

**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, 7th March 2023**

PRESENT:

COUNCILLORS:

A James (Mayor)

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

DECLARATION OF INTEREST:

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

Cllrs AR Davies and A James declared an interest in matters relating to Caerau Market Garden

Cllr M Rowlands declared an interest in the financial applications from Noddfa Youth Club and Nantyyffyllon Youth Club.

505. POLICE MATTERS

Apologies were received from Sgt Richard Lea for not being able to attend the meeting. He did provide contact information for himself directly should members wish to raise concerns when he is available in the days following the meeting. Following this, members were provided with these Crime figures:

Maesteg Crime Statistics for February 2023

	Caerau / Nanty	Maesteg East	Maesteg West	Llan	Total in category
Robbery	0	0	1 (att)	0	1
Drugs	1	1	0	0	2
Dwelling burglary	2	0	0	0	2
Burglary other	0	0	0	0	0
Theft of vehicle	2	1	0	1	4
Theft from vehicle	0	0	0	0	0
All other theft	6	7	7	0	20
Damage	6	1	2	2	11
Violence against The person	26 (4)	15 (3)	20 (3)	4	66 (10)

Domestic related Occurrences	6	2	7		17
				2	
All crime total	44	25	30	6	105
ASB total	17	9	16	2	44
Drink Driving	0	1	0	0	1

RESOLVED: To note the information

506. TO RECEIVE HERITAGE DEVELOPMENT MANAGER, AWEN CULTURAL TRUST FOR A PRESENTATION ON CHRISTOPHER WILLIAMS

The presentation on Christopher Williams was an array of information regarding the life and standout works of the famed artist. Noteworthy contributions included paintings of the King and Prime Minister David Lloyd George.

It was explained that many of his works will be displayed in the Town Hall upon its completion and an audio presentation will be within the heritage section. The officer continued, explaining that the family of Christopher Williams had recently donated a painting of the Llynfi Valley Iron works, believed to be the only painting of Maesteg by Christopher Williams. Cllr R Collins commented on this stating that the painting shows blast furnace 4 is still standing in the painting which is not the case today so captures a Maesteg landmark excellently and forms an historic bridge for the people of today.

Members asked how the fund raising was going as it has been reported that the painting of the Llynfi Valley Ironworks needs to be restored to the sum of £11,000. It was explained that there is approx. £5,000 remaining to be raised which is decreasing slowly but AWEN are limited to available art grants as they are not a museum.

Members thanked the officer for her educational presentation, a member asked if in the future Maesteg Town Hall would be able to display the ‘Welsh at Mametz Wood’ painting that is currently in situ in Cardiff Museum. The officer advised that in the short term there is no plan for this but would be very keen to arrange something in the long term.

Members thanked the Heritage Officer for the informative presentation.

Members discussed the funding for the Llynfi Valley Ironworks at the end of the meeting. Cllr F Abedalkarim **proposed** seconded by Cllrs R Martin and G Thomas to grant the outstanding monies to restore the painting – no objections were noted.

RESOLVED: To advise AWEN Cultural Trust Heritage Officer that MTC will donate a grant under section 145 to cover the remaining costs.

507. REQUEST BY CLLR R PENHALE-THOMAS

Cllr Penhale-Thomas requested that members keep to the Agenda and discussions are kept to the items being discussed. All members have been given paperwork and that there is no need for the Clerk to read out all the information.

Members agreed to this request

RESOLVED: To note the information

508. MAYORAL EVENTS

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

RESOLVED: to note the information

509. MINUTES

The following minutes;

- **Full Council – 07/03/2023 emailed 10/02/2023**
- **Full Council (Confidential) – 07/02/2023 emailed 10/02/2023**
- **Extraordinary Council – 27/02/2023 emailed 02/03/2023**
- **Policy Committee – 28/02/2023 emailed 02/03/2023**

copies of the which minutes have been circulated to Members, were read, and recommendations accepted as a true record and signed by the Mayor. The accepted policies to be added to the website for full transparency.

The **Personnel Committee (Confidential) – 16/02/2023 emailed 16/02/2023** minutes and recommendations to be discussed in Committee due to the confidential nature of the minutes.

510. 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’

512. RESOLVED: THAT THE COUNCIL COME OUT OF COMMITTEE

MATTERS ARISING

513. MINUTE 434

TO RECEIVE OGI / REAL FIBRE BROADBAND FOR MAESTEG

07/02/2023 Emailed members the information sheet.

RESOLVED: To note the information

514. MINUTE 438

Finance Committee recommendations:

08/02/2023 Emailed Utility Aid

13/02/2023 – trade waste bags purchased

RESOLVED: To note the information

515. MINUTE 443

NEW BIN BY LLYNFI ROAD CAR PARK

CMO contacted the office advising of vandalism to the newly installed bin adjacent to the Llynfi Road Car Park. It was pulled from its floor mounted bolts, bin liner thrown and then filled with alcoholic cans, bottles etc. The CMO has sourced new bolt materials allowing the bin to be fastened further into the ground and hopes to obtain a key locking mechanism for it to stop the liners being thrown away.

