

**MAESTEG TOWN COUNCIL
COUNCIL MEETING**

Minutes of a HYBRID meeting of the **FULL COUNCIL** held at the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Talbot Street, Maesteg and remotely via Microsoft Teams and, on **Tuesday, 7th November 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, G Thomas, L Thomas and G Williams

APOLOGIES:

Apologies were received from Cllrs M Rowlands and I Williams.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST:

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

Cllr R Penhale-Thomas declared an interest in financial applications for MAWS and the Friends of Maesteg Welfare Park.

Cllr R Collings declared an interest in the financial application for the Friends of Maesteg Welfare Park.

Cllrs AR Davies, A James and G Williams declared an interest in the financial application from Caerau Community Growers.

284. POLICE MATTERS

South Wales Police passed on their apologies for not attending the meeting but they did provide the following crime figures;

Maesteg Crime Statistics for October 2023

	Caerau / Nanty	Maesteg East	Maesteg West	Llan	Total in category
Robbery	0	0	0	0	0
Drugs	0	1	3	0	4
Dwelling burglary	1	1 (att)	0	0	2
Burglary other	3	2	1	1	7
Theft of vehicle	2	0	1	1	7
Theft from vehicle	0	1	1	0	2
All other theft	6	18	10	0	34

Damage	8	5	2	2	17
Violence against The person	28 (6)	17 (2)	24 (2)	5 (1)	74
Domestic related Occurrences	4	4	2	2	12
All crime total	48	45	42	8	143
ASB total	15	5	3	2	25
Drink Driving	1	0	0	0	1

RESOLVED: to note the information

285. TO RECEIVE THE MAYORS REPORT

The Mayor advised that she attended the following events:

- 5th October – Maesteg Tennis Court Opening
- 21st October – 80 years of Maesteg Musical Theatre

She also advised that she will be attending an event on the 9th of November at the Salvation Army in support of those who have come here from the Ukraine.

Additionally, an event hosted by the Royal British Legion Llynfi Valley branch on the 10th November 2023

RESOLVED: to note the information

286. 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** – 03/10/2023 emailed 06/10/2023
- **Extraordinary meeting** – 17/10/2023 emailed 23/10/2023

RESOLVED: to note the information

MATTERS ARISING

287. MINUTE 257

RBL – REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

Road Closure application sent to BCBC 09/10/23

RBL Remembrance Concert details emailed to all members and also placed onto Facebook page:

Date	10/11/2023
Location	Maesteg 7777's
Time	7pm – 9:30pm
Entry fee	£5.00 on the door

RESOLVED: to note the information

288. MINUTE 260
REQUEST FROM CLLR F ABEDALKARIM – DEFIBRILATOR

06/10/23: Defibrillators ordered – can take up to 6 weeks for delivery

RESOLVED: to note the information

289. MINUTE 261
SPRING BULBS

Cllr P Jenkins has requested 3 sacks of bulbs to be given to V2C to plant up the verges and greens at Heol Caer David, Christopher Road and Tuberville estate. Clerk advised that there are no spare sacks this year, the request can be added to 2024 scheme.

RESOLVED: to note the information

290. MINUTE 265
ISSUES WITH TOILET TO THE REAR OF MTC BUILDING

Safer Streets Bridgend have installed a temporary CCTV camera will overlook the market square covering the area by the disabled toilet.

RESOLVED: to note the information

291. MINUTE 270
BLAENCAERAU PLAYAREA

06/10/23: email sent to Thomas & Thomas solicitors with the following information:

It was agreed in our full council meeting the following will be signing documents on behalf of Maesteg Town Council:

Sian Teisar – Clerk & RFO
Cllr Rosemary Martin – Mayor
Cllr Gavin Thomas – Chair of Finance

I have looked at the documents you sent and have completed them although they relate to an individual.

