Caerau AFC
- FC Maesteg – Guy Smith advised that FC Maesteg may not be proceeding with CAT
- Celtic Bowling Club
- Celtic RFC
- Caerau All Whites

15/12/22 email received from Celtic Cricket Club:

*I am sending this email on behalf of Maesteg Celtic Cricket Club.*

*A while back the Town Council offered grants to all sporting clubs within the valley that are involved in Community Asset Transfers (CAT) of £5000.*

*For various internal reasons we did not submit the application before the deadline and therefore missed the opportunity.*

*However, I have recently been advised that there are several clubs within the valley that have not claimed the money that they had originally been granted as they are no further ahead within the CAT process than us.*

*Therefore, what I am asking is can we please retrospectively apply to give Maesteg Celtic Cricket Club a chance of claiming funds that all other clubs within the valley have received?*

*Although we are grateful for receiving other sums of money from the BCBC CAT funding pot, additional monies like this would go a long way to helping us secure Cricket at Garth Park for many years.*

*If this question could possibly be asked in your January meeting, we would be most grateful.*

A member said that he sympathised with BCBC CAT Officer and commented on the hard work he had put into the scheme specifically relating to Celtic Cricket Club. The member asked if Maesteg Council could approach BCBC CAT Officer to open up the CAT scheme for the Cricket Club as they were proceeding with the scheme prior to it being pulled. Another member stated that Maesteg Council offer match funding with the CAT scheme in partnership with BCBC to the percentage of 60:40, he added that opening the scheme for one organisation where others may want to now proceed with the scheme would not be fair and noted that you cannot retrospectively apply for grant funding

**RESOLVED:** to ask BCBC CAT Officer if they would consider the Cricket Club under BCBC CAT schemes

#### **402. REQUEST FROM CMO**

CMO is requesting the following for the unit:

<b>Item</b>	<b>Price</b>	<b>Company</b>
Flammable liquid storage container	£354.99 exc. VAT	Spillbuyer.com
Coat stand with shoe storage	£32.49 exc. VAT	Amazon
Heavy duty racking for tool storage	£369.98 inc. VAT £210.00 exc. VAT	Racking Solutions for 2 units Bigdug for 1 unit
Cordless hammer drill		

Rechargeable batteries for hammer drill		
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Members noted that there is a budget for CMO equipment and maintenance additionally the importance of the storing correctly of flammable materials so agreed to purchase the listed products and hammer drill with additional batteries

**RESOLVED:** to proceed and purchase the requested items

**403. CHRISTOPHER WILLIAMS 150**

Email received from the Heritage Development Manager at AWEN Cultural Trust:  
*I just wanted to let you know that we're running some activities in the Library in January, to celebrate 150 years since the birth of Christopher Williams.*

*We're hoping to do some more things throughout 2023 to commemorate 150 years of Christopher Williams and his work, and as there are several of his paintings in the Town Council offices, I was wondering if the council would like to support these activities.*

Clerk has advised that the ownership of the paintings is still being investigated.

Cllr R Collins advised that it was Christopher Williams birthday last week and he attended and spoke at an event in Maesteg Library last week about the history of Christopher Williams and his connection to the town. He added that if Maesteg Council approach Awen Cultural Trust we can better understand this relationship and potentially work together on matters pertaining to him going forward.

Another member noted that they seen on social media that the long thought lost painting of Maesteg Iron Works by Christopher Williams had been donated to the Town Hall by his family and Awen is currently seeking funding to restore the painting. The sum required to refurbish it sits around £11,000 and there has been a grant for £5,000 awarded to Awen and a resident of Maesteg for her 92<sup>nd</sup> birthday has donated an additional £1,000 to the restoration. The member proposed that Maesteg Council seek to fund the remaining amount.

The member was advised that without Awen coming to the Council we cannot just hand out public funds. Cllr R Collins advised that if the Council are to meet with Awen then this is a topic that is likely to be discussed.

**RESOLVED:** To invite AWEN to a Full Council Meeting to give a talk on Christopher Williams and to discuss what activities AWEN have planned throughout 2023 and what the shortfall for having the Iron Works painting restored is.

