**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, 10th January 2023**

**PRESENT:**

**COUNCILLORS:       R Martin (Deputy Mayor)**

F Abedalkarim, R Collins, AR Davies, C Davies,

P Davies, A James, P Jenkins, C Knight, R Lewis,

R Penhale-Thomas, M Rowlands, G Thomas, G Williams and I Williams

.

**APOLOGIES** were received from Cllr L Thomas

The Mayor asked the Deputy Mayor to chair the meeting as he was in another meeting prior to Full Council, he also had technical difficulties during the meeting.

**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 I Williams declared an interest in items relating to Celtic Cricket Club.

1. **TO RECEIVE OGI / REAL FIBRE BROADBAND FOR MAESTEG**

Members welcomed Mike Scott and Louise Clement of OGI. They explained that Ogi is an internet company made in Wales: on a mission to connect Welsh communities to one of the UK's fastest-capable full fibre network that will help us to live and work smarter at, and closer to, home.

The key points to note from the discussion;

* £3 - £5million to be invested in Maesteg alone
* 180 local Welsh jobs
* Little disruption as using existing infrastructure where possible
* Covering all of Maesteg
* Community fund offering grants of up to £250 for local organisations
* Basic 150mb/s speed which is three times the average for Bridgend with a current maximum of up to 1GB/s. In Cardiff speeds have been increased to 25GB/s

**RESOLVED:** Members wanted to confirm that Blaencaerau would be benefitting as well. Mike Scott advised he would send a map to the Clerk that’ll show the locations that OGI intend to cover.

1. **POLICE MATTERS**

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

**Maesteg Crime Statistics for January 2023**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Caerau /**  **Nanty**  **5901** | **Maesteg**  **East**  **5902** | **Maesteg**  **West**  **5903** | **Llan**  **5904** | **Total in**  **category** |
| **Robbery** | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | **0** |
| **Drugs** | 2 | 0 | 1 | 0 | **3** |
| **Dwelling burglary** | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | **1** |
| **Burglary other** | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | **1** |
| **Theft of vehicle** | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | **3** |
| **Theft from vehicle** | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | **0** |
| **All other theft** | 5 | 5 | 6 | 0 | **16** |
| **Damage** | 9 | 2 | 3 | 2 | **16** |
| **Violence against**  **The person** | 29 (8) | 17 (7) | 22(6) | 5 (1) | **73 (22)** |
| Domestic related  Occurrences | 12 | 8 | 6 | 1 | 27 |
| **All crime total** | **46** | **24** | **34** | **9** | **113** |
| **ASB total** | 11 | 3 | 13 | 1 | **28** |
| **Drink Driving** | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | **0** |

Members thanked Sgt Lea for his time for attending the meeting and raised the following concerns;

A member mentioned that he was receiving many complaints in regards to antisocial behaviour (ASB) on Caerau road, particularly in the evenings between 6pm and 10pm. Sgt Lea advised that he and his team were aware of the ASB in the area and do patrol it but will need more reports going forward from the public to increase patrols. He explained that he needs to approach his senior with data to allow for resource allocation in the form of overtime. Sgt Lea added that there were PCSO meetings scheduled historically within the area that no one attended which would act as a forum to get this information across as well although Sgt Lea did mention that they may look at trying to advertise these better.

Another member thanked Sgt Lea for the work SWP did with the dog attacks last month and wanted to make him aware that there are two Staffordshire bull terriers that walk the cycle route from Caerau to Garth that are walked off the lead and are known to attack passers-by.

A member echoed the same issues in regards to Caerau road and wanted to know the outcome of the query about the CCTV camera taken down in Caerau square. Sgt Lea advised that he was told that area is covered by another camera now so no need for two cameras as these are needed throughout the Borough.

**RESOLVED:** To note the information

1. **TO RECEIVE THE TOWN CRIER**

The Clerk advised that the Town Crier had been in touch advising that the presentation he plans to do is around 40 minutes and, as our agenda was looking rather busy, he suggested doing it another time to save the meeting running over.

**RESOLVED:** to receive the Town Crier at an extraordinary meeting on the 27th February 2023

1. **MAYORAL EVENTS**

The Mayor advised that he attended no events in the month of January

**RESOLVED:** to note the information

1. **MINUTES**

The following minutes;

**• Full Council – 10/01/2023 emailed 12/01/2023**

**• Extraordinary Council – 24/01/2023 emailed 25/01/2023**

**• Personnel Committee (Confidential) – 26/01/2023 emailed 26/01/2023 (to be discussed in Committee due to the nature of the recommendations)**

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

**• Finance Committee – 31/01/2023 emailed 01/02/2023**

The following recommendations were put forward by the finance committee;

1) Chair of Finance the Clerk/RFO and Cllr C Knight look into other business account provisions and see if there are any others that may be beneficial to MTC.