Please can you advise when is convenient for us to attend your office to sign the relevant documents

RESOLVED: to note the information

292. MINUTE 271
GRAFFITI MURALS FOR TOWN CENTRE

- 09/10/23: Letter posted to the owner of 44 Commercial Street
- Finance Committee to meet to discuss budget for this project

Permission in writing received from:

- BCBC for pillars in Llynfi Rd Car park

- Blue Pearl
- 44 Commercial Street

The following emails have been shared between members:

- Thank you again for your efforts in this matter. That's a fair old elevation to paint, it would be a big statement as you enter the town center if we were to do the whole thing. However, I do have concerns regarding the advertisement hoarding, do we know if it can be moved, I would have thought that the building owner would receive some sort of fee for having it there, and there could be a contract involved. Is there any information on it?
- I have been round to see the building opposite the Welly and took photos attached to this email. I do support the project and I would like to thank the Councillor Matthew Rowlands for his efforts. I got one concern which is the TREE blocking the view of half of the wall. I suggest start talking to the highway in BCBC the owner of the tree if they agree to trim or remove the tree to use a full wall size graffiti on that wall. I got another suggestion, to consider the wall on the other side, next to the welly inn instead which got no issues.
- The tree is certainly obstructing the view of the wall, we would need the landowner's permission to remove the tree and to be honest, nobody is keen on removing healthy trees, even if it is for a community project such as this
- I agree, it's out of the question for us to look at getting rid of a tree, the tree is lovely. Even without the tree it's still an obstructed View. We need to rethink the site.
- In relation to the tree it certainly does obscure half the end terrace, we'll have to revisit with some options. As mentioned, here's what we have so far- trimming the tree, removing the tree (and relocating), leaving the tree and undertaking artwork on the front half of the wall, or looking for another prominent location. In relation to the mentioned end terrace directly opposite (alongside the Welly pub) this wall isn't really ideal as you would only see it on exiting Maesteg and one of the key features was to have a prominent piece of artwork welcoming people into Maesteg.
If there's any other suggestions then please let me know, and I'll look at what other options there are and we could do as well
- Suggest we do the car park and blue pearl, DON, T get bogged down with other sites just yet, let's take time, and stop spending for the sake of spending. This is not a life or death scheme nor one of urgency. Time enough to pursue sites when council has agreed them. So we will start on the ones council firmly agreed on
Come on we do not have to continue with all sites immediately so I refute that thought Technically we agreed to place the numbers but no time scale was placed on completion. So, let's be clear, sites that give no problems commence when practically possible the other site can wait until a suitable agreed by all has been found, being clear I have not said to scrap any project, only said to hang on take time to agree a suitable site in the near future, failure on a town site would resulting scrapping that one site, and a New proposal will be made by to place elsewhere. This is because site identified by council was a Town site

and only a move to request placing graffiti was supported. It could well be the preferred site would not be available if owner decided not to consent, as with all sites their dependent upon the necessary permission being granted. Hope we are clear, as the song said (Only fools rush in).

Agree with you and that's the intention, we can proceed with the other sites (as they won't all get done the same time anyway but one at a time), and in the meantime work on solutions for the end terrace as you come into Maesteg Town (as per my other email) and this can be discussed and agreed upon in due course.

Members requested that the Clerk email Cllr Rowlands as he was not in attendance and ask for an update. It was requested to add the murals project to the agenda of the projects committee where ideas can be drawn up and presented back to Council.

RESOLVED:

- Email Cllr Rowlands as he was not in attendance and ask for an update.
- It was requested to add the murals project to the agenda of the projects committee where ideas can be drawn up and presented back to Council.

**293. MINUTE 273
REFERRALS**

10/10/23: emailed BCBC to replace the litter bin on the footpath from Church Street

RESOLVED: to note the information

**294. MINUTE 278
UPDATE ON BUS SHELTERS COMMERCIAL STREET**

11/10/23: new quote received for the bus shelter on Commercial Street and emailed to all members:

Original quote dated 07/10/2022	£5,256.85
New quote dated 10/10/2023	£5,317.56
Difference in cost	£60.71

Members were happy with the updated quote

RESOLVED: Email BCBC to proceed with the bus shelter on Commercial Street.

