

**MAESTEG TOWN COUNCIL  
COUNCIL MEETING**

Minutes of a HYBRID meeting of the **FULL COUNCIL** held at the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Talbot Street, Maesteg and remotely via Microsoft Teams and, on **Tuesday, 10<sup>th</sup> January 2023**

**PRESENT:**

**COUNCILLORS:**

**A James (Mayor)**

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

**APOLOGIES** were received from Cllr L Thomas

The Mayor had to attend remotely due to other commitments so Cllr R Martin Chaired 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.

**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
- 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

**376. 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	Maesteg East	Maesteg West	Llan	Total in category
<b>Robbery</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Drugs</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>

Dwelling burglary	0	0	1	0	1
Burglary other	3	0	0	0	3
Theft of vehicle	0	0	0	0	0
Theft from vehicle	0	0	0	0	0
All other theft	6	3	5	0	14
Damage	5	4	2	0	11
Violence against the person	21 (5)	11 (4)	12 (3)	3 (1)	47 (13)
Domestic related occurrences	7	4	5	1	17
All crime total	33	17	21	4	75
Anti-social behaviour total	4	6	2	5	17
Drink Driving	0	0	0	0	0

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

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

**RESOLVED:** To note the information

**377. TO RECEIVE 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 27<sup>th</sup> February 2023

**378. MAYORAL EVENTS**

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

**RESOLVED:** to note the information

**379. 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**
- **Finance Committee – 31/01/2023 emailed 01/02/2023**

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

## **MATTERS ARISING**

### **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 is 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

### **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

### **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

### **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.

**RESOLVED:** To note the information

### **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.

### **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

**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

**RESOLVED:** 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.

**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

**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.

**RESOLVED:** 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.

### **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 7<sup>th</sup> March 2023.

**RESOLVED:** Members agreed to source costings to restore the paintings and to look into what grants are available from institutions such as the fine arts society.

### **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 44mm 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.)

**RESOLVED:** 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.

#### **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.

#### **MINUTE 413**

#### **RESEARCH ON YOUTH COUNCILS - A SURVEY REQUEST**

11/01/2023 Survey completed

#### **MINUTE 416**

#### **FINANCIAL APPLICATIONS**

Letter of thanks and acknowledgement for financial support received from:

- The Ajuda Foundation – The Purple Sunflower Project

- Urdd Gobaith Cymru

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

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

#### **RESOLVED:**

That the tables of **Expenditure (£34,101.85) Income (£5,517.33)** during the month of December 2022; copies of which had been circulated to Members, which included the DD payments, FASTER Online Payments and Bank Reconciliation be accepted, confirmed and signed by the Mayor.

Members were also provided with:

- list of payments to be made in December 2022 totalling **£4,998.56**
- A copy of the Receipts and Payments Account which includes expenditure against the budget and the budget remaining and an income analysis.
- Q3 VAT reclaim totalling **£6,834.63** be reclaimed from HMRC

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

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

It was agreed that:

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

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

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

Emailed to all Councillors for information:

- AWEN Cultural Trust: Miracle on 34th Street Play at Maesteg RFC on 15th December 2022 7:30pm
- Welsh Government - Electoral Administration and Reform White Paper – response required by 10<sup>th</sup> January 2023
- Small Grants Fund - Western Bay Community Cohesion Grant. Groups in Bridgend, Swansea and NPT are welcome to apply.
- Warm spaces update from BCBC



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

**RESOLVED:** to note the information

### **398. DOG POO BAGS REQUESTS**

Requests from the following organisations:

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

**RESOLVED:** to note the information

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

Requests for the following areas:

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

**RESOLVED:** to note the information

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

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

06/01/2023 Email received from BCBC Electoral to advise an election was not requested and you may now go ahead and co-opt the vacant seat.

Co-option advert placed onto website and Facebook page with closing date as 6<sup>th</sup> February 2023.

