

**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, 4th July 2023**

PRESENT:

COUNCILLORS:

R Martin (Mayor)

F Abedalkarim, R Collins, AR Davies, C Davies, P Davies,
A James, P Jenkins, C Knight, A Le Geyt,

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

APOLOGIES:

Apologies were received from Cllrs L Thomas and G 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.

Cllr M Rowlands declared an interest in the summer play schemes discussion

Cllrs AR Davies and A James declared an interest in matters pertaining to Caerau Market Garden and Caerau Primary School.

Cllr G Thomas declared an interest in an S137 grant application for Sian Dixon dance school

86. POLICE MATTERS

PCSO Banks of SW Police attended the meeting and provided the following crime figures;

Maesteg Crime Statistics for June 2023

	Caerau / Nanty	Maesteg East	Maesteg West	Llan	Total in category
Robbery	0	0	0	0	0
Drugs	3	0	0	0	3
Dwelling burglary	1	0	2	0	3
Burglary other	0	1	0	1	2
Theft of vehicle	0	0	1	0	1
Theft from vehicle	1	0	0	0	1
All other theft	1	18 (1 att)	5	0	24
Damage	4	5	5	1	15
Violence against The person	31 (10)	23 (3)	24 (5)	3	81 (18)
Domestic related Occurrences	8	7	6	1	22

All crime total	41	47	37	5	131
ASB total	15	6	10	0	31
Drink Driving	0	1	0	0	1

Members raised the following:

- 18 thefts in Maesteg East seems excessive – this is likely shoplifting in Tesco, Asda and Poundland
- Barnardo street stabbing, could you elaborate? – it wasn't a stabbing, this singular house continues to raise concerns, SWP cannot act unless they have information from local residents whereby, they can then pursue a warrant
- Bryn-Celyn care home experienced some fly-tipping and children were running around with a pickaxe – again must report to SWP for them to investigate
- A local resident around Sian Dixon dance school was intoxicated and blurting out offensive and derogatory statements to children who attend the school. – The person has since been relocated
- Car parking on pavements – must be reported to SWP for action to be taken, in extreme circumstances SWP can tow cars away but general pavement parking would not be authorised

RESOLVED: Members thanked PCSO Banks for her attendance

87. TO RECEIVE THE MAYORS REPORT

The Mayor advised that she attended the following events:

- Bridgend Colleges' awards ceremony which was brilliant.
- Golden Wedding Anniversary
- Diamond Wedding Anniversary

RESOLVED: to note the information

88. 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 – 06/06/2023 emailed 09/06/2023
- Extraordinary Council – 08/06/2023 emailed 09/06/2023

The minutes of the **Standing Orders Committee – 13/06/2023 emailed 14/06/2023** minutes were read, and recommendations discussed with the following observations:

- 1.) Add to section 3 - Meetings Generally; video to be on at all times for Councillors who are attending online. Members discussed this with some agreeing and some disagreeing to the recommendation.

Cllr P Jenkins provided an **amendment** to the proposed recommendation, seconded by Cllr R Penhale-Thomas, that members turn their camera on when

speaking and turn it off when finished. The following vote took place on the amendment;

Cllr	Agree/Disagree	Cllr	Agree/Disagree
FA	Agree	CK	Agree
IW	Agree	CD	Agree
GT	Disagree	PJ	Agree
ALG	Agree	RM	Agree
RC	Agree	MR	Agree
RPT	Agree	ARD	Abstain
AJ	Abstain	PD	Agree

Results:

- 11 – Agreed to the amendment
- 2 – Abstained from the vote.

Following the above results, the **Amendment** stands and the proposal falls. Therefore the standing orders will be updated with members being required to turn their cameras on when talking if attending online.

- 2.) Discuss Financial Controls and Procurement Standing Order 18-d.iii; the relevance of newspaper ads for tenders – members agreed that this was not required in today’s day and age and to omit this from the standing orders.
- 3.) That Council adopt the new Standing Orders as provided – members had several queries;
 - Standing Order 3.v (pg10) **a meeting shall not exceed a period of 2.5 hours** – members were reminded of this.
 - Standing Order 5.c (pg11) **the AGM must commence at 6pm** whereas MTC usually start at 6:30pm. It was confirmed that this was a statutory requirement so we cannot change this.
 - Standing Order 12.a (pg 17) **If the draft minutes of a preceding meeting have been served on councillors with the agenda to attend the meeting at which they are due to be approved for accuracy, they shall be taken as read** – members advised that there is no requirement to go through each minute.
 - Standing Order 18.c (pg22) **A public contract regulated by the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 with an estimated value in excess of £25,000 but less than the relevant thresholds referred to in standing order 17(f) is subject to the “light touch” arrangements under Regulations 109-114 of the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 unless it proposes to use an existing list of approved suppliers (framework**

agreement). The current threshold in MTC Financial Regulations is much lower than the statutory amount. The finance committee discuss this and report back to council.

- Standing Order 24 (pg25 + 26) **COMMUNICATING WITH COUNTY BOROUGH OR COUNTY COUNCILLORS**. Members agreed not to communicate paperwork to BCBC members who are not on Maesteg Town Council as all minutes and agendas are published online.

MATTERS ARISING

89. MINUTE 34

CAERAU WARD FUNDS

07/06/23: Lest we forget benches ordered – will take 4-6 weeks to be delivered.

Soil for Noddfa planters – Clerk advised that Noddfa require soil for the planters that were paid for from the Caerau ward specific fund. A member asked if the monies would come from last years ward funds. It was advised that the soil would be from this years ward funds as costings were not received prior to this financial year. Cllr A James will meet with Noddfa to discuss numbers when it comes to amount of soil required.

