

**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 October 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 Lewis, R Penhale-Thomas, M Rowlands, G Thomas, L Thomas, G Williams, and I Williams

APOLOGIES:

Apologies were received from Cllr C Davies as he was on holiday and may not have access to internet. He did however, manage to attend the meeting.

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 G Williams declared an interest in Financial Application from Maesteg Gleemen as he is a member of the Gleemen Male Voice Choir.

Cllr R Martin declared an interest in Planning Application P/23/521/FUL

253. POLICE MATTERS

Sgt Lea of South Wales Police passed on his apologies for not attending as he was responding to an emergency, he did provide his email address for members to send queries to following the meeting. South Wales Police did provide us with the following crime figures for September 2023;

Maesteg Crime Statistics for September 2023

	Caerau / Nanty	Maesteg East	Maesteg West	Llan	Total in category
Robbery	0	0	0	0	0
Drugs	0	0	0	0	0
Dwelling burglary	4	0	1	0	5
Burglary other	0	1	0	0	1
Theft of vehicle	2 (1att)	2	1	0	5
Theft from vehicle	0	0	0	0	0
All other theft	8	20	15	1	44

Damage	12	2	1	0	15
Violence against The person	27 (4)	20 (3)	14 (3)	4 (2)	65
Domestic related Occurrences	2	5	5	3	15
All crime total	53	45	32	5	135
ASB total	16	3	5	0	24
Drink Driving	0	0	0	0	0

RESOLVED: to note the information

254. TO RECEIVE THE MAYORS REPORT

The Mayor advised that she attended the following events:

- 17th September – Maesteg Town Council Civic Sunday
- 1st October – Bridgend Town Council Civic Sunday
- Spoken to businesses in Commercial Street and Talbot Street

RESOLVED: to note the information

255. MINUTES

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

- **Full Council** – 05/09/2023 emailed 12/09/2023
- **Extraordinary meeting** – 19/09/2023 emailed 20/09/2023
- **Extraordinary meeting** – 26/09/2023 emailed 27/09/2023

RESOLVED: to note the information

MATTERS ARISING

256. MINUTES – RECOMMENDATIONS FROM FINANCE COMMITTEE

- 11/09/23: Emailed the 2 outstanding CAT Grant clubs

To date no response received from Caerau AFC or FC Maesteg therefore if they have not claimed their MTC CAT Grant by the end of 2023-24 Financial year, this money will no longer be held in reserve.

RESOLVED: to note the information

257. MINUTE 218

RBL – REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

SW Police Inspector has asked to clarify if the road closures for remembrance day are in place as normal?

Clerk has advised that MTC have already engaged with a road closure company (Sunbelt) to manage the road closure for Remembrance Sunday. The route will be the

same as 2022 and MTC will be submitting the temporary traffic road closure order to BCBC when MTC new insurance policy documents arrive (end of September)

Maesteg Branch RBL have delivered the wreaths ready for remembrance Sunday and groups / organisations and individuals will be contacted in October to collect the wreaths.

A member asked if the Clerk had received details of the RBL concert to be held in the 7777's rugby club. The Clerk advised that we were made aware of a concert being held but no details have been shared yet so we cannot pass on any information to the Council

RESOLVED: To note the information

258. MINUTE 220

MAYORS CONSORT CHAIN

Chain was collected on 7th September 2023

RESOLVED: to note the information

259. MINUTE 221

FINANCE – VAN SIGNAGE

Van signage was completed on 29/09/23, photographs of the van sent to all members.

RESOLVED: to note the information

260. MINUTE 225

REQUEST FROM CLLR F ABEDALKARIM – DEFIBRILATOR

08/09/23: Cllr F Abedalkarim met with Maesteg Workmens Club who are happy to proceed with placing a defibrillator on the empty wall adjacent to the front door.

08/09/23: Clerk emailed Maesteg Community First Responders to advise of new location and to ask which type of defibrillator is best.

18/09/23: emailed meditec solutions for a quote for 2 x defibrillators & 2 x defib cabinets

22/09/23: response from meditec solutions: We have now got the new pricing for the updates AEDs. I have passed your information to our accounts team and asked them to quote you for :

Two heated external cabinets

Two NFK200 semi automatic defibrillators

26/09/23: Chased meditec solutions for a quote for 2 x defibrillators & 2 x defib cabinets.

A member asked for clarity on the funding of the defibrillators. It was advised that both are to be paid from out of the ward fund as per all other defibrillator requests.

Another member asked if the proposed defibrillator locations have been approved by the community first responders. They were advised that yes, the both locations have been approved, the member commented stating that the electrician who installs the defibrillators throughout the Llynfi Valley only installs them if approved by the First Responders.