RESOLVED: To note the information

516. MINUTE 445

CAERAU WARD FUND REQUESTS

08/02/2023 Email forwarded to all members with a letter of thanks from Caerau Primary Criw Cymraeg

RESOLVED: To note the information

517. MINUTE 449

CHRISTOPHER WILLIAMS PAINTINGS

13/02/2023 Emailed the following companies to tender for restoring the Christopher Williams paintings within MTC building:

Conservator	Website	Email
Rachel Howells	www.rachelhowells.co.uk	howellsconservation@gmail.com
Valentine Walsh		valentine@valentinewalsh.co.uk
Foley Conservation	www.foleyconservation.org.uk	info@foleyconservation.org.uk
International Fine Art Conservation Studios Ltd	www.ifacs.co.uk	enquiries@ifacs.co.uk

BCBC have advised to stop all works in reference to the Christopher Williams paintings until they have determined the ownership. They were first contacted in July 2022.

RESOLVED: To note the information

518. MINUTE 455

EVENTS FROM EPM CREATIVE

09/02/2023 Emailed EPM to advise Council agreed to the quote for the Keeper of the Colliery Fun run and family fun day on Sunday 9th July 2023

RESOLVED: To note the information

519. MINUTE 456

MEETING PAPERS AND AGENDA

08/02/2023 Emailed all members for their preference to receiving meeting papers with the following responses N.B. all meeting papers emailed to members:

WARD	Councillor	Meeting papers posted	Meeting papers collected	Hard Copy in Chamber
Caerau	A R Davies			
Caerau	P Davies			1
Caerau	A James (Mayor)			1
Caerau	M Rowlands			1
Maesteg East	F Abedalkarim		1	
Maesteg East	A LeGeyt			
Maesteg East	P Jenkins	1		
Maesteg East	C Knight			1
Maesteg East	I Williams		1	
Maesteg West	R Collins			1
Maesteg West	R Martin (Deputy Mayor)		1	
Maesteg West	R Penhale-Thomas			
Maesteg West	L Thomas		1	
Maesteg West	G Williams	1		
Nantyffyllon	C Davies		1	
Nantyffyllon	R Lewis			
Nantyffyllon	G Thomas	1		

RESOLVED: Members who had not already, provided their preferences to advise the clerk.

520. MINUTE 467
GRIT BOXES REQUESTS

Additional areas requested:

Caerau	Maesteg East	Maesteg West	Nantyffyllon
		Junction of Ivor Street with Yr Ysfa - OR top of Ivor Street along the grass verge Additional grit bin at Priory Terrace Church Place, off St Michael's Road End of Upper Street, Maesteg - nearest #30	

RESOLVED: To proceed with letters to residents to agree the locations then to ask BCBC to install the grit bins and MTC to be invoiced.

521. MINUTE 485
TOWN & COMMUNITY COUNCIL FUND - HISTORIC APPLICATIONS

Email sent to BCBC T&CC fund officer and Highways Manager.

RESOLVED: To note the information

522. MINUTE 494
REQUEST FOR BINS

The following locations have been identified by the Wards:

	CAERAU	MAESTEG EAST	MAESTEG WEST	NANTYFFYLLON
1	Filco Store, Hermon Road	Goodwin st and Meadow st removed by BCBC, approach BCBC first, place		
2	Caerau Convenient Stores, Caerau Road	bottom of ASDA car park prior to walkway into ferriers row.		
3	Bicycle Track (Railway Terrace)			
4				

A BCBC member advised that BCBC were not adding new bins within the BCBC and also not adding newly installed bins by other parties to their current routes for emptying so members would have to take this into account

It was agreed that when all locations are sourced the Clerk will contact BCBC to add these to the Cleaner Streets Agreement for the CMO to incorporate the new bins into his current bin emptying route on the cycle track.

RESOLVED: Clerk will contact BCBC to add these to the Cleaner Streets Agreement for the CMO to incorporate the new bins into his current bin emptying route on the cycle track.

**523. MINUTE 501
LIFT MAINTENANCE**

Call from OTIS, a lift maintenance company. They advised that as we are in contract with another lift maintenance company then it's likely that they will want to do a dilapidation service following the works completed by another company for them to guarantee it and continue to maintain the lift. The advisor also stated that liability can be waived by the current contractor if an accident was to happen, they can simply blame the other contractor's work.

OTIS did advise that if the Council did go ahead with them then it's at least a £500 call out charge to determine the error of the lift and the following repairs would be very high as we have no contract with them. The representative mentioned that a yearly maintenance contract for our type of lift would be circa £370. If we took out a new maintenance contract with them, they would come and check out the lift and determine what repairs it needed free of charge and repairs would be a more reasonable fee also.

