

**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, 6th December 2022**

PRESENT:

COUNCILLORS: **R Martin (Deputy Mayor)**
F Abedalkarim, AR Davies, C Davies, P Davies,
A James P Jenkins, R Penhale-Thomas, M Rowlands,
G Thomas, L Thomas, G Williams and I Williams

N.B. The Mayor Cllr A James was unwell and attended remotely and asked that the Deputy Mayor Cllr R Martin Chair the meeting.

APOLOGIES were received from Cllr R Collins, C Knight and R Lewis

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.

316. TOWN CRIER

The Town Crier asked to address Council before the meeting progressed, the Deputy Mayor granted permission.

The Town Crier thanked Maesteg Town Council on the success of the Christmas Parade and for purchasing new livery.

Town Crier asked to join a future meeting to give a presentation on the history of Town Criers and the history of the Maesteg Town Crier.

Council agreed to invite the Town Crier to a future meeting for the presentation.

RESOLVED: invite the Town Crier to a future meeting for the presentation

317. POLICE MATTERS

Deputy Mayor welcomed Sgt Watts and PSCO to the meeting, Members were provided with the following Crime figures:

Maesteg Crime Statistics for November 2022

	Caerau / Nanty	Maesteg East	Maesteg West	Llan	Total in category
Robbery	0	0	0	0	0
Drugs	2	0	0	2	4
Dwelling burglary	0	1attempt	1	0	2
Burglary other	2	0	0	0	2

Theft of vehicle	0	1	0	0	1
Theft from vehicle	2	1	0	0	3
All other theft	5	3	8	3	19
Damage	3	2	3	1	9
Violence against the person	17 (3)	10	10 (1)	0	37 (4)
Domestic related occurrences	5	4	3	0	12
All crime total	31	18	22	6	77
Anti-social behaviour total	16	2	5	1	24
Drink Driving	0	0	0	0	0

Sgt Watts advised that the Violence against a person includes shouting and swearing. The ASB in Caerau seems to be from a group of youths who were originally targeting drug users but are now targeting vulnerable residents. The CCTV has been moved to see if this will assist in combating the ASB, however please ask residents to report all issues either by telephone or online.

Members queried that not all residents are able to report online, to which Sgt Watts advised that they have requested iPads to take with them to show residents how to report online.

Sgt Watts reminded Council to remind residents to be vigilant in the weeks up to Christmas as the extra gifts purchased either being stored in cars and deliveries being stored in safe areas could be targeted. A member raised the issue of some couriers leaving parcels on doorsteps or throwing them over walls. Sgt Watts advised that if they are left of doorsteps it is the responsibility of the courier company to reimburse and redeliver the items.

Sgt Watts also advised that recently 4 problematic drug dealers from the area has been imprisoned and 4 cannabis factories had been found and shut down.

Members thanked Sgt Watts and team for their assistance at the Christmas Parade.

RESOLVED: To note the information

318. MAYORAL EVENTS

The Mayor advised that he attended the following events:

- 2nd November 22 Gave out Halloween competition prizes
- 5th November 22 Attended Maesteg 7777's fireworks display
- 13th November 22 Attended Remembrance Sunday
- 25th November 22 Delivered prizes to the poster competition winner and runners up
- 28th November 22 50th Wedding Anniverary
- 2nd December 22 Attended Caerau Christmas Tree celebration
- 3rd December 22 Attended Maesteg Christmas Parade

RESOLVED: to note the information

319. MINUTES

The following minutes;

- **Public Meeting** – 29/09/2022 emailed 03/10/2022
- **Full Council** – 01/11/2022 emailed 10/11/2022
- **Full Council (Confidential)** – 01/11/2022 emailed 10/11/2022

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

Due to the nature of the following minutes it was resolved to go into Committee to discuss the recommendations:

- **Bus Sub-Committee Minutes (1)** – 17/11/22 emailed 29/11/22
- **Bus Sub-Committee Minutes (2)** – 14/11/22 emailed 29/11/22

320. 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’

324. RESOLVED: THAT THE COUNCIL COME OUT OF COMMITTEE

MATTERS ARISING

325. MINUTE 271

POLICE MATTERS

02/11/2022 – Cllr C Davies emailed with the following: *I spoke to Community Constable Owain Watts today about attending a council meeting he replied he would send an email to the clerk seeking information hope this is ok*

08/11/2022 - emailed the Sgt's with the following:

In our recent Full Council meeting it was noted that there has been no police attendance at the meetings for a number of months. I have been asked to contact you to see if you or a member of your team would be able to meet with the Council at the monthly meetings.

In addition to this I have been instructed to ask/advise of the following:

- 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.

Our full council meetings occur on the 1st Tuesday of the month except in January when the date is usually the 2nd Tuesday of the month.

December 2022	Tuesday 6th
January 2023	Tuesday 10th (to be agreed)
February 2023	Tuesday 7th
March 2023	Tuesday 7th
April 2023	Tuesday 4th
May 2023	Tuesday 2nd
June 2023	Tuesday 6th
July 2023	Tuesday 4th
August 2023	Tuesday 1st
September 2023	Tuesday 5th
October 2023	Tuesday 3rd
November 2023	Tuesday 7th
December 2023	Tuesday 5th

RESOLVED: To note the information

326. MINUTE 274

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM MINUTES

- **BLAENCAERAU PARK**

Response BCBC: The informal expression of interest (EOI) could not be discussed on 03/10/22 as originally planned as we ran out of time on the day. However, it was discussed at yesterday’s CAT Steering group when it was confirmed that a formal EOI should be submitted.

I have attached a copy of the EOI pro-forma and CAT policy document and it might make sense for a meeting to be arranged with yourself and Matthew to determine the next steps.

Please let e know if you have any queries in the meantime.

Questions from Cllrs:

Just a question regarding current ownership and responsibility.

Would it be possible prior to any discussion to at council to establish whether this falls within the CAT guidelines as we are dealing with a third party namely Valleys to coast.

If it does meet the criteria, can we establish that it will be brought up to the required standard under the CAT agreement prior to hand over

Members advised that usually for CAT purposes money is set aside. It was also agreed for Cllr M Rowlands and the Clerk to proceed with the EOI.

RESOLVED: Cllr M Rowlands and the Clerk to proceed with the EOI

327. MINUTE 275

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

MAESTEG Branch RBL have thanked the Clerk & Deputy Clerk for organising the collection of wreaths for Remembrance Sunday.

A total of 96 wreaths were collected from the Town Council offices and £2,423.00 was raised.

Chairman of the Maesteg branch RBL also advised that the final breakdown of donations for this year's poppy appeal in Maesteg = £11,540.86

Static Locations (pubs & Shops)	£2,899.39
Wreaths	£2,243.00
Schools	£1,590.59
Tesco's	£4,197.88
Contactless machines	£610.00
TOTAL	£11,540.86

Chairman also advised that in 2021 Maesteg poppy appeal raised = £9,201.44 = 25% increase in 2022

Members thanked the Clerk & Deputy Clerk for assisting with the wreath collections.