RESOLVED: to await information on amount of soil to be purchased

90. MINUTE 39

LIFT MAINTENANCE

07/06/23: Emailed new contractor to proceed with the necessary repairs to the lift.

21/06/23: Contractor on site to repair the lift but intermittent faults occurring

03/07/23: Contractor on site to repair lift – new parts ordered

RESOLVED: to note the information

91. MINUTE 40

BUS SHELTERS COMMERCIAL STREET

Still waiting for update from BCBC Public Transport Officer

RESOLVED: to note the information

92. MINUTE 42

DOG POO BAGS REQUESTS

Spreadsheet created with the following breakdown for 2023-24:

RESOLVED: to note the information

93. MINUTE 92

DOG WASTE BAGS REQUESTS:

The following table to be added to the minutes

Dog Waste Bag Allocations

FINANCIAL YEAR 2023-24			
Organisation	Apr-23	May-23	Jun-23
Maesteg Library			2
CDT		4	
Noddfa			
Special Families	8		
Caerau Market Garden		6	
MAWS	4	4	4
Caerau Menshed			
Llan Middle CC		2	
TOTAL BOXES	12	16	6

94. MINUTE 45 REFERRALS – Nantyffyllon Bus Shelter

5 companies contacted to provide quotes for the repair of Nantyffyllon bus shelter and to install the concrete plinths for the benches that have been ordered (2 x Caerau, 1 x Ffordd Dysgu). To date we are awaiting the quotes.

RESOLVED: to await quotes

95. MINUTE 48 MAESTEG GLEEMEN STORAGE

07/06/23: Telephone conversation with South Wales Miners Museum and they are happy to have the display back in full. I did mention the size of the display and they remember how big it was and are still happy to receive it.

Cllrs C Davies and P Davies may be able to source a vehicle to move the display so if you are able to do so that would be great, the best days are Tuesday and Wednesday as the museum is closed the rest of the week. If you let us know we can all help to pack the van.

Following the above email sent to all Members, received a telephone call from Mr T Beedle a trustee of the Nantyffyllon Miners Institute who are requesting whether they can have the Vernon Hartshorn Exhibition on a permanent basis. South Wales miner's museum were contacted and are thrilled that the exhibition will have a permanent home within the Llynfi Valley.

Further correspondence from South Wales Miners Museum to advise they will remove the exhibition. The exhibition was collected on 13/06/2023.

21/06/2023: items brought to MTC unit – requested assistance from CMO

RESOLVED: to note the information

96. MINUTE 54
TO BUDGET TRAINING AS A SEPARATE BUDGET LINE AND NOT TO INCLUDE IT WITHIN GENERAL FEES

New budget line added and money moved from General fees to Training. Note that now the General Fees budget line is overspent by £1,334.00 and the Audit fees for 2021-22 are due to be paid (£345.00).

TRAINING - CiLCA TRAINING

Clerk & Deputy Clerk have been given a bursary from Welsh Government to complete the building your CiLCA portfolio course (CiLCA Webinar Training) as you are a Wales CiLCA bursary applicant.

Please book on to the building your CiLCA portfolio course you would like to attend from the links below before the expiry date of promo code runs out.

When you have attended the first session of the CiLCA Webinar Training course you will be then sent the code to use to register for the CiLCA qualification. Please note that you have 12 months from registration to complete your qualification

Thank you for booking Wales Building Your CiLCA Portfolio Course on the following dates:

Session 1 1 st September 2023 2pm – 4pm	Core Roles in Local Council Administration
Session 2 6 th October 2023 2pm – 4pm	Law and Procedures for Local Councils, includes LO7 under GPOC
Session 3 3 rd November 2023 2pm – 4pm	Finance for Local Councils
Session 4 1 st December 2023 2pm – 4pm	Management for Local Councils
Session 5 12 th January 2024 2pm – 4pm	Community Engagement
Session 6 26 th January 2024 2pm – 4pm	Recap session: Opportunity to discuss any Learning Outcomes (LOs) you may need clarification on.

The office will be open to the public from 11am until 1pm on these dates.

RESOLVED: to note the information

97. MINUTE 57
FUN RUN

EPM Creative have engaged with OGI who will attend the keeper of the colliery fun run and family day on 9th July 2023. £250 grant should be received by the end of June 2023.

The following organisations have agreed to be part of the family fun day:

- Llynfi Woodland Group
- Maesteg Branch RBL are keen to have a stall at the Family Fun Day – details forwarded to EPM Creative
- Ogmores Valley Silver Band are keen to attend the Family Fun Day for a small fee – details forwarded to EPM Creative
- FunkForce
- Maesteg Ukulele

EPM has been contacted by Maesteg Comp to advise that there is a small sink hole along the path where the Race starts. The school have cordoned it off and there should be enough room to start the race further along the path.

In addition to EPM have also been contacted by Yr Hen Blwyf running club asking why their logo isn't on any of the posters or website? Not sure why they have asked this as they are not contributing towards the event, however EPM has added their logo to the website.

BCBC have requested an event plan for ESAG - see below itinerary for the day:

Itinerary

7.00	Arrive on site
8.00	Rides, stalls arrive on site
8.45	Race Registration opens
9.00	Road show begins, Rides and children's games begin
10.00	10k starts
10.30	5k starts
10.45	Runners begin to return and medals awarded
11.00	Characters and Fairy twinkle arrive
12.00	Funk Force Dancers
13.00	Maesteg Ukulele Club
14.00	Ogmores Valley Silver Band
15.00	Children's games and characters
16.00	Event ends – Clear site

N.B. In addition to the above the following will be having stalls/stands:

- OGI will be there hopefully with a bike giving free ice creams out
- Maesteg Branch Royal British Legion
- Llynfi Woodland Group

EPM asks that the Mayor attends to start the race and issue medals along with any Councillor who wishes to attend and assist giving the water and medals out.