Cllr G Thomas **proposed**, seconded by Cllrs A James and R Martin that MTC change the maintenance contract to OTIS as the current maintenance provider appears to be lacking as the lift has continuous issues.

RESOLVED: To change lift maintenance contract to OTIS.

524. LIST OF PAYMENTS FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY 2023

RESOLVED:

That the tables of **Expenditure (£99,156.77) Income (£103,332.33)** during the month of February 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 March 2023 totalling **£4,518.69**
- A copy of the Receipts and Payments Account which includes expenditure against the budget and the budget remaining and an income analysis.

The Clerk advised that the outstanding payments on the finance spreadsheet were due to payments being issued on the last day of February but not being authorised until March. The Clerk also explained that the floral displays and bus shelter projects have been added to the receipts and payments spreadsheet.

The Chair of Finance explained that the Council will be closing out the financial year with its predicted balance so we are entering next year in good stead.

CMO Summary

The month of February have included the following works:

- Weekly building checks that include:
 - fire alarm
 - emergency lighting
 - legionnaires disease
- Weekly bin emptying on the cycle track
- Inspect and, where necessary, cut back overgrowth or clear debris – Fp 20, 24, 36, 37a, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 45b, 47, 48,
- Delivered dog waste bags to Special Families, Office and Noddfa
- Flattened protruding metal from old pole on Bridgend Rd
- Delivered grey waste bags to Wilko
- Fixed disabled w/c door, was opening when users in situ
- Milage at start of month – 55,273 at end 55,451 (178 total miles)
- Mayors' pictures erected in Chamber
- Contacted boiler contractor to fix hot water taps several occasions
- Removed wreaths from Maesteg and Caerau war memorial
- Van taken to garage for glow plug fault
- Van software updated
- Tesco shopping trolley returned to store from Upper Cycle track
- Attended personnel meeting with Councillors and Staff

Works to be Carried out Next Month;

- 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

525. NEWSLETTERS / FLYERS / BRIEFING NOTES/ CONSULTATIONS

Emailed to all Councillors for information:

- OVW JANUARY, FEBRUARY & MARCH 2023 TRAINING DATES
- Welsh Government - Vacancy – Research Officer / Senior Research Officer
- BCBC - Granting of licence for D.Danter & Sons Fun Fair - Ewenny Road, Maesteg

- Chris Elmore – Funding advice surgery
- RCT Draft Funding Strategy
- CYFLE CYMRU Healthy Working Wales / Cymru Iach ar Waith
- Bystander Intervention - free training for night time economy staff
- Neath Port Talbot Council’s Replacement Local Development Plan (RLDP) (2021-2036): Key Issues, Vision and Objectives Background Paper, Consultation Draft, (March 2023)
- Bridgend County Borough Council has intervened to help lessen traffic disruption in Tondu in relation to Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water works to install a new water main. The works are taking place at the Maesteg Road (A4063) traffic lights junction in Tondu and queue lengths have been reduced following a review of the temporary traffic management system. Due to the nature of the works, it is impossible to avoid clashing with peak times, but all efforts are being made to keep any unavoidable disruption to a minimum. Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water are also looking to accelerate the installation by working on weekends. Council officers have been attending at peak times to monitor the operation, and the traffic management contractor employed by Dwr Cymru Welsh Water, undertakes manual control to assist with managing the traffic flow. The council would like to thank residents and motorists for their patience and understanding at this time.
- CCLA - February PSDF Factsheet
- Cwm Taff Health Board - Invitation to Bridgend Local Area Committee Meeting

RESOLVED: To note the information

526. ELDERLY GENTLEMAN FELL IN MARKET SQUARE

08/02/2023 - An elderly (97) gentleman who fell in the market square today. A lady from Wilkos helped him and brought him into the offices, he was complaining of his electric cooker not working and its making a buzzing sound constantly.

He only wanted to go home in a taxi and not to the doctors. He said his nearest relative lives far away, we arranged a taxi for him and the lady who was helping him jumped in the taxi too and went up to his house.

The CMO was asked to check in on the elderly gentleman to see what issue there was with the cooker since the gentleman couldn’t explain in detail so didn’t want him going back to a house which could be a fire hazard or worse. CMO visited and advised that the cooker is safe but is making the buzzing sound but he couldn’t identify the problem, he has spoken to a few people on the phone to try and get them out to take a look. Whilst doing this CMO managed to get hold of the gentleman’s daughter who said she will sort out the cooker and her dad.

Local PCSO’s were advised and they also did a welfare check and the gentleman was ok.

RESOLVED: To note the information

527. MAES Y DDERWEN, NANTYFFYLLON TO BE UPGRADED FOR ADOPTION

09/02/2023 emailed members to advise that Maes Y Dderwen, Nantyffyllon, CF34 0HN is to be upgraded to adoption standards and work will begin a week on Monday by Horan's.