**295. MINUTE 279
FIREWORKS FOR CHRISTMAS PARADE**

06/10/23: Emailed the company to ask you whether the fireworks could be angled more towards the Town on the day and to re-iterate that the Christmas Lights Switch on is at 4:30pm

Response 09/10/23: We will endeavour to do our best with the angles but cannot lean them too much or they will be exploding over houses. Duly noted the 16.30 firing time.

Prior to the meeting – the clerks were made aware of concerns from a resident of Castle street who said that the fireworks regularly hit their house on the parade show.

RESOLVED: Members agreed to ask the fireworks contractor to angle the fireworks in the safest direction away from houses and people but hopefully still visible from the town centre.

296. MINUTE 281

REQUEST FOR IT GROUP TO USE MTC BUILDING

10/10/23: Emailed Bridgend College

Response: Thank you for your email. It is very kind of you to offer us a space in the Council Offices. We have made arrangements to hold some classes in the Maesteg Harlequins Club while we wait for the Town Hall to be ready.

We would like to look at the rooms either next week or the week after if that would be Ok with you as a range of venues would be greatly appreciated

RESOLVED: The Clerk advised that no one has been in to check out the office space but the offer is still open to them.

297. MINUTE 282

MTC SITE VISIT TO MAESTEG TOWN HALL

Advised BCBC of members wishing to attend the sessions

RESOLVED: a member advised that the utilities are now installed in the Town Hall and the heating is looking to be turned on next week ready for the winter period.

298. MINUTE 283

LETTER TO KONE

The Chair of Finance advised that he has written a letter to Kone in regards to their attempt to charge an additional years' service. There has been no response to date.

RESOLVED: to note the information

299. MINUTE 286

FINANCIAL APPLICATIONS

Emails of thanks received from:

- Maesteg Gleemen

RESOLVED: to note the information

300. LIST OF PAYMENTS FOR THE MONTH OF OCTOBER 2023

RESOLVED:

That the tables of **Expenditure (£71,170.27) Income (59,604.96)** during the month of October 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 **£44,347.90**
- A copy of the Receipts and Payments Account which includes expenditure against the budget and the budget remaining and an income analysis.

Members were provided with the finance documentation both in scaled and unscaled versions so they could compare which was easier for everyone to read. Members decided to the scaled version of the finance with all rows on one sheet.

The clerk advised that the payment for the audio upgrade in the chamber has been negotiated as a 50% upfront deposit and 50% when the equipment has been installed. A member raised concerns citing that this is too much but another member stated that a 50% deposit covers the contractor costs for the equipment so would be a fair amount. Members agreed to 50% upfront followed by 50% final payment when the equipment was installed.

The Chair of Finance advised that the time is coming to produce a budget for the next financial year so there will be a finance committee meeting scheduled within the coming weeks.

CMO Summary Report – October 2023

I have been using up some annual leave over October.

The remainder of the month have included the following works:

- Weekly building checks that include:
 - fire alarm
 - emergency lighting
 - legionnaires disease
- Weekly bin emptying on the cycle track
- Inspect and, where necessary, cut back overgrowth or clear debris:
Fp. 15, 36, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45A, 46, 47, 48, 57, 62, 74, 77, 82, Crown Road, Old Tyson Track.
- Milage at start of month – 57,189 at end 57,339 (182 total miles)
- Delivered dog waste bags to library (2) including walk leaflets, Offices (10), Noddfa (8),
- Delivered daffodil bulbs to all who required them
- Installed new bin outside Wilkos, proceeded with almost daily emptying of this bin and the Car park bin.
- Visited Town Hall with other Cllrs
- Fixed Toilet sink with treated wood to minimise risk of it coming away when people lean on it.
- Fixed toilet handle as previous was snapped off again.

