

## 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, 21<sup>st</sup> November 2023**.

### **PRESENT:**

#### **COUNCILLORS:**

**R Matrin (Mayor)**

F Abedalkarim, AR Davies, C Davies, P Davies, A James, C Knight, A LeGeyt, M Rowlands and I Williams

**APOLOGIES** were received from Cllrs, P Jenkins, R Lewis, R Penhale-Thomas, G Thomas and L Thomas

**DECLARATION OF INTEREST:** none received

### **334. TO RECEIVE EPM AND TO DISCUSS THE CHRISTMAS PARADE EVENT MANAGEMENT PLAN**

The Mayor welcomed Mr P Whittaker from EPM Creative Management to the meeting to present the Christmas Parade Event Management Plan.

EPM advised that they have attended ESAG (Events Safety Advisory Group) meetings and they have discussed the Christmas event management plan. In addition to this EPM have also met with a local SW Police Sgt this evening who have advised they will have more of a presence on Parade day, they will have PCSO's in the old Revlon site to assist with managing the lorries and groups. There will also be a presence within the Town on the day.

Regarding the original picnic benches idea, these will now be fenced areas whereby SIA Stewards and First Aiders will be available.

The following questions were raised:

- will be tents / gazebos for parade groups to use before the parade to get changed etc?

This had not been discussed previously, groups that participate in the parade come ready for the weather and ready dressed for the parade.

- What about the street hawkers in the middle of the roads?

This is a problem everywhere as licenses for Street Hawkers can be issued in any County and can be used in any area. The Police will not stop them only ask to see their licenses. It was discussed that maybe EPM and SW Police chat to the street hawkers and give them designated areas to trade and make it clear that no one is allowed to set up in the middle of the road. Street hawkers are not part of the event management plan as they are not invited to trade, they just turn up.

- Are the fire brigade coming?

Clerk advised that the station commander had advised that yes, they intend to participate unless they have an emergency call out.

- Complaints about silly string

This is an annual complaint not only from parade participants but also from the public. Unfortunately, EPM, MTC and SW Police cannot stop any shop from selling the silly string. Although we can ask the parade participants not to allow their groups to use the silly string and maybe a polite social media post to ask the public not to purchase it?

- Stage and BridgeFM – last year they took ages to set up

We have hired a trailer / truck stage that turns up and is set up within approx. 45 minutes. Once the stage is in place the entertainment can start. Mr L Jukes has been booked as a DJ although not in his capacity as BridgeFM presenter but more of an entertainer playing music, engaging with the crowds and presenting the various acts on the stage, hopefully a few of the local choirs will also perform although this is not confirmed yet.

- Query if the public liability insurance covers very eventuality i.e. if someone falls off one of the lorries?

There is £5 million of public liability insurance and there is £5 million employers' liability insurance which should be sufficient – it is for the insurance companies to decide where the blame lays if there is an incident. It was also noted that the groups and organisations have signed disclaimers on the application forms that indemnifies EPM, MTC and the lorry companies.

**EPM then explained the role for Councillors on parade day:**

EPM see the role of councillors as PR / interacting with the public. Ideally EPM would like to know who will be attending the day in order that groups of councillors can be strategically placed to meet and greet the following:

- Public with disabilities – show them the area cordoned off for them
- VIP's – MP, AM, Mayor of BCBC, BCBC Leader
- General public

**RESOLVED:**

- Advise parade participants not to allow their group to use silly string
- MTC to use social media to request that no silly string is used on the day
- Cllrs to advise if they are attending the parade
- EPM to liaise with SW Police throughout and to talk to the street hawkers
- MTC Clerks to update social media on the day with the community engagement

**Minutes accepted at a HYBRID meeting of the Council  
held on 5<sup>th</sup> December 2023**

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**Mayor**