**404. ROOM HIRE QUERY**

Email received from Lockdales, an auctioneer firm of Coins and Collectables based in Ipswich. We travel around the UK holding specialist valuation events (similar to the

Antiques Roadshow) this is a completely free, no obligation service that we offer. We are looking to hold such an event near Maesteg and would be interested in finding out if this was an event that we would be able to hold at The Town Council Offices once again. Our requirements are as follows:-

- A room on the Ground Floor with access to, or very close access to the car park (I understand your function room is on the 1st floor and there is no disabled access)
- The maximum occupancy would be made up of 4 x valuers/experts. We would require 4 tables, one for each of our experts (minimum 6ft Trestle Tables ideally) and 3 chairs per table for our visitors. We would then require approx. 40 chairs in theatre style in the centre of the room for the waiting public (Are you able to set this up/pack away for us please? We are happy to pay an additional fee for this service if required.)
- To enable our event to run smoothly we would need confirmation that the use of an attached free car park large enough to facilitate approx. 20 cars would be made available to us.
- We would also require confirmation that we would be able to access free good coverage wi-fi or 4g signal on the day of our event. Please confirm what your connection speed is if you do have Wifi?
- Due to the nature of our work it is important that we have good lighting facilities in the room and there must be sufficient electrical sockets in the room.

Please could I check availability for the below dates (It will just be a ONE DAY event on any ONE of the below dates)

Tuesday 24th January  
Wednesday 25th January  
Thursday 26th January  
Or  
Friday 27th January

We would be looking at a hire period of either :-

9am – 2pm

OR

4.30pm – 8pm (however if on the 24th January, we would be looking at 4pm – 8pm)

Clerk has advised: We have a room upstairs in our building that could be used.

We have the following availability:

25th January – 9am – 2pm

26th January – 9am – 2pm

27th January – 9am – 2pm

We do have guest WIFI available I have just done a speed test and the reading on the guest WIFI is: Download speed: 19.2 Mbps, Upload speed: 1.16 Mbps



There is apparently free WIFI in the Town but I am unsure of the speeds.

Yes we have 2 rooms you can use there would be a charge of £15 per room per half day and £30 per room per full day

Car park is less than ¼ mile walk (the car park is in Llynfi Road next to Wilko) there is a footpath from the car park over the bridge at the bottom end of Plasnewydd Street and through Llynfi lane. We are opposite the lane.

**RESOLVED:** Members were happy to lease the room if Lockdales wish to proceed based on the shared information by the Clerk.

**405. SATURDAY 17<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER**

For those thinking that the Deputy Clerk was feeding the birds on Saturday morning he was in fact spreading grit from the car park over to the market square ready for the performances in the market square – unfortunately Llynfi Valley Council of Churches deemed the weather too cold and opted to perform in St David’s Church.

Thanks, is also needed for A Williams from AWEN Cultural trust who also assisted the Deputy Clerk in clearing the ice from around the band stand.

Members wanted to extend they’re thanks to Mr A Williams for setting up the speakers for the Council of Churches and gritting the canopy area where the performance would have taken place.

**RESOLVED:** send a letter of thanks to A Williams

**406. COMPLAINT REGARDING BCBC PROPOSED COUNCIL TAX INCREASE ON EMPTY HOMES FOR 2023-24**

Email received and forwarded to all members of a complaint received regarding the BCBC proposed council tax increase for empty properties.

Clerk has advised:

Unfortunately, Maesteg Town Council do not have the authority to answer all your questions raised within your letter, likewise we are unable to comment on the proposals set out by BCBC.

I can advise you that in within the following link:

<https://www.bridgend.gov.uk/media/13295/budget-overview-leaflet-22-23.pdf> it explains how Council Tax is generated. On page 11 it explains the following payments:

	Community Council	BCBC	Police & Crime Commissioner	TOTAL for 2022-23
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BAND A	£39.35 to Maesteg Town Council	£1,064.67	£201.41	£1,305.43
BAND F	£100.33 to Llan Middle Community Council	£2,306.79	£436.38	£2,843.50

In our recent budget meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> December 2022 you can see that Maesteg Town Council have agreed a lower precept for 2023-24 <https://maestegcouncil.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/25.-Extraordinary-Council-BUDGET-MEETING-13.12.2022.pdf>

I can advise that for a Band A property the figure is approx. £35.83 for the year to Maesteg Town Council – I do not have the figures for BCBC, SW Police or Llangynwyd Middle Community Council.

**RESOLVED:** to note the information

**407. OMBUDSMAN COMPLAINT**

Notification that a Code of Conduct complaint has been made to the ombudsman. The Ombudsman has decided not to investigate the complaint.