EPM also asks that a debrief meeting be held with the Events Committee after the event to discuss the day and Christmas.

EPM have asked if MTC have a banner that could be used on the day of events to highlight that the event has been funded by Maesteg Town Council.
Suggested information:

Event funded by Maesteg Town Council + MTC Crest

RESOLVED: Members agreed that the clerk purchase roller banners to be used at events.

98. MINUTE 58

DAMAGE TO PICNIC TABLES ON CYCLE TRACK

06/06/23: Email received with photos to advise benches have been repaired by a local resident and forwarded to all members to advise that the CMO did not give access to the site, as he was waiting for the resident to let him know which day and time and offered to drive the resident in the van whilst he empties the litter bins on the cycle track.

07/06/23: Email received from Cllr P Davies to advise that the repairs were made by the Spirit of the Llynfi Group.

RESOLVED: to note the information

99. MINUTE 63

REQUEST FROM AWEN

Cllr C Davies has spoken to the officer from AWEN Cultural Trust and they only require MTC support for the project and no input required.

RESOLVED: to note the information

100. MINUTE 64

REQUESTS FROM CLLR C DAVIES

26/06/23: Deputy Clerk has painted 2 coats of paint onto the plyboard to the rear of the building.

RESOLVED: to note the information

101. MINUTE 65

REQUEST FROM CLLR R PENHALE-THOMAS

Clerk has added the location to the spring bulbs requests for 2023

RESOLVED: to note the information

102. MINUTE 67

CHRISTOPHER WILLIAMS PAINTINGS – FOI REQUEST

12/06/23: I write in respect of your request made on 12 May 2023.

Unfortunately, we are not in a position to respond at this time. We will endeavour to provide you with a response in the next 10 working days.

Please accept our apologies for the delay.

The 10 days elapsed so a chaser email was sent to which we received the following response;

Thank you for your email. Unfortunately, I have not yet received the information from the property department to allow me to respond to you. I have heard from colleague in Property who has advised that they are chasing this matter with the relevant officer. I can only apologise for the delay.

I can however advise you that if you wish to raise a complaint about the lack of response to your request, you can raise this with the Information Commissioner's Office.

A complaint was made to the ICO on 30th June 2023 with an up to 30 days response time to the request.

A member suggested that we return the paintings to BCBC as they offered them to Maesteg Council to house temporarily, the member stated that the Council offices are not a suitable place for the paintings with the varying temperatures and dry/damp conditions throughout the year.

Members agreed to send a final letter to BCBC and if no owner can be declared within 4 weeks of the letter being sent then Maesteg Town Council will assume ownership of the paintings.

RESOLVED: letter to be sent to BCBC to advise that if no owner can be declared within 4 weeks of the letter being sent then Maesteg Town Council will assume ownership of the paintings.

103. MINUTE 71

WEST WARD FUNDS - SPECIAL FAMILIES

07/06/23: 10 x Litter pickers and hoops ordered from Keep Wales Tidy

Litter pickers and hoops delivered to Special Families.

RESOLVED: to note the information

104. REQUEST TO CLEAR WEEDS 72

07/06/23: instructed CMO to trim the weeds

19/06/23: Cllr F Abedalkarim advised he had attended the lane and de-weeded the area.

Members requested that we check our liability insurance for volunteers in case of an accident. Members also agreed to pursue training for the CMO for weedkilling.

RESOLVED:

- Check insurance for volunteers
- To pursue weed spraying training for CMO

105. MINUTE 74

UPDATE ON BLAENCAERAU PLAYGROUND

13/06/23: Cllr M Rowlands telephoned Thomas & Thomas to book an appointment.

Cllr M Rowlands advised that Thomas and Thomas are waiting on information from V2C and will book us in for an appointment in due course

RESOLVED: To await an appointment with Thomas & Thomas

106. MINUTE 77

TO REVIEW KEY HOLDERS FOR MAESTEG TOWN COUNCIL BUILDING

12/06/23: Keys cut and given to Cllr F Abedalkarim

RESOLVED: to note the information

107. MINUTE 78

MEMBER ATTENDANCE FIGURES

07/06/23: Attendance figures added to the website:

<https://maestegcouncil.org/meetings-minutes/minutes-2022-2023/>

RESOLVED: to note the information

108. MINUTE 79

FINANCIAL APPLICATIONS

Letters of thanks received from the following:

- Curtain Up Youth Theatre
- SSAFA

RESOLVED: to note the information

109. MINUTE 80

DELEGATES REPORT – BUS ROUTE 37

16/06/23: email sent to Monmouth Borough Council

To date still waiting on Monmouth Borough Council. A member requested that we contact the transport officer for BCBC to move this along and proceed with the tendering process as per previous agreement.

RESOLVED: contact BCBC Transport Officer

110. MINUTE 83

ANNUAL RETURN OF ACCOUNTS YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

12/06/23: Completed form scanned and emailed to Audit Wales, awaiting confirmation as to where to deliver the documents for the FULL Audit.

13/06/23: Response from Audit Wales:

This audit notice is for councils subject to a triennial full audit for 2022-23.

Please read this email and the attachments carefully as they contain information that will help you with this year's audit. This audit notice is for councils subject to a triennial full audit for 2022-23.