RESOLVED: To note the information

528. SPEEDING

09/02/2023 email received from Cllr F Abedalkarim:

I was out this afternoon with the PCSO Gareth Stoneham swp55899 and Cllr Martin Hughes walking in Bridgend Road. PCSO Gareth decided to do cars speed check on his machine. We found out the average speed for cars coming to Maesteg outside the Garth inn higher than average. I would like to propose using the ward fund to install a speed sensor in the area. I would like to hear your thoughts and your agreement for this project please.

Cllr Christine Knight has also raised concerns: something is needed, either speed sensor or traffic control ramps. Celtic Park, Garth senior citizens hall and Garth primary school all along that road. The biggest danger area is as you say by Celtic Club and Garth Inn. There is a crossing and lights bottom of Pond Mawr for children to cross to school but that is all.

The Clerk has also responded: Maesteg Town Council has looked at this in the past. I will take the request to full council to see if we can engage with BCBC Traffic and Transportation to do another speed survey and to see what are the available options. Unfortunately, in the past they have advised against vehicle activated signs.

A BCBC member advised that currently the stock answer for all speed survey queries with BCBC is no as the new 20mph speed limits include all streets within range of a school comes into effect from 1st September 2023.

A member queried the proposed new entrance to Maesteg Celtic Club that was supposedly to be built following the new houses construction some decade ago. The member was advised that the current entrance will be adjusted and the BCBC bus shelter will be located on Celtic grounds and Celtic have met with the contractor who will be doing the works and work is to start imminently. Another member asked that a letter is sent to BCBC to advise that MTC have not been notified of these actions.

RESOLVED: To note the information

529. DOG POO BAGS REQUESTS

Requests from the following organisations:

- MAWS bookshop – 8 boxes in February

- CDT – 6 Boxes
- Special Families – 8 boxes

RESOLVED: To note the information

530. **REFERRALS**

- 16/02/2023 A fridge/freezer and washing machine has been dumped in the lane between Smith Street and Exchange Street. It is encroaching onto the pavement in Upper Street and is a potential hazard.
- **Response BCBC 16/01/2023:** We have investigated and carried out appropriate action.
20/01/23 further information provided – BCBC state the lane is unadopted so won't collect it. The CMO attended the site and the reporter of the issue stated that someone had taken the waste but was not sure who this was.
- 16/02/23: call from a resident in Castle Street regard a pothole outside her house. The complaint is the splash of water on her front door and the wall from cars passing and driving through pothole that is filled with dirt and water.
16/02/2023: reported to fix my street with no outcome yet
- 17/02/23: There is a dump of tiles on the lane up to BMX Race Track - Coegnant Road. I'm not sure if these are asbestos but nee to be looked at and cleared if possible.
Response BCBC 18/02/2023: Waste has been removed
- An elderly lady came into the office as she had tripped and fallen on Talbot Street outside Specsavers. We have logged a ticket with BCBC
To date no response received.
- Complaints of rubbish, anti-social behaviour and noise pollution surrounding bench on Commercial Street Maesteg - outside of Valley Café,
Response: Thank you for your e-mail.
We have passed your e-mail onto our Highways Department as they are responsible for this bench

RESOLVED: To note the information

531. **MAESTEG WEST WARD FUNDS – MAESTEG WEST WELFARE PARK**

From the Friends of Maesteg Welfare Park: We are hoping to apply for the ward councillors funding for 2 notice boards in the park. We would need £1000 to buy these including VAT and delivery. If the request was accepted, would we need to buy these ourselves or would the council buy them for us and then absorb the VAT. I cannot remember what you said.

Cllr R Penhale-Thomas declared an interest in this item as Vice Chair of the Friends of Maesteg Welfare Park. The remaining members of the Council had no objections to this use of Maesteg Wests' ward fund.

RESOLVED: To proceed and purchase the noticeboards from Maesteg West Ward funds

532. NOISE COMPLAINT – LLYNFI VALLEY BOXING GYM

A resident was unhappy with the early morning dropping of weights causing noise and vibrations and thus waking them up. This is usually around 7am and sometimes earlier. The resident doesn't mind the noise at normal hours but, as a vulnerable adult, they need sleep or their mental health conditions deteriorate.

Emailed the gym and the owner advised that very little to no weightlifting goes on in the gym and the likely cause of the noise is due to professional boxers hitting bags and using battle ropes. The owner also advised that he will speak to the people involved as he has had conversations with them before and try to reach a compromise as he doesn't want to be affecting peoples sleep. Cllr Fadhel has popped into the gym also and they confirmed much the same.

RESOLVED: To note the information

533. ONE VOICE WALES MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

As current members are aware, we provide the following services outlined below, and we are aware from feedback from our members that all aspects of the service are highly valued.