RESOLVED: to note the information

**261. MINUTE 228
SPRING BULBS**

Bulbs received and the CMO will be delivering to those that requested the bulbs over the next few weeks.

RESOLVED: to note the information

**262. MINUTE 233
REQUEST FROM CLLR P JENKINS – BUSES**

Complaints received from residents:

- Hi, as you've probably seen me and a lot others are really disappointed and annoyed about your change in the bus timetable, it's affecting work and colleges and i don't think it's fair i'm having to walk 2 hours in the dark and cold after a long day at college college which may i add being late to college on the first day due to the bus being late isn't acceptable
- I'm contacting you with deep concern for the state of the recent bus services from Maesteg to Bridgend.

I'm 25 years old in full time employment at Mcarthurglen. As you may know, the nearest train station to the shopping centre is a 35 minute walk, so the bus is my only option for everyday transport.

Since the services were cut from every 15 minutes to every hour, I have had to get to work 45 minutes early, as the next bus would get me to work 15 minutes late and I would receive a warning from work.

On top of this now that we are in September and college has begun, the buses are insanely overflowing and the service arrives 20 minutes later than stated on the new reduced timetable. Where previously around 3/4 people including myself would get the bus from Maesteg, now there are 18-20. The bus is full by the time it leaves the station, and yet the driver still insists on letting more people onboard. Please see distressing photos attached from my journey this morning that has become the norm.

Please if you can't send more services, at least send a double decker/larger bus to accommodate all.

A member advised that the old service that run from Maesteg to Swansea every half hour are now going to be every 90 minutes due to the ongoing cutbacks

RESOLVED: To note the information

263. MINUTE 237

REQUEST FROM NANTYFFYLLON MINING MUSEUM

CMO asked to clear the overgrowth surrounding the coal dram at the entrance to Nantyffyllon and to look for a suitable paint to bring it back to an acceptable standard.

Complaint received from Nantyffyllon Miners Institute requesting a copy of the recording of the meeting. A copy was provided and the complainant happy that their name was not mentioned / used.

RESOLVED: to note the information

264. MINUTE 241

T&CC'S CLERKS MEETING

11/09/23: Clerk forwarded the powerpoint presentations to all members from the meeting.

RESOLVED: to note the information

265. MINUTE 242

ISSUES WITH TOILET TO THE REAR OF MTC BUILDING

Mayor has emailed the following:

- I am concerned about the lack of duty of care to one of our employees who is clearly reaching out to us for assistance. She has made us aware and we have to act in her best interests.

The mess in the toilets is clearly being done by the minority and if the toilet is closed all users will be affected. However, this cannot go on, the mess should be cleaned by a specialist not our cleaner. There are health and safety risks when dealing with this type of mess.

We could ask one of the traders if they could be a key holder for a short time while we look into CCTV. If this is not viable then the toilets should be closed until further notice.

The public should be made aware of the reasons why it closed.

After all, if this is happening to the cleaner. I'm sure members of the public have also witnessed the same.

- You have been asked to look at CCTV for outside the toilets. Please consider CCTV for inside the buildings.

We have workers in one office with the front door open, the rest of the building is open to people who may not have good intentions.

This is not all about the cost. But bringing our building up to working standards and a duty of care to our employees.

It will take just one incident for us up to take action. Let us be proactive and look after the health and safety of our employees.

I want this noted I have brought it to the attention of all councillor's

13/09/2023: Deputy clerk contacted BCBC's CCTV department asking if the camera in the bus station covers the disabled toilet. If it does not, please provide advice for installing one either in the market square looking into the corridor or within the corridor itself.

Also asked for advice regarding remote CCTV as would be required on the cycle track

14/09/2023: Deputy clerk spoke with CCTV in BCBC who advised that the current cameras in situ do not cover the toilet. They advised that safer streets may be able to provide mobile cameras as a temporary measure to see if this deters the situation. –

RESOLVED: to proceed with quotes and necessary repairs

266. MINUTE 243

HANDRAIL ADJACENT TO 263C BRIDGEND ROAD, MAESTEG

MET fabrication have quoted and will install the handrail £142.50 +VAT, however the step needed reinforcing.