Everything you need is included in the attachments to this email. Please do not contact Audit Wales for clarification or further information. One Voice Wales can provide additional advice if you need it.

Many of the documents have been provided to you already to enable you to prepare the annual return.

Further copies are provided here for completeness only. They are not updated copies and if you have already used the annual return sent last month then you do not need to complete the annual return attached to this email.

We are aiming to start our audit work in the week commencing 31 July. In order for us to manage the completion of audits, please submit your annual returns and supporting information as soon as possible.

Please make sure that you submit everything we have asked for. Please also check that the accounting statement adds up and that the bank reconciliation covers all of the council's accounts and cash balances.

14/06/23: Following the above Clerk confirmed to Members that we have prepared all the requested information and have placed them into files and boxes.

Have a choice of Swansea (19.5 miles away from MTC) or Cardiff (30.4 miles away from MTC) to deliver the files.

The Notice of Electors rights was received and published onto the website on 19/06/2023. Dates of which are 10th July – 4th August 2023, therefore the files will now be taken to the Audit Wales Swansea office on Monday 7th August 2023.

RESOLVED: to note the information

110. LIST OF PAYMENTS FOR THE MONTH OF JUNE 2023

RESOLVED:

That the tables of **Expenditure (£19,263.30) Income (£3,463.95)** during the month of June 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 June 2023 totalling **£5,879.58**
- A copy of the Receipts and Payments Account which includes expenditure against the budget and the budget remaining and an income analysis.

A member mentioned that soon the toilet outside of Wilkos will be gone and we have nothing to replace it with. They advised that it be prudent for the projects committee meet to discuss an alternative. Clerk and Cllr P Jenkins will liaise to arrange a projects committee meeting.

Cllr G Thomas requested that the council tax bill be referred to the finance committee to look into prior to any payment being made.

CMO Summary

The month of June 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:
Fp. 2a, 15, 20, 24, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 45a, 46, 47, 48, 52, 57, 64, 76, Bridge Street to Castle Street steps
- Milage at start of month – 56,083 at end 56,319 (236 total miles)
- FP 27 – placed chippings down to prevent water gathering after heavy rains
- Notified office about broken picnic benches, inspected others and they were satisfactory
- Discussion with work experience person, took them on a short tour and showed them the role of the CMO
- Collected fuel for strimmer from Aberkenfig
- New Tyre – old one burst on cycle track
- De-weeded around Council Office building
- Delivered dog waste bags to office (10), special families (8), CDT (4), Maws (2), Caerau Men's Shed (6) and Llan Middle CC (2)
- Inspected fly tipping to rear of Carmen street
- Delivered Gazebos to Caerau Primary
- Took Van for MOT – passed
- Took van for a motorway drive to burn off excess carbon as per mechanic recommendation to clear DPF filter.

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 and Llynfi Rd car park
- Inspect and, where necessary, cut back overgrowth or clear debris on rights of ways

CORRESPONDENCE

111. NEWSLETTERS / FLYERS / BRIEFING NOTES/ CONSULTATIONS

Emailed to all Councillors for information:

- WLGA 20mph Communications and Engagement Toolkit
- Welsh Government Local Land Charges (Fees) (Wales) Rules 2020
- One Voice Wales June 2023 Bulletin
- Historic Environment Update 28
- Welsh Government - Infrastructure (Wales) Bill 2023
- Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW) -- Job vacancies x 2
- BCBC - Free Wi-Fi in Maesteg Town Centre
- BCBC Employability - Positive Pathways Wellbeing Event - 29th June 11am – 3pm The Bowls Hall, Halo Bridgend
- Vacancy-- Board Associate - Welsh Revenue Authority x 2
- Welsh Government - Consultation on extending the term of office for the Older People's Commissioner for Wales from 4 to 7 years
- Welsh Government - Procurement Bill Secondary Legislation: Consultation Launch – Part One
- SW Fire & Rescue – Have your say - The closing date for responses is Friday 30 June 2023.

RESOLVED: to note the information

112. PUBLIC TOILET – REAR OF MTC BUILDING

07/06/23: Emailed members to advise whilst the Cleaner was cleaning the disabled WC this morning there was excrement sandwiched between the underneath of the toilet seat and the ceramic of the toilet and up the back towards the flush handle also.

14/06/23: Emailed members again to advise that the cleaner was met by excrement sandwiched between the underneath of the toilet seat and the ceramic of the toilet and up the back towards the flush handle in the disabled toilet. A person around town was talking to her and said it was in the same state yesterday (13/06/23). The cleaner has advised people who notice the toilet in such a state to close it off until it can be cleaned.

The cleaner has said that this is becoming a daily thing and has mentioned that she may not do this much longer unless things change.

Outside of the measures already taken with local PCSO's etc, if members have other suggestions to explore, we would be happy to hear them

Members relayed their frustration in regards to the continuous issues with cleanliness in the disabled toilet. A member suggested that the Council look into vandal proof toilets where the area can be hosed down without the need for the cleaner to get too close to excrement and other waste. Members agreed to refer this to the projects committee and then relay plans to the architect. In addition to this it was also discussed to place a notice in the toilet similar to that of when the portable toilets were used to advise:

*This toilet has been provided by Maesteg Town Council for public use.
It is the responsibility of each individual who uses the toilet for their own cleanliness and hygiene.*

Maesteg Town Council cannot be held responsible for the misuse of these facilities.

RESOLVED: To create a poster to be placed into the toilet

113. REFERRALS

- **Court Street vehicle access lane** - We received a complaint today from a resident of Court Street, they were saying that many people use the access only lane to the rear of the street without a need to and speed up and down at all hours. (SW Police & BCBC contacted)

Response from SWP: Thank you for bringing this to my attention. This lane has been used in this way as long as I can remember as a short cut up to Neath Road from town.