- **Provision of free legal advice** from a team of experienced Solicitors which can save members significant time and cost compared with using local solicitors for advice (These savings can in many cases exceed the membership that is payable)
- ***Quality and timely advice and support service*** on topics relevant to member councils.
- ***Training*** for members and staff, including policy seminars and new working opportunities.
- ***General information via our website including a members' area.***
- ***Monthly*** editions of our new '***E- Newsletter***'
- ***Representation*** of the sector on the Local Government Partnership Council.
- Creating ***new opportunities for collaboration*** with national organisations across Wales.

Membership Fee: £3,183.00

Based on 8162 chargeable dwellings @ £0.390p per dwelling (Based on Valuation List, not Electoral Register)

Members agreed that One Voice Wales have been of assistance very often in recent months and continue to be so, it was agreed to continue with the purchase of the OVW membership

Cllr P Jenkins would like his objections noted to the purchasing of this.

RESOLVED: To renew OVW membership for 2023-24

534. REQUEST FROM CLLR R PENHALE-THOMAS

Would the town council be able to issue a certificate of appreciation for constable Mark Hunter? He's served Maesteg for the last 26yrs and is now moving on to work with probation as an offender manager. He was part of the original Caerau communities first team and is well deserving of recognition.

Cllr R Penhale-Thomas advised he forwarded this statement on from Sgt Watts but does know PC Hunter and is worthy of acknowledgment. Members agreed to provide a certificate and the Councils plaque to PC Hunter

RESOLVED: To provide a certificate and the Councils plaque to PC Hunter.

535. GRANTING OF LICENCE FOR D. DANTER & SONS FUN FAIR - EWENNY ROAD, MAESTEG

Email from BCBC and forwarded to all members and advised if anyone had any issues to contact the BCBC West Ward Cllrs as the opening weekend is before the full Council meeting:

BCBC had a request from D. Danter & Sons to run a fun fair event at the former Cooper Standard site, Oakwood Drive, Maesteg.

The event has now taken place on the site a number of times over the last few years.

The Funfair operating days and hours are to be from:

Weekend 1

Friday 3rd March 5pm - 9pm.

Saturday 4th 1pm - 9pm.

Sunday 5th 1pm - 9pm.

Weekend 2

Friday 10th March 5pm - 9pm.

Saturday 11th 1pm - 9pm.

Sunday 12th 1pm - 9pm.

The company have applied to the Events team who confirm no concerns were raised during the 08/02/2023 ESAG meeting. Public liability insurance has been provided to the Councils insurance and risk officer Karen Davies who confirms it is adequate for the event.

RESOLVED: To note the information

536. SITE VISIT – TOWN HALL

Email received from Awen original date of 20th February cancelled and is to be rescheduled.

RESOLVED: To note the information

537. OUTSIDE STOREROOM – TOILET

Email from our architect stating that we could convert the store room to a toilet. We would need to extend the drainage and water supplies etc; and we would need to add this item to the Listed Building Consent application that is to be submitted for the repointing.

RESOLVED: To note the information

538. MAESTEG WEST WARD FUND

Cllr R Collins has requested the following:

During recent weeks, I have had a discussion with the manager at Maesteg Sports Centre. I commented during a number of visits how by replanting the 3 concrete planters on the concourse outside, it would enhance the view of this asset to Maesteg and the wider community. I suggested how Caerau Market Garden may be able to supply bedding plants and had a brief conversation with the Mayor.

I am asking whether some of the Maesteg West ward specific fund might provide amount of funding to purchase these plants and to support a general improvement to the appearance of the building which after all provides a substantial Centre for the health and well being of the community. I am keen to lead on this project but would welcome the Councils support.

The request was forwarded to Maesteg West Ward members, the following have advised they are happy to support depending on the costs involved:
Cllrs: R Martin, R Penhale-Thomas and L Thomas

Cllr Collins also advised that it is the sports centre's 40th Anniversary.

RESOLVED: Members agreed to the spending of Maesteg Wests' ward fund.

539. FOI REQUEST

Under the Freedom of information Act , I am formally requesting all information on how many complaints have the council received about its sitting members (Maesteg Town Councillors) during the period of :- January 2021 to today being 16 February 2023, both internally within the Council, and externally being from members of the Public

I am not seeking any names as I am not challenging GDPR, but I am seeking the total number of complaints , the nature of the complaint , and the outcome of those complaints

Clerk responded with the following: having searched the emails the following complaints have been made between 01/01/2021 – 16/02/2023:

- Complaints within MTC about fellow MTC members = 5 = Code of Conduct complaints

- Complaints from public about MTC members = 4 = Code of Conduct complaints
- From these the members involved were advised of the complaints made and both the Monitoring Officer and PSOW were contacted who decided not to investigate further.