RESOLVED: to note the information

267. MINUTE 244

WAR MEMORIALS CLEANED PRIOR TO REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

15/09/23: Stonemason contacted to proceed with cleaning the war memorials before Remembrance Sunday

RESOLVED: to note the information

268. MINUTE 246

FINANCIAL APPLICATIONS

Emails of thanks received from:

- Special Families Maesteg

RESOLVED: to note the information

269. LIST OF PAYMENTS FOR THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER 2023

RESOLVED:

That the tables of **Expenditure (£37,675.62) Income (54,280.87)** during the month of September 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 October 2023 totalling **£34,060.77**
- A copy of the Receipts and Payments Account which includes expenditure against the budget and the budget remaining and an income analysis.
- VAT Q2 Claim for £6,739.04

Some members requested that the finance be placed on multiple A3 pages as 1 page is hard to see with the font having to be so small. The Chair of Finance advised that the finance committee will look at better ways to present the information going forward. Additionally, the Chair of Finance advised that the finance committee must review the way the Council spends money given the occasions this year where spend has been agreed upon which far exceeds the budget.

Remembrance Sunday Wreaths: members agreed for the Mayor to lay the wreath in Maesteg Town Centre. The Deputy Mayor to lay the one in Caerau and past Mayor Cllr I Williams to lay the wreath in Llangynwydd.

The Chair of Finance asked the Clerks for an update on the grant funding for the repair works to the Town Council Offices from BCBC. It was advised that no response has come from BCBC in regards to a grant for fixing the building. The Town Centre manager has agreed to contribute £4,000 to Maesteg Town Councils Christmas projects. The Chair of Finance asked the clerks to chase BCBC for an update.

CMO Summary Report – September 2023

The month of September 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, 6, 20, 23a, 24, 36, 38, 39, 44, 45a. 46, 46b, 48, 52, 57, 62, 74, 82, steps of Castle St and Bridge St, steps, and footpath next to Nantyllyllon Primary school between Coronations St and Garnwen Terrace, tree trunks from old stone bridge, overgrowth behind Crown Rd, old Tyson road and lower cycle track.
- Milage at start of month – 56,907 at end 57,089 (182 total miles)
- Delivered dog waste bags to office (10), Special Families (8)

- Attended Pencoed College for Weed Spraying course & tests

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

A member asked when the CMO will be undertaking his Christmas hours. It was advised that from the start of October the CMO started his winter hours.

270. AGENDA ITEM 8 – BLAENCAERAU PLAYAREA

Members were provided with the following:

- delegates report from full Council meeting 05/09/2023 – unsure if members had chance to read before the meeting, Cllr M Rowlands intends to update members further
- Blaencaerau playpark options appraisal from V2C – cost breakdown for new equipment, land value, statutory requirements for maintenance.

Cllr M Rowlands advised that V2C have come forward with monies and resources to enabled the asset transfer of Blaencaerau playpark to Maesteg Town Council ownership. He outlined that V2C have already confirmed with our solicitors that they will foot the legal costs, will contribute to the refurbishment of the park and offer guidance/contacts on how to maintain the park. To go ahead with proceedings, V2C need a commitment from Maesteg Town Council of £5,000 which would be used in the park's refurbishment.

Cllr Rowlands also advised that Thomas & Thomas require initial paperwork to be signed. It was **agreed** that the Clerk, Mayor and Chair of Finance would sign the necessary documents and with no official seal the signing would need to be witnessed.

Cllr Rowlands advised that the apparatus included in the documents were mainly wooden which he would be keen to change to metal to discourage vandalism so this would need to be considered by the projects committee when the park is transferred.

A member queried the qualification for members of staff to inspect the parks, he was advised that its likely an external contractor would need to be appointed to inspect the park as required.

Another member asked if we are still seeking a contribution from BCBC, he was advised that Bridgend were happy to find monies previously but this is not confirmed

especially with the cut backs going on within the borough so MTC should be prepared to go this alone.

It was asked if the Caerau Invest Local (ILC) fund would be willing to donate to this cause. A member advised that there is interest from the group to do this and talks were underway with all parties involved previously. A member, as current chair of the ILC advised that he would request an agenda item for monies to be given for this refurbishment - but when the asset is in the hands of Maesteg Town Council.

Cllr G Thomas stated that this is a superb project to undertake and it acts as an excellent pilot for the Council and results in us obtaining an asset. He **proposed**, seconded by Cllr L Thomas, that Maesteg Town Council support the request from Cllr M Rowlands and proceed with the current figure of £5,000 being given from MTC.