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

301. NEWSLETTERS / FLYERS / BRIEFING NOTES/ CONSULTATIONS

Emailed to all Councillors for information:

- NEATH PORT TALBOT REPLACEMENT LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN (RLDP) (2023 – 2038) - DRAFT DELIVERY AGREEMENT (DA)
- Hartshorn House Annual coffee morning is on 1st Dec 2023
- OVW - OCTOBER, NOVEMBER & DECEMBER 2023 TRAINING DATES
- Maesteg Hospital Briefing - October 2023
- Spirit of Llynfi Woodland Apple Event – 14th October
- Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales Draft Annual Report - February 2024
- Minister Visits Maesteg to View Progress of Landmark Redevelopment
- REVIEW OF DEMOCRATIC HEALTH IN THE COMMUNITY AND TOWN COUNCIL SECTOR – consultation to be completed by 27th November
- Spend Christmas in Maesteg Town Centre
- Dumped materials on land at former Cooper Standard site, Maesteg
- Maesteg Fire Station - Grass fires talk – 16/11/23
- Single Use Plastic Ban Comes Into Force in Wales

RESOLVED: to note the information

302. REFERRALS

- **13/10/23:** Is it possible for one of my councillors who represent the West Ward to pay a site visit to the Former Silent Channel Site on oak wood drive, and view the mess being created by contractors And to ask if this practice be stopped and the accumulated mess be cleared
Response 13/10/23: this has been reported to BCBC already
- **20/10/23:** incident of pollution in the river sent to Natural Resources Wales
No response received to date

RESOLVED: to note the information

303. REQUEST FROM CLLR C DAVIES

Can you put on the agenda for next meeting please about warm hubs in the community this winter and possibly funding.

RESOLVED: It was agreed to add this item to the upcoming finance committee meeting.

304. APC TOILET REMOVAL - LLYNFI ROAD CAR PARK

Barriers were placed on the disabled and parent & child parking bays from 10th October 23 in order for the APC toilet to be removed.

The APC toilet was removed on 11th October and the barriers were removed on 12th October 2023.

RESOLVED: to note the information

305. REQUEST FOR THE MINERS MANNEQUIN

We received a request from the Nantyffyllon miner's museum to either have or loan the mannequin that was part of the miners display within the Council offices. It is currently in the lift room upstairs and has been there many years – do any members know how it came to be in the Council offices and if it is our property? It is not on the asset register.

RESOLVED: Members advised that the mannequin has been in the offices for a while and has long since been abandoned so are happy to give it to Nantyffyllon miners museum.

306. BUS ROUTE 37 UPDATE

Email forwarded to all members with an update to the reinstatement of bus route 37. Provider is waiting on a resolution with BCBC, if this is not achievable the service would not be able to start until February 2024.

RESOLVED: to note the information

307. FLORAL DISPLAYS WINTER 2023-24 AND SUMMER 2024

Quote for floral displays:

Winter 2023-24

Preparation & planting flower beds Garn Rd along with maintenance throughout Winter	£600.00
Preparation & planting 14 street planters with winter bedding and maintenance throughout Winter	£1,210.00
TOTAL	£1,810.00

Summer 2024

Installing 96 hanging baskets in Town Centre & 6 in Caerau	£1,540.00
Preparation & planting flower beds Garn Rd with Summer bedding and maintenance throughout Summer	£600.00
Preparation & planting 14 street planters with Summer bedding and maintenance throughout Summer	£1,210.00

TOTAL	£3,350.00
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Watering visits

Hanging baskets per visit with plant food every week	£155.00
Street planters per visit with plant food every week	£75.00

A member queried extra hanging baskets for outside the Blaen, Clerk advised that the Ward Funds could be used to purchase the extra hanging baskets and then then in future years the costs would be included within the flower displays budget. Another member queried adding a 3-tier planter up Maesteg Park. It was agreed that members should discuss the ward funds with the ward members before bringing it to full council.

Members agreed to accept the floral display quotes

RESOLVED: Accept the floral displays quotes

308. COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

Cllr L Thomas has advised that he is stepping down from the Communications Committee from 18/11/2023.

The committee will now need a new member from the West Ward and a new chair of committee.

