

**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, 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2023**

**PRESENT:**

**COUNCILLORS:**

**R Martin (Deputy Mayor)**

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

**APOLOGIES:**

Apologies were received from Cllrs A James, R Lewis and L Thomas

**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.

Cllr I Williams declared an interest in one of the tenders for the kitchen sink and hot water tap.

**605. POLICE MATTERS**

South Wales Police sent their apologies for not being able to attend the meeting. The following crime figures were provided:

**Maesteg Crime Statistics for April 2023**

	Caerau / Nanty	Maesteg East	Maesteg West	Llan	Total in category
<b>Robbery</b>	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
<b>Drugs</b>	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
<b>Dwelling burglary</b>	2 (1 att)	2	0	0	<b>4</b>
<b>Burglary other</b>	0	1	0	0	<b>1</b>
<b>Theft of vehicle</b>	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
<b>Theft from vehicle</b>	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
<b>All other theft</b>	4	4	3	0	<b>11</b>
<b>Damage</b>	11	0	2	0	<b>13</b>
<b>Violence against The person</b>	24 (6)	15 (5)	22 (3)	5	<b>66 (14)</b>
Domestic related Occurrences	6	3	4	0	13
<b>All crime total</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>90</b>
<b>ASB total</b>	21	3	6	6	<b>30</b>
<b>Drink Driving</b>	0	0	1	0	<b>1</b>

**RESOLVED:** to note the information

**606. TO RECEIVE BCBC POLICY AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS MANAGER TO DISCUSS THE BCBC CORPORATE 4-YEAR PLAN**

The Deputy Mayor welcomed BCBC Officer A Rawlin to the meeting who provided members with a PowerPoint presentation to update MTC on the BCBC corporate plan. They have been working on the plan since November 2022 and have completed public consultations and staff consultations.

The full Corporate Plan 2023 – 2028 can be found on BCBC website:

<https://www.bridgend.gov.uk/media/guoo2urs/11677o-bridgend-corporate-plan-23-28.pdf>

Members raised the following questions:

- Is the consultation on the budget and presentation etc are results of consultation available?

Yes went to cabinet or full council, will email the Clerk who can then share with all members.

- Wellbeing objectives etc nothing in there about engaging with town and community councils this is disappointing.

This is something BCBC wish to engage more with T&CC's.

- Is there anything about how to cut red tape to get things moving faster. Recent example – waste not being collected in Commercial Street, I telephoned BCBC and the staff member on the telephone refused to take my complaint. I then contacted the Clerk of Maesteg Town Council who emailed BCBC with no response. In the end I Tweeted my complaint on social media along with photographs and finally BCBC did something to remove the waste.

This is something that the BCBC Customer Services Manager should address.

The Deputy Mayor thanked the BCBC Officer for attending the meeting.

**RESOLVED:** to note the information

**607. MAYORAL EVENTS**

The Mayor had sent his apologies for the meeting and provided no update for the Mayoral events attended

**RESOLVED:** to note the information

**608. MINUTES**

The following minutes, copies of the which minutes have been circulated to Members, were read, and recommendations accepted as a true record and signed by the Mayor:

- **Full Council – 04/04/2023 emailed 06/04/2023**

The **Property H&S Committee – 17/04/2023 emailed 17/04/2023** minutes were read, and recommendations discussed with the following observations:

1) Accept tender for hot water tap and converting sink to the sum of £251

The Clerk advised that since the committee met, another quote had come in for £187 and the job is like for like. Cllr I Williams declared an interest in this item as the tender had let him know they submitted a bid. Members agreed to go with the quote of £187 for the works.

2) To not replace the Llynfi Road car park toilet, instead convert the store room in the market square to a ‘ladies and gents’ whilst keeping the current disabled toilet for that use only.

Members discussed this and concluded that a temporary disconnect of the mains to the Llynfi road toilet should take place as the costings for the store room may exceed the quotes we have received for new toilets being installed.

3) To advise utility companies of permanent disconnect

As aforementioned – Members agreed to advise companies of a temporary disconnect until a toilet option has concluded.

4) View the asset register and add any additional items that may not be present then accept this as the Councils asset register to satisfy the auditor’s request

Members accepted the asset register as a true representation of its current holdings.

5) Implement a form for the leasing of Council equipment to the terms discussed prior

Members were provided with the form that will be used for community groups going forward and all accepted it.

6) Approach the architect to determine the best way to convert the old storeroom to a toilet and see if there is scope to add to the already proposed building works.

Members agreed to this and advised this is the first step to be taken before deciding on a new toilet outside of Wilco’s or going with the conversion of the old store room.

## **MATTERS ARISING**

### **609. MINUTE 561**

#### **CHRISTOPHER WILLIAMS PAINTINGS – WITHIN MTC**

14/04/2023 - Further email sent to Property department – to date still waiting for response.