2) Risk Assessment Schedule agreed and updated for 2023-24

3) Asset Register – Property, H&S Committee to update.

4) Contracts be written for the verbal contracts

5) Go to tender for the War Memorial cleaning and Internal Auditor contracts

6) To purchase trade waste bags from Option 2

7) To proceed with Utility Aid for an energy survey

The Chair of Finance explained that certain contracts would not be tendered due to the high unlikeliness of better value for money being received as is the case with the opening of the cemetery gates. He continued though stating that all historic verbal agreements will now have a written contract.

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

**MATTERS ARISING**

1. **MINUTE 377**

**BLACHERE ILLUMINATIONS**

13/01/2023 Email sent to invite the area manager to complete a free survey.

17/01/2023 telephone conversation with the area manager who will phone in February to agree a date to complete the survey as his diary if fully booked until mid-February

25/01/2023 Email received from Centregreat to advise that they purchase a number of features each year due to our relationships with a number of suppliers if this would be of interest – we work closely with a number of the manufacturers on various projects and so can get designs done etc. Clerk has asked that they also do a survey and get costs for Council to consider.

**RESOLVED:** To note the information

1. **MINUTE 384**

**MINERS MEMORIAL**

11/01/2023 Email sent to the Maesteg Welfare park Sub-Committee to find suitable dates for a meeting with the Friends of Maesteg Welfare Park to discuss 100-year celebration events.

**RESOLVED:** To note the information

1. **MINUTE 385**

**BUS SHELTERS IN COMMERCIAL STREET**

11/01/2023 Email sent to BCBC to proceed with Option 1 bus shelters on Commercial Street.

**13/01/2023 Response**: There won’t be an agreement for the maintenance, but I can arrange maintenance on request from Maesteg Town Council, as and when repairs are required, with a recharge then to Maesteg Town Council.

In relation to the cleansing. This would be an agreement between Maesteg Town Council and the Cleansing Department at BCBC. I would advise you make contact with BCBC Cleansing Department when the installation of the bus shelters is confirmed.

The next steps for me would be to consult with nearby shop owners/residents, prior to any ordering of the bus shelters. I will also need to consult with the following:

* Police
* Bus Operators
* Cabinet Member (Communities)
* Local Councillors (Ward Members)
* Colleagues in the Traffic Management Department
* Colleagues in the Highways Department

As stated in a previous e-mail, if objections are received, these will be passed on to Maesteg Town Council (with permission from the objectors of course), in order to discuss the proposal in more detail with those who may’ve objected.

I hope this information is of assistance. In the meantime, should you have any queries or require more information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

**RESOLVED:** To note the information

1. **MINIUTE 386**

**Maesteg First Responders Request - Minute 304**

Llan Middle CC have confirmed they will fund the replacement of all defibrillator consumables with their boundary. They have requested if MTC purchase the consumables and recharge Llan Middle CC as they don’t have a Visa Debit card to purchase the consumables.

A member asked who would be claiming the VAT back on the purchase and they were advised that MTC will claim the VAT back and charge Llan Middle the nett amount.

**RESOLVED:** MTC to order the consumables for Llan Middle CC and invoice Llan Middle the Nett costs.

1. **MINUTE 389**

**LITTER BIN OUTSIDE WILKO**

11/01/2023 Email sent to BCBC to see if the bin can be placed by the bench near to the bridge Llynfi Road Car Park

**Response 12/01/2023:** I can agree that the bin can be replaced and serviced by MTC. Just to make you aware though that in the last two years three bins have been placed in the location and vandalised.

Clerk advised that the bin had been installed and currently gets emptied 2 – 3 times per week.

**RESOLVED:** To note the information

1. **MINUTE 390**

**MAESTEG east WARD FUND – STREETLIGHT, NEAR 13 cross STREET**

11/01/2023 Email sent to BCBC Streetlighting Manager to find the costs of installing an extra street light near 13 Cross Street

**Response 11/01/2023** – BCBC have advised unfortunately there are no Low Voltage supplies in this area we can utilise for an extra column, the costs to excavate and bring a new service into the area would be extensive and that’s before we look to supply columns lanterns and energy costs

**RESOLVED:** Cllr P Jenkins advised that he has yet to confirm a date with Centregreat to discuss options for streetlighting.

1. **MINUTE 391**

**CAERAU WARD FUND REQUESTS**

BUS STOP – HERMON ROAD

11/01/2023 – emailed BCBC to proceed with Option 1 and to replace the bus shelter at Hermon Road using Capital Projects funds.

**12/01/2023 Response:** I will raise an order for the bus shelter, and update with installation date etc as the information the comes through. No agreement required, as BCBC will carry out the repairs and cleansing, seeing as there used to be a BCBC bus shelter at the location previously.

