

MAESTEG TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of an **EXTRAORDINARY HYBRID** meeting of the **Council** held remotely via Microsoft Teams and at the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Talbot Street, Maesteg, on **Tuesday, 17th October 2023.**

PRESENT:

COUNCILLORS:

R Martin (Mayor)

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

APOLOGIES: Cllrs R Collins, C Davies, P Jenkins, and R Lewis

DECLARATION OF INTEREST: None Declared

281. TO DISCUSS THE CHRISTMAS PARADE WITH EPM AND ADDITIONAL COSTS

Members were provided with the original costings for the parade, zoning map, and updated costings following advice from ESAG and South Wales Police.

Members also welcomed Mr P Whittaker from EPM Creative who will be overseeing the management of the parade this year following on from last years success at the helm of the event.

Paul explained that he had many suggestions following on from last years parade and has been in regular contact with BCBC and the Police on how to improve on last years parade by making the event safer and more accessible. It was noted that prior to last years parade, members asked for less than the proposed fencing and stewards citing Councillor participation would make up the shortfall. With the thousands of people who attended the parade last year, this displayed the importance of having the contingency of more barriers than may be needed and also additional items to act as crowd control such as picnic benches.

The recommended items to review and/or purchase are;

- More pro stewards
- Much more barriers and barriers to continue onto Commercial Street past the crossroads of Commercial Street and Talbot street.
- Communication of information to the crowds along the route rather than just the finish - loud speakers, loud hailers
- Better organisation and planning for the actual parade and the participating vehicles
- Limit the vehicle numbers - increased safety on the vehicles
- Start the event earlier to allow the crowds to build slowly over the day

- Re plan the stage area so there is more room for the crowds to form in front of the stage
- Provide crowd barriers around that area in the form of picnic benches and barriers to allow pockets of crowds to form rather than just a mass of attendees
- Walk ways through the crowds to facilitate movement for attendees and also first aid etc

Members gave their point of view of the parade last year and had the following suggestions;

- Stewards and designated parking at the old Revlon site for easier drop off and collection.
- Clearer signposting of floats and those on them.
- Cones outside the old Revlon site to stop cars parking and hindering the floats
- A clear area for disability access.
- Parade to stick together – no groups in the middle of floats and no stopping of floats midway.
- Clear parking plan for when the floats enter the bus station
- Limited lorries perhaps less than last year
- Leaflet for those using the float to highlight health and safety and also not to exit the float until advised to do so.

Members asked for more details on the picnic benches acting as crowd control. They believed that they may cause more issues than fix. EPM advised that he has used them in a prior event and they were effective in stopping crowds rushing forward, he also advised that they will be manned by stewards who will discourage those who may stand/dance on them.

EPM also advised that the stage will be the same, if not similar to the one that we had last year. The stage setup may change though due to the costs involved with the supplier but the same equipment and DJs can be hired on a freelance basis

** Cllrs AR Davies and A James left the meeting at 19:17pm, in the meeting chat box they cited too much talk and no clear outcome regarding the topic at hand.

RESOLVED:

Members thanked Paul for his presentation and information. It was agreed that the make the event run smoother and be safer, then some of the recommendations should be looked at. Members agreed to the new quote from EPM Creative with a 10% contingency to allow for cost fluctuations.

282. TO DISCUSS CHAMBER AUDIO UPGRADE – THE NEED FOR AN ADDITIONAL ITEM

Members were advised that the previously agreed upon quote for the audio upgrade to the chamber has risen by £1,700 due to a part needed to enable hearing loop users listen to those who attend meetings online and better hear those who will be using the microphones in the chamber.

RESOLVED: Members agreed to the additional part to enable all persons present to be able to participate at the same level in meetings or other discussions that take place within the Council chamber.

283. TO DISCUSS KONE OVERDUE INVOICES

Members were provided with an invoice from the previous lift contractor who is demanding payment for another year of service and for works completed in February. Members were advised that the works completed in February was done under contract so there are no concerns surrounding that. However, when Council instructed the previous lift company that they wished to cancel the contract – they were advised that with 45 days’ notice it can be cancelled free of charge as it is a rolling contract.

Since cancelling the contract, the invoice has come in for years 2023/24. The Clerks have advised the company that the contract was cancelled under the terms presented when the lift company was contacted previously. They have confirmed that we were told we could cancel the contract without payment, but they state in our contract – it is a 3-year rolling contract and has been rolling since 2008. 2024 is the final year where we are able to cancel without charge the company has advised us.

RESOLVED:

Members agreed to pay the outstanding invoice relating to works already completed. The Chair of Finance asked if he could write a letter to the previous lift company and to come to better terms since we have employed an alternative lift company now. Members agreed to the Chair of Finances request and gave permission for him to write to the company on the Councils behalf.

**Minutes emailed to all Councillors to Read on 23rd October 2023
Minutes accepted at a HYBRID meeting of the Council
held on 7th November 2023**

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Mayor