18/04/2023: Email received from a local resident:

*I’ve been meaning to drop you a line since calling in to view Christopher Williams’ paintings some weeks ago.*

*I particularly wanted to see the riotous, masterpiece of colour Williams called 'Sunset off the Lleyn Peninsula', a painting I'd been trying to get a look at since it was held in Bridgend for many years.*

*I think it may have been clear how my heart sank when you showed me into the well-lit, little-used side room with no more security than a loose-fitting door with flimsy lock, to see this faded? How much is it insured for btw?*

*Anyway, back to reality, I've spoken with a number of friends who would also like to view the paintings and I'd like to advertise their whereabouts and lay on a mini-bus to see Williams' works. I'd like to advertise the excursion(s) with the image of 'Sunset off the Lleyn Peninsula', currently on Artworks.co.uk, which is owned by BCBC and was presumably created while the painting was in their custody, and the sorry image my daughter took of the painting on her first, my second visit, a sort of 'Curating valuable art and how not to do it' excursion(s).*

*The purpose of the 'Beauty and the Beast Excursion(s)' will not be to view Christopher Williams' paintings in all their glory, which they most certainly are not, more to draw attention to what happens when bureaucracy gets mixed up with beauty, when the values and knowledge of people making decisions, above their ken and on our behalf, become clear.*

*I think this matter needs publicity, the subject is fertile ground for a documentary, I will soon have cause to speak with a friend who is director of a Porthcawl drama group that makes '15 minute shorts' for the BBC, I'll mention this matter to see if there's any interest, I would imagine there will be.*

*It is an insult to Christopher Williams' legacy to Maesteg to hold his works in such deteriorative, highly unsuitable conditions, the image of a bucket on the stairs catching drips from the ceiling next to another of Williams' painting will stay with me for a long time.*

*I'd like to know, without having to resort to FOI, when the BCBC owned images of Williams' paintings, and in particular "Sunset off the Lleyn Peninsula" were/was taken, how they were stored between then and now to cause what appears to have been such rapid deterioration in a few latter years, who will be responsible for restoring the painting to it's former glory and when this is likely to occur?*

*I understand it is a matter of ownership that is causing the deterioration of these works to romp on unaddressed, a matter that could presumably be solved with the stroke of a pen or a push of a button.*

*I don't have time to make this deplorable situation my mission but I will copy in the Arts Council of Wales to this email and hope this helps move things in the direction they clearly need to be moving in.*

Response given to the resident: Currently the Christopher Williams paintings ownership is being investigated by BCBC. MTC contacted BCBC last summer for the ownership details as MTC have noted the sorry state of the paintings and wanted to have them professionally restored. Time has since passed and MTC took the initiative and sought restoration companies to come and advise us on the best course forward. During these talks BCBC told us to stop immediately until the ownership was confirmed. They have taken months now to determine this again and we keep sending chaser emails to all involved and we are still none the wiser. We can advise that the insured value is unknown until the ownership is clarified.

We will have to take your request to our Council meeting on the 2nd May 2023 (you are welcome to attend) and they will make the decision then on the excursion you have planned.

I'm not sure on the full history of the paintings or of their storage, I am aware that a few of our more experienced members do have knowledge of them and one member was here when BCBC installed another painting (not Christopher Williams) and damaged the frame quite carelessly. During our next meeting hopefully, they can shed further light on it and we can update you. I know that Maesteg Town Council are committed to restoring the paintings if we are the legal owners. If BCBC are then I could not advise what action they will take.

A few more emails have passed between the resident and the office asking for officer names in BCBC of which MTC are unable to supply.

Members agreed that as the paintings are under public ownership then the public have a right to see them. It was noted that the paintings are not kept in a proper state as they should be and to expect these comments but the Council is committed to having them restored when the ownership is clarified

**RESOLVED:**

- To advise the resident they have the right to view the paintings and to make appointments with the Clerk to ensure the building is open when they visit.
- To continue to chase BCBC for ownership of the paintings

**610. MINUTE 562**

**GRIT BOXES REQUESTS**

05/04/2023 Emailed BCBC Highways to order the additional grit boxes for the following locations:

Caerau Ward

- Outside CDT – Woodlands Terrace, Caerau, CF34 0SR

Maesteg West Ward

- End of Upper St, Maesteg near the footpath to Tesco
- Outside Special Families, Fairfield Centre, Maesteg, CF34 9LR
- Church Place at junction with Brynmawr Place

## Nantyffyllon

- Union Street, Nantyffyllon, CF34 0BG – at the junction with Uplands Drive / Duffryn Maddog

**Response 05/04/2023:** We have been awaiting confirmation of the prices from our works unit, who have recently come back to us. The cost for installation has received an increase in line with all our fees and charges, and is now £385/unit.

**RESOLVED:** Members agreed to the cost of the grit bins at £385/unit for the proposed locations listed above.

### **611. MINUTE 564**

#### **LIFT MAINTENANCE**

05/04/2023 Emailed and spoken to OTIS Lift company who will send over the new contract for the lift maintenance/servicing.