RESOLVED: To note the information

328. MINUTE 277

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

- Selection boxes to be delivered:

Date	School	Number of boxes
5 th December	Nantyffyllon Primary	10
13 th December	Ysgol Cynnwyd Sant	12
13 th December	St Mary's & St Patrick's	10
14 th December	Garth Primary	9

14 th December	Plasnewydd Primary	8
16 th December	Caerau Primary	18

- Gifts for the care homes all packed ready to be delivered. – Date to be confirmed with the Mayor.

RESOLVED: To note the information

**329. MINUTE 279
CHRISTMAS**

02/11/2022 emailed the winning tender for the fireworks display.

02/11/2022 emailed Caerau Christmas Tree committee to advise that MTC will pay 50% costs as per previous years.

16/11/2022 met with ColourBlack Productions to film the parade

Emails of thanks were sent to all the groups and vehicle suppliers for the Parade.

Many emails of thanks received following the Christmas Parade including the following:

1. To all at Maesteg Council, I'd like to personally thank everyone involved in Maesteg Christmas Parade this year, for the great success of the day and inviting us Maesteg Celtic mini and juniors to be a part of the day, I know over 120 children from 5 years of age up to 13 years old was involved including my son , who loved it and not to mention the coaches and parents also involved, After the last few years with covid and everything else it meant so much to bring the whole valley together again. Here's to next year hopefully be bigger and better every year. Once again thanking all for your hard work on putting in this great event and we wish you all a merry Xmas and Happy New year, all our best Maesteg Celtic mini and juniors.
2. Thank you so much for your email.
Our players and coaches thoroughly enjoyed. It has been great looking over photographs and videos of everyone. Thank you so much for organising and allowing us to be a part of a fantastic day. We would also like to thank Owens transport for conveying us.

We look forward to next year and hopefully securing another vehicle so we can be involved in our town festive fun.

Have a very Merry Christmas and a happy new year.

3. Oh this is lovely. Thank you so much. We had a fantastic time, as always!! Such a lovely day & so nice seeing Maesteg getting back to normal. We can't wait for next year already!!

Also, hopefully performance at the town hall next year with it being open?
Would love to get back doing that after the parade.

4. It was indeed a good event, possibly the largest turnout I've ever seen for it. It will be fantastic next year with the Town Hall up and running too.
5. Thank you for this, I personally thought it was a great day and to see so many People turn up was amazing, what a great place we live in.
On behalf of Myself and LBS it was a pleasure to be able to support such a great event for the community.

Email received from Bridgend Town Council:

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?
- Who plans and organises the event e.g. booking entertainment, planning logistics, H&S/risk assessments, road closures, ESAG process, co-ordinating volunteers, etc.
- 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?
- Is any or all of the organising of the event outsourced?
- What is the total cost of the event and how much does Maesteg Town Council pay towards it?
- How much MTC staff time (number of staff & hours) is required for the planning and attending the event?

Sorry for all the questions but I'm hoping to gather enough information for Bridgend Town Council to make an informed decision and consider the budget as part of the precept discussions next week.

Email request from P Davies photography:

I have received a request from Maesteg Police Sergeant Owain Watts asking if it would be ok if he could use some of the images I've taken of the Saturdays Xmas Parade for internal police training.

I've no problem in doing that but as Maesteg Town council is the client I will only release the pictures after receiving your permission.

Can you confirm please that I can forward some images to Sergeant Watts for internal Police training

Members discussed the information provided and agreed for the Clerk to share information to Bridgend Town Council and for P Davies photography to share the photographs with Sgt Watts.

RESOLVED: Clerk to:

- advise Bridgend Town Centre with the information requested
- advise P Davies photography MTC happy to have the photographs shared

330. MINUTE 281

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

09/11/2022: Following response received from BCBC and emailed to all Cllrs:

Thank you for your letter of October 21st received by both myself and the Council Leader, Cllr Huw David.

I note you have headed the letter 'Arbed scheme update for residents' but importantly I should point out that most of the failing internal and external wall insulation work carried out in Caerau in 2012/13 was in fact carried out by contractors using the UK Government sponsored CESP (Community Energy Savings Programme). This Council had no involvement at all in that scheme, and only an indirect involvement in the Arbed programme where the Council engaged contractors to carry out work on a far smaller number of properties. This is important because while I have huge empathy for the issues local residents have experienced and continue to experience, and it is clear that in my opinion they have been failed, the Council is not responsible for the plight of most of the householders and I certainly take exception to the notion that they are being treated with contempt by this Council. Ordinarily householders would need to pursue these matters through their own insurance or through relevant warranties, but we recognise that the relevant companies have gone out of business making this impossible and so we have undertaken to do everything we can to help and support those residents and resolve the issues as soon as possible. That is why the Council has been working closely with Welsh Government officials for over a year to develop an acceptable business case where they would provide a significant sum of money to supplement the budget the Council has set aside for this purpose in its capital programme.

Getting the final approval and sign off from Welsh Government Ministers has taken far longer than anyone would have wanted and that is of course regrettable, however we continue to have an ongoing dialogue and I have in recent days received informal confirmation that the Minister has now signed off the business case. I am hopeful that this will now be confirmed in writing very soon.

To be clear though, and to manage expectations, the actual work on the affected homes was always intended to start next year as the first steps are ones of appointing relevant experts and to engage with those local residents impacted. I of course recognise that with ever increasing energy costs and a worsening cost of living crisis, the sooner work can be undertaken to improve the relevant homes the better, and it would be our

aim to accelerate the programme of work as quickly as we can once formal approval is forthcoming, albeit it is still likely to be spread over 2 full financial years.

The situation with regard to the use of Council reserves has been explained to a number of your elected members both privately and in the recent public full Council meeting. As part of our Treasury Management Strategy this Council, in common with most other local authorities, invests money for short periods that it does not need immediately, but to be clear it is earmarked and reserved for future projects, for example building a new school that has been approved in the capital programme but may be paid for over 3 years. In this way a return on that investment is made and we are able to generate additional budget for the Council as part of managing cash flow. The important point is that the money is already earmarked for other projects and so can not be spent on other things, but it does make sense to invest it when there is a guarantee that it will be paid back with a return. I hope that is clear, but the obvious difference with what you have suggested is if we had spent it on improving the homes in Caerau and we were then unsuccessful for whatever reason in securing the Welsh Government funding for that purpose, we would have in effect spent the money twice and that would be unaffordable and contrary to the Council's financial management rules.

It would in any case have been a matter for full Council to amend the Council's capital programme in this way if that was their priority but it would likely have to be at the expense of something already approved in the programme as I have explained.

I can confirm that once we have formal confirmation of the Welsh Government funding and that that we can proceed with the proposed programme of work, it is our intention to begin the process of communication with local members and residents in Caerau.

29/11/2022 Response from WG = Thank you for your letter of 21 October to the First Minister regarding issues with the Arbed/ UK Government Community Energy Saving Programme (CESP) Scheme in Caerau, Maesteg, Bridgend County Borough.

I recently wrote to Councillor Huw David, Leader of Bridgend County Borough informing him of my decision to award a grant award of £2.65m to Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) over three financial years (2022/23 – 2024/25).

This financial contribution is based on the business case, to support remedial works on properties affected by the UK Government CESP scheme.

My officials will shortly be issuing a grant award letter to BCBC, including relevant grant award conditions, for their review and agreement, to progress this important project for the residents of Caerau.