RESOLVED:

- Clerk, Mayor and Chair of Finance to sign documents
- Cllr M Rowlands to proceed with the scheme
- Move £5,000 into separate budget line for the CAT of Blaencaerau Playarea

271. AGENDA ITEM 9 – GRAFFITI MURALS FOR TOWN CENTRE

Members have been provided with the Quote with full breakdown of costs from a graffiti artist to spray paint the following areas:

- On wall to the side of KMP Jewellers – no permission has been granted yet £950.00
- On wall to the side of Blue Pearl Chip Shop – verbal permission granted £950.00
- 52 pillars at Maesteg Car Park – no permission has been granted yet from BCBC £4,740.00

It was the Clerk's understanding that BCBC Safer Streets department were liaising with Cllr M Rowlands to get the permissions for the 3 areas, however it seems that BCBC Safer Streets are no longer involved?

Permission is needed from all site locations in order to progress with the project.

22/09/2023 – email sent to BCBC Car Parks to ask for permission to spray all 52 pillars at Maesteg Car Park.

22/09/23 response: BCBC agreed with Safer streets carrying out such works so I cannot foresee an issue, I will refer to Dylan who is rest day today as all the team working over weekend (Elvis) also copied in Hannah who had the lead on the previous works which are excellent and in particular the Bowls hall is a vast improvement, she may be able to offer advice / guidance

22/09/2023 – letters sent to Blue Pearl and KMP Jewellers to seek permission to spray the walls.

22/09/23 response KMP Jewellers: unsure at the moment whether to give permission, would like to see what is spray painted onto the opposite side of the lane before making any decision.

Clerk advised that Blue Pearl had verbally given permission and will submit this permission in writing.

In addition to the above quotes on 03/10/23 Cllr M Rowlands emailed members with the following quote for the wall of 44 Commercial Street.

1. Low wall (to height of satellite dishes) £1,660.00
2. Whole wall. £6,700.00

Members discussed the scheme and asked the following questions and made the following comments:

- Has the owner of 44 Commercial Street been contacted to give permission? Clerk advised that a letter will be sent to the owner, the size of the project would depend on the permission from the building owner.

- what would be sprayed onto the walls and pillars.?
The detail would need to be discussed with the artist, many ideas:
 - for car park pillars anything from groups and organisations crests to animals / insects / bright colours
 - Blue Pearl Wall – historical and present
 - 44 Commercial Street – welcome to Maesteg

- As car park is pretty dark would reflective paints be used?
Not sure if reflective paints exist, however there is a large spectrum of colours from standard colours to neon colours

- Risk Maesteg becoming the graffiti town of Wales

Chair of Finance advised that Cllr M Rowlands is looking for permission to proceed with the project and to agree funding for the project. Cllr M Rowlands **proposed**, seconded by Cllr I Willams that the project is progressed and funding be made available for the project.

RESOLVED:

- To write to the owner of 44 Commercial Street to seek permission to graffiti the wall and to specify whether permission would be granted for low wall or whole wall.
- Finance Committee to set aside a budget for this project

CORRESPONDENCE

272. NEWSLETTERS / FLYERS / BRIEFING NOTES/ CONSULTATIONS

Emailed to all Councillors for information:

- Take Five to Age Well!
- T&CC Clerks meeting powerpoints
- Community Protection Notices
- The Welsh Ombudsman's public consultation: Our Equality Plan 2023-2026
- CCLA August 23 fact sheet
- WG (RAAC) - Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete request – MTC agent confirmed no RAAC in MTC building
- One Voice Wales Newsletter No.1
- BCBC Seminar - Supporting evidence-based decision making for Community Safety
- Welsh Blood Service – donation day in Tesco Maesteg 25/09/23
- OVW - SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER 2023 TRAINING DATES
- Dance for Parkinson's free taster sessions in Porthcawl
- WG: Consultation: Scrutiny of the Welsh Government Draft Budget 2024-25

RESOLVED: to note the information

273. REFERRALS

- **04/09/23:** Overflowing bin opposite Masons Arms in Nantyffyllon
Response 04/09/23: This has been passed to the relevant team for further investigation.
- **06/09/23:** We have had some concerns raised about the recent installation of Ogi fibre in Harvey Street, Maesteg. The works have been completed and the highway is reported to be left in a bad way and potentially becoming a hazard.
Response 06/09/23: I'll contact the supervisor now and ask them to inspect and will feedback shortly
- **06/09/23:** knot weed in Celtic Park. It started off across the river outside park view, it's now crossed the river and growing in Celtic park. I mean it's massively bad, it's getting out of control. Really needs addressing quickly.
- **13/09/23:** Litter bin referral - I walked round the river foot path from Church street and noticed there is no litter bin. Member of the public living nearby was concerned and kindly picked up most of the litter, placed it near a dog poo bin . Can you ask BCBC to install a litter bin midway of the footpath please . We used to have a litter bin in the past by the end of the footpath and it's had been removed for some reason
Response 26/09/23: Apologies for the delay in responding. The bin was removed due to abuse with domestic waste. Upon review we decided to install

a dog bin for the walkers in the area. There are alternative litter bins in the area near the steps and towards town.