From the AGM minutes:

*To confirm Membership of the Communications Committee for 2023 – 24
(5 members and includes the Mayor and 1 member from each ward)*

<i>Mayor</i>	<i>Caerau</i>	<i>Maesteg East</i>	<i>Maesteg West</i>	<i>Nantyffyllon</i>
<i>R Martin</i>	<i>P Davies</i>	<i>F Abedalkarim</i>	<i>L Thomas</i>	<i>C Davies</i>

RESOLVED: *That the above appointments be confirmed. Cllr L Thomas appointed Chair*

Members asked the remaining Maesteg West members if they would like to be part of the Communications Committee – Cllr G Williams agreed to be the Maesteg West representative. Members then asked for nominations for the Chair of Committee – Cllr F Abedalkarim agreed to be the Chair of Communications Committee.

RESOLVED: Amend the Committee membership to remove Cllr L Thomas, add Cllr G Williams and change Chair to Cllr F Abedalkarim

309. UPDATE ON BUILDING WORKS TO MTC BUILDING

We have dropped the scaffold to give access to work on the underside of the cornice and first floor windows. Following the cleaning there are a couple of additional repairs which should be considered which are highlighted on the attached.

We have completed the decoration of the cornice (with the exception of any areas affected by the above repairs) however whilst decorating there are 2 or 3 joints which are still dripping water. This may be a residue from water within the parapet. The only other explanation would be where the lead on the cornice is dressed under the rubble walling. This only had minimal cover and I have attached some photos to clarify.

Our next operation would be to dismantle scaffold to window head level on the ground floor windows. Clearly we need to ensure there are no further leaks at cornice level before we move on to this.

Further Update 24/10/2023:

I have attached photos of the main cornice detail at Maesteg. This is made up of insitu sections of cast concrete and nearly all of the soffit joints are leaking. The lead work to the top of the cornice and the upstand appear sound with no visible defects. There is water however coming from under the upstand lead and running across the cornice. It must be assumed that water is still penetrating the parapet from the front. Whilst some of the water is exiting on the front lead the remainder is assumed to be traversing through the cornice and exiting via the soffit joints.

Not sure what the solution should be but at this point there is no quick fix. Please feel free to give Steve or myself a call to discuss if required.

A member asked if the contractor is confident that they can fix the issues to the building. They were advised yes and more works will be conducted in due course.

RESOLVED: To note the information

310. REQUEST FOR LAND SEARCH – PEN Y GARN TERRACE

Cllr R Penhale- Thomas has requested a land registry search for land at Pen y Garn Terrace - CF34 9AU where there are 2 large trees. Cllr R Penhale-Thomas has received the following response from BCBC:

BCBC has confirmed the land isn't in the ownership of Bridgend CBC and that there are two very large elm trees extending over the height of the houses. He has also indicated that the trees show no obvious evidence of decay or technical failure.

For a small fee the owners of the properties in Penygarn Terrace may wish to contact land registry to determine the owner of the land to address this situation of the tall trees.

RESOLVED: It was agreed to conduct the land search after receiving a 'what 3 words' map reference from Cllr Penhale-Thomas

311. MTC COPIED INTO EMAIL FROM MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC REGARDING ACTIVE TRAVEL ROUTE

Although there is very little chance of a seamless AT route down to Tondu, are the Council planning on applying for Welsh Government funding to extend the existing path along the disused Port Talbot Railway line down to Cwmfelin/Mill View

RESOLVED: to note the information

312. REQUEST REGARDING PALESTINE CRISIS

I am contacting the council in regard to the Palestine crisis. I was hoping as a town if we could raise money to donate to UNICEF during this time.

In Palestine thousands of children have been killed, water needs to be rationed between families. 500 millimetres of water a day which is unacceptable. We are able to raise money as a town to UNICEF to donate emergency packages to families so they are able to have water and food.

Israel are in control of Palestine's water, food, fuel, electricity and hospitality equipment. They are shooting and bombing throughout humanitarian corridors and committing war crimes against people.

We need to support the innocent people in this conflict. It is unfair for children to have to live in fear every day and being unable to feel safe or that they feel hopeless.