RESOLVED: To note the information

331. MINUTE 284

TRAFFIC CALMING – HEOL TY GWYN

Email received from a resident on Heol Ty Gwyn:

I am writing to you today to raise further awareness of the request for greater measures to be taken around the speed limit at the above subject. Currently the speed limit is at 30mph which is not adhered to by most motorists. My complaint and that of the neighbouring parties is a strong case of ignorance from local Councillor's to which I believe have not been brought to attention over span of 30 years plus.

Over the years there have been a number of incidents resulting in damages to neighbouring properties which date back to the 80s, this I know as the house I currently own is a family home so incidents are known. Since buying the property at from my late gran, over the past 4 years there has been 3 incidents.

- 1. Collision of speeding driver into the layby parking resulting in write off of resident parked car*
- 2. Collision of driver direct to house infrastructure of next-door neighbour taking down entirety front wall*
- 3. My own car wrote off by insurance from a drunk female disqualified driver speeding - financial impact to myself has been massive this was May 2021*

There has been request for greater measures such as speed camera and speed bumps. I believe the push back has been as a result of the road itself being a main haulage road so it was not viable. Therefore, my counter to this is the following list locally below are also main haulage roads with speed bumps.

- 1. Commercial street consists of 2 road ramps and a road ramp crossing - main haulage route*
- 2. London Row - consists of speed bumps main HGV route for skip haulages*

Furthermore, to the above budget cannot be of such an issue as the whole Heol Ty Gwyn road was planed and relayed this year by Centre Great so measure could have been put in place. The road is residential on both sides with a welfare park.

Police speed cameras are present but not at the right times, the times to which speeding occurs is beyond the 1800hrs and onto early hours of the morning. Once a car surpasses beyond the bend of the welfare park, they insist on dropping and harsh acceleration onto the Stright up toward Caerau, the noise is ridiculous and absolutely absurd.

Also, to note is the noise of the traffic in general in the homes, homes were constructed around the 60s to which they were not build with sound proofing in mind due to traffic back then being minimal. could I please request that some noise readings are taken over a period of time to outline the levels of tolerance.

Clerk advised: Thank you for your email. Maesteg Town Council has been in discussions with BCBC and SW Police for a number of years for solutions to the issues you have raised.

I have attached a number of documents for you to read whereby we have discussed the issues:

- Projects Committee meeting minutes 20/04/2020 – see minute 471
- Traffic Calming report for the projects committee meeting
- Projects Committee meeting minutes 12/07/2022 – see minute 109
- Full Council meeting minutes 01/11/2022 – see minute 284 for an update

To report any issues to BCBC they now have online contact forms:

<https://www.bridgend.gov.uk/my-council/customer-services/reporting-issues/>

BCBC Environmental Health Officers are now part of the Shared Regulatory Services based in Barry the contact details are: <https://www.srs.wales/en/Contact-Us.aspx>

We haven't been given any date for updates only SW Police, GoSafe and National Framework hope to be discussing it at their next meeting.

With your permission I can forward your request onto the Nantyllyllon and Maesteg West Councillors and to BCBC Traffic Management and the liaison officer within SW Police

Members queried the average speeds in the area and were advised that the speed survey recorded average speeds as just over 30mph and that didn't reach the threshold for BCBC / GoSafe etc. Cllr G Thomas advised that the proposal is with BCBC legal as we will not be recording numberplates therefore not breaking GDPR rules.

RESOLVED: To note the information

332. MINUTE 285

LIST OF PAYMENTS FOR THE MONTH OF OCTOBER 2022

Re: Rent for unit at Heol Ty Gwyn

21/11/22: Email sent: In our recent Full Council Meeting members queried why I paid invoice: CLCUI1930802436 for the October rental as the roller shutter was still non-operational. I advised that in September you withheld the rent and service charge due to this reason but at the works were scheduled we paid the invoice.

In the meeting they instructed me to query the monthly invoices for the rent at the above location as the roller shutter was still not working. We have received invoice: CLCUI1938402436 for the November rent, however the roller shutter was only repaired on Friday 18th November 2022 whereby there were no keys for the new roller shutter and the old lock from the old shutter was used in the new shutter door.

Please can you advise if BCBC are willing to forgo the November rent & service charge as the roller shutter was not operational in October?

Response BCBC: will credit £255.06 for the beginning of November and we will only need to pay the balance of £181.94 for November.

RESOLVED: To note the information

333. MINUTE 286

CONFIDENTIAL MINUTE

02/11/22 emailed Audit Wales, One Voice Wales, Ombudsman and BCBC Monitoring Officer.

RESOLVED: To note the information

334. MINUTE 294

UTILITY BILLS

02/11/22 emailed British Gas business to advise the change to British Gas Lite. Who then responded:

The previous quote has expired but the new quote has reduced the unit charge – 1 year contract with British Gas Lite (online service)

Standing charge: 40.00 pence per day

Unit Charge: 68.25 pence per kwh

Please let me know when you are free and I will call you to agree the contract terms?

Clerk also advised that since the last meeting we received an email advising we had overdue payments however we have not received any invoices. Clerk telephoned British Gas business who have sent all the invoices electronically that relate to the overdue payment. Whilst on the telephone Clerk explained that MTC had agreed a contract in our last full council meeting and assumed this had been set up. This apparently is not the case, following a long telephone call British Gas Business has now set up the British Gas Lite contract as a 1-year contract with the following charges that are lower than previously quoted:

Standing Charges: 40.00 pence per day

Unit Charge: 58.85 pence per kw/h

They have now sorted this, however we won't be with British Gas Lite until 12th December 2022. Clerk has been asked to submit a final meter reading on 11th / 12th December in order for a final bill to be produced with British Gas Business. Once we are with British Gas Lite the payments will be via direct debit and monthly meter readings will be asked for.

RESOLVED: To note the information

335. MINUTE 295

MINERS MEMORIAL

02/11/22 emailed the sculptor to advise MTC has received permission from the Friends of Maesteg Welfare Park for the location, however we are still waiting on permission from BCBC as the land owner. Unfortunately, we have been unable to source wheels, however one of our members works for TATA Steel and he advised if you can get a scaled drawing of the wheels then MTC can apply to TATA Steel to make the wheels. What we need from you now is a costed quote for the memorial that we can take to Council to agree the costs.

A site meeting with BCBC Parks, Friends of Maesteg Welfare Park, Sculptor and MTC has been arranged for 10am, Wednesday 7th December at 10am.



Following the resignation of Cllr K Edwards, Clerk asked if any other Cllrs would like to be the project liaison. Cllr L Thomas proposed that Cllr P Jenkins and Cllr C Davies be asked to replace Cllr K Edwards. There was no opposition to this and both Cllrs agreed to replace Cllr K Edwards, however both unable to attend the site meeting on 7th December 2022.

RESOLVED: Cllr P Jenkins and Cllr C Davies replace Cllr K Edwards on this project.

336. MINUTE 299

BLACHERE ILLUMINATION

02/11/2022 – emailed Blachere Illumination inviting them you to our next full Council meeting on 5th December 2022 at 6:30pm. Advised that they are welcome to attend in person or online via Microsoft Teams whereby you can discuss the Christmas lighting etc for Christmas 2023.

Response 03/11/2022 – Unfortunately, I am on rare annual leave on this day. Would it be possible to move it to your next meeting?