Unfortunately, no formal records are kept, however moving forward we will be keeping a record of all complaints regarding members and any outcomes. I will be advising Council of my findings in next week's full council meeting whereby I will not disclose you as the requester.

RESOLVED: To note the information

540. KING'S CORONATION

Cllr C Davies has emailed: I have been approached by residents asking if there is any funding available off MTC to arrange street parties?

Members suggested the use of ward funds to support street parties if possible. The Chair of Finance advised that people would have to apply as community groups as per the Councils financial regulations as we are unable to give to individuals and we should seek advice from OVW. It was noted that BCBC waived road closure fees for the late Queens Jubilee previously so there may be financial assistance with BCBC.

Cllr P Jenkins **proposed**, seconded by Cllrs P Davies and R Martin that Council engage with an events management company to arrange an event in the Market Square for the coronation. Members agreed to ask EPM Creative what they could potentially do.

Cllr AR Davies wanted his objections noted concerning this issue in its entirety.

RESOLVED:

- Contact OVW for advice
- Contact EPM for an event proposal for the King's Coronation

541. CAERAU WARD FUND

The four ward councillors have met in recent weeks and agreed on the following actions to be taken out of the Caerau Ward specific fund:

1. A community clean-up day at the top of Caerau. We are looking to purchase 10 Ranger MAX litter pickers 35" from Keep Wales Tidy at a cost of £24.65 per unit inclusive of VAT. Additionally, AC Skips Bridgend hire cost of £363.00 inclusive of VAT. Total - £609.50 incl. VAT.
2. Two war memorial benches to be purchased and sited on the green at Caerau Square. Benches are £585 each inclusive of VAT. We would need to seek a

contractor for the installation of a concrete base and any subsequent planning approval. Current total - £1170.00 incl. VAT (benches alone).

3. A site has been identified by the four ward councillors that is adjacent to the pillars of Caerau on an end terrace elevation. The owner of the business has been approached and is happy to proceed with a piece of local graffiti art depicting Caerau's industrial heritage. We are awaiting two quotes from local graffiti artists but anticipate the cost to be in the region of £800 - £1000 for two days work. Again, we will need to proceed with necessary planning approval.

4. 4 x bespoke raised planters; dimensions 2400mm x 600mm x 500mm; quote received from Bramwood Timber Products Ltd. Neath - £1100 inclusive of VAT. To be situated at the top of Caerau adjacent to Noddfa Community Project. We are looking at the project "Caerau in Bloom" for the early summer. There will be an additional cost of approximately £300.00 inclusive of VAT to fill with a mixture of top soil and compost. These will be planted up, free of charge, by Caerau Market Garden.

5. Finally, is it possible for the Clerk(s) to source a quote for 6 x hanging baskets and brackets to be fitted around Caerau Square.

Following the request, the following quotes received:

	Quote 1	Quote 2	Quote 3
	6x Conventional Hanging Basket (CHB-1P) = £245.70 +VAT 6x Ornate Hanging Arm (BR-CAS-BRP) = £220.50 +VAT Carriage (based on postcode CF34 9BY) = £54.40 +VAT	Hanging baskets @ £129.86 ea Qty x6 Total - £779.16 excl. vat Brackets @£ 15.33 ea Qty x6 Total £91.98 excl vat	Based on QTY 6 18" Self-Watering Hanging Baskets (Black) Including Stainless Steel Chains Including Capillary Matting £36.36 Per Basket £20.00 Secure Delivery All Prices are Ex VAT The brackets you would probably be better off sourcing from a local store (they're prices will be better than ours) all you will need is a

			bracket capable of holding around 25kg.
TOTAL COST	£520.60 +VAT	£871.14 +VAT	£238.16 +VAT

Current flower display contractor has advised: I can quote for the install and maintenance of the baskets. It is better if you purchase the baskets directly either from companies such as Amberol or Plantscape. I'm happy to contact them for quotes if you wish. If you go on their websites you'll be able to see what exactly you require. You can approach businesses such as ADM nurseries or Boverton Nurseries to plant up the baskets then.

Your main priority at the minute would be to contact the basket manufacturers for quotes. There is typically a lead time of 4-6 weeks and you'll be wanting to get them planted ASAP then.

Members were happy to support the proposed spending of the Caerau ward specific funds. Regarding quotes it was decided to let this be decided by the ward members and to then notify the clerk.

RESOLVED: To proceed with the above ward fund requests

542. COMPLAINT – FOR LLYNFI VALLEY RIVERCARE GROUP

Telephone call received from a resident complaining about the amount of litter in the river that can be seen from the following river bridges:

- Hamilton Street Caerau
- By the bus stop on Heol Faen

Clerk advised that the Chair of the Llynfi Valley Rivercare group had been contacted and had spoken to the complainant.

RESOLVED: To note the information

543. RING DOORBELL

As the Ring Doorbell is no longer being used as per the BCBC Heritage Conservation Officer, an employee is asking if they could purchase this off the Council?