I hope as a community we can help donate to the victims of this.

Members discussed this request and the Chair of Finance advised that the Council do not have the power to provide funds under the proposed terms. We could consider an S137 application but that would need to be from an organisation such as UNICEF itself.

RESOLVED: Advise the resident that the Council do not have the power to provide funds under the proposed terms. We could consider an S137 application but that would need to be from an organisation such as UNICEF itself.

313. LETTER OF THANKS – HANDRAIL BRIDGEND ROAD

Letter of thanks received from a resident regarding installing the hand rail next to the bus shelter on Bridgend Road

RESOLVED: to note the information

314. CLERK LAPTOP

The Clerk's laptop is making strange noises when in use, ITCS have looked at the laptop and advise that a new i5, 8GB RAM, 256GB SSD, 15.6" screen laptop is purchased at a cost of £549 + vat

RESOLVED: Members agreed to the purchase of a new work laptop for the clerk

315. REAL LIVING WAGE INCREASE

26/10/2023: email received from Welsh Gov advising of an increase to the national living wage from £10.90 to £12 per hour. Maesteg Town Council currently have a staff member on the real living wage.

Nationallivingwage.org advises; *The Living Wage rates for 2023-24 were announced on the 24th October 2023. Employers will then have 6 months until May 1st to implement them.*

RESOLVED: Members agreed to the increase in the real living wage for the member of staff who is currently on it and, as ethical employers, to backdate it from April 2023.

316. PERFORMANCES IN THE MARKET SQUARE – PERFORMANCES & CAFÉ'S

Currently the performances in the market square have the following organisations booked:

Date	Morning 10.30am – 11.30 am	Afternoon 1.30pm – 2.30pm
18/11/23		Maesteg Ukulele
25/11/23	Maternal Harmony	
02/12/23	Llynfi Valley Council of Churches blessing of the crib	Alex Blower
09/12/23	Harmony	
16/12/23	Llynfi Valley Council of Churches	H David School of Dance

Letters were hand delivered to ALL Commercial St and Talbot St café's asking them to quote by 24/10/23 for the supply of mince pies and hot drinks during the performances. To date the only café to respond is Casey's Café who have an outdoor catering set up. They have quoted £1.65 per mince pie and hot drink.

Members mentioned a few local groups and individuals who may be interested in performing and they will pass their details across. It was mentioned that some Cafes have said that they did not receive a letter. The Mayor confirmed that she personally attended the mentioned Cafes and explained the offer to them in addition to staff members delivering letters. Members agreed that, given tenders were invited and the deadline passed with only having the one quote in, then the singular quote is to be agreed to who have quoted £1.65 per mince pie and hot drink.

RESOLVED:

- To contact the additional groups / individuals who may be interested in performing once details are received.

- Agree to the quote of £1.65 per mince pie and hot drink

317. PARADE PORTA LOOS

Delivery of the porta loos will take place on Friday 1st of December ready for the parade on the Saturday.

RESOLVED: to note the information

318. CHRISTMAS TREE OUTSIDE TOWN HALL

We received the following from Centregreat;

I have been speaking with my colleague about this and the tree that used to go outside the front of the town hall was around 35 feet in height. Is this what you are looking for? This size of tree is extremely difficult to get hold of – I have been searching forestry's for a couple of large trees for another project and the only place I could find was in the Midlands which we have to collect. If this is what you would like please let me know and I can speak to the forestry to see if there is anything available, I had a tree reserved but at the height of last years (and going into the same location as last year)

I would like to give you an idea also, the couple I have had to buy for a council have cost ourselves £3000 each just for the tree itself (no carriage or installation /dressing costs), we then have to send 2no Articulated Vehicles also to the Midlands to collect and so it is an expensive thing to do, I may have gotten this wrong and it is not a very large tree you are looking for but if you could confirm that would be ideal and if needed, I can check around on Monday for you

Members deliberated this issue and it was agreed to purchase a large tree for outside the Town Hall and not to have a tree outside the Council Offices.