I hope this information is of assistance. Should you have any queries or require more information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

**RESOLVED:** To note the information

1. **MINUTE 394**

**FIRE ESCAPE DOOR REPLACEMENT**11/01/2023 emailed BCBC Conservation Officer to attend the Council offices when next in Maesteg to advise on the style of the new fire doors

11/01/23 BCBC Conservation officer requested photographs of the front and rear doors.

12/01/23 emailed requested photographs to the BCBC Conservation Officer.

13/01/23 – Letter emailed to BCBC Chief Executive and Cabinet Member for Communities

A member queried what the plan was going forward as currently the offices have a fire door that is not fit for purpose. It was requested that the Borough members of the Council chase this up with BCBC.

**RESOLVED:** BCBC Ward members escalate this further

1. **MINUTE 398**

**LIST OF PAYMENTS DECEMBER 2022**

11/01/2023 telephoned BCBC to set up Direct Debit for the rental / maintenance / insurance for the Unit at Heol Ty Gwyn

25/01/2023 Direct debit form posted to BCBC – signed by Clerk and Cllrs F Abedalkarim and C Knight.

**RESOLVED:** To note the information

1. **MINUTE 401**

**Celtic cricket club**

11/01/2023 email sent to BCBC CAT Officer to clarify that BCBC would not consider this application under the 2020 MTC CAT scheme.

**Response 12/01/2023:** Thanks for the update on the Town Council’s CAT Fund discussions.

As highlighted FC Maesteg are currently playing from Maesteg Welfare Park and the Club are highly unlikely to be involved in any CAT transfers.

I can also confirm that Maesteg Celtic Cricket Club are eligible to obtain funding of up to £10K towards the cost of cricket maintenance equipment to enable self-management of the cricket wicket and outfield. However, from my discussions with Phil Poole at the Cricket Club, the funding available from BCBC will not meet the total cost to enable them to purchase the specialist equipment required.

The majority of members agreed that as the CAT scheme ended in 2020 and the Cricket Club did not apply then, it would be unfair to other organisations who did not apply for it to open the scheme back up. A member disagreed with this but was advised to perhaps utilise the ward specific fund for that area to offer assistance.

The Clerk advised the Council of minute 401 from last months meeting where the resolution was to ask BCBC if they would reopen the scheme for the Cricket Club. As per the above this was declined and the matter cannot be taken forward.

**RESOLVED:** To note the information

1. **MINUTE 403**

**Christopher Williams 150**

11/01/2023 email sent to AWEN Cultural Trust Heritage Development Manager to invite her to a Council meeting to discuss the activities planned and to see what the shortfall of the restoration of the Iron Works painting is.

12/01/2023 response to advise they are available on 7th March 2023.

Members agreed to source costings to restore the paintings within MTC building and to look into what grants are available from institutions such as the fine arts society.

**RESOLVED:** To contact AWEN Cultural Trust Heritage Development Manager for the contacts to restore the paintings within MTC building whilst still seeking ownership details.

1. **MINUTE 411**

**MAYORAL CHAIN & DEPUTY MAYOR CHAIN REPLACEMENT IDEAS**

17/01/2022 email sent to Fattorini advising of the preferred Mayoral Chain replacement. Also enquired how much it would be to have the Deputy Mayor chain refurbished.

24/01/2023 following quote received:

Q0080465:1 - MAYORAL PENDANT & CHAIN OF OFFICE

Hallmarked Sterling silver parcel gilt & enamelled, two piece pierced pendant.

Bespoke shape, size 80mm x 100mm plus top fitting.

Vitreous enamelled five colours.

Polished parcel gilt finish.

Complete with 40 inch Sterling silver gilt chain of office,

comprising centre link M700, size 49mm x 49mm plus bottom fitting and links

P69, size 43mm x 32mm plus joining rings.

Polished hard gold finish.

Attached to a black velvet backing.

Packed in a presentation case.

D.N. B230104-02

**Price £6,954.22 nett**

Q0080466 - DEPUTY MAYORAL PENDANT & CHAIN OF OFFICE.

Hallmarked Sterling silver parcel gilt and enamelled multi piece boxed pendant.

Oval shaped, size 70mm x 75mm plus top fitting.

Vitreous enamelled five colours.

Polished parcel gilt finish.

Complete with 40 inch Sterling silver gilt chain of office comprising enamelled 2 piece centre link 904D size 44mm x 44m plus bottom fitting and applied enamelled shield size 19mm x 25mm.

Plus links 989F, size 37mm x 37mm plus joining rings.

Polished hard gold finish.

Attached to a black velvet backing.

Packed in a presentation case.

D.N. B230104-04

**Price £9,734.25 nett**

Please note that the above prices are generally valid for 30 days and are exclusive of carriage and VAT.

Delivery lead-time is currently in the region of 8 to 10 working weeks from receipt of a firm instruction/order to proceed (this is subject to change and depends upon factory loading at the time of any order.)