05/04/2023 Emailed KONE plc to advise that MTC are cancelling the contract with them with immediate effect.

**RESOLVED:** The Clerk advised that the dilapidation service will commence within the next week or so and the repairs will be listed following that.

### **612. MINUTE 565**

#### **MAESTEG WEST WARD FUNDS – MAESTEG WEST WELFARE PARK**

05/04/2023 Emailed Friends of Maesteg Welfare park for details in order to place the order for the A4 noticeboards

**RESOLVED:** to note the information

### **613. MINUTE 569**

#### **CARRYING OVER OF WARD SPECIFIC FUNDS**

The chair of finance has asked for clarity on the minutes from the last full council meeting which discussed members queries of carrying over unspent, ward specific funds

During the last full council meeting, it was decided that the Clerk & Chair of Finance to look at the budget for the agreed spends of Ward Funds that have not concluded following the financial year end. This is to review projects that were already allocated funds and not any new projects as they are for financial year 2023 to 2024.

Members highlighted the confusion surrounding the ward specific funds as many projects have been given the go ahead in the previous financial year but no invoices have been produced yet. The Chair of Finance advised that the budget will have to be adjusted to cater to these requests. A member suggested that the projects that are already going ahead be brought to Council and then the Council can take each project

on its merits. Cllr F Abedalkarim **proposed**, seconded by Cllr M Rowlands, that the Finance committee look into this matter further.

**RESOLVED:** Finance committee look into this matter further and to include terms of reference for the Ward Specific Funds.

**614. MINUTE 570  
RING DOORBELL**

Member of staff has now purchased the Ring Doorbell – see the income section of April list of payments.

**RESOLVED:** to note the information

**615. MINUTE 575  
DOG POO BAG REQUESTS**

The Chair of Finance asked if figures could be provided as to how often various places ask for dog poo bags as originally, they were only supplied from the office but are now located in a number of locations within the boundary of Maesteg Town Council.

**RESOLVED:** to compile a list of frequency of requests for dog poo bags.

**616. MINUTE 577  
.GOV DOMAIN NAME**

14/04/2023: Chased ITCS for update

Response 19/04/2023: Unfortunately, there isn't an update, we are having to jump through hoops to get registered in order to look at the domain for you. We will pursue and hopefully get there soon!

**RESOLVED:** to note the information

**617. MINUTE 587  
USE OF MARKET SQUARE**

05/04/2023 Emailed BCBC with the request from Llynfi Valley Council of Churches to use the band stand and that they will be covered by MTC Public Liability insurance.

Also enquired as to the ownership details of the band stand and advised MTC would be interested in taking ownership.

**Response 24/04/2023:** Thank you for the offer regarding the raised platform. Could I suggest we review this once the works are complete on the Town Hall? We would also need feedback from the traders.

Members suggested contacting AWEN Cultural Trust to see if they intend to submit an expression of interest for the platform in the market square. If they do not then we ask the incoming officer to look into it when they are in post. Another member suggested submitting a land registry query which would cost circa £5 which members

agreed to. It was noted that the platform and the market square were property of Maesteg Urban District Council and was transferred when BCBC was formed.

**RESOLVED:**

- contact AWEN Cultural Trust to see if they intend to submit an expression of interest for the platform in the market square.
- Complete a land registry request for the area

**618. MINUTE 588**

**REQUEST TO BORROW GAZEBOES – FRIENDS OF MAESTEG WELFARE PARK**

05/04/2023 delivery and collection of the gazeboes has been arranged with the CMO and Friends of Welfare Park.

12/04/2023 Email received from the Friends of Maesteg Welfare Park: *Thank you for letting us borrow the Gazebo's for the Easter Egg Trail event on Saturday. We had over 170 children participate and it was a fantastic success.*

*The Gazebos were picked up this morning and I've been asked to send you pictures of them in the park and the small tears that we noticed when they were being put up.*

**RESOLVED:** to note the information

**619. MINUTE 589**

**ADVERTISING IN AROUND TOWN MAGAZINE**

05/04/2023 Emailed Around Town Magazine to proceed with the advert.

**RESOLVED:** to note the information

**620. MINUTE 590**

**LITTER WITHIN THE VALLEY**

Cllr G Thomas advised that he was previously asked to approach Maesteg Comprehensive to get involved in creating litter bins and other associated goods to encourage the disposal of litter correctly within the valley. He advised that a meeting is taking place soon to iron out the details as early talks have been positive and the school is interested – he will keep the Council updated.

**RESOLVED:** to note the information

**621. MINUTE 591**

**USE OF LAND: BRIDGE STREET, MAESTEG**

21/04/2023 Emailed BCBC CAT Officer with the completed EOI form

24/04/2021 I can confirm that I will add the expression of interest to the next meeting of the CAT Steering Group which is scheduled to be held on 5 May. We shall be pleased to keep you updated on progress.