Clerk has agreed to invite Blachere Illumination to the January Full Council meeting.

RESOLVED: To note the information

337. MINUTE 301

BUS SHELTERS IN COMMERCIAL STREET

02/11/2022 – emailed BCBC to advise MTC would like the company to complete the survey to see if the installation of bus shelters is viable at the locations before making

any decision. Please can you ask them to visit and complete the survey then respond if it's a viable option. Hopefully if this is done before the 5th December I can get a reply to the quotes back to you.

Response 02/11/22 - I've forwarded your message on to Bus Shelters Ltd, and awaiting a response.

RESOLVED: To note the information

338. MINUTE 304

MAESTEG FIRST RESPONDERS UPDATE

- Email received from the Caerau Ward Members re: areas for new defibrillators:

The four ward councillors for Caerau have agreed to purchase an outdoor defibrillator box to be placed at The Navi on Caerau Square. This will allow complete coverage of Caerau based on the new radius map provided by Maesteg First Responders (attached), namely Caerau Parc. The defibrillator is already in place, this will just allow it to become accessible 24/7.

Please proceed using whatever procedure is required to get this quote approved as none of us are quite clear what we need to do anymore; be it full council approval, below some threshold or just confirmation off the four ward councillors like in the past.

I have attached a quotation as opposed to a proforma invoice or invoice to avoid any such issues like we have faced over the war monument and the council being invoiced without prior knowledge.

Quote for heated box = £507.00 ex.VAT

- Request for additional pads for defibrillators not funded by MTC – this request was within the letter from the Maesteg Community Responders (MCR); however, it was not discussed in the meeting.

A few Cllrs have previously informally suggested to MCR that they would support from ward funds the cost of replacement defib consumables. Our team fundraising has been halted by Covid, is only just starting back up and our funds are currently minimal.

The Maesteg defibs are regularly despatched by ambulance control to cardiac arrests in the area. Defibrillators may temporarily not be available for use, should they be used in a cardiac arrest scenario and replacement pads not be available. While this is a situation we would aim to avoid at all costs, it is unfortunately a possibility.

I will note that unless I hear to the contrary, non-Maesteg TC funded defib consumables are not supported.

Members discussed the requests and accepted the quote for the defibrillator heated cabinet to come of the Caerau Ward Funds.

Members deliberated the importance of the defibrillators within our communities and the importance of replacing the consumables as and when required regardless of whether MTC funded the defibrillators. It was noted that the ones located within Llan Middle Community Council would not be covered by MTC, however the Clerk can contact Llan Middle Community Council to see if they will fund the following:

- Llangynwyd Rangers. CF34 9RW
- Llangynwyd Village Hall, CF34 9SW
- Old Llan Square, CF34 9SB
- YGG Llangynwyd, CF34 9RW

It was also noted that as Maesteg Town Council funded the defibrillator box at the Cross Inn, we will also cover the replacement pads.

RESOLVED: Clerk to:

- Order the defibrillator heated cabinet for the Navi
- Advise Maesteg Community Responders of the decision regarding consumables
- Write to Llan Middle CC to see if they will fund those within their boundary

339. MINUTE 305

V2C TREE PLANTING IN MAESTEG AND CAERAU

Following response received from V2C and forwarded to all members:

I have attached the maps of where the trees are to be planted.

The trees will be hazel, blackthorn, crab apple, elder, dog rose and rowan, hawthorn, silver birch, field maple, wild cherry and sessile oak.

The trees will be the responsibility of Valleys to Coast to manage and maintain.

Valleys to Coast is committed to conducting a survey of trees in our open spaces every 3 years. This survey will identify issues and any actions required. Works from the survey will be commissioned to a competent tree surgeon. We will also respond to enquiries for reactive works but any works will be reviewed in line with our tree management process.

Further response received from V2C:

Below is the confirmed locations and times:

- *Tuesday 6th December, Caerau- We will be at the Blaencaerau Estate from 10, planting to start planting at 10:30*
- *Thursday 8th December, Oakwood Estate-We will be there from 10, planting to start planting at 10:30*

Resolved: to note the information

340. MINUTE 306

TO CONSIDER SECTION 6 – BIODIVERSITY ACTION PLAN

Biodiversity Action plan uploaded to the website: <https://maestegcouncil.org/financial-responsibilities/>

RESOLVED: to note the information

341. MINUTE 307

TO CONSIDER ANNUAL REPORT

2021-22 Annual Report uploaded to the website: <https://maestegcouncil.org/financial-responsibilities/>

RESOLVED: to note the information

342. MINUTE 308

FINANCIAL APPLICATIONS

Letters of thanks received from the following organisation:

- Cancer Research UK – Maesteg Fundraising Committee - Thank you so much for your email, to say we are delighted is an understatement. Please pass on our grateful thanks to the Council at their next meeting

Llynfi Valley Historical Society (LVHS) have advised that further to their grant application and the advice that MTC cannot give grants towards revenue items they have been informed that the £400 plaque is now unavailable as the company cannot get that thickness of slate, therefore are left with the thinner slate plaque at £200. LVHS are disappointed with this information but unfortunately there is nothing they can do about it. Therefore, LVHS application for a grant will now be £200.

RESOLVED: Council donate the sum of £200 under Section 137 of the Local Government Act (as amended).

343. MINUTE 310

21019 SIDERISE INSULATION LTD, MAESTEG - APPLICATION FOR A STOPPING-UP ORDER TO THE WELSH MINISTER

02/11/22 emailed to advise that MTC happy to assist with the location of the plans for inspection by the public.

RESOLVED: to note the information

344. LIST OF PAYMENTS FOR THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER 2022

RESOLVED:

That the tables of **Expenditure (£45,650.55) Income (£60,699.22)** during the month of November 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 **£2790.82**
- A copy of the Receipts and Payments Account which includes expenditure against the budget and the budget remaining and an income analysis.

The Chair of Finance advised that the Council had overspent on 2 budget lines. He advised that the monies associated with the Van were new costs so unable to predict previously and members expenses had also changed during the year due to the introduction of the Deputy Mayor's Allowance.

It was mentioned that the Council must meet to arrange the precept requirement for submission on the 6th January 2023. An Extraordinary meeting to be called next week to discuss this and Tuesday 13th December was agreed for the date to discuss the precept requirement for 2023-24.

Clerk advised that Kier previously had delivered trade waste bags and then invoiced for the bags, however they have now changed their policy and payment must be made before they send trade waste bags. It was noted that these are on a roll of 50 and cost £6 per bag. Members suggested looking at alternatives for the trade waste carrier as cheaper options may be available and for the Clerk to investigate these.

A member asked for the invoice to clean the war memorials in Caerau and Maesteg to be broken down by the contractor so we can see what works have been done to each war memorials. Another member wished to request evidence of works completed in the form of before and after pictures as this seemed like a repeated job in regards to the Caerau war memorial.