With regard to refurbishments required for the Deputy Mayor’s Chain, we would ideally need physical sight of the item – would you be able to send the chain into us for inspection/assessment please and we will be happy to provide a quotation for you.

I do hope the above information is of assistance and look forward to hearing from you further should you wish to proceed to order on this basis.

We will await your final instructions.

I can confirm that the Deputy Mayor’s chain would need to be sent to our Birmingham office (if it helps we could arrange a fully insured collection with our courier for £45.00 nett.)

Members agreed that the cost seemed high for new chains especially given the current financial climate. It was recognised that the chains are assets to the Council but also mentioned that they aren’t used overly often so aren’t a necessity right now. It was agreed that other tenders be sought for new chains, if other companies exist, and to obtain costings for fixing/refurbishing the current chains.

**RESOLVED:** Seek other companies that supply / refurbish mayoral chains.

1. **MINUTE 412**

**UNIVERSITY PROJECT – BA PHOTOJOURNALISM**

11/01/2023 email sent to the student with the contact details of the Mayor to discuss the project.

**RESOLVED:** To note the information

1. **MINUTE 413**

**Research on youth councils - a survey request**

11/01/2023 Survey completed

**RESOLVED:** To note the information

1. **MINUTE 416**

**FINANCIAL APPLICATIONS**

Thanks and acknowledgement for financial support received from:

* The Ajuda Foundation – The Purple Sunflower Project
* Urdd Gobaith Cymru
* Llynfi Valley Historical Society

Clerk advised that the secretary of the Llynfi Valley Historical Society wanted to thank MTC for the donation and that the plaque has now been replaced.

11/01/2023 Email sent to Llynfi Valley amateur boxing club to ascertain whether they are a privately owned business or a community non-profit organisation.

**Response: 11/01/2023** - Llynfi Valley amateur boxing club is a community non-profit organisation

Members agreed to give the £500 S137 grant to Llynfi Valley Amateur Boxing Club.

**RESOLVED:** To proceed with the S137 grant to Llynfi Valley Amateu Boxing Club.

1. **MINUTE 417**

**PLANNING – ENFORCEMENT**

Reference: ENF/307/22/A21

Complaint: Building in disrepair (former bus shelter) Location: Picton Street,

Maesteg, I write further to my letter of 9 January 2023 and advise that the owner has been in contact with the Department to advise that he has employed a builder to undertake the re-rendering and painting of the former bus shelter. He also advised that the works will be carried out when the weather warms as any rendering would crack in the current weather conditions.

**RESOLVED:** To note the information

1. **MINUTE 418**

**EVENTS FROM EPM CREATIVE:**

Email received and forwarded to all members regarding the following events:

1. **Dino Event** for Easter Monday 10th April 2023. In Maesteg I would suggest the following:

* Monday 10th April - Easter Monday
* In the market square as businesses will be closed and set contained.
* Do an online ticket allocation like Santa selfie - FREE family ticket
* 150 families per show 3 x shows lasting 1 hour in the day.
* All children get a free dinosaur egg (and its easter)
* We can monitor the entrant and exit via the gates into the square.

1. **Keeper of the Colliers fun run** – to include a family fun day
2. **Santa Selfie Grotto**
3. **Christmas Parade**

Members agreed to accept the tender for the fun run with family fun day. The remaining events are to be offered to additional companies to tender for along with EPM on a like for like basis so the council can obtain the best value for money when running the events.

**RESOLVED:**

* To advise EPM to proceed with the Keeper of the Colliery fun run and family fun day on Sunday 9th July 2023.
* To go to tender with other companies for the Christmas events
* The Chair of Finance asked the Clerk to add events onto the agenda for the finance committee to discuss further.

1. **LIST OF PAYMENTS FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY 2023**

**RESOLVED:**

That the tables of **Expenditure (£18,256.91) Income (£36,507.76)** during the month of January 2023; 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 January 2023 totalling **£26,545.82**
* A copy of the Receipts and Payments Account which includes expenditure against the budget and the budget remaining and an income analysis.

A member queried if a cheque issued previously to Criw Cymraeg had been cashed. The Clerk advised that it had and the date cashed was 13th January 2023.

Clerk advised members that RCTCBC Pensions had advised that there will be new employer contribution rates for the next 3 years and that payments from April 2023 reflect the revised rates:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 2022/23 | 2023/24 | 2024/25 | 2025/26 |
| 13.8% | 14.6% | 15.3% | 16.1% |

Chair of Finance requested that this information be added to the next Finance meeting in order make the necessary adjustments to the Pension contributions.