26/09/23 Cllr F Abedalkarim replied: Thank you for your response . Can you kindly reconsider installing the litter bin back in the footpath . I believe it's unfair to punish the majority of the good people living and using the footpath and the benches by removing the litter bin . I propose to send a letter to all households living in Church street Maesteg and encourage them to use a recycling bin to dispose of their household rubbish in the correct way and not use public litter bins on the river footpath . The removal of the bin may have a detrimental effect on the area. Causing possible pollution in other areas such as the river and will not solve the issue. They will walk further and use the other two bins to dispose their household waste. I wait for your consideration

During the meeting Cllr F Abedalkarim stated that he doesn't think BCBC should remove bins without consulting Cllrs and thus punishing other residents due to one resident disposing of household waste in the litter bin. BCBC Should investigate the waste and educate the residents.

Other members stated that there were once bins in other locations that have been removed and also have concerns that residents are now throwing their waste in the river.

It was **agreed** to ask BCBC to replace the bin.

- **14/09/2023:** Flooding on pavement at the entrance to Maesteg Market Square
Response 15/09/23: The level of flooding is acceptable for this type of footpath.

Members thought that the response was unacceptable. It was **agreed** to ask BCBC to reconsider the problem of flooding as it's the entrance to the market square

- **15/09/2023:** Smoke nuisance – resident complained regarding a problem with one of the factory's down the forge they are doing something and a lot of smoke and the smell is terrible by the time you go down it's gone so not sure what they doing , We think it's GE factory it's happening quite regular if it was a one off you don't mind but it's not , and it's in the day when everyone got washing out thanks.

Deputy Clerk advised the BCBC member to complete a member referral.

- **25/09/2023:** 14 refuse bags outside a property on Castle Street
Response 25/09/23: We have passed this onto our Cleaner Streets Officer.
- **25/09/2023:** Overgrowth blocking footpath in North's Lane
Response 25/09/23: We have passed your e-mail onto our Highways Department, who would deal with this issue.

- **25/09/2023:** Pothole Pit Street

Response 25/09/23: Thank you for submitting your query regarding: Road or Pavement Issue

This has been passed to the relevant team for further investigation.

You can track the progress of this report online. Simply log in to your account, select "My Requests" and look for Case-ID: HW549523745.

Cllr C Knight advised that this pothole had been repaired.

RESOLVED:

- Ask BCBC again to replace the bin
- Ask BCBC to reconsider the flooding problem at the entrance of the Market Square

**274. VANDALISM TO SIGN ON SPIRIT OF LLYNFI WOODLAND SITE
NEAREST POSTCODE CF34 0DW**

Yet more vandalism up by the keeper of the colliery – this has been raised with the relevant people/authorities. We'll keep you posted with the outcome, if any.

NRW have advised that they are looking for a spare sign if not they will order a new sign.

Responses from Cllrs:

- This endless and pointless vandalism is very disheartening, but we must soldier on.
- I reported this on Saturday Morning very early, it must have been vandalized on the Friday evening
- These regular bouts of mindless vandalism make me despair at such behaviour. Maybe we could look at purchasing a trail camera that we can place at these trouble spots to try and identify the culprits
- I also agree. I can't think of any other option. These mindless idiots are ruining our beautiful valley and getting away with it every time. What else can we do?
- Yes I agree I am sure we can do something to at least catch the culprits in the act it is sad for I know that many people access the site and have enjoyed the wonderful carving of the Keeper of the Colliery and the view of our lovely valley
- I saw it on Sunday it looks like it has rotted through

RESOLVED: to note the information

275. HOUSING REQUEST

I am sending this email with hope that you can put this forward. A young lady of whom is a mother of two young children managed to get away from an abusive relationship. As you are aware it takes much courage for a young lady especially at the premature age of 25 to make the decision to leave. In hope that her children have a safe and stable upbringing.

Womens aid have housed her in a refuge in Cardiff. This is many miles from maesteg (the town her family reside and children are schooled). She is being forced to take her children daily, with no financial support to catch an early morning train in order for them to have education. Now there are many empty housing associations in the maesteg area, yet none have been offered to this young woman. Instead there are cases of other people who are already in a perfectly safe property being allocated these houses.

I believe the public image yourselves have been subject too recently from your employees that you would take it upon yourselves to study or at least educate the community on this matter.

It is deeply concerning that a woman of her age is being subject to this turmoil by her very own council and government.