**RESOLVED:** to note the information

**408. REFERRALS**

- 21/12/22: The matrix sign we installed on Cymmer Hill is not working again. 21/12/22 **Response BCBC:** We have had the power supply checked to the VAS on Cymmer Hill and there is voltage, therefore we have contacted Westcotec and they are programmed to visit the sign in the new year.

**RESOLVED:** to note the information

**409. CHRISTMAS LIGHTS**

Numerous emails to Centregreat throughout December:

- i) Christmas light at St David’s Place
- ii) Christmas lights along Commercial Street
- iii) One of the Lamppost Xmas Lights on Caerau Square is not working.
- iv) The light in the Lamppost up at Rathbone Terrace we had installed has not been lit up this year.

Centregreat respond to advise they will send an operative to visit the lights.

21/12/22 Email received from Centregreat to advise that they think there will be a need to look at upgrading the infrastructure for next year due to the number of failures there has been for you this year.

The account manager will discuss this with you I would imagine but the guys have mentioned to me when passing that a number of the connections will need upgrading due to age etc....

**RESOLVED:** to await information on infrastructure upgrading

**410. UTILITY AID – REQUEST LATEST UTILITY BILL**

Telephone call and email received from Utility Aid and forwarded to all members:

To begin helping you now, all we need is a recent bill for each meter you are responsible for, and a hand signed and dated copy of the attached letter of authority (LOA) on company headed paper. This will allow us to perform the FREE desktop audit identifying immediate overcharges

I'm writing to you with great news that Utility Aid are now in partnership with The National Association of Local Councils to support 10,000 councils in the UK with all things energy. Please take a look at the NALC website to see more information <https://www.nalc.gov.uk/about/our-partners>

As I'm sure you have heard in the news, the energy markets are extremely volatile right now so I wanted to reach out and offer our support to ensure you are in the best possible position during this turbulent time. As suppliers look to recover their losses. We are starting to see energy prices rising rapidly and would encourage you to look now to secure your next contract and avoid the risk of future price increases. We specialise in energy for street lighting, public conveniences, council offices, sports pavilions, cemeteries, town halls and other council run buildings as one of the sponsors for the Society of Local Council Clerks and manage the energy for hundreds of town and parish councils in the UK. We also offer the option of collective purchasing for town and parish councils to hugely reduce costs by bulk buying and can even support you on your journey to net zero with qualified assessors and access to a large variety of green energy suppliers.

You may have seen news in recent weeks about the current energy crisis; sadly prices are rocketing and we don't know what the future holds. The rise in energy costs mixed with the difficulties energy suppliers have faced in the past few weeks alone may well be causing concern.

We are offering advice and guidance to all, whether you are a customer or not.

We get better rates for charities & Councils

Because we specialise in the not-for-profit sector, we receive preferential charity rates from the 30 suppliers we work with. So, if you have a new energy contract to negotiate, we'd love to help you get the very best value from that and ensure you retain as much of your funding for what you do best, providing vital front line services to society.

About us

Utility Aid is the UK's largest energy broker for the third, fourth and public sectors, serving over 3,000 customers. We're market leaders and have over 2.0 terawatts of energy under management – equivalent to the energy consumption of Scotland for a

winter month! Our mission is to support charities and not-for-profit organisations get the best value for their energy supplies.

Utility Aid provide a completely FREE desktop energy audit on your energy billing, with no obligation. We'll check you're not being overcharged by your current supplier for peace of mind and offer you a bespoke quotation for when your next renewal is due, detailing our added value and services.

Did you know that we have recovered nearly £4 million for our customers, simply by checking their bills for them?

#### Available Services

- Energy Procurement
- Invoice Validation
- Net Zero and Carbon Reporting
- Void Management Service
- Customer Care
- Account Management

The Chair of Finance advised that he is looking into this as normally when things sound too good to be true, they usually are. When the investigation is concluded he will feed this back to the Council.

**RESOLVED:** to await an update from the Chair of Finance

#### **411. MAYORAL CHAIN & DEPUTY MAYOR CHAIN REPLACEMENT IDEAS**

05/01/2022 email received from Fattorini and forwarded to all members with chain replacement ideas. (this is following on from Minute 218 in September 2022 Full Council Meeting)

Our designers have been on the case and have provided two initial suggestions for a pendant and chain of office for the Mayor and the Deputy Mayor

If you feel either of these could potentially be suitable, please do let me know the relevant design number of your preferred design and I will ask our estimating team to calculate the current quotation for you (there will be little difference between the two for each.)