**RESOLVED:** to note the information

**622. MINUTE 592**

**BUS SHELTER HERMON ROAD**

We received the following concern in regards to the newly proposed bus shelter;

*Great news about the new bus shelter. Seriously, the one they took away had a bench with it. I hope they have not gone el cheapo and thought of the inclusion of older or disabled people by replacing like for like. Here is the bus stop north bound right by the entrance to nanty rfc , the one outside the duff south bound is the same. I'm sure you won't let them short change us. It's good news!! Many thanks.*

The additional cost for seating would £388.55, if fitted before the bus shelter installation. There would be an additional charge to retrofit the seating which would be £388.55 – seat cost, £421.58 – labour cost which totals £810.12 (excl. VAT), the installation has been delayed and is looking to be done on the 12<sup>th</sup> May 2023.

Cllr P Davies **proposed**, seconded by Cllr C Davies that we accept this additional cost before the shelter is installed - there were no objections.

**RESOLVED:** Advise BCBC to proceed with the seating platform before the bus shelter is installed.

**623. MINUTE 593**

**KING'S CORONATION EVENT**

05/04/2023 Emailed EPM to proceed with the event for the King's Coronation

06/05/2023 Added the street party notice for 40 streets onto website and Facebook page.

21/04/2023: Received poster for the event from EPM

21/04/2023: Emailed BCBC for permission to use the Market Square for the event

To date the following Streets have applied for the grant:

	<b>Caerau</b>	<b>Maesteg East</b>	<b>Maesteg West</b>	<b>Nantyffyllon</b>
1	Tudor Estate	Bridge Street	Lansbury Crescent & Close	Davies Terrace
2	North Street		Port Terrace & Salisbury Road	Station Terrace
3			St Cynwyd's Avenue	Homfray Street

Clerk queried how the grant was to be paid i.e. by cheque or online? Chair of Finance and members of the Council agreed the decision was up to the individual claiming the reimbursement.

**RESOLVED:** to note the information

**624. MINUTE 596**

**FINANCIAL APPLICATIONS**

Letters of thanks received from the following:

- Maesteg Celtic Bowls Club
- Big Bocs Bwyd, Nantyffyllon
- Bronfrair Allotments

**RESOLVED:** to note the information

**625. LIST OF PAYMENTS FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL 2023**

**RESOLVED:**

That the tables of **Expenditure (£24,592.86) Income (£14,878.77)** during the month of April 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 April 2023 totalling **£1,051.60**
- A copy of the Receipts and Payments Account which includes expenditure against the budget and the budget remaining and an income analysis.
- An end of year spreadsheet which will be used for the annual return

The Chair of Finance asked if the internal auditor has been to the offices. The Clerk advised yes and that he will be presenting his findings to the Council shortly. The Clerk also confirmed that timesheets are in place for all staff but the internal auditor has confirmed that they would never be requested.

**CMO Summary**

The month of April have included the following works:

- Weekly building checks that include:
  - fire alarm
  - emergency lighting
  - legionnaires disease
- Twice weekly bin emptying on the cycle track and Llynfi Rd car park
- Inspect and, where necessary, cut back overgrowth or clear debris – on Old Tyson Road and Fp. 2a, 6, 15, 23a, 24, 27, 36, 37a, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 45a, 46, 47, 52, 57, 62, 64, 77, 82
- Milage at start of month – 55,603 at end 55,749 (146 total miles)
- Emptied and replaced bucket collecting drips from leak in office
- Delivered dog waste bags to office (10), special families (8) and Maws (2)
- Attended Spirit of the Llynfi Woodland group event
- Delivered and collected 2x gazebos to Friends of Maesteg Welfare Park
- Undertook a motorway drive with the van to clear the DPF valve

- Cut down trees and overgrowth blocking view from bench just outside the Forge industrial estate
- Took delivery of hanging baskets
- Installed new handle for disabled wc
- Contacted heating engineers to sort hot water supply – not attended yet
- Inspected Nanty park bus station and reported back to Office

#### **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
- Inspect and, where necessary, cut back overgrowth or clear debris on rights of ways

**RESOLVED:** to note the information

#### **CORRESPONDENCE**

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

Emailed to all Councillors for information:

- Y Bryn Community Shared Ownership and Benefit Fund Event
- Harnessing Emotional Intelligence and Improving Personal Communication Skills
- Bridgend Armed Forces Covenant Forum
- Survey: local placed for nature officer
- APRIL & MAY 2023 training dates
- Dementia Friends Information Sessions

**RESOLVED:** to note the information

##### **627. DOG POO BAGS REQUESTS**

Requests from the following organisations:

- MAWS bookshop – 8 boxes in April

**RESOLVED:** Members asked for a breakdown of dog waste bags from the organisations we supply to as the usage seems to have doubled recently.