RESOLVED: Order the larger tree for outside of the townhall and not outside the council offices.

319. OLD CHRISTMAS LIGHTING LOCATIONS

Email received from Centregreat;

We have installed the new features in both Commercial and Talbot Streets for you but as you know there were no new features for the couple outside of Asda by Castle Street. Did you want some of the old features installed on these columns or just leave completely free? If you can let me know, when possible, that would be ideal

RESOLVED: Members agreed to placing the older lights on Castle street.

320. SANTAS GROTTTO 2023

The grotto is full steam ahead for the unit that is normally used, tickets at to go on sale tomorrow and the grottos first day will be the 18th of November. We have secured one of the old Caseys café units as well that will be used for letter writing. The contractor

has said that they will dress the unit at no additional cost and it'll have a red post box for the children to post their letters. To man the unit though and ensure proper function the contractor has requested the following;

'Regarding costing, we would look to place a crew member for 6hrs each day, across all 10 event days. This would total £1,140.00.'

Cllr L Thomas **proposed** and seconded by Cllr R Martin that we agree to the additional costings for the grotto to be staffed adequately. All members agreed.

RESOLVED: proceed with the additional cost for Letter writing

321. AGENDA ITEM 9 - TO DISCUSS THE POST OFFICE

Members had sent in many requests about ways to help the post office following the break in they experienced. It was noted that previously, the Council were hoping to house the post office within the Council Offices and obtain a license to operate it. Unfortunately, Maesteg Town Council do not currently have the power of competence, this will be obtained when the Clerk(s) are qualified and the accounts are in order over the period of 3 audits.

Members had other ideas which were;

- Purchase then rent out or lease the old post office building under a community trust arrangement
- Find out the use of the current library building after it moves into the town hall.

It was agreed that for the long-term home for the post office there would need to be proper investigating and feasibility studies completed. Members agreed to add the post office to a future projects committee meeting. It was requested that previous reports on the Post Office be distributed to all members

RESOLVED:

- feasibility studies completed.
- Members agreed to add the post office to a future projects committee meeting.
- Forward all previous reports to members

322. AGENDA ITEM 10 – TO DISCUSS BUSINESS RATES RESPONSE FROM BCBC

Members were provided with the response to the letter previously sent to BCBC in regards to the additional business rates (NNDR) for the upstairs to the town council offices. The letter explained that after Citizens Advice vacated the upstairs office space and notified BCBC then Maesteg Town Council would be liable for the rates from that date (circa 2020). The letter highlighted that the building is viewed as 2 separate buildings and BCBC were unaware that Maesteg Town Council were the owner. Since our letter they have advised that the building could be billed as 1 building but the Town Council would need to approach the valuation office.

Clerk queried whether we set up a direct debit or pay in full? Council agreed to pay all outstanding invoices in full.

Clerk also mentioned the NNDR for the unity in Heol Ty Gwyn, it was agreed to also pay this outstanding invoice in full.

RESOLVED:

- Members agreed to pay all the outstanding invoices in full for upstairs in Council building and the Unit in Heol Ty Gwyn
- Contact Valuation Office to merge the upstairs and ground floor back into 1 building

323. FINANCIAL APPLICATIONS

Members were provided with application forms from the following organisations:

1. MAWS – MAESTEG ANIMAL WELFARE SOCIETY

Cllr R Penhale-Thomas declared an interest in this item and took no part in the discussion

Date received: 04/10/2023

Request £500 towards the costs of veterinary bills

Recent bank statement provided. Last received S137 in August 2022

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

2. LLYNFI VALLEY BOXING CLUB

Date received: 16/10/2023

Request £500 towards purchasing safety equipment for members to use

The current financial climate will prevent lots of local people from accessing things such as a boxing / fitness club.

We want everyone to have the chance to be able to attend without the financial burden of having to buy their own equipment just to walk through our doors.