If none are quite what you had in mind, no problem please do let me know and our designers can provide alternatives to your brief.

Members discussed the designs and it was agreed to get costings to replace both the Mayor and Deputy Mayors chain and also obtain costings to refurbish the Deputy Mayors chain as it holds significant historical value to the old Maesteg and Urban District Council. The decision on the design for the Mayors chain was given to the Mayor and he chose option B230104-02

**RESOLVED:** to advise Fattorini:

- (1) that option B230104-02 had been chosen to replace the Mayors Chain
- (2) to request costings to refurbish the current Deputy Mayors Chain

**412. UNIVERSITY PROJECT – BA PHOTOJOURNALISM**

I am a third year Ba Photojournalism student at the University of South Wales.

As a part of my course I am required to complete a major project where I need to produce a book on whatever topic I choose. For my major project I have decided to look into the important people in the Maesteg area that keep the town running and have come out of Maesteg and made something of themselves. This project will be a portraiture based photobook which will be taken in your work environment.

I was wondering if you would be interested in getting involved in my project as the mayor of Maesteg as I am hoping to produce a book that showcases the members of the community that diminish the misconceptions about the valley and show that there is good here.

**RESOLVED:** Advise that the Mayor agreed to assist the student in the project and will be in contact shortly.

**413. RESEARCH ON YOUTH COUNCILS - A SURVEY REQUEST**

I'm a Public Leadership MA student at De Montfort University, and my dissertation is looking at the success rates of youth councils as a tool for engaging with young people. It would be very helpful if you could spare a few minutes to complete my online survey, it doesn't matter if your council has a youth council or not:

<https://forms.office.com/e/8xcuzaWJhC>

It's been interesting researching youth councils both for my studies and for my parish councils, and I look forward to analysing the survey results. The survey shouldn't take more than 6 minutes to complete, with mostly tick boxes to make it easier to respond. The participation information sheet is attached for more information. The overall results will be available after May 2023.

This survey may also come to you through other means, but you only need to complete it once please.

The survey will be open until Friday 3rd February 2023.

**RESOLVED:** Members agreed that the Clerk fill this in on behalf of the Council.

**414. TO APPOINT DELEGATES TO THE COMMITTEES FORMER CLLR K EDWARDS**

The Clerk asked if members would like to discuss this today or wait until the co-option of a new Councillor is completed so they have a fair chance of sitting on some

committees also. Members agreed to adjourn this item until the new member has been appointed to the Council.

**RESOLVED:** To await Co-option before appointing delegates onto committees

**415. TO CONSIDER FINANCIAL APPLICATIONS**

Members were provided with application forms from the following organisation:

**1. LLYNFI VALLEY AMATEUR BOXING CLUB**

Llynfi valley amateur boxing club opened in Oct 2022 in Maesteg town.

There is a mixture of classes currently being run which includes:

- children's classes for ages 6-16 years old
- registered boxers' classes for ages 6-16 years old
- women only classes
- mixed box fit classes
- inclusive sessions (working closely with special families Maesteg)
- open morning classes
- classes for local children's rugby / football teams

Would like the grant to provide the users of the boxing club with all the necessary safety equipment needed for their fitness journey whilst using the club.

We understand that the current financial climate will prevent the local people from affording things like boxing gloves / head guards etc which are essential to keep them safe whilst promoting a healthier lifestyle.

**RESOLVED:** Members wanted confirmation that this is a non-profit organisation and not a private company. Clerk to check this and report back to Council

**2. YESCYMRU**

Received an S137 request from YesCymru. Unfortunately, Town and Community Councils are unable to give grants to political groups/parties. OVW confirmed that T&CC unable to give grants to political groups/parties.

**RESOLVED:** To note the information

**3. CAERAU MEN'S SHED – WARM HUB**

Received an S137 request from Caerau Men's Shed for £1,000.00 funding towards Warm Hub sessions:

Caerau Men's Shed are to provide Warm Hubs which offer a safe, accessible and warm environment during the day to help those facing extreme fuel poverty this winter.

Caerau Men' Shed trustees and members shall work tirelessly to support these vulnerable people by opening up and facilitating both venues, as stated below, to engage in open and friendly manner.