For any more information please feel free to contact me.

Clerk has advised:

Thank you for your email. Unfortunately, housing is not within the Maesteg Town Council Remit.

You would need to contact Bridgend County Borough Council with the following departments, I would advise that you contact the Assia Domestic Abuse first as they may have more information on rehousing the young lady and family.

- Assia Domestic Abuse: <https://www.bridgend.gov.uk/residents/social-care-and-wellbeing/prevention-and-wellbeing/domestic-abuse/>

How to access support:

Call 01656 815919 Monday to Friday 8.30am to 5.00pm or email assia@bridgend.gov.uk

In an emergency you should contact the Police on 999 or 101 for non-emergency.

For 24 hour support you can contact the Live Fear Free helpline on 0808 80 10 800.

- Housing: <https://www.bridgend.gov.uk/residents/housing/>

I hope you are able to resolve this issue and that the family are housed in a more suitable location.

RESOLVED: to note the information

276. UPDATE REQUEST FOR SPEED SURVEY ON LLWYDARTH ROAD

I wanted to enquire as to when Llwydarth Road will be assessed for traffic speed as previously requested to the Council. The reason I ask is that I remember it being noted

due to speed change on the 16th September. Is Llwydarth road one of the roads that is staying at 30mph as I know not all roads will have a default of 20mph.

If you could possibly let me know any dates for these assessments and if no calming measures are implemented what would be the next course of action.

RESOLVED: to note the information

277. LAND REAR OF HARVEY STREET

Cllr P Jenkins asked for the following to be circulated to all members:

Dear clerk please would you circulate to my fellow councillors my thoughts regarding this land that was previously identified for housing under a 20yr old LDP, this land is prime for investment and funding within our valley, the valley lacks real use for our youths, leisure, historical, educational, and ecological amenities. To this end I would welcome any and all thoughts for this areas future use to present to BCBC and all stake holders dependent on the kind of facilities it would lend itself to. The land after the last survey report has been dropped from a potential housing site mainly due to the cost of preparing and making good for housing use. I am confident again dependent on how this council sees the use for this land, that we could seek major funding for grants, and co operation from BCBC, WELSH GOVERNMENT, BAVO AND ALL OTHER STAKEHOLDERS. There is a severe lack of facilities particularly for venues where the youth could have entertainment etc, many thanks.

RESOLVED: to note the information

278. UPDATE ON BUS SHELTERS COMMERCIAL STREET

14/09/2023: emailed BCBC for an update on the installation of the bus shelters on Commercial St

21/09/23 Response BCBC: Many thanks for your e-mails; I sincere apologies for the delayed response.

At present, I'm awaiting a template licence agreement from our Highways Maintenance and Infrastructure Manager, which will need to be completed by Maesteg Town Council. I've followed up the template licence agreement, and I will forward it on to you once received. The licence agreement covers the installation and ongoing maintenance of the bus shelter on the highway.

Important note

Following a discussion with the Principal Engineer, the proposed inbound bus shelter location (as per the attached) would obstruct the vision of the existing road sign. As a result, it would not be possible to install a bus shelter at this particular location, unless there was an alternative site for the road sign. The Principal Engineer recalls the installation of this particular road sign, and he could not suggest an alternative location.

However, there has been no issue highlighted on the proposed bus shelter on the opposite side of the road (outbound, as per the attached).

In the meantime, should you have any queries or require further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

RESOLVED: to note the information

279. FIREWORKS FOR CHRISTMAS PARADE

Quote received from the company used last year for 2023 Christmas parade day cost: £1,300 + VAT

Members queried the following:

Why this hadn't gone to tender as per other Christmas events?

Clerk advised that this was not asked of by Council. In 2022 tenders were sent to numerous companies along with the previous company – only the company used in 2022 responded. Chair of Finance stated that the Clerk can use discretionary spends. Clerk also advised that we can still go to tender

Some members stated that the fireworks were not as good as pre covid and the fireworks need to be set off towards town.

Clerk advised that it is now the Harlequins RFC that manage South Parade playing fields and they dictate where the fireworks can / cannot be placed. Clerk will ask if they can be set up towards town.

A member queried similar issues that have gone on prior with the ward fund.

The Chair of Finance advised that the tendering process will be placed on the agenda for the next finance committee meeting.

RESOLVED: Members were mindful of the time left to arrange the Christmas activities. As the amount for fireworks is under the £2.5k, as per our financial regulations – there is no requirement to go to tender so members were happy to accept the given quote for fireworks display on parade day for £1,300+VAT.