I would suggest blocking it off would not be a helpful solution but maybe a speed bump would be effective

BCBC response: Unfortunately, the contravention of the Access only order is classed as a moving traffic offence, which is a criminal matter, that only South Wales Police can deal with offending drivers, and we would request that you contact them directly with your concerns in order for them to investigate the matter

- **Traffic Lights at crossroad junction of Commercial Street, Talbot Street, Neath Rd and Llynfi Rd** - A member of public has complained that the traffic light timings for people to cross is not long enough for those with physical disabilities additionally the volume of the crossing is not loud enough for those with hearing difficulties.

16/06/23 Response: Thank you for your email, I have passed this concern onto the relevant department.

RESOLVED: to note the information

114. WELSH WATER – LLYNFI ROAD TOILET

Welsh water provided the 24th July as the earliest date to disconnect the water and sewerage. There is no fee to disconnect but will be £35 to reconnect if required. They will contact us in the meantime if there is an earlier slot that becomes available

RESOLVED: to note the information

115. NOTICE OF WORKS TO THE BUILDING

13/06/2023 received the following email from Dawsons Stonemasonry;

‘Please see attached our proposed programme for the parapet section of the works at Maesteg Town Council Offices. I have managed to tie down the scaffolders plumbers so that we can get these works done in August (hopefully ahead of any bad weather). I am mindful of the amount of lead we will be installing, so have geared the works around getting this section finished and the scaffold dropped below the parapet level for security. We can then pick up the remaining works to the North Elevation. There are other items of works on the North Elevation which we will pick up but for clarity I have left these off the programme for now.

The works to the remaining elevations will then commence mid-October and I am just finishing off the full programme for these works which I will forward shortly.’

RESOLVED: to note the information

116. QUERY REGARDING PLANTERS OUTSIDE SPORTS CENTRE

A member of the public called into the offices and asked if Maesteg Town Council has permission to source the filling of the planters for the Sports Centre as it is BCBC land but a not-for profit company is managing it. We confirmed that permission was granted from the manager at Halo leisure centre. The Deputy Clerk also contacted the manager who confirmed that no agreement needs to be signed with BCBC as they are charged with the maintenance of the land that goes right up to Tesco car park.

Cllr R Collins extended his thanks to the Council for their permission for this project and especially Cllr AR Davies and A James for their support from Caerau Market garden in de-weeding and filling the planters with flowers.

RESOLVED: to note the information

117. CAERAU WARD FUND REQUEST

Cllr P Davies has requested fly tipping to be removed from the lane to rear of 1 to 7 Carman Street, Caerau, Maesteg. CMO has visited the site and estimates a 1-2 day to clear the waste and it will need to be taken to Nolan Recycling.

Council agreed to the use of ward funds for the removal of fly tipping. Clerks will ask the CMO for his opinion on what he can remove and look at employing a waste carrier if there is any remaining.

RESOLVED: to proceed with removing the fly tipping

118. MAESTEG BRANCH ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

The Chairman of the Maesteg Branch RBL has confirmed that Remembrance Sunday will be on Sunday 12th November 2023. They will be using the same route for the parade as per 2022. The RBL have redesigned the wreaths making them more environmentally friendly and recyclable. The Maesteg Branch RBL will be ordering wreaths for 2023 shortly and they will be stored in the basement of MTC as per previous years.

The Maesteg Branch RBL are hoping to have a stall at the Family Fun Day on 9th July whereby they will have items available (old schools kits – slap band rulers, erasers etc) for donations

RESOLVED: to note the information

119. UPDATE TO MTC CREST

15/06/2023 We received the following email;

I'm contacting you on behalf of a local graphics designer. Below is an updated version (preview) of the coat of arms for Maesteg Town Council. We are wondering if the council would be interested in purchasing the coat of arms from Dylan Davies who is a local graphics designer from Maesteg.

The designer would be looking for £180 for the logo. As you can imagine there was some time spent updating the coat of arms as it's very detailed and the copy online is of poor quality and low resolution. However, that said it would be of great value to the council with a modern uptake of the logo for use of the website and social media accounts.



New



Current

Members agreed to the purchasing of the new logo as most paperwork is now digital. A member requested that we ask the designer for the logo in different formats and ensure it's a vector image so it can be resized without losing quality.

RESOLVED: to proceed with the new designed logo

120. REQUEST FROM CLLR F ABEDALKARIM

I received a message today from member of the public who lives on Bridgend Road requesting a speed display screen to monitor speeding cars and might help, reduce

speed in Bridgend Road. I would like to ask all members in this chamber again, please support the idea of installing speed display screen and make residents living in Bridgend Road feeling safe.

Deputy Clerk advised: BCBC have advised against introducing any speed monitoring / calming measures until the new 20mph limit comes into force in September. BCBC also advised that they do not support signs that flash a drivers speed as certain people try to get the highest number possible on them – making the problem considerably worse. There are some GDPR issues with other types of speed signs we are advised as well, when the new limit is in place we do have problem roads that need revisiting but, as mentioned, nothing will be done before September.

Maesteg East members have been battling for speed calming measures on Bridgend Road for years and the red tape surrounding putting anything in place is astounding. Perhaps you can ask Martin for his advice on this matter from a BCBC point of view. A member advised that during his many dealings with BCBC for traffic calming on Heol ty Gwyn, it is apparent that nothing will be done until the new 20mph speed limit comes into effect. The member suggested adding Bridgend Road to a list to be considered in the future

RESOLVED: To await the new 20mph speed limit them approach BCBC

121. REQUEST FROM CLLR C DAVIES

Can I put on the agenda for next MTC meeting the effect on the Llynfi Valley by the Bryn Wind farm please and to seek more information about this as I am having a lot of questions that I can't answer.