RESOLVED:

- Discuss overspend at extraordinary meeting
- Discuss precept requirement at extraordinary meeting
- Trade waste = get comparisons for next meeting
- Query the invoice to Marmor Memorials

CORRESPONDENCE

345. NEWSLETTERS / FLYERS / BRIEFING NOTES/ CONSULTATIONS

Emailed to all Councillors for information:

- Oct PSDF (Public Services Deposit Fund) fact sheet
- BCBC Mayor's Citizenship Awards 2023 applications
- BCBC notification of next year's allocation of funds under the Town & Community Council Fund.
- Christmas Tree & Choir festival invitation 8th - 10th December
- Quarterly device report from ITCS
- OVW Bullying and Harassment in Councils report

- MORGANNWG ENDEAVOUR CHARITABLE TRUST Christmas Charity Lunch Poster - Friday 9th December 2022 at the Heronstone Hotel
- Invite to all Cllrs - Lighting up of Christmas Tree at Caerau Square 2nd December
- Next Phase in Redevelopment of Maesteg Town Hall Nears Completion
- Invite to all Cllrs - Christmas By Candlelight Concert - St Michael & All Angels Church, Maesteg - 22 December 2022
- BCBC Town Centre Christmas Film Released
- **BCBC Net Tax Base for MTC for the year 2023-24**
Tax Base 2023-24 = 5601.80 (N.B. last year the figure was 5607.22)
Precept requirements needs to be sent to BCBC by 6th January 2022.
- BCBC City Deal Funding for £3.5 million Development in Maesteg
- BCBC Free Wi-Fi Introduced into Maesteg Town Centre
- OVW – Email regarding Energy and where to get assistance - [Get help from your supplier - Priority Services Register | Ofgem](#)
- Coychurch Crematorium Xmas Service - 15 December 2022
- OVW – Oct / Nov / Dec Training dates
- Welsh Government Vacancy – Director of Risk, Resilience and Community Safety
- Notification - A Welsh Water incident may be affecting your area
- Welsh Air Ambulance Welshpool video

Clerk highlighted the BCBC Net Tax Base for MTC for the year 2023-24

RESOLVED: To note the information and to discuss the Net Tax Base in the extraordinary meeting whilst discussing the precept requirement for 2023-24

346. REQUEST FROM CLLR C DAVIES RE: COST OF LIVING CRISIS

What can the council do to assist the community with raising energy costs especially vulnerable adults aged, disable and low-income residents I will explain what ILC have decided to achieve the impact of this crisis is yet to hit the vulnerable and I think personally we could do something to help these residents of our community let's have a discussion about next meeting.

OVW Response: If a council is not able to claim eligibility under the general power of competence, the Council can consider providing funding support for families who are vulnerable or in need through reliance on S137 of the Local Government Act 1972. However, as councils are unable to provide grants to individuals (that could include families) under section 137 they would need to adopt the approach of working with third sector bodies who they could grant aid for the purpose of supporting such families.

Cllr C Davies provided the Clerks with leaflets of the locations and times of the warm hubs in Caerau which will be placed on the Councils website. He explained that the warm hubs he is part of help combat isolation and loneliness as an additional benefit to

being warm hubs. He continued stating that the scheme is in its infancy in Caerau so would appreciate more awareness being raised about them.

Cllr L Thomas stated that this is an excellent initiative and should be applauded. Cllr P Davies asked if warm hubs could apply for S137 funding, he was advised that non-profit organisations and groups could apply for funding but private companies and individuals would not be able to. The Chair of Finance stated that groups can apply for S137 funding and then the Council can decide each case as it comes. The Clerk mentioned that the policy currently states only one grant can be issued per year per organisation and that the Council may need to update this to assist with warm hubs over the winter. It was agreed to add the S137 policy to the extraordinary meeting agenda.

RESOLVED: To add the S137 policy to be discussed at the Extraordinary Meeting to allow groups / organisations to apply for Warm Hub grants in addition to the S137 grants.

347. **REFERRALS**

- Streetlight not working in Mill View.

Response: This has been passed to the street lighting team and will be allocated for further investigation.

You can track the progress of this report in My Account. Simply log in, select "My Requests" and look for Case-ID: SL463724560

- Highways issue – Dropped Kerbs in Mill View

Response: This has been logged with our highways team and they will look into this in due course.

- BT phone box on Commercial Street in awful state

Response from BT: the phone box is scheduled for removal.

- Water issues - concerns the volume of water running down from the old bridge area near the entrance to the Cemetery (near to dog waste bin) and down Crown Road. The water then runs down the path to Chestnut Grove it's like a river. In addition to this the volume of water running down the lane behind Cemetery Road when raining again like a small river which could flood the houses of Cemetery Road.

Response: No response to date

- Bus stop in bad condition (Picton Street, Maesteg)

Response BCBC: Many thanks for your e-mail, which has been forwarded on to our department. I will arrange for the bus shelter (modern one) to have a special cleanse. In terms of the condition of the building/former bus shelter, I've asked colleagues for information and guidance of ownership. As soon as I receive further information, I will update you accordingly.

BCBC Planning advised that this would need to be raised via planning enforcement. A further email sent to planning:

A member recently raised concerns about the look of the old, blocked up bus shelter on Picton street, Maesteg (see image attached). We have initially contacted BCBC about this and their records show that the old bus shelter is not on their books so advised to raise this through planning enforcement.

The member who brought this to our attention is just concerned about the look of this particular building that makes the bus stop a bit intimidating. The modern, blue bus shelter has been scheduled for a special cleanse already so if we can combat the old one then that area will look much better.

Response BCBC Planning:

Town and Country Planning Act, 1990 (as amended) Planning and Compensation Act 1991

Reference: **ENF/307/22/A21**

Complaint: Building in disrepair (former bus shelter)

Location: Picton Street Maesteg Bridgend

Thank you for your enquiry regarding the above which will be investigated as soon as possible.

Enforcement action regarding such issues as untidy land/buildings can be initiated by Local Planning Authorities by serving notices under Section 215 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990. The Notices are sometimes referred to as “wasteland notices”. Government advice relating to wasteland notices is cautious and indicates that authorities should use their wasteland powers with discretion as a means of dealing with relatively isolated, severe cases of neglected or unsightly land.

- ASB in Caerau – following emailed to SW Police and Caerau Ward members: I have had a resident in the office today complaining about ASB in Caerau. The resident and his family are constantly being harassed by the youths in the evenings and weekends.

Last night a gang of teenagers broke the residents window in Herman Road, Caerau. He reported it to the SW Police but they have not responded to him.

He is asking if the PCSO’s / Police officers can visit the area more often to prevent further incidents. He also suggests that CCTV or additional resident in the office today complaining about ASB in Caerau.

- Llynfi Rd Toilet complaint: that the door is stuck in an open position. Would someone be able to visit the site and make the necessary repairs.

Response JC Decaux: Visited the site - I have spoke to Terry I adjusted the door closing speed on the door card, door is locked while using

- Footpath 64 - ditches need inspecting

Response: No response to date

- The path top of Cemetery Road. Is it possible for our CMO to help remove and clear the overgrowth to make the footpath safe for people to walk please.

Response: MTC CMO visited the area 22/11/22 – 23/11/22

Response from Cllr P Jenkins: I understand the overgrowth on community route cut back by CMO. If this is the case, please accept my thanks to both you and Dave for the very prompt action, and given the really bad weather. I would suggest this is logged as another situation where MTC had stepped in and sorted out a situation that BCBC has responsibility for. Also, a case with funding from BCBC we could react quickly and efficiently on a local basis. Once again thanks clerk for organising this response.