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

#### **401. CELTIC CRICKET CLUB**

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

*Dear clerk,*

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

Clerk advised:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

CMO is requesting the following for the unit:

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

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

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

**403. CHRISTOPHER WILLIAMS 150**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**404. ROOM HIRE QUERY**

Email received from Lockdales, an auctioneer firm of Coins and Collectables based in Ipswich. We travel around the UK holding specialist valuation events (similar to the Antiques Roadshow) this is a completely free, no obligation service that we offer. We are looking to hold such an event near Maesteg and would be interested in finding out if this was an event that we would be able to hold at The Town Council Offices once again. Our requirements are as follows:-

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

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

Tuesday 24th January

Wednesday 25th January

Thursday 26th January

Or

Friday 27th January

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

9am – 2pm

OR

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

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

We have the following availability:

25th January – 9am – 2pm

26th January – 9am – 2pm

27th January – 9am – 2pm

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Clerk has advised:

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

I can advise you that in within the following link:

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

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

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

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

**RESOLVED:** to note the information

**407. OMBUDSMAN COMPLAINT**

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

**RESOLVED:** to note the information

**408. REFERRALS**

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

**RESOLVED:** to note the information

**409. CHRISTMAS LIGHTS**

Numerous emails to Centregreat throughout December:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**We get better rates for charities & Councils**

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

**About us**

Utility Aid is the UK's largest energy broker for the third, fourth and public sectors, serving over 3,000 customers. We're market leaders and have over 2.0 terawatts of energy under management – equivalent to the energy consumption of Scotland for a winter month! Our mission is to support charities and not-for-profit organisations get the best value for their energy supplies.

Utility Aid provide a completely FREE desktop energy audit on your energy billing, with no obligation. We'll check you're not being overcharged by your current supplier



for peace of mind and offer you a bespoke quotation for when your next renewal is due, detailing our added value and services.

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

#### Available Services

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**RESOLVED:** to advise Fattorini:

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

#### **412. UNIVERSITY PROJECT – BA PHOTOJOURNALISM**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Clerk asked if members would like to discuss this today or wait until the co-option of a new Councillor is completed so they have a fair chance of sitting on some committees also. Members agreed to adjourn this item until the new member has been appointed to the Council.

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

**415. TO CONSIDER FINANCIAL APPLICATIONS**

Members were provided with application forms from the following organisation:

### **1. LLYNFI VALLEY AMATEUR BOXING CLUB**

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

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

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

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

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

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

### **2. YESCYMRU**

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

**RESOLVED:** To note the information

### **3. CAERAU MEN'S SHED – WARM HUB**

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

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

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

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

Venues and Times:

- Wednesday 11am until 3pm at the Caerau Men's Shed Workshop at Bangor Terrace, Nantyffyllon

- Friday 2pm until 4pm at their HQ at the vestry at Dyffryn Chapel, Bedw Street, Caerau

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

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

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

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

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

£500 Grant aid will contribute towards

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

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

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

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

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

We hope our Warm Hub will help people feel they are not alone and have support in their community, as well as providing a welcoming warm centre where they can take

their minds off things and enjoy a few hours of social interaction and activity, which will be of benefit to peoples mental and physical health.

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

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

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

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

**RESOLVED:** to note the information

#### **417. PLANNING**

The following applications had no objections:

Ref: P/22/741/BCB  
Applicant: BCBC Communities Directorate  
Location: Maesteg Comprehensive School Ffordd Dysgu Maesteg CF34 0LQ  
Proposal: Proposed multi use games area (MUGA) flood lighting  
Ask For: Steven Jenkins

Ref: P/22/767/FUL  
Applicant: Mrs C Lewis  
Location: 5 Belmont Close Maesteg CF34 0LH  
Proposal: Build attached garage to side elevation; replace existing flat roof dormer to front elevation with pitched roof dormer; construct bay window to front elevation to match existing  
Ask For: Julie Earp

Ref: P/22/724/FUL  
Applicant: Mr S Davies  
Location: Brynlllefrith Farm Coegnant Road Caerau Maesteg CF34 0TN  
Proposal: Retention and completion of upgrading of existing track with inert materials  
Ask For: Steven Jenkins

Ref: P/21/1109/OUT  
Applicant: Mr R Watkins  
Location: Land adjacent to Pleasant View Fairfield Avenue Maesteg CF34 9LP  
Proposal: Outline planning for 1no. detached dwelling  
Ask For: Steven Jenkins

Members were also made aware of the following planning enforcement notification

**Planning Enforcement:**

Reference: ENF/307/22/A21

Complaint: Building in disrepair (former bus shelter)

Location: Picton Street, Maesteg

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

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

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

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

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

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Mayor