##### **628. THANKYOU RECEIVED FROM FRIENDS OF MAESTEG WELFARE PARK**

The following email was received from the chairman of the friends;

*Thank you for letting us borrow the Gazebo's for the Easter Egg Trail event on Saturday. We had over 170 children participate and it was a fantastic success.*

*The Gazebos were picked up this morning and I've been asked to send you pictures of them in the park and the small tears that we noticed when they were being put up.*

The CMO advised that he will put the damaged gazebos aside and repair them when he can. The only problem is it takes 4 people to open each gazebo so will need assistance.

**RESOLVED:** to note the information

**629. COMPLAINT ABOUT A COUNCILLOR**

We received a complaint concerning a Councillor. The monitoring officer has confirmed that this is solely a PSOW complaint. The complainant has been informed of this and the Councillor has been informed of the details

Members asked for more information but were advised that the concerned parties have not given permission to share their details and there has been no PSOW complaint received within the office

**RESOLVED:** to note the information.

**630. POTENTIAL AWARD FOR A RESIDENT**

Cllr C Davies emailed 13/04/2023: A resident who is from Maesteg and plays for Maesteg Harlequins RFC recently played for The Welsh Deaf rugby team which won the world championship in Argentina is it possible we can present him with something for his achievement?

Members agreed that a letter on behalf of the Mayor and the Councils plaque be sent to the individual in recognition of their achievement.

**RESOLVED:** Cllr C Davies to provide the contact details of the individual to the Clerk to send a letter of congratulations and a MTC plaque to the resident.

**631. LETTER OF THANKS FROM A RESIDENT**

The following thanks was received from the member of the public who attended last months meeting and posed questions to the council

**RESOLVED:** to note the information

**632. REQUEST FROM CLLR P JENKINS**

We received the following email from Cllr Jenkins;

*please would you place on agenda, Fly Tipping and help on control measures. IE cameras etc for discussion debate by council.*

Cllr Jenkins has contacted the legal officer for BCBC who issued the following reply;  
*Hi Cllr Jenkins,*

*We have in the past offered advice to Town and Community Councils for a set fee. However, we unfortunately don't have capacity at the moment to offer that service. Maesteg Town Council would need to obtain their own legal advice on the legalities of using such equipment and the associated GDPR issues with the retention and use of the information gathered.*

Contacted One Voice Wales on 20/04/2023 for legalities surrounding cameras etc and they had the following response:

*In the first instance we suggest that the Town Council discusses the matter further with the Borough Council and establishes whether they would be prepared to assist if the Town Council paid for the installation etc.,.*

*We have attached a copy of the surveillance camera code of practice as each council has to ensure that it complies with the code when it operates any surveillance camera system that monitors public space.*

Cllr P Jenkins **proposed**, seconded by Cllr F Abedalkarim that that the clerk contact BCBC to try and determine options going forward. It was noted that BCBC has a notoriously bad prosecution rate for fly tipping and they have already mentioned budget constraints so the help that they can provide may be limited

**RESOLVED:** Contact BCBC Cleaner streets team to discuss available options.

### **633. REFERRALS**

05/04/2023 Cllr I Williams advised of fly tipping on Heol Faen.

**Response:** We have passed this onto our Cleaner Streets Officer. Cllr I Williams confirmed that the fly tipping has been removed.

05/04/2023 We have received a complaint from a resident of discarded, used needles on the steps coming down from Maesteg Welfare Park towards Tesco.

**Response:** This is to notify you that your case has been investigated and is now closed, We are aware of the above from a previous report. A further response from Parks - I have been advised that the steps are owned by Tesco's they would have need to dispose of the needles.

Clerk also advised that SW Police were also notified and that the local PCSO visited the area and the needles had been removed. The PCSO also advised they will patrol this route.

05/04/2023 Cllr C Knight has requested; Could we make a referral to the council that they rethink the stopping of small vans and trailers over 6ft visiting the recycling in Maesteg without permits

Sent to BCBC but we have received no response to date

16/04/2023 Cllr C Davies requested someone to look at the bus shelter outside of Nanty playing park – a resident has reported a possible defect to the brickwork and may be unsafe.

**Response:** the CMO attended and checked the bus shelter over, he advised that the render is cracked but overall looks structurally safe although he did admit that he is no engineer. The transport officer for BCBC has arranged for the BCBC Structural Engineer to carry out an inspection and provide a full structural report, which identifies defects and recommendations for repairs. He advised that costings can be covered internally.

21/04/2023 Cllr C Davies advises of a complaint off a resident of Nanttyffyllon that her child received an injury playing on the Monkey bars at the park causing a nasty cut to the child's hand. Can we send someone up to investigate and make it safe in case another child gets injured?

22/04/2023 Cllr C Davies advises that after a site meeting with Cllr Paul Davies, BCBC Cabinet Member Cllr J Spanswick and the parks department at Nanttyffyllon it was agreed to completely refurbish Nanty park with new flooring, play equipment with disabled access a youth shelter plus picnic tables and benches. In addition to this the Metcalf Street play area is also to be refurbished.