The 'Shed' shall provide hot and cold refreshment to attendees

Venues and Times:

- Wednesday 11am until 3pm at the Caerau Men's Shed Workshop at Bangor Terrace, Nantyffyllon
- Friday 2pm until 4pm at their HQ at the vestry at Dyffryn Chapel, Bedw Street, Caerau

The S137 funded grant shall be solely used to provide anyone, individually and collectively, within the catchment area who have identified their particular need for some social and wellbeing support by allowing access to our venues on the days/times stipulated.

The fund will assist with energy, gas, electricity, food, drink and games to create social interaction.

**RESOLVED:** Council donate the sum of £1000 under Section 137 of the Local Government Act (as amended)

#### **4. THE AJUDA FOUNDATION**

Received an S137 request from The Ajuda Foundation to help fund The Purple Sunflower project.

£500 Grant aid will contribute towards

- £250 Trainer /facilitator per session including milage
- £100 food and refreshments per session
- £100 course materials (handouts , resources, exam papers, certificates
- £150 admin, marketing and volunteer expenses

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

#### **5. NODDFA KIDS & COMMUNITY PROJECT – WARM HUB**

We have set up a Warm Hub at our centre in Caerau to support people through this very difficult time with the cost-of-living crisis being faced especially in relation to the huge increases in utility bills, fuel and food. This is having a detrimental impact on the peoples quality of life, particularly in relation to stress and anxiety being caused, decisions on what to pay for and what to go without especially when there is a family with children but also for the vulnerable and elderly in our community. Caerau has a high level of deprivation and low-income families and so this situation is likely to impact heavily in the area and create hardship and isolation.

We will have our Warm Hub open twice a week allowing anyone to come along to our warm centre (and potentially save on their heating cost) and enjoy a cuppa and refreshments as well as chat with neighbours, access the WIFI, computers and newspapers. We will also be offering various activities such as bingo, quizzes, board games, table tennis, darts, arts, crafts, and cooking. We will also support people with information, advice and guidance about issues they have including financial, work, training, health and more.

We hope our Warm Hub will help people feel they are not alone and have support in their community, as well as providing a welcoming warm centre where they can take their minds off things and enjoy a few hours of social interaction and activity, which will be of benefit to peoples mental and physical health.

Request £1000.00 grant to go towards the utility bills (gas, electricity, water), centre amenities/overhead costs, refreshments, and resources.

**RESOLVED:** Council donate the sum of £1000 under Section 137 of the Local Government Act (as amended)

#### **416. DELEGATES REPORT**

There were no delegates reports received. Cllr P Davies stated that he attended the consultation for Maesteg Hospital last week and would advise people to attend on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2023 for the next consultation as the previous meeting was very good.

**RESOLVED:** to note the information

#### **417. PLANNING**

The following applications had no objections:

Ref: P/22/741/BCB

Applicant: BCBC Communities Directorate

Location: Maesteg Comprehensive School Ffordd Dysgu Maesteg CF34 0LQ

Proposal: Proposed multi use games area (MUGA) flood lighting

Ask For: Steven Jenkins

Ref: P/22/767/FUL

Applicant: Mrs C Lewis

Location: 5 Belmont Close Maesteg CF34 0LH

Proposal: Build attached garage to side elevation; replace existing flat roof dormer to front elevation with pitched roof dormer; construct bay window to front elevation to match existing

Ask For: Julie Earp

Ref: P/22/724/FUL

Applicant: Mr S Davies

Location: Brynlllefrith Farm Coegnant Road Caerau Maesteg CF34 0TN



Proposal: Retention and completion of upgrading of existing track with inert materials

Ask For: Steven Jenkins

Ref: P/21/1109/OUT

Applicant: Mr R Watkins

Location: Land adjacent to Pleasant View Fairfield Avenue Maesteg CF34 9LP

Proposal: Outline planning for 1no. detached dwelling

Ask For: Steven Jenkins

Members were also made aware of the following planning enforcement notification

**Planning Enforcement:**

Reference: ENF/307/22/A21

Complaint: Building in disrepair (former bus shelter)

Location: Picton Street, Maesteg

I write in response to your enquiry in respect of the above.

Investigation into this matter has revealed that the former bus shelter is within private ownership and whilst if it considered that it would not be appropriate to issue a Section 215 Notice in respect of this matter, the owner has been requested to re-render and/or paint the outside wall facing Picton Street in order to improve its appearance.

**RESOLVED:** To forward responses to Planning department.

**Minutes emailed to Councillors to Read on 12<sup>th</sup> January 2023**

**Minutes accepted at a Hybrid meeting of the Council held on 7<sup>th</sup> February 2023**

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Mayor