- Water ponding/flooding at entrance to the Market Square - The rain water is not dispersing via the drains and is ponding / flooding at the entrance to the Market Square. This ponding is deep enough to submerge shoes and many complaints are being received.

Response: Clerk advised that an email had been received from BCBC advising that Order has been raised and works will be undertaken once resources permit.

- 2 bins in Garth park in Maesteg being rusted and broken exposing rusted serrated edges around the bottom. Could this be looked at and either fixed or replaced before someone is hurt please

Response BCBC: Thank you for your email a report has been logged and forwarded onto the relevant officer to action. Further email received to advise: I can confirm the bins have been removed today.

- Litter on the rail track at Maesteg Railway Station – completed a Network Rail online complaint form

Response: No response received to date

RESOLVED: To note the information

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

The Mayor would like to introduce a Mayor's award for Children (up to 16 years old) within the boundary for exemplary achievements within our area. Would like a certificate produced using the MTC Crest and to signed by the Mayor as and when.

E.g.

- sporting achievements
- Recently a primary school child was seen replacing all the wreaths that had blown away from the war memorial in Caerau

The Mayor advised that this request was formed following the information returned to Council by former Cllr J Terry who was the Council representative of the Llynfi

Valley Children's Award Scheme, whereby Children were asked to join the scheme and provide evidence to gain the award.

Members were happy to support this idea. The Chair of Finance asked if part B of the Mayors fund would be appropriate to use for this purpose. The Clerk advised that as the scheme would be using the MTC crest then Council funds would be used. Members agreed to provide a nominal sum as the prize for achievements as part of the award and members would discuss this in their next meeting.

RESOLVED: To proceed with a Children's Award Certificate

349. DOG POO BAGS REQUESTS

Requests from the following organisations:

- Caerau Development Trust – 6 boxes delivered
- Caerau Mens Shed – 6 boxes delivered
- MAWS – 2 boxes every fortnight
- Special Families – 8 boxes delivered

RESOLVED: to note the information

350. LLYNFI VALLEY WALK LEAFLETS

Requests from the following organisations:

- Llynfi Library

RESOLVED: to note the information

351. NALC NEW PAY SCALES

The pay scales valid from April 2022 to March 2023 received and forwarded to all members.

Clerk advised that the pay scales equated to a 8.70% increase for the Deputy Clerk and a 4.99% increase for the Clerk.

Clerk needs an appraisal before the next pay scale point is awarded – this is usually done in December. The Mayor advised the Clerk that he is available after 1pm on Friday to conduct the appraisal.

Deputy Clerk appraisal is done at the end of March before the next pay scale is awarded in April.

Members agreed to the pay scale increases and the back pay to be given in December salary payments.

RESOLVED:

- Back pay to be given in December

- Clerk to have appraisal on Friday 16th December 2022 with the Mayor at Caerau Primary School.

352. MAESTEG TOWN COUNCIL "POSSIBLE ART WORK"

Email received by a resident:

I've had an idea inspired by a local Cardiff artist that has ambitions to transform a tired-looking railway bridge in the centre of Cardiff into something everyone can relate to.

Maesteg has a proud history and I think that more needs to be done around the town to celebrate Maesteg residents' achievements.

My idea is very similar to the proposals in Cardiff in that the railway bridge in Castle Street/Bridgend Road in the town centre should receive a makeover. I've attached a link where my proposal can be viewed. I think that there are more opportunities around Maesteg for public art inspired by Maesteg residents.

I understand my design might not be to everyones tastes so I am just floating the idea basically.

Link to view design:-

<https://3dwarehouse.sketchup.com/model/c490e082-f56e-43b5-88b1-3580d80b8039/Maesteg-Railway-Bridge-Mural>

Deputy Clerk has advised the following: That's a great idea and would fit in nicely down there, to take it further though, you would have to contact whoever owns the bridge which is likely to be network rail, their contact number is 0345 711 4141

It's likely you would have to contact Bridgend County Boroughs planning department also and their number is 01656 643643

A member stated that this was an excellent idea and would extend the idea to have murals adjacent to Wilko and Llynfi Lane. Another member suggested that we ask how we can assist in the matter as its likely that contacting BCBC and Network Rail would be easier for us than a member of the public.

RESOLVED: To contact the resident to see if MTC can assist in contacting the relevant organisations.

353. MAESTEG TOWN HALL SITE VISIT

Email received from the new manager at the Town Hall: With the added delays to the town hall, we'd like to invite Town Councillors on a site visit in the New Year – date to be agreed.

A member suggested we contact BCBC and ask them what their plans are for the current library since it will be placed inside the Town Hall upon its completion. Cllr R

Penhale-Thomas advised that himself and Cllr P Jenkins had submitted a formal request to BCBC asking this and they are awaiting a response.

RESOLVED: Contact BCBC to see what plans they have for the old Library building.

354. MTC DISABLED TOILET OUT OF ORDER

28/11/2022 Email sent to all members to advise that the disabled toilet out of order due to someone breaking the flush handle again.

Unfortunately, none of the local builders merchants (LBS or Reffels Plumbers merchants) sell these, ScrewFix Bridgend were out of stock, managed to locate 2 flush handles in Tool Station in Bridgend. CMO collected the flushes and replaced the broken one and we have a spare in the office.

RESOLVED: to note the information

355. OMBUDSMAN COMPLAINTS

Notification that following the public meeting on September 29th 2022 – complaints were made to the ombudsman about 3 Councillors. All cases were rejected and not investigated, those who the complaints were about have received the response.

RESOLVED: to note the information

356. LITTER BIN OUTSIDE WILKO

Wilko have contacted Cllr R Penhale-Thomas to advise that the litter bin purchased by MTC for Wilko to use is now out of action as they can no longer open the bin to empty it as the key has rounded the key mechanism. They are asking if MTC will replace or repair the bin.

Members discussed the request and agreed to replace the bin outside of Wilko

RESOLVED: To purchase a new bin for outside of Wilko's

357. WALES ONLINE CHRISTMAS SPENDING

Email request from Wales Online with the following: *I'm reaching out today as I'm writing a story about Christmas decorations in the area and was hoping you could help. I was looking to find out how much Maesteg town council is setting aside for Christmas decorations, lights and events this year, and if there has had to be any cut back on anything this year in particular with the financial situation across the UK being the way it is? Would it be possible to get back to me by the end of the day or tomorrow with the figures? All the best,*

Clerk has responded with the following and copied all members into the response: Maesteg Town Council have a published budget for 2022-23, the Christmas lights are part of the budget and to date Maesteg Town Council have spent £11k of this budget.

We do not get invoiced for the Christmas lighting until February / March so cannot give you an exact spend however you are welcome to look at the published budget for 2022-23 <https://maestegcouncil.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/MTC-Budget-2022-23.pdf>

Part of this budget is used for the following:

- Santa Selfie Grotto, free to families on 4 weekends leading up to Christmas = 26th & 27th November, 3rd & 4th December, 10th & 11th December and 17th & 18th December
- 1,608 Selection boxes for the 6 primary schools within our boundary
- Gift bags for the residents in the 3 residential homes within our boundary
- Tickets for Free mince pies and hot chocolate during performances in the market square on the following dates: 26th November, 3rd December, 10th December and 17th December
- Christmas parade event management
- Christmas Lights
- 50% fees for the Christmas Tree in Caerau

N.B. Additional Christmas tree for Nantuffyllon to be spent from the Nantuffyllon Ward fund

RESOLVED: To note the information

358. FIRE EXIT DOORS SWOLLEN

Members emailed with photographs of the fire exit doors to the rear of the building. Both sides of the double doors have swollen in the recent bad weather and are extremely difficult open, the one on the left hand side (where the key can be used to open the door will not move more than 2 inches).