280. REQUEST FOR PROJECTS

Chair of Projects has requested an email forwarded to all members:

Dear clerk please would distribute my request to cllrs asking for their thought's ideas on every and all projects they would like to see, with my emphasise on the youth of our valley, and the brief mention on Harvey street, as if a really good project was to be thought of for this site it would be best to put to BCBC ASAP, TO AVOID ANY DELAYS. AS THE PLANNING COSTING ETC COULD WELL Take YEARS TO MOVE ON. THANK YOU.

The Chair of projects verbally asked members to consider other larger projects. The Mayor stated that the Projects Committee still hadn't met to discuss the public toilet replacements.

Other members mentioned that the 4 Wards have Ward Specific Funds for smaller ward projects – again the lack of a policy for this was raised.

RESOLVED: Finance Committee to look at policy for ward specific funds. Members were encouraged to forward ideas for larger scale projects that cannot be completed by utilising their ward specific funds to contact the chair of the projects committee.

281. REQUEST FOR IT GROUP TO USE MTC BUILDING

Cllr C Davies emailed to request the following:

Owing to the Maesteg College being closed there is a IT group of about 10 people in adult education desperate for a room on a Thursdays 9.30 to 12. They inform me they have been offered the town hall but don't know when this will be available. They are doing their city and guilds. Please can the following be put on the agenda. Could they be accommodated in a room in the Council offices, possibly a room upstairs or downstairs? It would be good if we could as they feel they have been let down.

Members agreed that this would be a good use of the upstairs meeting room, although one query was made as to the safety with ongoing building works. Clerk advised that there was now scaffolding with a crash barrier and that it is safe to walk up the stairs.

Cllr L Thomas **proposed**, seconded by Cllr F Abedalkarim that permission is granted for the college to use the upstairs meeting room if it is fit for purpose (WIFI, power etc.).

RESOLVED: to advise the college they can use the upstairs meeting room. A member queried if the upstairs was open with the ongoing works and scaffolding in the foyer. He was advised that the upstairs can be accessed, those of a taller stature would need to be advised to mind their heads as they reach the final step.

282. MTC SITE VISIT TO MAESTEG TOWN HALL

BCBC have arranged 2 dates for members of MTC to visit the Town Hall:

18th October visit 15:00 to 15:45pm

20th October visit 10:00am to 10:45am

BCBC have kindly offered to loan some hard hats for the visits. They have requested that if members do have access to their own then bring those.

If you can confirm your attendance for one of the following dates;

18th October visit 15:00 to 15:45pm

20th October visit 10:00am to 10:45am

Please confirm prior to the close of business on the 13th October 2023

18th October visit 15:00 to 15:45pm	20th October visit 10:00am to 10:45am	
Cllr P Davies	Clerk	Cllr C Knight
Cllr F Abedalkarim	Deputy Clerk	Cllr P Jenkins
Cllr M Rowlands	Cllr R Martin	Cllr G Williams
Cllr G Thomas	Cllr I Williams	Cllr R Lewis
Cllr L Thomas		

RESOLVED: Advise BCBC Regeneration of the above attendees

283. LITTER BIN REQUEST – LEWIS RD / CROWN PLAYING FIELD

BCBC Cllr M Hughes raised a member referral with BCBC regarding reports from local residents about extent of littering which has taken place recently around the Crown Playing Field.

BCBC advised that as the litter is located on private land therefore, we are unable to action or remove. Following this a number of emails were sent between the BCBC Maesteg East members with a request that if MTC purchase a bin would BCBC empty it – If BCBC point blank refuse to take on this additional cost of bin emptying (which might well be the case given the financial straits we're in), would MTC consider paying BCBC a service charge to cover these costs on, say, an annual basis?

Clerk advised:

Maesteg Town Council have installed bins over the years and BCBC used to empty them. In 2019/2020 (unsure of exact date) the former Clear Streets Officer did a review of the litter bins throughout the County (not just Maesteg) from this exercise many bins were removed or re-sited.

In 2016 MTC entered into a cleaner streets agreement with BCBC to dispose of 3 bags per week from the litter bins along the cycle track (our cmo empties these bins) however since covid the cmo is disposing of 15 bags per week as the cycle track bins are being well used.

In 2022 BCBC gave permission for MTC to install a bin in the Llynfi Rd car park (next to the benches near the bridge), however they never gave permission to dispose of the waste – hence why MTC have now had to enter into a trade waste contract with another company to dispose of the waste.