A member queried why meeting papers are posted out to members, Clerk advised that the Chair of Personnel said it was inappropriate to get the CMO to deliver the meeting papers, therefore we have been posting them with the following costs:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Date Posted | Meeting | Cost |
| 11/11/2022 | Bus Sub Committee | £6.30 |
| 23/11/2022 | Extraordinary Council | £17.85 |
| 01/12/2022 | Full Council | £39.75 |
| 08/12/2022 | Extraordinary Council | £21.75 |
| 04/01/2023 | Full Council | £32.80 |
| 19/01/2023 | Extraordinary, Personnel and Finance | £30.45 |
|  | **TOTAL** | **£148.90** |

When Deputy Clerk or Clerk delivers them a full circuit for full council is 11.2miles at 45p per mile = £5.04, however it can take up to 2 hours to deliver.

Members deliberated that the employees job descriptions do not include delivering paperwork.

Cllr P Jenkins **proposed** and was **seconded** by Cllr C Knight that meeting papers are hand delivered.

Chair of Personnel advised that Council were about to vote on an employees contract, whereby the Chair of Finance advised that the vote is a financial vote on whether or not to post the papers.

It was agreed to vote on whether to go into committee to discuss this issue with the following results:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Councillor** |  | **Councillor** |  |
| F Abedalkarim | No | R Lewis | Yes |
| R Collins | No | R Martin | No |
| AR Davies | Yes | R Penhale-Thomas | No |
| C Davies | No | M Rowlands | No |
| P Davies | Yes | G Thomas | No |
| A James | Yes | G Williams | No |
| P Jenkins | No | I Williams | No |
| C Knight | Yes |  |  |

**Results:**

Yes go into committee: 5

No don’t go into committee: 10

It was decided not to go into committee to vote on posting the meeting papers.

A further vote ensured to the above proposal that staff hand deliver the papers with the following result:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Councillor** |  | **Councillor** |  |
| F Abedalkarim | Yes | R Lewis | No |
| R Collins | No | R Martin | No |
| AR Davies | No | R Penhale-Thomas | No |
| C Davies | No | M Rowlands | No |
| P Davies | No | G Thomas | No |
| A James | No | G Williams | No |
| P Jenkins | Yes | I Williams | Yes |
| C Knight | Yes |  |  |

**Results:**

Yes hand deliver: 4

No post via royal mail: 11

Following the above results, it was agreed to post meeting papers via royal mail.

Another member queried why they are posted when members receive them electronically, Clerk advised the legalities that a signed agenda has to be received by members 3 working days before the meeting not including the day of posting, Sundays and the day of the meeting. Following this information it was **agreed** that the Clerk ask each member if they require hard copies of the paperwork in addition to the Agenda and whether or not they could collect the hard copies.

CMO Summary

The month of December have included the following works:

* Weekly building checks that include:
  + fire alarm
  + emergency lighting
  + legionnaires disease
* Weekly bin emptying on the cycle track
* Delivered bin to Wilko and then back to unit. Installed bin by Llynfi Rd car park
* Inspect and, where necessary, cut back overgrowth or clear debris – Fp 2a, 6, 23a, 27, 36, 46, 52, 62, 64, 74, 77
* Contacted heating engineer about lack of hot water in office
* Arranged for van to have plugs renewed
* Dropped tools off to BGS in Tondu for annual service
* Delivered dog waste bags to Library, office and Noddfa
* Flattened protruding metal from old pole on Bridgend Rd
* Delivered grey waste bags to Wilko
* Fitted new handle to disabled w/c
* Gritted bridges and paths around town on bad ice days
* Built new shelving for unit and filled with equipment
* Replaced emergency light to rear of the office
* Milage at start of month – 55,171 at end 55,273 (102 total miles)

**Works to be Carried out in February:**

* Weekly building checks that include:
  + fire alarm
  + emergency lighting
  + legionnaires disease
* Weekly bin emptying on the cycle track
* PAT testing course in Neath College

**CORRESPONDENCE**

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

Emailed to all Councillors for information:

* Cwm Taf Consultation poster
* Pension Credit Advice Day - 27th 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 – and <https://www.bavo.org.uk/bridgend-county-warm-welcome-grants-open-now/>
* BCBC Independent Member - Standards Committee vacancy
* Free Self Defence for women and Girls (Aged 16+) in the Bridgend County Borough Area commencing Thu 2 Feb 23 between 6-8pm.
* Welsh Government - Public commemoration in Wales Consultation ends 21 February 2023
* Welsh Government - Democratic Engagement Grant
* Welsh Government - Vacancy -- Public Appointments
* Wales Armed Forces Covenant Newsletter Jan 2023
* Press release - Ombudsman new appointments to governance roles
* BCBC - Online Survey - Spend Christmas in your town centre
* South Wales Police and Crime Commissioner's Community Survey Results
* CCLA Client Consultation
* BSc (Hons) Real Estate course- University of South Wales
* Welsh Government – Technical Advice Note (TAN) 15: Development, flooding and coastal erosion - further amendments – Consultation ends 17th April 2023
* Welsh Government Vacancy – Assistant commercial property lawyer
* OVW - JANUARY, FEBRUARY & MARCH 2023 TRAINING DATES
* OVW - The importance of Community & Town councils in building resilient spaces for nature.
* Ogi / Real fibre broadband for Maesteg
* Maesteg ramblers activities
* Utility Aid - Energy Broker for the Not for Profit Sector
* Llynfi Woodland Group - Invite to AGM and talk 8/2 and dates of practical activities
* Community Health Council: in April 2023 the CHC will be replaced by Llais, your voice in health and social care (Citizens Voice Body). The new body will reflect the views and represent the interest of people living in Wales in their health and social services.