The CMO has looked at the doors and has advised that the doors need replacing. From the photographs you can see that they have not weathers well and are rotting and splitting.

With Council permission I will contact the BCBC Conservation officer to see if it has to be wooden or if we can replace with a metal door. Once she has advised I can then look for companies to quote for the replacement

30/11/22 Emailed BCBC Conservation Officer for advice.

Response 30/11/22:

Thank you for your email the content of which is noted.

The door looks to have been repaired with additional veneers added to it of time.

You can of course replace it as repair no longer appears to be a viable option.

The door needs to be in timber as a differing material will generate the requirement for a listed building consent application. A composite door , which is constructed of 85% plastic would not be suitable as it harms the building fabric. Equally, UPVC also creates the same harm and is aesthetically unacceptable.

You will need a fire grade door given the location and hopefully Ashleigh Davies can advise on the style of door that is appropriate.

There are joiners in the area who should be able to assist you with this also.

You must however, carry out your own due diligence before or if you engage with them or which ever joiner you decide to contact. Any contract is between yourselves and any contractor you engage and not with Bridgend CBC.

Whoever you engage with, will need to send details of the proposed replacement door, to the Council's building conservation team prior, to commencing any work on site for approval of proposed replacement.

Have contacted the following to quote for replacing the doors:

- Acacia Joinery
- Lee Marve Carpentry
- Stafford Construction
- FireRite
- GE Doors – don't do external doors

06/12/2022: received XX quotes to replace the fire exit doors:

Quote 1

Replace 2 Fire doors and all furniture including hinges, escape door bars and lock and dispose of the old doors.

£730.00

Quote 2

Thank you for the recent enquiry, we have the pleasure of submitting our quotation for your consideration;

Timber Species; Sapele Mahogany

For the manufacture, supply and fix, of 1no. Pair of Solid Core External FD30 Fire Doors, complete with Fanlight Frame. With double panic bar internally, using the existing key access externally.

I have given 2 price options, the first price is for aluminium grille covers only, covering the aperture, routed into doors and fanlight in frame, and grille screwed in place over the routed hole in the door . This does not achieve 30 minute fire rating. The second price option is if you need to achieve 30 minute fire rating. If so, we will need to fit Lorient LVV Intumescent Block Vents underneath the grille covers, and secure with intumescent mastic.

Price for Grilles Only; £3560.00

Price for Intumescent Block Vents and Grille Covers; £4045.00

Members queried why there was a difference in quotes, Clerk was unsure however advised one was from a local carpenter and the other was a company that specialised in listed buildings. Members discussed that the Mayor as an ex-carpenter should contact the 2 companies to discuss the quotes in more detail and to provide and update to Council at the extraordinary meeting so that the council can be assured of money for value.

RESOLVED: The Mayor as an ex-carpenter should contact the 2 companies to discuss the quotes in more detail and to provide and update to Council at the extraordinary meeting.

359. STREET PLANTER – PARK VIEW

Request for a street planter for Park View, whilst Cllr L Thomas was getting authorisation from Maesteg West Ward members, Rowan Garden Design contacted office and advised he had a spare planter and would place one in Park View free of charge. This has been placed and planted although it is a single tier planter and not a 3 tier planter.

RESOLVED: to note the information

360. REQUEST FOR SELECTION BOXES

Email received 01/12/2022:

I came in last year about selection boxes for the kids of Oakwood estate. Every year I dress up as Santa and visit all the children of Oakwood and give them a selection box and tell the parents it's from Maesteg town council I also build a bonfire every year and have for the past 40+ years but this year bcbc stopped one being built. I've done Santa for the last 13 years and it's nice to put a smile on the children's face's. During COVID I supplied the boxes myself and last year you helped and supplied them for me which I am grateful for. I've spoken to Ross our councillor and he said to write to you again this year and I was told to apply by end of November. Thank you

01/12/22 Mr Cook also telephoned and requests 120 selection boxes.

Members agreed to fund the selection boxes as per last years agreement. The Clerk advised that the current cost per selection box is £1.09 which members were happy with.

RESOLVED: To purchase 120 selection boxes from the Maesteg West Ward Fund.

361. .GOV DOMAIN NAME

ITCS need to apply to look after a .gov domain. This has been passed onto their managing director for his approval and they will get back to us in due course.

RESOLVED: to note the information

362. MAESTEG WEST WARD FUND - STREET LIGHT, REAR OF NEATH ROAD

Email received from Cllr R Penhale-Thomas - I have had a request for a street light to be installed to the rear of 49/50 Neath Road - essentially in Upper Street at the back of Bowrington Arcade where there is no light currently. Ordinarily BCBC's policy is to only maintain existing columns and not procure additional ones.

In this case, I have asked the street lighting team if an existing structure will suffice. They have confirmed - and are willing to install a lantern on an adjacent National Grid pole.

Connection to National Grid: £475

Cost of lantern: £130

Installation by BCBC: waived

Total: £605

I am seeking agreement that we source this from the Ward Fund and raising it with you initially in the hope you can support it.

Maesteg West Cllrs responses:

Cllr L Thomas – happy to support

Cllr R Martin – happy to support

Cllr G Williams – happy to support

Members noted that their requests for street lights had been dismissed by BCBC stating not enough funds. They were advised that as the infrastructure is already in place for this light only the installation costs are required – no new poles or wiring is needed saving the most expensive items from being done. It was agreed to proceed with this street light and for the Clerk to enquire if there is any street lighting infrastructure in Cross Street.

RESOLVED:

- To proceed with the installation of the street light as per above quote from BCBC = £605.00
- To enquire whether there is similar infrastructure in Cross Street for a street light to be installed

363. CAERAU WARD FUND REQUESTS

1. Defib box for outside the Navi

Agreed earlier in Matters Arising

2. Criw Cymraeg

Received from Cllr A James:

We have decided to spend £500 to support a new programme of promoting the Welsh language in the community. It is going to be run from Caerau Primary

School but based within the community. Both myself and Cllr Rhys Davies will declare an interest in this project as we work in the school. The other two ward councillors are in full agreement with this project.

The money is to be spent on hoodies, lanyards, badges and Welsh resources. For further information, you can email David.Goldsworthy@caerauprimary.co.uk .

If successfully approved by full council, the programme will roll out officially in the New Year.

Members queried that, as a benefit to the whole community, would the Criw Cymraeg grant be allocated council funds and not ward specific. It was noted that as the roll out for the scheme is the start of January that any other monetary requests would need approval in meetings that take place during January so would be too late to assist this venture – Members agreed for the monies to be taken from the Caerau Ward specific fund

3. Bus Stop – Hermon Road

Received from Cllr P Davies:

I have received complaints regarding a bus stop that has been removed by BCBC on the Filco side of Hermon Road, this is a BCBC bus to stop which they claim to have no budget to replace, could this be placed in the agenda for discussion and possible ways forward.