MTC currently have the larger bin that used to be outside Wilko that we could re-site for Lewis Rd or the Crown Playing Field although we would also need permission to install from BCBC / land owner

Members queried where the bin from Wilko is now located? Clerk advised that the CMO removed the bin and it is now is the unit on Heol Ty Gwyn. Members requested that this bin be re-sited near to Wilko's as this was a well used bin

RESOLVED: Ask CMO to re-site the bin near Wilko's

284. DOG WASTE BAGS

26/09/2023: ordered dog waste bags as there are only 10 bags remaining in the lockup

RESOLVED: to note the information

285. PORTABLE TOILETS FOR CHRISTMAS PARADE DAY

Mayor telephoned to query the hire of portable toilets for parade day due to the many complaints received for lack of facilities. Mayor has also been contacted by the Harlequins who advised that last year they had their door open and toilets were available for the public and they provided mince pies for free.

Clerk contacted the portable toilet company used in 2020 to the rear of the market square and they have advised of the following costs for a weekend hire whereby the deliver on the Friday and collect on the Monday:

<u>Delivery of portable toilets</u>	<u>£50.00</u>
<u>Cost per unisex portable toilet</u>	<u>£50.00</u>
<u>Cost per disabled portable toilet</u>	<u>£65.00</u>
<u>Collection of portable toilets</u>	<u>£50.00</u>

Clerk also advised that permission had been granted from BCBC Property to place the portable toilets to the rear / next to MAWS bookshop as previously sited pre-covid.

Members **agreed** to hire 2 unisex and 1 disabled toilet for parade day weekend with Clerk producing plenty of signage as to the location of these portable toilets.

RESOLVED: to proceed with the hire of 2 unisex and 1 disabled toilet for parade day

286. FINANCIAL APPLICATIONS

Members were provided with application forms from the following organisations:

1. Maesteg Gleemen

Cllr G Williams declared an interest in the Maesteg Gleemen application and therefore did not participate in the discussion

Date received: 08/0923

Request £500 towards the purchase of new shirts (30 x £24.50 = £735)

Recent bank statement provided.

1st time to apply for S137 funding

Some members raised concerns regarding applications from organisations for grant funding towards clothing as usually the club members pay for their own. Other members stated that this had been granted in the past and MTC should support the clubs.

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

287. DELEGATES REPORTS

Clerk advised that there were no delegates reports

RESOLVED: to note the information

288. PLANNING

Cllr R Martin declared an interest in planning application P/23/521/FUL and therefore took no part in the discussion. Cllr Martin current Mayor of MTC requested past mayor Cllr I Williams to chair the discussion on that particular application.

The following applications had no objections:

Ref: P/23/526/FUL
Applicant: Mrs S Moore
Location: 143 Caerau Road Caerau Maesteg CF34 0PD
Proposal: 2nd storey bedroom/wet room addition over existing annexe for registered disabled person
Ask for: Julie Earp

Ref: P/23/474/FUL
Applicant: P Skinner
Location: North of Former Bethany Chapel Hermon Road Caerau CF34 0SU
Proposal: Storage building in connection with the maintenance of the adjacent Flats at Bethany Chapel and the applicants domestic items
Ask for: Lee Evans

Ref: P/23/377/FUL
Applicant: Ms M Vaughan
Location: 2 Greenfield Terrace Caerau Maesteg CF34 0RB
Proposal: Double detached garage with a pitched roof in the garden
Ask for: Julie Earp

Ref: P/23/558/FUL
Applicant: Mr R George
Location: 7 Duffrymadog Maesteg CF34 0BE

Proposal: Detached outbuilding store to rear garden
Ask for: Richard Hawkey

Ref: P/23/548/FUL
Applicant: Mr A Butler
Location: 9 Alma Road Maesteg CF34 9AN
Proposal: First floor rear extension with a hipped roof.
Ask for: Julie Earp

Ref: P/23/501/FUL
Applicant: Mr R Seldon
Location: Land rear of 28 Greenfield Street Maesteg CF34 0NP
Proposal: Construct a detached double garage and to provide access to the garage via lane to the rear of 28 Greenfield Street
Ask for: Julie Earp

Ref: P/23/521/FUL
Applicant: Mr W Tatchell
Location: Land rear 33 Heol Tywith Nantffyllon Maesteg CF34 0TL
Proposal: Retention of extended residential curtilage and proposed detached portal frame garage to house 2no. motor homes
Ask for: Julie Earp

Ref: P/23/529/FUL
Applicant: Mr P Edwards
Location: 70 Neath Road Maesteg CF34 9PH
Proposal: Construct a tarmac surfaced off-road parking at the rear of property
Ask for: Julie Earp

Minutes emailed to Councillors to Read on 6th October 2023

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

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Mayor