

**MAESTEG TOWN COUNCIL  
COUNCIL MEETING**

Minutes of a HYBRID meeting of the **EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL** held at the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Talbot Street, Maesteg and remotely via Microsoft Teams and, on **Tuesday, 24<sup>th</sup> January 2023**

**PRESENT:**

**COUNCILLORS:**

**A James (Mayor)**

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

**APOLOGIES** were received from Cllrs C Davies, P Jenkins, R Lewis and G Williams

**DECLARATION OF INTEREST: None received**

**418. TO RECEIVE MR P WHITTAKER FROM EPM CREATIVE TO DISCUSS:**

- 1) Christmas Parade*
- 2) Santa Selfie Grotto*
- 3) Possible Keeper of the Colliery run 2023*

The Mayor welcomed Mr P Whittaker from EPM Creative to discuss the Christmas Parade, Santa Selfie Grotto and Keeper of the Colliery fun run. Members were provided with reports for each event.

**Christmas Parade**

Members discussed the report given by EPM and raised the following questions / comments:

- A number of concerns were raised with the amount of people ignoring the barriers and possibility of a crush situation especially around the monument.
- EPM: this was due to there not being enough barriers for this area
  
- Concerns were raised as to the location of the BridgeFm stage and that it was not erected in sufficient time to entertain the crowds.
- EPM: feedback received from BridgetFM was positive as the presenter was able to see the floats arriving, there was a problem on the day with the generator not blowing the stage up but it was up by the start of the parade.
  
- It was agreed that the number of barriers and marshals agreed by the MTC was insufficient and that these be increased for 2023 to include the junction with Commercial Street and around the monument / Town Hall.
  
- A member mentioned that the number of lorries was too many and that the dance group slowed the parade down with there being a gap between the front of the

parade and the end of the parade, it was also noted that one of the lorries also stopped for the Characters to get onto the lorry and this also increased the gap.

- A member advised that at the old Revlon site there was chaos with irresponsible parking of cars – maybe an entrance and exit could be created with traffic cones to manage the cars better?
- A discussion ensued on the topic of silly string, whereby it was noted that Poundland had a massive delivery the week before the parade. It was also noted that not only the people in the crowd using the silly string but a number of the floats were also using the silly string. Many complaints have been received about the silly string whereby the brass bands have already stated they will not attend due to the issue of silly string damaging their uniforms. Additionally this year the Police Cadets and Army Cadets didn't attend for the same reason. EPM advised that the Characters company have advised that they would not attend next year as the costumes were ruined with the silly string. Further discussions as to how we can avoid the use of silly string:
  - contact the businesses earlier and request that they do not sell silly string
  - check with SW Police that once the roads are closed it no longer becomes a public highway, therefore maybe the street hawkers won't be allowed?
  - Give the floats sweets to throw out to the crowds?
- A member queried that there would be a need for portable toilets as there was a massive queue behind MTC building and many people were seen urinating next to the portacabins of the town hall.
- Another question raised was the need for a accessibility area for those in wheelchairs etc. The problem with this is that it is a free event and the number of wheelchair users attending is unknown. EPM suggested having a ticketed area for this.
- A member queried that there would be a need for portable toilets as there was a massive queue behind MTC building and many people were seen urinating next to the portacabins of the town hall.

### **Santa Selfie Grotto**

Members discussed the report given by EPM and the following was discussed:

- EPM advised that the event went well, however they need to see how they can avoid non attendance as many families didn't turn up. In addition many families didn't realise that it was the Town Council paying for the grotto and supplying the gifts - maybe banners could be purchased for the duration of the event. There was also a tight timeframe to set up the grotto as the keys and electricity for the unit wasn't given until the day before the 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday.
- Members agreed that the event is a success and remains free to the residents.

- Members would like EPM to cost for a wooden hut for the grotto as the unit may not be available in the future. In addition to this also cost for a Christmas market within the market square.
- A member queried whether an ice rink could also be set up in the market square?

### **Possible Keeper of the Colliery run 2023**

Members discussed the report given by EPM and the following was discussed:

EPM advised that the weather on the day was great, the feedback received very positive with many advising they couldn't believe it was free as most running events cost upwards of £15.00 to attend and are not as well organised.

Members agreed it was a good event, however more stewards would be needed especially in areas along the route where the path forks.

Clerk advised that permission has been granted by Maesteg Comprehensive School for any Sunday in July. EPM said we could also ask if the showers could be used in addition to the toilets.

Clerk has also contacted a number of local running clubs for best date for the local running clubs, none have responded to the requests. However a quick online search for running events has shown that the same weekend in July 2023 looks like a good weekend.

EPM suggested that the day could be an ideal opportunity to hold a family fun day with entertainment, stalls etc.

A member queried if the medals could be personalised for MTC – EPM advised stickers could be added to the medals with MTC crest.

### **Any other events / queries**

EPM advised that they hold other events that may be achievable for MTC that include a Dinosaur Event (popular event previously held in Bridgend Town Centre).

Members queried whether EPM have managed a food market event? EPM advised that they used to do the food market in Bridgend Town Centre under the BID (Business Improvement District) initiative, however once this initiative ended they no longer requested the event.

A member advised that Treorchy is good at community events and request that the Clerk contact Treorchy Community Council to see what events they hold etc.

Another member mentioned the Maesteg Welfare Park centenary and that it would be good to link in with the Friends of Maesteg Welfare Park to see if any events could be held within the park.

**RESOLVED:**

- 1) To wait for costed events from EPM:
  - a. Fun Run
  - b. Family Fun Day
  - c. Food markets
  - d. Christmas Parade
  - e. Santa's Grotto
- 2) Contact Treorchy Community Council to see what events they hold etc.
- 3) Contact Friends of Maesteg Welfare Park to see what events could be held within the welfare park

The Mayor thanked EPM Creative for attending the meeting. EPM thanked the Council for being an amicable council to work with and will get all the discussed proposals in shortly.

**419. TO DISCUSS ANY OTHER EVENTS FOR 2023**

Following on from the reports and discussions with EPM, members agreed to wait for the costed event proposals from EPM before confirming events for 2023.

**RESOLVED:** To wait for the costed proposals

**Minutes emailed to Councillors to Read on 25<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