To help the new body identify its priorities in the first year, we want to hear your views on the things that matter most to people in your area.

<https://HaveYourSayCHCWales.uk.engagementhq.com/setting-priorities-for-llais-cvb-in-2023-24>

**RESOLVED:** To note the information

1. **DOG POO BAGS REQUESTS**

Requests from the following organisations:

* Maesteg Library – 4 boxes in January
* MAWS bookshop – 8 boxes in January
* Noddfa – 10 boxes in January

**RESOLVED:** To note the information

1. **REFERRALS**

* 11/01/23: 2 paving slabs loose and a serious trip hazard as unnoticeable on Talbot Street.

**Response BCBC 11/01/2023**: This has been logged with our highways team.

* 11/01/2023 V2C - Waste / litter outside 12 St Cynwyds Avenue Maesteg CF34 9NR

**Response V2C 11/01/2023** - Thank you for contacting Valleys to Coast. I have forwarded your email onto the Housing Officer for that area who will look into the issue as soon as possible.

20/01/23 further email sent as rats are now being seen in the waste

* 13/01/23: dent in road now a deep pothole outside 25 Bridge Street.

**Response BCBC 13/01/2023:** This has been logged with our highways team.

* 16/01/23 Remains of a no parking pole on Bridgend Road is protruding, rusty and sharp. Will likely cause serious injury. Has been reported to BCBC last year but still remains an issue can we ask the CMO to bash it down with a lump hammer

CMO attended the site on 16th Jan and hammered the edges down into itself and is much safer now. Will still need remains removed by BCBC.

* 16/01/23 Flooding to rear of Wesley Street, Caerau Reported to BCBC highways and awaiting response.
* 13/01/23: Street lights Ystad Celyn

**Response BCBC 13/01/2023**: These street lights have been reported to our street lighting team.

* 19/01/23: Picton Street - Blocked Drain - water not dispersing and gushing across the street. The water is not going down the drain and is causing problems in this extreme weather

**Response BCBC 20/01/2023:** This has been logged with our Land Drainage team.

* 19/01/23: The grit bin at the bottom of Plasnewydd Street is empty and needs replenishing

**Response BCBC 20/01/2023:** A request to fill the grit bin has been sent to the inspector for the area.

* 20/01/23: Bridge bottom of Plasnewydd Street to car park - A carer taking a service user from a residential home over the bridge. Nearly toppled the wheelchair.

**Response BCBC 20/01/23:** This has been logged with our highways team.

* 30/01/2023: Walking my dog past the sports centre Maesteg, the old corn-stores and blast furnace next door. The Blast furnace is covered with litter and rubbish. It’s surrounded with railings to protect the building so the rubbish must have blown in but the mess is disgusting. I was taken back my the mess on one of our historical buildings. Could the litter pickers arrange to clear the area please.

**Response BCBC 30/01/2023:** We have passed this onto our Cleaner Streets Foreman for his attention.

**RESOLVED:** To note the information

1. **CAERAU WAR MEMORIAL**

13/01/23 – a resident came into the office to complain of the following at the Caerau war Memorial:

* 2 lead letters missing off the main part of the column
* There is no sand in the joints of the paving – will this be replaced?

A Caerau ward member advised that a dry mix cement had been placed between the paving stones so this is no issue. It was also advised that recent pictures have been taken of the war memorial and found that there are no letters missing.

Members agreed to send the CMO to inspect the memorial and report back with any issues

**RESOLVED:** CMO to inspect the memorial and report back with any issues

1. **WILKO BIN BAGS**Wilko requested more grey bags – CMO delivered 16th Jan

**RESOLVED:** To note the information

1. **GARTH WELFARE PARK CENTENARY**

Email received advising: it was noted that the minutes of the last full council, a council member was unaware of Maesteg Welfare Parks forthcoming centenary. The members may also be unaware of Garth Welfare Parks centenary.

The first spade was put into the ground on July 3rd 1923. The South Wales Miners Federation together with the Coal Owners Association and Maesteg Urban District Council had plans to improve the life and sporting amenities for the young and old in Garth. The ground was levelled by hand with volunteers of miners and retired miners some unemployed received a shilling a day. The first section to be completed was the outdoor swimming pool which was opened in 1924. The Sports pitches finished in 1925 including the Bowls green. The Sports clubs started playing in 1926 all this for the princely sum of £7,000.