Deputy Clerk has advised: This has come up in planning applications over the past couple of years. I'm not sure now if it's too late for the current load of consultations and if anymore will take place but we can add it into the paperwork for you for members opinions.

Cllr R Lewis received a query also;

I received this email on Saturday evening. Whilst I understand and share this person's concerns, I am unsure what they think we as a Town Council can do in this matter, especially as it is from outside our County borough, and is indeed a sensitive subject. I do remember speaking to her in this matter some fourteen months or so ago though. Would it be possible to schedule this for discussion at the next meeting of MTC please? Kind regards, Rob

Hope you are well, as you know there is going to be a proposed wind farm in Bryn and Garnwen Mountain, the turbines will be Meter's from people's homes in Nantyffyllon which impact greatly and more so than the residents of Bryn. I don't think the people of Maesteg as a whole are aware of the implications to the mountain and residents health and well beings.

Could you liaise with other councillors no matter what party they support and all take to Maesteg Council that an Urgent meeting be called so that residents can voice their concerns, We are not against wind farms as we need renewal energy but the removal of trees alone would not help the environment, we are asking for them to be relocated maybe onshore as was the original plan with other British and Irish Governments. Sent from Nantyffyllon resident.

Clerk has advised members:

Following below and other emails received from other Cllrs and residents I have telephone NPTCBC Planning department who have advised the following:

- The Y Bryn Windfarm is at the PRE-APPLICATION stage
- The Consultation is until 17th July 2023
- The attached Consultation newsletter has been delivered to every household within Llynfi Valley and there was a public consultation event at Maesteg Sports Centre on 12th June 2023 2pm – 7pm
- Residents need to send their comment on the PRE-APPLICATION to email: info@ybryn-windfarm.co.uk / Telephone: 0800 699 0081 (Freephone) by 17th JULY 2023
- Neither BCBC Planning or NPTCBC Planning have any say on the application
- PEDW (Planning Environment Decisions Wales) are the Welsh Government Body responsible for this type of application
- More information can be found <https://www.ybryn-windfarm.cymru/>

Unfortunately, there is nothing MTC can do regarding the consultation except to send in the comment from the resident (would need permission from the resident to give their personal details out)

RESOLVED: to note the information

122. COMPLAINT - "BENCH BETWEEN WILKINSONS AND PLASNEWYDD SCHOOL"

Hello I would like to make a complaint against the group with leaflets that sit on the bench by Aldi carpark all day long. I am disabled and have gone to use that bench 7 times now and have been unable because of this group! They have no thought for the elderly and disabled like myself who may need to use that bench when they are struggling to walk! It's ridiculous.

Clerk has advised: Unfortunately, Maesteg Town Council are unable to assist with this request as we do not have any powers to move people along. I'm sure if you asked them to move, they would alternatively you can contact SW Police who do have powers to move people from areas.

RESOLVED: to note the information

123. BCBC UPDATE - WEED SPRAYING IN MAESTEG

In respect of the weed spraying in Maesteg, BCBC Town Centre manager has spoken to Highways and apparently this work was recently done in Maesteg, but it will take a while for them to die back. Hope that helps.

RESOLVED: to note the information

124. SUMMER PLAYSCHMES

We are making plans currently in regard to offering the annual summer programme of free holiday activities that Maesteg Town Council has traditionally supported.

This has involved free access to programmes at Maesteg sports centre, supported by halo and also at Caerau which would once again be supported by Noddfa.

The support has always been gratefully appreciated by young people, their families and communities.

Could you confirm if the Town Council wishes to continue their support for the coming summer please.

Clerk has advised that MTC will support the summer playschemes in 2023.

RESOLVED: to note the information

125. REQUEST FROM CLLR C DAVIES

I want to invite a group of 10 children of the Nanttyffyllon school council to visit the council chambers with perhaps a small buffet? The reason being after I received an email off them requesting dropped kerbs at the school entrance for wheelchair access which was successful after I contacted BCBC.

Clerk has previously advised that any school council is welcome to use the Council Chamber and that the school has to contact Clerk to advise of date.

Deputy Clerk advised Cllr C Davies - That's no problem, what date are you thinking? Who is arranging the buffet? Cllr C Davies advised: I will pay for the buffet and will advise you of date.

Members agreed to extend the invitation to the chamber to all schools within the boundary and fund buffets through the Council – not the ward funds.

RESOLVED: to contact schools to advise they can use Chamber for School Council meetings.

126. USE OF LAND: BRIDGE STREET, MAESTEG

The Council expression of interest for the land at Bridge Street, Maesteg was discussed at the CAT Steering Group on Friday 23rd June and the expression of

interest was approved for progression, but it was advised that the following access restrictions should be noted by the Town Council, which may impact

- There is no vehicular access to the site;
- The site becoming an ecological area.

In order to proceed with the potential transfer, a development plan should be prepared, which will be considered by the CAT Steering Group once complete.

I hope this is helpful and we look forward to receiving the development plan.

Clerk asked for advice how we proceed with the development plan as we are not developers with the following response:

The Town Council will need to provide a brief outline of what you intend to do with the site and associated capital cost together with 5-year revenue projections to confirm the project is sustainable.