**RESOLVED:** to note the information

**634. COMPLETION OF AUDIT / CWBLHAU ARCHWILIAD - MAESTEG TC**

Audit Wales have concluded their audit of the books for year 2021 to 2022 and provided the following summary;

***Audit opinion – Unqualified***

*On the basis of my review, in my opinion no matters have come to my attention giving cause for concern that in any material respect, the information reported in this Annual Return:*

- has not been prepared in accordance with proper practices;*
- that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met;*
- is not consistent with the Council's governance arrangements; and*
- that the Council does not have proper arrangements in place to secure economy, efficiency, and effectiveness in its use of resources.*

*Other matters arising and recommendations*

***There are no further matters that I wish to draw to the Council's attention***

The internal auditor has confirmed that an unqualified audit is a positive audit.

**RESOLVED:** to note the information

**635. GRAFFITI MURALS IN CAERAU AND MAESTEG WEST**

From Cllr AR Davies;

Can I just confirm, is this no longer a ward specific project? It seems that wards are no jumping on the idea of graffiti as suggested by Caerau which was originally from ward specific funds but no agreement has been made by council to fund other projects from ward funds in other areas.

If so, can we ensure that the funds from this financial year are rolled over so we can identify an alternative project to the one already identified in Caerau for graffiti work? I accept I may be incorrect but if I am not, this is grossly unfair and the money pledged for Caerau graffiti should be made available for an alternative project this coming financial year. Specifically, if other wards are not paying for similar projects from their existing ward funds which remain massively in-accessed!

**RESOLVED:** This was confirmed earlier in the meeting to be judged on merit when brought to the Council.

**636. REQUEST FOR WORK EXPERIENCE**

Email received from a pupil at Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Llangynwyd: to express my interest in a possible work experience placement from the 6-9 of June this year.

I am a Welsh speaking year 12 pupil studying English Literature, Biology and Mathematics for A Level in Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Llangynwyd.

Studying English Literature has facilitated an interest in humanities and historical context, which has fostered an interest in local politics and I would like to explore possible options for my future career which could begin with you at Maesteg Town Council.

Members agreed that the work within the Council is the Clerks workload and certain things would not be suitable for an outside person to view. Members wanted to ask the individual what aspects of local government they want to learn and to correspond with the Clerk to arrange work experience.

**RESOLVED:** Clerk to advise they are welcome to come to MTC for work experience

**637. REQUEST FROM CLLR F ABEDALKARIM**

Cllr Fadhel sent in the following email;

*I received this email from Cllr Martin Hughes, and I would like to ask, if possible, that Maesteg town council can have a joint funding with BCBC to do the project please. If you have any other suggestion to help will be much appreciated.*

The original request to BCBC was for dropped kerbs at the old School playing field entrance at Bridgend Road, Garth. The current state of the highway can be seen in the image below –



It was noted that if a drop kerb is installed here then it would not help residents as many more are needed to get anywhere else without obstruction.

Cllr F Abedalkarim **proposed**, seconded by Cllr C Knight that this go to the projects committee for consideration.

**RESOLVED:** Projects committee to look into this request for consideration.

### **638. GAZEBOES**

27/04/2023: Clerk, Deputy Clerk, CMO, Cllrs F Abedalkarim & C Knight met at the unit to open, inspect, label and make any necessary repairs to the 9 gazeboes.

The Gazeboes are 4.5 meters x 3 meters the following was noted:

1. small holes needing tears patched with duct tape
2. Good condition no defects
3. Couple of tears patched with duct tape
4. Couple of tears patched with duct tape
5. 1 large patch - patched with duct tape. Some bolts missing, used frame from gazebo 9 for spare parts
6. Couple of patches - patched with duct tape
7. Good condition no defects
8. small patches
9. Top of gazebo unusable / unrepairable due to the number of large holes. Used the frame for spares.

N.B. Purchased some nuts, bolts and washers from LBS.

The gazeboes were purchased in May 2016 (no invoice in the file) for £4,392.00 from Sun Leisure.com replacement roofs for gazeboes cost £119.95 (inc VAT) + £11.95 delivery = £131.90

**RESOLVED:** Members agreed to purchase the new roof for the broken gazebo for the total cost of £131.90

### **639. MAESTEG GLEEMEN STORAGE**

Maesteg Gleemen have now advised that the original 1 small box for storing in the Council basement has now turned into:

- 5 x small boxes with lids 58cm x 34cm x 41cm (length x width x height)
- 2 x large boxes with lids 70cm x 44cm x 42cm (length x width x height)
- Large display cabinet 130cm x 18.3cm x 35cm ((height x width x depth)
- 2 x Glass doors 92cm x 108cm (height x width)
- Medium display cabinet 130cm x 120cm x 35cm (height x width x depth)
- 2 x small display cabinets 130cm x 60cm x 35cm (height x width x depth)

Chair of Property, H&S has looked at the space in the basement and with the current exhibition from the South Wales Miners Museum taking all available space there is no room for the gleemen storage. Clerk has previously advised Council that the storage of



the South Wales Miners Museum exhibition was only agreed as a temporary measure until they find another location to store it. Unfortunately, AWEN Cultural Trust will not take the exhibition when they re-open the Town Hall as it is too large for them to have as a permanent display.