In the park were some of the finest flower beds in South Wales thanks to Maesteg Council. The paved walkways are still there to this day but sadly not a flower in sight. With the Park situated in the middle of six housing estates and a new one planned at the Ewenny Road development which will start about 800 yards away. The well-used park Serviced by a Railway station and four Bus stops with over 25% of the Maesteg population but sadly no Christmas tree. (Sorry that I had to mention that).

I and probably the rest of Garth look forward to seeing the plans Maesteg Town Council have for 2026 when the Clubs will probably celebrate the Centenary.

Members agreed to ask the people involved with Garth Park to meet with MTC representatives to establish what the intended plans are for the park celebrations.

**RESOLVED:** Clerk to respond to the resident to arrange a meeting with all the stakeholders involved with Garth Welfare Park to meet with MTC representatives to establish what the intended plans are for the park celebrations.

1. **REQUEST VIA CLLR C KNIGHT**

Is it possible for the council offices to temporarily store old photos, replica trophy’s etc from the Royal legion. They are worried because right now they are stored in someone’s garage, they are going to get damp and ruin.

I haven't committed us but there seems to be plenty of room in the storage area, shame for them to ruin this is our history.

N.B these are a choir’s memorabilia not the RBL

Cllr G Thomas proposed, seconded by Cllr F Abedalkarim, to store the Choir which was based in the RBL building

**RESOLVED:** Cllr C Knight to provide the contact details of the choir in order that arrangements can be made for the memorabilia be stored in MTC.

1. **REQUEST TO USE UPSTAIRS MEETING ROOM FOR ART WORKSHOPS**

Request received from AWEN Cultural Trust Programme and Events Manager:

*We are doing a window display project in half term and I am looking for a space for a couple of days to run some workshops. We ideally would like to run some art workshops from your offices if possible? we have artist availability Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday that week 20th – 24th February*

*Ideally, we would like to be in the space for about 7 hours in total so we can run 2 x 2.5 hour sessions. 1.30pm – 8.30pm would be ideal but we can be flexible if you only have certain times available?*

Clerk has advised that they can use the room during half term.

**RESOLVED:** To note the information

1. **Maesteg Town Council Offices - Essential Repair Works - Phase Two**

Email received from Agent to advise unfortunately Taliesin Conservation are no longer able to complete the outstanding works on the building. The Agent will need to proceed with re-tendering for the works asap.

A member asked why Taliesin cannot do the works. They were advised that Taliesin had contacted the Council stating that they have too many jobs ongoing at the moment and cannot do the works. They did not request to start at a later date only advised that we would need to find another contractor.

**RESOLVED:** The Agent to proceed with tendering for the outstanding works

1. **BCBC ELECTORAL REGISTER**

Email received from BCBC Electoral Services advising

*We recently republished the register, if you would like to request this for your area – along with any monthly updates – please complete and return the attached form*

Form has been completed and returned to BCBC Electoral Services requesting copies of the electoral register for Caerau, Maesteg East, Maesteg West and Nantyffyllon.

**RESOLVED:** To note the information

1. **GRIT BOXES REQUESTS**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Caerau** | **Maesteg East** | **Maesteg West** | **Nantyffyllon** |
| Outside CDT - Woodlands Terrace, Caerau, Maesteg CF34 0SR |  | Outside Special Families - Fairfield Centre, St David's Pl, Maesteg CF34 9LR | Union Street, Nantyffyllon, CF34 0BG |

Members advised of more locations to the above and will email the Clerk with these.

**RESOLVED:** To await more locations and to proceed with the consultations with local residents.

1. **BABY CHANGING FACILITIES**

Cllr R Penhale-Thomas has been contacted regarding the lack of baby changing facilities in our public toilet.

A quick search on Amazon business and a wall mounted unit costs approx. £146.96 excluding VAT. In addition to this a nappy waste provider would be needed (similar to the sanitary waste)

A member requested that we contact our current women’s hygiene collector ask if they offer nappy bin emptying.

Another member requested that we seek planning permission where the current WC in Llynfi Rd car park is so when that is decommissioned, we will already have another replacement ready or close to ready to go.

A member requested that we find out who owns the land where the current WC is on Llynfi Rd just so we know who to ask and apply.

Another member requested that this be reviewed by the projects committee.

**RESOLVED:**

* contact our current women’s hygiene collector ask if they offer nappy bin emptying.
* Llynfi Rd car park toilet is reviewed by the projects committee.