Cllr F Abedalkarim: I am very grateful that the project is moving forward . It will be a good idea in my opinion if you reply to BCBC and remind them again that the land will be used as Children soft play area/ picnic area to improve the lifestyle of families and communities living in the area . I don't know what BCBC means by five years plan. I have copied Cllr Martin Hughes for this update. Thank you

Cllr P Jenkins: Thank you ever so much given the advice of it being an ecological site, would my idea of a natural park with shrubs benches winding walkways, bird boxes, wildflowers, etc be worth discussing, or knocking on the head. Could you ascertain as to what exactly their idea of an ecological site would be please. Clerk may I remind you and Cllrs that no decision on its use has yet been formally laid out, voted upon sanctioned by full council, and formally approved for moving forward, No costings or oncost yet obtained. A principle was discussed and only the expression of interest IN THE ARE WAS SANCTIONED. I therefore object to us telling BCBC IT WILL BE USED AS A SOFT PLAY AREA. BY ALL MEANS ASK WOULD IT MEET THEIR CRITERIA FOR USE AS A PLAY PARK, KICK ABOUT AREA. SUBJECT TO RESIDENTS CONSULTATION OF COURSE.

Members discussed the meaning of 'ecological site' and potential uses and limitations of the land. It was agreed to continue discussions with BCBC on what permissions they would grant for the land and then it go to the projects committee.

RESOLVED: contact BCBC to ascertain meaning of ecological site.

127. VAN INSURANCE

The CMO van insurance expires on 22nd July. We have obtained the following **like for like** quotes;

Company	Quote Amount
Dial Direct	£497.54

Admiral	£697.84
Ford Pro	£709.25
Admiral Little Box	£868.52
Gladiator	£930.15

RESOLVED: Members agreed to pursue insurance with Dial Direct

128. MAYORS CONSORT CHAIN

KMP Jeweller has advised that it will cost approximately £1000.00 to reproduce the Mayors Consort chain in solid silver.

Cllr G Thomas **proposed**, seconded by Cllr F Abedalkarim, that the Council purchase the new mayors consort chain. Cllr R Penhale-Thomas wanted his objections to this purchase noted. Other Cllrs asked if the current chain could be refurbished, they were advised that the current consort chain is made of a cheap metal and the jeweller attempted to clean it but it took the silver plate off, re-gilding it is also not an option due to the cheapness of the metal.

The Mayor also added that the velvet collar on the Mayors Chain is in desperate need of replacing and this can be purchased online and the Mayor will sew the chain to the new velvet collar.

RESOLVED:

- to proceed with purchasing a new Mayor's Consort Chain
- to proceed with purchasing a new velvet collar for the Mayor's Chain

129. MAESTEG EAST WARD REQUEST – CLLR F ABEDALKARIM

Weedgrowth: Footpath 37 From Pondmawr to Mill View, Maesteg

I am forwarding email received from Cllr Martin Hughes this morning. I am happy to help the CMO in this matter.

Please could you refer the above to Maesteg Town Council as a possible project to be funded out of the Maesteg East Ward Fund, or by other means?

Local residents have drawn my attention to the condition of the path which, although in a good state generally, has a build-up of weed growth along its length.

Members agreed to the CMO strimming this lane. It was mentioned that there are lots of lanes such as these in Maesteg and asked if the CMO is to clear all of them? Another member mentioned that last month, when the path was to be cleared, it was said that this may open the floodgates and we only have 1 CMO to deal with this and there are many more lanes to come to council

RESOLVED: Ask CMO to trim the overgrowth

130. REQUEST FROM CLLR C DAVIES

Is it possible that you can order 3 banners for the classic car show in August we will order the flyers?

RESOLVED: To proceed with the purchase of 3 banners for the classic car show.

131. WARM COAT FOR CHILDREN SCHEME

Email received: I am considering operating a warm coat for children scheme, after the initiative of Warm hubs of last winter, where unfortunately nothing was done to support children walking to school in the cold and the wet, this scheme is to support all children whose family are impacted by low income, no school transport, families who receive School Uniform grant, and families who are just above the income threshold for claiming benefits who are struggling with increase energy bills, rent and mortgage payments and the overall cost of living crisis. Weather proof warm coats are expensive and these needy families are unable to afford them, hence I am starting this scheme to support those children and their families

I would have loved to run this scheme from the Uniform Swap Shop, but unfortunately, I have no storage room to accommodate this scheme

This is another much needed scheme for our valley, that needs to be in place by the Autumn to provide the children of needy families with the appropriate cold and wet weather clothing for children to commute to school and access community resources.

The scheme will be run by volunteer staff, and the scheme will run on the same basis as our Uniform Swap Shop, based solely on donation and gifting of warm coats.

Therefore, I am looking for a room close to the uniform swap shop to operate from, for one or two mornings a week, to start, and to calculate the usage, the scheme does not have an income and therefore we need somewhere that would offer us a room or a small level of accommodation free of charge to start this scheme.

Therefore, I am respectfully asking Maesteg Town Council as my primary choice, to see if you could offer anything by way of accommodation or support for this charitable scheme

Founder of Maesteg School Uniform Swap Shop

Members agreed to rent a room to the Uniform Swap Shop to store coats and to rent a van to clear the room next to Llan Middles office as it has large objects that will not fit in the CMO van.

RESOLVED: Advise that Uniform Swap Shop can use one of the rooms upstairs.

132. OGI BROADBAND

I have requested further information from our client on the proposed works, they have advised that the plan has changed slightly, and rather than the need for an MDU wall box, they intend to place a toby box up to the building from the existing BT underground chamber rather than the new Ogi chamber that will be placed on the public highway, as the route will be shorter and therefore less disruption.