We want every person in our community to ALL have the same opportunities and to join us on the journey of a healthier lifestyle

Recent bank statement provided. Last received S137 in February 2023

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

3. LLYNFI VALLEY COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

Date received: 19/10/2023

Request £500 towards the purchase of new figurines for the crib and the licence for having the crib in the market square.

N.B they bank with the Credit Union and do not have access to bank statements.

1st time to receive S137 grant funding

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

4. LLYNFI VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Date received: 19/10/2023

Request £500 towards the printing costs of a new book about the history of Maesteg in the 1950's – 1960's.

Recent bank statement provided, last received S137 in December 2022

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

5. FRIENDS OF MAESTEG WELFARE PARK

Cllr R Collins and Cllr R Penhale-Thomas declared an interest in this item and took no part in the discussion

Date received: 22/10/2023

Request £500 towards purchasing a variety of battery/chargeable outdoor lights which will be used to light up various parts of the woodland in Maesteg Welfare Park for the festival of light on 3rd December 2023.

Recent bank statement provided, last received S137 in June 2018

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

6. CAERAU COMMUNITY GROWERS C.I.C.

Cllrs AR Davies, A James and G Williams declared an interest in this item and took no part in the discussion

Date received: 29/10/2023

Request £500 towards making the garden more accessible to disabled users by installing raised beds which incorporates a “key hole” access point which is raised higher above ground for disabled users.

Recent bank statement provided, last received S137 in March 2023 (previous financial year)

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

7. MAESTEG HARLEQUINS

Date received: 30/10/2023

Request £300 for selection boxes for the ‘minis section’ (children aged 5 – 15) and minced pies to be given for free alongside the sold mulled wine.

Recent bank statement provided

1st time to receive S137 grant funding

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

8. WALES AIR AMBULANCE

Date received: 01/11/2023

Request £500 to keep our 4 helicopters in the air and 8 rapid response vehicles on the road in 2023/24

Recent bank statement provided, last received S137 in December 2022

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

324. DELEGATES REPORTS

Clerk advised that there were no delegates reports

325. PLANNING

Cllr R Penhale-Thomas declared an interest in planning application P/23/640/LIS and therefore took no part in the discussion.

The following applications had no objections:

Ref: P/23/621/APN
Applicant: Mr D Heycock
Location: Field south-west of Vicarage Terrace Maesteg CF34 9PF
Proposal: Prior notification for a new building to store hay and farm machinery
Ask For: Lee Evans

Ref: P/22/685/FUL
Applicant: Rushcliffe Care
Location: Vernon Hart Day Centre Heol Tywith Nantylffyllon Maesteg CF34 0TD
Proposal: Change of use from day centre and boxing gym to mixed use of day centre and sleeping accommodation (amended information received
Ask for: Steven Jenkins

The following application was supported:

Ref: P/23/640/LIS
Applicant: Sterretje Ltd
Location: The Star Public House 144 Commercial Street Maesteg CF34 9DW
Proposal: Listed Building Consent to remove existing single storey wc/store, lobby and external staircase to second floor; refurbish ground floor to provide restaurant; remodel existing first floor space to provide 3no. 1 bedroom apartments and 1no. bedsit; remodel existing second floor space to provide 2no. 2 bed apartments; provision of bike and bin stores
Ask For: Lee Evans

**BRIDGEND LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN - ADDITIONAL HEARING
SESSION 21.11.23**

There is an additional hearing session in relation to the Bridgend LDP and scheduled to be held via Teams on 21 November 2023 between 10.00 and 17:00.

This is to discuss MAC 047 – Policy COM1(5) Land at Ewenny Road, Maesteg. Please look at the latest news section for more about this here:

<https://www.bridgend.gov.uk/residents/planning-and-building-control/development-planning/replacement-bridgend-local-development-plan-2018-to-2033/latest-news/>

Invitation to attend the hearing sent to all members.

Following members will attend:

Cllr F Abedalkarim

Cllr P Jenkins

Cllr R Martin

Minutes emailed to Councillors to Read on 13th November 2023

Minutes accepted at a Hybrid meeting of the Council held on 5th December 2023

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Mayor