1. **INFORMAL RECREATIONAL AREA BETWEEN COMMERCIAL STREET AND BRIDGE STREET, MAESTEG**Cllr Jenkins received the following information from BCBC:

As far as Green Spaces are aware, we have not received an expression of interest from Maesteg Town Council about the possibility of their providing funding the supply and installation of a new children's play area. The site could easily accommodate a children’s play area.

Green Spaces are tasked with refurbishing existing play areas and not on developing new sites.

I have alerted Guy Smith, Community Asset Transfer Officer as this may be a way forward.

Also The Council’s Town & Community Council Capital grant scheme for 2023/24 which closes on 28 February 2023 may be a way of providing some match funding towards the cost of a new play area subject to any funding application being considered against competing bids from other town and community councils.

Regards

Parks and greenspaces team

Members queried what had been discussed with BCBC, Clerk advised that we are waiting on the Property department to see what is achievable at the location.

**RESOLVED:** to note the information

1. **CALL FROM TOWN CENTRE MANAGER**BCBC Town Centre called thanking Maesteg Council for installing the new bin by the Llynfi Road car park. He then said that he had spoken to Cllr Richard Collins about the possibility of having a notice board either in the market square, near Llynfi Rd lane or somewhere close to the Town Hall when that opens.

Members agreed that this would be welcomed in the town especially for people who do not have access to online social media. It was agreed to defer this to the projects committee to discuss location, maintenance, and type of noticeboard.

Clerk also advised that the BCBC Town Centre manager had also advised that he is looking to place a bid with Welsh Government if the noticeboards are for partnership usage between the Town Council, Awen Cultural Trust and the Maesteg Traders forum.

**RESOLVED:** Projects Committee to look at location, maintenance and type of noticeboard.

1. **Buckingham Palace Garden Parties Respond by 13 February**

Dear member

I am writing to inform you that The King will give two Garden Parties at Buckingham Palace this year on Wednesday 3rd May and Tuesday 9th May to celebrate the Coronation. (The successful Councillor will be allocated one of these dates so they must be available for both)

The Palace wants to reward Councillors who have gone above and beyond for their communities so please let me have your nominations urgently but no later than Monday 13th February – we only received this correspondence this morning, so the timeline is very short.

All nominations will be placed in a draw and only the councils who have been successful will be notified.

All nominated guests must be British, Commonwealth or European Union citizens with pre settled or settled status, although their spouse, partner or companion may be of other nationalities. All guests, nominated or accompanying, must be resident in the United Kingdom.

There will be no parking facilities offered this year with the exception of disability badge (Blue Badge) holders who may apply for parking. Regrettably no exceptions will be allowed. Requests for disabled access should be entered on the nomination forms as in previous years. An additional form will be included with the nominee's invitation requesting details of their disability badge, upon receipt of which a parking label will be sent to the guest.

This is a once in a lifetime experience so if either you or your guest have ever previously attended a Garden Party at the Palace, please do not put the name forward. The palace will reject any name/s they already have on record.

Cllr P Jenkins **proposed** and was **seconded** by Cllr F Abedalkarim that Cllr R Martin given her long history of volunteering within the valley through organisations such as the river care group. Her Citizens Advice tenure where she has helped likely many hundreds of people and her long service as a Councillor and will be mayor come the end of May 2023. Members agreed to this, Cllr AR Davies asked that he abstain from this decision.

**RESOLVED:** Advise OVW that Cllr R Martin has been nominated as MTC representative.

1. **RESOLVED: THAT THE COUNCIL GO INTO COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS**

Pursuant to section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960

and Local Government Act 1972, ss100 & 102 ‘Members of the public/press can

be excluded by resolution if publicity would prejudice the public interest by

reason of confidential nature of the business and arising out of the business to be

transacted’

1. **RESOLVED: THAT THE COUNCIL COME OUT OF COMMITTEE**
2. **to consider financial applications**

Members were provided with application forms from the following organisation:

1. **ST CYNFELIN’S CHURCH – WARM HUB**

Date received: 26/01/2023

Request £1,000.00 towards costs of Warm Hub provision.

St. Cynfelin’s Church Caerau are to provide a Warm Hub which offer a safe, accessible, and warm environment during the day to help those facing extreme fuel poverty this winter.

The vicar and volunteers of St. Cynfelin’s Church Caerau 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 Hub shall provide hot and cold refreshment to attendees

Venues and Times: Tuesday 1pm until 4pm at the church hall of St. Cynfelin’s, Cymer Road, Caerau

Recent bank statement provided.

**RESOLVED:** Council to donate the sum of £1000 under Section 137 of the Local

Government Act (as amended)

*Members postponed the remainder of the meeting due to the late hour. All remaining business to be discussed at an extraordinary meeting of the council on 27th February 2023.*

**Minutes emailed to Councillors to Read on 10th February 2023**

**Minutes accepted at a Hybrid meeting of the Council held on 7th March 2023**

**…………………………………….**

**Mayor**