Members agreed to the request and advised to search for an equivalent on eBay/Marketplace and come up with a price.

RESOLVED: to search for an equivalent on eBay/Marketplace and come up with a price.

544. UPDATED SKETCH FOR THE MINING MEMORIAL IN MAESTEG WELFARE PARK

The following updated sketch with the Welsh mining woman walking alongside the dram, I think it works quite well, I haven't updated the background as yet as I don't have the reference pictures.

I've also done a rough cost estimate and for the sculpture as seen in the sketch it will come in at around £20,000.00 these breaks down to around £3k per figure, £5k for the pony with the harness etc in steel, dram refurb and rebuild £4k, fitting £2k, this is a rough estimate based on past projects I've done, plus cost of steel, timber, and fuel are still fluctuating, so it may be more when the project gets started.

Email was forwarded to all members:



RESOLVED: To note the information

545. COMPLAINT REGARDING NOISE FROM FAIR

Email received whereby a resident is complaining about the noise coming from the fair: it's that loud I can't even hear my TV I live on Llwydarth Road, I'm fuming as it's normal a quiet area.

Clerk has advised the complainant to contact the Shared Regulatory Services to log the noise pollution.

RESOLVED: To note the information

546. FINANCIAL APPLICATIONS

Members were provided with application forms from the following organisations:

1. CAERAU MARKET GARDEN

It was noted that Cllrs AR Davies and A James declared an interest in the Caerau Market Garden application, therefore took no part in the discussion

Date received: 02/03/2023

Request £500 the purchase of 2 x deluxe garden wooden picnic benches.

The overspend will be covered from existing garden funds.

Recent bank statement provided.

Last received S137 in January 2022

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

2. NODDFA COMMUNITY PROJECT

It was noted that Cllr M Rowlands declared an interest in the Noddfa Community Project application, therefore took no part in the discussion

Date received: 03/03/2023

Request £500 to purchase a range of new resources and equipment such as board games, sports equipment, outdoor activities, console games, cooking resources, and arts & crafts.

Recent bank statement provided.

Last received S137 warm hub grant in January 2022

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

3. NANTYFFYLLON YOUTH CLUB

It was noted that Cllr M Rowlands declared an interest in the Nantyffyllon Youth Club application, therefore took no part in the discussion

Date received: 03/03/2023

Request £500 to run an arts workshop and purchase a range of new resources and equipment.

Constitution and a recent bank statement provided.

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

547. DELEGATES REPORTS

The following reports were given:

a) Bus route sub-committee meeting with BCBC – 21/02/2023

Attended by Cllr Fadhel and Deputy Clerk, the following key points were provided by BCBC representatives;

The original bus route 37 service operated by Easyway cost £95 per day – ultimately was not commercially viable for the operator. If we were to trial a run of our own bus service they would suggest a 2 – 3 year trial to allow for the service to gain traction but understand funding limitations

With our own bus service we or the operator would have to register with the Welsh Area traffic office which is run by Monmouthshire County Council and as new applicants can take up to 56 days advance notice prior to commencement.

We would need to update BCBC with a timetable of the bus service and if ticketing is needed Caerphilly Council can offer assistance.

There would be a DDA requirement with the bus having to raise and lower to the raised kerbs of the bus stations and the vehicle would have to be deemed a 'public service vehicle'

They did say that there is already a community bus service operating and covers Maesteg and the details can be found here: [Community Car Scheme - Bridgend Community Transport](#)

The main points with the community bus service is that you must book 48 hours in advance to any trip and meet the following criteria;

- have permanently restricted mobility - unable to use public transport
- have a sensory impairment, learning disability or an enduring mental health problem
- have a temporary inability to use public transport
- live in an isolated area where public transport is limited
- have transport needs are not met by existing services or timetables
- require the assistance of a passenger assistant/ companion to travel (to be provided by service user)

This service does cost and they have outlined the cost in this example from their website;

Mrs Jones from Maesteg goes shopping to Bridgend every Tuesday for 1 hour 30 minutes, she will be charged for 20 miles for a return journey (assuming a 10 mile each way trip). This is calculated as:

20 miles x 0.45p = £9.00

If Mrs Jones wants to be picked up 3 hours later the charge will be £18.00 i.e. 20 miles x 0.90p. This is because the driver will have left and needs to make a separate return journey.

I believe there is a £10 a year membership fee also.

