

**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, 5th December 2023**

PRESENT:

COUNCILLORS: **R Martin (Mayor)**
F Abedalkarim, AR Davies, C Davies, P Davies, A James,
C Knight, A Le Geyt, R Lewis, R Penhale-Thomas,
M Rowlands, G Thomas, L Thomas and I Williams

APOLOGIES:

Apologies were received from Cllrs R Collins, P Jenkins and G Williams.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST:

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

Cllr P Davies declared an interest in this item relating to Tonna Rd bus shelter

Cllr P Davies declared S137 application from CDT

Cllr R Penhale-Thomas declared an interest in planning application P/22/751/FUL

341. POLICE MATTERS

Members welcomed Sgt Watts of South Wales Police to the meeting. The following facts and figures were provided; did provide the following crime figures;

Maesteg Crime Statistics for November 2023

	Caerau / Nanty	Maesteg East	Maesteg West	Llan	Total in category
Robbery	0	0	0	0	0
Drugs	0	1	1	0	2
Dwelling burglary	1	0	2	0	3
Burglary other	3	1 att.	3	1	8
Theft of vehicle	0	0	1	0	1
Theft from vehicle	1	0	1	1	3
All other theft	2	8	8	1	19
Damage	6	3	2	0	11
Violence against The person	20 (1)	14 (2)	19 (5)	4	57
Domestic related Occurrences	5	3	3	1	12
All crime total	33	27	37	7	104
ASB total	8	5	6	1	20
Drink Driving	0	1	0	0	1

RESOLVED: Members raised the following;

- Suspicious activity by Sian Dixons school of dance last night – Sgt Watts advised there was no reports last night, if there is suspicious activity – you must report it.
- Recent burglaries – Sgt Watts advised that there has been an arrest in relation to all recent burglaries.
- Post Office update? - Still live investigation so cannot share many details, there are multiple arrests with multiple bails awaiting forensic evidence.
- Christmas Parade – thank you (SWP) for attending the parade on the weekend.

Members thanked Sgt Watts for his attendance. Sgt Watts parting comments were concerned with Christmas and asked if members can pass on the message to residents to not leave any goods/vehicles unattended during the Christmas period as things can disappear in the blink of an eye. He also mentioned to keep doors and windows locked, even when awaiting a delivery.

342. TO RECEIVE THE MAYORS REPORT

The Mayor advised that she attended the following events:

10 th November	Ysgol Cynwyd Sant presenting award to Christmas parade poster winner
10 th November	RBL Concert of Remembrance
22 nd November	Cwmfelin Primary & St Mary's and St Patrick's Primary school presenting Christmas parade poster runner up
24 th November	The Deputy Mayor attended Curtain Ups fund raising event.
1 st December	Hartshorn House charity coffee morning
1 st December	Along with some fellow Cllrs, judged the Christmas window competition in the town centre
2 nd December	Christmas Parade

RESOLVED: to note the information

343. 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** – 07/11/2023 emailed 13/11/2023
- **Extraordinary Council** – 21/11/2023 emailed 22/11/2023

The minutes of the **Projects Committee** – 15/11/2023 emailed 21/11/2023 were taken as read and the following recommendations were accepted:

- a) updated costings be obtained for new toilets and, if deemed reasonable, to have them installed outside of Wilko
- b) baby change facilities be purchased and professionally installed along with the removed disabled handle
- c) CCTV camera installers to visit the Council Offices to provide accurate quotes. The camera locations would be determined by the Clerks

- d) An expression of interest be sent to BCBC in regards to the Bridge Street land after checking if surveys can be completed before this.
- e) Seek a professional company to create a business plan for the Council.
- f) Projects are to be fully costed before presenting them for consideration in the Projects Committee.
- g) Drop kerbs project to be reviewed when full costings have been provided (number of drop kerbs, cost to install, BCBC permissions etc.)
- h) approach local companies to build up to 4 metal noticeboards for installation across the 4 wards of Maesteg Town Council.
- i) all projects will be reviewed by the projects committees

The minutes of the **Finance Committee** – 22/11/2023 emailed 23/11/2023 were taken as read and the following recommendations were accepted:

To note Q2 analysis

1. To remove £50k from Capitol projects traffic scheme and used towards the current overspends as listed above.
2. To use the remaining Llynfi Road car park toilet budget to fund the Blaencaerau play area CAT and the Graffiti murals.
3. Personnel Committee to discuss CMO pay.
4. To discuss the proposed draft budget for 2024-25 in an Extraordinary Council meeting once BCBC have provided the taxbase rate.
5. Policy Committee to produce a Ward Specific Fund policy.
6. Budget spends for committees to be discussed in the AGM.
7. To accept Quote 2 for internal auditor 2023-24.

RESOLVED: to note the information

MATTERS ARISING

344. MINUTE 287

RBL – REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

A couple of complaints that the Road Closures didn't include the traffic lights at Castle Street (near ASDA). Clerk advised that the road closures in the past only ever included Commercial Street and Talbot Street.

Money collected for the wreaths = **£2,324.00**

Clerk also advised that before the meeting the Maesteg Branch RBL emailed to advise that having counted and banked all of the donations from this year's Poppy Appeal in Maesteg, the total amount raised in the Maesteg area was **£13,387.30!**

A member stated that the road closures were not in place at the appropriate time and whilst the parade was assembling, the contractor had to drive ahead to ensure the road was closed, this was disappointing for such an event

RESOLVED: To advise the road closure company on disappointment with the lateness of closing the roads.

345. MINUTE 288

REQUEST FROM CLLR F ABEDALKARIM – DEFIBRILATOR

Defibrillators arrived and delivered to Maesteg Community First Responders who have advised that their electrician has kindly offered to fit the cabinets again if the venues wish.