Cllr G Thomas **proposed**, seconded by Cllr AR Davies that the Council offer space to the Gleemen for storage - initially this will be at the Heol ty Gwyn unit until space becomes available within the offices. Members agreed that the South Wales Miners Museum be asked to remove their display from the offices as it is causing a fire risk.

**RESOLVED:**

- offer space to the Gleemen for storage - initially this will be at the Heol ty Gwyn unit until space becomes available within the offices.
- Ask the South Wales Miners Museum to remove their display from the offices as it is causing a fire risk

**640. UTILITY-AID**

Following Minute 438, 7<sup>th</sup> February 2023 whereby Council agreed for Utility Aid to provide a bespoke quotation for when your next renewal is due, detailing our added value and services.

They have advised the following options:

Location		Standing Charge	Pence per kW/hour	Contract ends
Town Council building	Currently with EDF	25 pence per day	17.60 pence per kW/hour	30/06/23
	Renewal from EDF to start 01/07/2023	60 pence per day	43.18 pence per kW/hour	
	Proposed 1 year with SSE	41.89 pence per day	32.62 pence per kW/hour	
	Proposed 2 year with SSE	43.99 pence per day	32.93 pence per kW/hour	
<hr/>				
Unit 6 Heol Ty Gwyn	Currently with British Gas Lite	40 pence per day	58.85 pence per kW/hour	13/12/23
	Proposed 1 year with SSE	86.10 pence per day	32.01 pence per kW/hour	
	Proposed 2 year with SSE	88.49 pence per day	32.66 pence per kW/hour	

Clerk queried why they have quoted for the unit at Heol Ty Gwyn as the contract does not end until December 2023 they advised:

This allows us to renew both at the same time and group together their consumption to get a better price. The new contract wouldn't come into effect until your current one finishes but it would align the two to a same common end date.

**RESOLVED:** Members agreed to the quotes from utility aid for both the Council offices and the CMO unit for 1 year.

**641. NANTYFFYLLON BUS SHELTER**

BCBC sent a structural engineer out to Nantyffyllon bus shelter on Heol Tywith. They had the following recommendations;

*The following works need to be undertaken:*

- 1. The missing blocks to the pier should be replaced.*
- 2. The concrete to the front of the roof needs to be hammer tested to see if there are any loose sections of slab. All loose concrete should be removed then all rust should be removed from the exposed reinforcement bar, the bar and slab should then be painted in a primer compatible with the repair mortar. The edge of the slab can then be made good using an epoxy modified concrete repair mortar.*
- 3. All rust should be removed from the steel box beam over the front of the shelter and the beam painted in a suitable corrosion protection coating.*
- 4. A 25mm gap should be introduced at the southern end of the beam and a suitable compressible material inserted to allow the beams to expand and contract. This could be done by removing the masonry at the top of the southern wall and re-setting it in position.*
- 5. The cause of the cracking to the southern wall needs further investigation. This will require the render on the wall being removed so that the extent of the cracking to the internal surface of the wall can be checked.*
- 6. Any other cracking to the shelter walls should be repaired.*

*The lean in the shelter is nor excessive and do remedial actions are required at present.*

*The shelter is safe to used, however, the front edge of the roof slab should be tested as soon as possible, and any loose concrete removed to prevent further concrete falling from the roof slab.*

BCBC have advised of the following contractors their Facilities Team currently use are as follows:

- Neath Plant Construction
- D&M Building Services

Members agreed to obtain costings to repair the current bus shelter from the contractors BCBC provided and also other companies. It was mentioned that it may be cheaper to demolish and erect a new bus shelter in this location so the Clerk is to obtain costings for this as well.

**RESOLVED:**

- obtain costings to repair the current bus shelter from the contractors BCBC provided and also other companies.
- Obtain costings for demolition and installation of new bus shelter.

**642. FOOTPATH 20**

Someone has installed a stile on Footpath 20 without the knowledge of MTC and they have put barbed wire along the top of the stile making it difficult for walkers to avoid. Photographs have been taken and forwarded to the BCBC Rights of Way manager for advice as to what MTC can do.