It was also suggested that if there is funding available from Maesteg Council for a bus service, then we can approach the community bus service to see what a collaborative effort would look like and cover our bases this way

Members thanked Cllr F Abedalkarim for attending the meeting and it was **agreed** that MTC should register with the Welsh Area traffic office which is run by Monmouthshire County Council and as new applicant and to proceed with tendering

for the service. Included in the tender the previous 2 companies and Bridgend Community Transport.

b) Blaencaerau Park update 07/03/2023:

Cllr M Rowlands verbally updated members from a meeting held before full Council whereby V2C and BCBC are keen to proceed with the CAT of the park. It was queried whether MTC had a solicitor to complete the process and if not then V2C could act on behalf of both parties as there is no financial gain with the CAT. Cllr M Rowlands he would provide a further detailed summary in due course. Members queried maintenance costs and insurance.

c) BCBC T&CC Forum meeting 06/03/2023:

Cllr F Abedalkarim verbally updated members that he attended the above meeting and it was advised that a 5-year plan is in place from years 2023 to 2028 where BCBC are going to be spending millions in Maesteg so proposed we invite the officer in charge to attend a meeting and outline what the monies are to be spent on and if the Council can assist or offer further guidance on any matters.

RESOLVED:

- to proceed and register as anew applicant with Monmouth County Council
- Agree a tender to be sent to Forge Travel, Llynfi Coaches and Bridgend Community Transport.
- Await further detail from the Blaencaerau Park meeting
- Invite the officer to a MTC full council meeting

548. FIRE DOOR

Cllr P Jenkins advised that he had emailed the Corporate Director of Communities at BCBC in order to have the fire door replaced as soon as possible. The following response from the conservation officer was received:

‘The door needs to visually match the original door shown in the image I sent back to the Town council in February . This is a solid timber tongue and groove door. The rear of the door that faces into the boiler area is less demanding in terms of appearance. It needs to be stained to match the existing rear doors.

To further add to the doors fire protection, intumescent paint can also be used. The door as a fire door should feature three (3) hinges and the carpenter should double check the door frame for fixing and long term use. If only the bottom of the door frame has become damaged due to lack of maintenance, new hard wood timber can be scarfed in and stained to match the existing. Equally if a new frame is required, it must match the existing frame in both material and form.’

RESOLVED: To advise the carpenter to proceed with a tongue and groove door and to stain/paint to match existing doors

549. PLANNING

RESOLVED:

Following last night's Full Council meeting the following applications had no objections:

Ref: P/22/339/FUL
Applicant: Mr & Mrs S & A Kennedy
Location: Ffos Farm Cwmdu Road Maesteg CF34 0DG
Proposal: Retention of temporary cabin/chalet structure for use as rural enterprise dwelling for a temporary period of 3 years
Ask For: Steven Jenkins

Ref: P/23/76/FUL
Applicant: Miss N Jenkins
Location: 11 Neath Road Maesteg CF34 9PG
Proposal: Remove single storey lean-to structure; construct single storey wraparound extension with balcony at rear
Ask For: Julie Earp

Members supported the following applications:

Ref: P/22/661/FUL
Applicant: S & E Properties Development Ltd
Location: Station Hotel Caerau Road Maesteg CF34 0PB
Proposal: Redevelopment of the former Station Hotel and associated Coach House for the construction of 11 apartments and a new commercial unit [amended plans received 16-2-23]
Ask For: Euan Sexton

Ref: P/23/53/FUL
Applicant: Mr S Blower
Location: Former Anturio Gifts next to 26 Talbot Street Maesteg CF34 9DB
Proposal: Conversion of 1st & 2nd floors to 2 single bedroom flats & 2 two-bedroom flats; New shopfront to ground floor including new access door; New window openings on eastern elevation
Ask For: Steven Jenkins

Ref: P/23/110/CAC
Applicant: Dr R Coles
Location: Talbot Street Dental 24 Talbot Street Maesteg CF34 9BW
Proposal: Conservation Area Consent to remove and renew shop front
Ask For: Lee Evans

The following application had a number of observations:

Ref: P/23/50/FUL
Applicant: Forge Travel Ltd
Location: Forge Travel Ltd (land adjoining 20 Pentyla) Forge Industrial Estate
Maesteg CF34 0AH
Proposal: Retention of use of land for parking of coaches/mini buses as ancillary use
on adjoining land to existing travel business and enclosing with secure
2.4m high fencing around perimeter of site
Ask For: Steven Jenkins

Observations:

- Concerns from residents as employees are parking in Pentyla
- Concerns about the size of current fencing
- Vehicles being parked next to residents' homes
- Concerns with old mining shaft that has been capped with concrete
- Timing of when vehicles are switched on before 7am

550. PLANNING APPEAL CASE DISMISSED: ENF/186/20/ACK

Case reference: CAS-01951-C6Q8K7

The original notice has been served because it appears that the amenity of an area is adversely affected by the condition of the above land.

The requirements of the notice are to remove all materials, including but not limited to the caravan, vehicles, vehicle parts, container, plastic containers, rubble etc. from the land shown on the attached plan

RESOLVED: To note the information

Minutes emailed to Councillors to Read on 9th March 2023

Minutes accepted at a Hybrid meeting of the Council held on 4th April 2023

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Mayor