The plan is to drop a Toby box outside of the building, this will be done by lifting the existing slabs and placing them back once works have completed.

This does however mean that the works will be within the title boundary of your property, and therefore permission in the form of a wayleave will be required. I have attached an updated wayleave document to this email that will replace the original request for an MDU wayleave.

Members discussed the request and it was noted that MTC should check with BCBC Conservation Officer to ascertain if this work is permissible due to the listed building status of the building before granting permission to OGI.

RESOLVED: check with BCBC Conservation Officer to ascertain if this work is permissible due to the listed building status of the building before granting permission to OGI.

133. REQUEST FROM CLLR M ROWLANDS

I have been in conversation with a local veteran who informs me of a local site in Maesteg where a WW2 spitfire war plane crashed looking over the Llynfi Valley.

Chris Morgan has located the site and marked it with a rock mound, but is keen for a permanent memorial to be placed there. I'd like to propose we look into this further with the possibility of establishing a permanent memorial. It would be of local and wider historical interest and a place to visit on walks in the area. We could work with Chris on this project, there are numerous memorials in other areas such as the Brecon Beacons.

RESOLVED: Members agreed to obtain further information on this and explore options Clerk to also forward the email with the links and photographs to all members.

134. REQUEST FROM CWMFELIN PRIMARY SCHOOL

Email received from the Friends of Cwmfelin Primary School.

We are hosting a summer Extravaganza event on Monday 17th July and are reaching out to organisations in the search of gazebos or marquees to borrow for this event. Do the council have or know of any we could borrow?

RESOLVED: Members agreed to lease out the gazebos to the Friends of Cwmfelin Primary School

135. TO CONSIDER 2022-23 ANNUAL REPORT

Members were provided with the 2022-23 annual report.

A member mentioned an amendment to be made on page 5 of the report to include the wording within our boundary when referring to schools. Members agreed to publish the annual report following the amendment.

RESOLVED: publish the annual report following the amendment.

136. FINANCIAL APPLICATIONS

Members were provided with application forms from the following organisations: Cllr G Thomas declared an interest in an S137 grant application for Sian Dixon dance school, therefore left the room and took no part in the discussion of the application.

1. Mothers Matter CIC

Date received: 19/06/2023

Request £500 for a sessional support worker. At Mothers Matter we support vulnerable mums, dads and families suffering with their perinatal mental health journey. We offer a community home support service, which is a free service where a support worker will visit the client at their home or at a community setting.

The aim of this service is to help support and guide families by working with them on a 10 week programme during these sessions we have self-love journals that we work through together, at the end of the programme we look back to see how much we have achieve, to empower them to attend groups, workshops to help tackle loneliness and isolation. We can offer free counselling sessions.

To date Mothers Matter have supported 5 families in Maesteg.

Recent bank statement provided.

1st application for S137 funding.

RESOLVED: Council to donate the sum of £250 under Section 137 of the Local Government Act (as amended)

2. 1st Llangynwyd Rainbows

Date received: 26/06/2023

Request £500 towards the purchase of additional learning materials, books, art & craft lessons and physical activity tasks for the children.

- We meet in Llangynwyd Primary School but we are the only Rainbows in the Maesteg area and take girls from all over
- The area. The school was happy that we continued to meet there when I took it over.
- 8 of the 12 girls come from the Maesteg area at the moment with 1 of the other girls coming from Cymmer and 3 coming from the Llangynwyd area.

I have attached a copy of the recent bank statement. I keep a certain amount in the bank as we have to pay a census to girlguiding every year for every child and adult within the unit. This year it is £54.00 per person and it goes up every year.

1st application for S137 funding

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

3. Sian Dixon School of Dance

Date received: 28/06/2023

The Grant will be used for the hire of head mics for the musical theatre section – Provided by Stage and Sound Services in Cardiff - £144.00

The remainder will go towards the purchase of costumes for the show (approximately 194 costumes will be used in this production).

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

137. DELEGATES REPORT

There were no delegates reports

138. PLANNING

The following applications had no objections:

Ref: P/23/283/FUL
 Applicant: Mrs J M McGeoch
 Location: 16 Llwydarth Cottages Llwydarth Road Maesteg CF34 9HA
 Proposal: First floor side extension
 Ask for: Richard Hawkey

Ref: P/23/370/FUL
 Applicant: Bethel Central Church
 Location: Bethel Central Church Church Street Maesteg CF34 9AA
 Proposal: Strip existing concrete roof tiles and replace with slate; install flush fitting solar panels to south elevation (in part) & construct toilet block with flat roof (inc accessible w.c.) to side elevation
 Ask for: Lee Evans

Ref: P/23/372/DPN
Applicant: Bridgend County Borough Council
Location: Block 5 Ysgol Cynwyd Sant Pen Yr Ysgol Maesteg CF34 9LN
Proposal: Prior notification for demolition of a two storey house (previously caretakers house)
Ask for: Steven Jenkins

Ref: P/23/378/FUL
Applicant: Mr R Jervis-Gibbons
Location: 20 Princess Street Maesteg CF34 9BD
Proposal: Removal of existing gate and coal house adjacent to the highway; erect 2 red brick gate posts and install new gate; removal of wooden fencing at the rear of the property adjacent to the highway and installation of a car parking space with access on to the lane
Ask for: Julie Earp

Ref: P/23/357/FUL
Applicant: Mr P Edwards
Location: 239 Bridgend Road Maesteg CF34 0NL
Proposal: Single storey rear extension
Ask for: Julie Earp

Minutes emailed to Councillors to Read on 5th July 2023

Minutes accepted at a Hybrid meeting of the Council held on 1st August 2023

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Mayor