Response 27/04/2023: *Thank you for your email enquiring if the Rights of Way team has any idea who might have recently installed a stile on Footpath 20 Maesteg. I've noted that you're concerned that barbed wire has also been placed across the top of the stile.*

*I'm afraid I don't know who has carried out this work and I'm unable to confirm with our officer as she is on leave at the moment. Looking at the photos it looks as though the bottom part of the stile, where the step board is, is original and the person who's carried out the work has just added a post and two new cross pieces possibly to make it more stock prof. Hence the barbed wire too.*

*As you are no doubt aware landowners are generally responsible for the maintenance of structures on public rights of way and therefore, in the first instance, we'll need to determine who owns the land and whether they carried out the work. A ROW officer will also carry out a site inspection and then approach the landowner and/or tenant if there is one, to determine if they would agree to the stile being replaced with a pedestrian or kissing gate. They will also be advised that the barbed wire needs to be removed immediately.*

**RESOLVED:** to note the information

**643. REQUEST FOR USE OF BUILDING**

Request received from Bridgend Carers Centre to help them with their accommodation needs. The Centre is currently based in Park Street and provides services support and advice to unpaid carers across Bridgend County Borough. They need to vacate their current premises and are looking at the possibility of delivering some of their activities at alternative locations across the county borough, ideally working in partnership with like-minded community organisations.

In the first instance we're looking for a large space for tai chi Zumba etc (1 hour, regular weekly slot) and also one or 2 smaller rooms we could rent as offices. Do you have anything suitable please, and if so what would the charges be?

Clerk has advised: Maesteg Town Council have a large room available that is free to Charities / community groups / schools to use. Unfortunately, we don't have any spare offices available.

Clerk requests Council to look at the 2 upstairs offices to the front of the building that are supposed to be utilised by Special Families, who to date have brought some furniture to the building but have not used the rooms that they requested them in 1<sup>st</sup> June 2021 – see minute 45. Members requested that the Clerk write to Special Families and ask if they intend to use the offices as there are now other community groups asking to use the rooms.

**RESOLVED:** Write to Special Families and ask if they intend to use the offices as there are now other community groups asking to use the rooms.

**644. AGENDA ITEM 10  
TO NOMINATE AND AGREE MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES FOR 2023-24 TO BE RATIFIED AT ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING TO BE HELD ON 16TH MAY 2023.**

Members were provided with the list of committees that need to be agreed before the AGM, in order that the committees are confirmed at the AGM.

Nominations were received and agreed for 2023/24 Committees to be ratified at the AGM. Clerk advised that these would also be sent to members who were unable to attend this evenings meeting to check they are happy to be on the committees.

**RESOLVED:** Committees to be ratified at AGM on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2023.

**645. AGENDA ITEM 11  
TO CONSIDER THE TENDERS FOR THE AUDIO UPGRADE IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER**

The following companies were contacted to provide a tender to upgrade the sound system in the Council Chamber:

- Audio Visual Direct (AVD)
- Total Sound Solutions
- London Audio Visual Info
- Spartan Audio
- A2B Audio Visual
- Televic
- VP-AV

Members were provided with quotes ranging from £15,000 to £30,000. It was agreed that the Clerk approach the tenders for a demonstration of the microphones that they are offering and also ask our IT contractor their opinion on the quotes before the Council proceeds.

**RESOLVED:**

- Request the tender companies visit a Council meeting to give a demonstration of the microphones that they are offering
- Ask ITCS for their opinion on the quotes received before the Council proceeds.

## 646. **FINANCIAL APPLICATIONS**

Members were provided with application forms from the following organisations:

### **1. Ysgol Cynwyd Sant**

Date received: 21/04/2023

Request £300 to develop provision for outdoor education on site

- We're in the process of planning and purchasing an outdoor classroom
- We also plan on developing the entire area to include; seating, planters, pond, fencing etc..

Recent bank statement provided.

Last received S137 funding in January 2022

**RESOLVED:** Council to donate the sum of £300 under Section 137 of the Local Government Act (as amended)

### **2. MacMillan Cancer Support**

Date received: 26/04/2023

Request an amount at Town Council discretion.

Your donation will enable our services to continue providing the right support at the right time to people affected by cancer in the local community and provide one-off patient grants for people with a cancer diagnosis in these challenging times and beyond.

Please see our current Annual Report 2021 to read more about our charity and the work we do. [Service update - Macmillan Cancer Support](#)

Last received S137 funding in April 2021 (£200)

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

### **3. Maesteg Bowling Club**

Date received: 28/04/2023

Request £623.00 towards purchasing new kit for additional, disability provisions for older + double amputee member. The club is also seeking grant funding from Disability Wales

Provided a copy of most recent accounts and a recent bank statement provided.

1<sup>st</sup> time to apply for S137 grant funding

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

**647. DELEGATES REPORT**

No delegates reports received

**RESOLVED:** To note the information

**648. PLANNING**

The following application had no objections:

Ref: P/23/217/FUL

Applicant: Mrs S King

Location: 12 Pentyla, Maesteg, CF34 0BB

Proposal: First floor rear extension, front dormer extension and associated works

Ask for: Lee Evans

**Minutes emailed to Councillors to Read on 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2023**

**Minutes accepted at a Hybrid meeting of the Council held on 6<sup>th</sup> June 2023**

.....  
Mayor