I have discussed this with my fellow Ward Councillors' and there is agreement between us.

Cllr P Davies queried the bus stop being removed on Hermon Road, Caerau just down from Filco. He was advised that different organisations own different bus stops but we can source our own as we are currently investigating in Commercial street. We will check with BCBC about Hermon roads now previous bus shelter to see if there is a workaround.

RESOLVED:

1. Defib box for outside the Navi, to be purchased from the Ward Specific Fund
2. Criw Cymraeg – to be funded via the Ward Specific Fund
3. Bus Stop – Hermon Road – contact BCBC to see if we can purchase a replacement bus shelter and if yes to be funded via the Ward Specific Fund

364. NANTYFFYLLON WARD FUND

Nantyffyllon Ward Councillors Gavin Thomas and Rob Lewis have decide to use some of the ward money to fund selection boxes for Caerau Men's Shed Santa grotto have they contacted you about this and do it need to go to full council?

Members agreed to the ward fund request and to purchase 120 selection boxes to the Caerau Men's Shed.

RESOLVED: to purchase 120 selection boxes to the Caerau Men's Shed.

365. ONLINE MEETING WITH SOLUTIONS IN TECHNOLOGY

MTC now have a new account manager with Solutions in Technology who requested a quick online meeting to introduce himself and to discuss our needs. Currently they are unable to make any savings on the photocopying contract, however are requesting if MTC would like them to quote for the telephone and broadband contract. Clerk has advised that this is currently provided by our IT provider and would seek permission from Council to look at this contract.

Members agreed to the request.

RESOLVED: Clerk to request the quote for comparison with our current provider

366. CHRISTMAS OPENING HOURS AND JANUARY FULL COUNCIL MEETING

In the past MTC has been closed from Christmas Eve until the 1st week in January and the January full council meeting has been moved to the 2nd week in January.

Permission is needed to close the office and for the following:

- Clerk & Deputy Clerk staff to have from the 23rd December until 4th January
- CMO to have from the 23rd December until 4th January (however he will pop up one day to empty the bins on the cycle track on 28th / 29th December)
- Full Council to be held on 10th January 2023

Members **agreed** to the Christmas opening hours. A member queried if the CMO vehicle is now being kept in the unit following the fixing of the roller shutter? The Clerk advised that it is not but will resolve this with the CMO this week.

RESOLVED: Permission is granted to close the office for the following:

- Clerk & Deputy Clerk staff to have from the 23rd December until 4th January
- CMO to have from the 23rd December until 4th January (however he will pop up one day to empty the bins on the cycle track on 28th / 29th December)
- Full Council to be held on 10th January 2023

367. TO CONSIDER FINANCIAL APPLICATIONS

Members were provided with application forms from the following organisation:

1. GARTH SENIOR CITIZENS ASSOCIATION

Date received: 21/11/2022

Request £500 towards refurbishing the hall – repaint the walls and repair vertical blinds.

Have included a recent bank statement and statement of accounts.

Have not received S137 grant from MTC before.

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

2. URDD GOBAITH CYMRU

Date received: 06/12/2022

Request £200 grant towards the annual costs of the Urdd National Eisteddfod to be held in Carmarthenshire in 2023.

Have included Audited Financial Statement for the year ending 31st March 2021.

Received S137 grant of £200 in December 2021.

RESOLVED: Council donate the sum of £200 under Section 137 of the Local Government Act (as amended)

3. WALES AIR AMBULANCE

Date received: 06/12/2022

Request £500 grant towards the costs of maintaining an ambulance for one month (£1608 will cover the average cost of lease, fuel, tyres and insurance for an RRV per month).

Have included Annual report for 1 August 2020 – 31 July 2021

Received S137 grant of £250 in January 2021.

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

368. DELEGATES REPORT

There were no delegates reports received, however Cllr R Penhale-Thomas requested to speak to request that Former Cllr K Edwards is recognised and thanked for his many years as a Town Councillor. The Clerk also advised members that Electoral Services in BCBC had been contacted and they will provide the necessary procedure to follow following a Cllr resignation.

RESOLVED: a letter of recognition is sent to former Cllr Edwards

369. PLANNING

Cllr P Davies advised of a Declaration of Interest in P/22/688/FUL planning application and therefore took no part in the discussion on the planning application.

The following application had no objection:

Ref: P/22/688/FUL
Applicant: Ms C Evans
Location: 39 Blaencaerau Estate Caerau CF34 0RR
Proposal: Single storey side bedroom/en-suite extension on adjacent land

Ref: P/22/710/OUT
Applicant: Mrs C Eastwood
Location: Land north of 1-13 Heol Dyfed Maesteg CF34 0PJ
Proposal: Proposed two-bedroom bungalow (outline application)

Ref: P/22/575/FUL
Applicant: Mr A Butler
Location: Old Bake House Garn Road Maesteg CF34 9AS
Proposal: Conversion of bakehouse/store/office to 1 bedroom dwelling [amended plans received 16-11-22 and changed to 1 bedroom]

Ref: P/22/685/FUL
Applicant: Rushcliffe Care
Location: Vernon Hart Day Centre Heol Tywith Nantyffyllon Maesteg CF34 0TD
Proposal: Change of use from day centre and boxing gym to mixed use of day centre and sleeping accommodation 026+

Ref: P/22/751/FUL
Applicant: Mr M & R Jones
Location: Land adjoining 104 Cwrt Coed Parc Maesteg CF34 9DR
Proposal: 2no. new detached dwellings
Ask for: Steven Jenkins
Ref: P/22/772/APN
Applicant: M J Rees & O V Ford
Location: Part of Cwrt y Mwnws Farm Land off Cwmdu Road Mynydd Bach CF34 0DW
Proposal: Prior notification to erect a steel portal frame extension to fodder/machinery shed
Ask for: Steven Jenkins

The following application had no objection, however Cllr P Jenkins would like his objections minuted for the mentioned application. This is based on previous plans to have housing on the old washeries site next to Maesteg Comprehensive school which he believes is more suitable for a housing development and the old Revlon site would be better used as a manufacturing/retail hub.

Ref: P/13/808/OUT
Applicant: Pontardawe Coal & Metals Co. Ltd
Location: Land off Oakwood Drive Maesteg CF34 9TS

Proposal: Mixed use development: residential (205 units),
employment/enterprise hub, retail, transport
interchange, public open space, access, engineering operations and
associated works [amended plans and documents received 16-11-2022]
Ask for: Rhodri Davies

The following application had concerns with the loss of retail on a retail street and the
lack of car parking:

Ref: P/22/722/FUL
Applicant: Mr I Gough
Location: 38-40 Commercial Street Maesteg CF34 9DH
Proposal: Conversion to 9no. one bed residential units and office space on the
ground floor

RESOLVED: To forward responses to Planning department.

370. PLANNING APPEAL.

CAS-02006-Q7B8M6 65 Bethania Street, Maesteg, CF34 9ET A/22/8/ADV

The case was DISMISSED.
The officer was LEE EVANS.

RESOLVED: To note the information.

Minutes emailed to Councillors to Read on 12th December 2022

Minutes accepted at a Hybrid meeting of the Council held on 10th January 2023

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Mayor