RESOLVED: to note the information

346. MINUTE 291

BLAENCAERAU PLAYPARK

A member requested an update on the transfer of the playpark. They were advised that documents were sent to the clerk and were signed and sent back to our solicitors and we are now awaiting further correspondence. The Mayor advised that she will get in contact with our solicitors to check on the status.

RESOLVED: to note the information

347. MINUTE 292

GRAFFITI MURALS FOR TOWN CENTRE

13/11/23: Emailed Cllr M Rowlands for update

28/11/23: Email sent to all members with the following information from Cllr M Rowlands:

Street Artwork Areas

Here's some ideas we've had for the following areas, I have also attached some photos of previous works completed where you can get a flavour of what could be achieved and how vibrant and interesting the areas could become.

1. Llynfi Road Car Park - 52 pillars

Theme the pillars to represent aspects of the valley, this could include for example; a set amount of pillars to football with football themes and the badges of the local clubs, a set amount of pillars for the arts again with art themes and representing local arts groups. This could run through with various themes such as but not exclusive to:

- Sports - football, rugby, netball, gymnastics, judo, taekwondo, table tennis, cycling, dance, boxing, canoe,
- Arts - performing, painting,
- History - historical groups, key events or people
- Environment - river cleaning, food growing
- Schools - representing each primary school and comprehensive school
- Voluntary groups - centres, families, children, youth,
- Politics - MTC, key local politicians of the past
- Industry - coal, revlon,

If you have any other suggestions, please let me know?

2. Lane alongside Blue Pearl - section near entry into town centre

Theme here to be a historical insight to Maesteg with key figures, events, buildings, industry of the area.

For example; t

- Town Hall,
- Council Offices,
- national anthem being sung for first time,
- mining, coal,
- sports stars,
- political people, etc.

This artwork could be a mixture of colour and black and white, or keep it in certain specific colours to be representative of the area and make it dramatic and eye catching.

If you have any other suggestions, please let me know?

3. End terrace – Commercial Street

Theme here along the lines of ‘Croeso/Welcome i/to Maesteg’ in large fonts with surrounding aspects of the valley?

As previously mentioned, we need to revisit this site and look at what could be achieved with the current tree and foliage on the wall, and ways forward, so a subcommittee to work on this is a good idea. This could be a stunning welcome to Maesteg artwork at the start of town.

Time frame

Look to begin these projects in the new year early January. The car park will take a few weeks, the lane a few days to a week, and the end terrace likely a week.

Costs

As previously provided. A reminder that as mentioned we would need to factor the cost of scaffold or a cherry picker for the end terrace artwork, unless could get a company to donate the use of either for this project.

Any suggestions or questions just let me know

Members debated several ways to reach out to the public to gather ideas on what theme or specifics to include in the murals. It was agreed to put a post on the website, Facebook page and to email schools and as many community groups to get involved asking them for their ideas / logos etc.

Members wished to oversee the project with a working group which will consist of the following members:

- M Rowlands,
- R Penhale-Thomas,
- L Thomas,
- R Martin,
- C Davies – (Cllr C Davies will soon be away for several months, in which case Cllrs G Thomas or R Lewis will take his place on the committee as fellow members of the Nantyffyllon ward.)
- I Williams.

RESOLVED:

- Post onto the website and Facebook page inviting groups for their ideas
- Email schools, groups and organisations inviting them to give their ideas / logos
- Sub Committee to meet to discuss the ideas and to progress the scheme

**348. MINUTE 294
BUS SHELTERS COMMERCIAL STREET**

09/11/23: emailed BCBC to proceed with the bus shelter on Commercial Street

RESOLVED: to note the information

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

13/11/23: Emailed the company to advise of the further requests from residents not to have them over their properties.

A member requested that we look into silent fireworks for next year.

RESOLVED: Ask the fireworks company if they can provide silent fireworks for next year.

**350. MINUTE 298
LETTER TO KONE**

13/11/23: Response to the letter sent by the Chair of Finance received and all members copied into the response.

It was noted that KONE had not replied to the questions raised and only asked when the outstanding payment would be made. It was agreed that the Chair of Finance is to contact them again.

RESOLVED: Chair of Finance is to contact them again.

**351. MINUTE 305
REQUEST FOR THE MINERS MANNEQUIN**

13/11/23: emailed Nantyffyllon Miners Museum they are welcome to collect the mannequin.

RESOLVED: the clerk advised that the museum have been to collect the mannequin.

352. MINUTE 307

FLORAL DISPLAYS WINTER 2023-24 AND SUMMER 2024

08/11/23 Emailed the contractor that Council agreed to the quote

RESOLVED: to note the information

353. MINUTE 308

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

13/11/2023 AGM Minutes updated with updated Committee membership & Chair

RESOLVED: to note the information

354. MINUTE 310

REQUEST FOR LAND SEARCH – PEN Y GARN TERRACE

13/11/23 Cllr R Penhale-Thomas provides what3words location for the land registry search, however the land registry online search will not allow the what3words location to be used.

Cllr R Penhale-Thomas came into the office to see if we could get the land search done, however the system would not allow us to select the land only properties. Cllr R Penhale-Thomas will ask BCBC how to complete the search.

RESOLVED: To note the information

355. MINUTE 312

REQUEST REGARDING PALESTINE CRISIS

13/11/23: emailed resident to advise that MTC do not have the power to provide funds under the proposed terms, however UNICEF are able to apply for S137 Grant

RESOLVED: to note the information

356. MINUTE 314

CLERK LAPTOP

14/11/23: New Laptop arrived

RESOLVED: to note the information

357. MINUTE 316

PERFORMANCES IN THE MARKET SQUARE – PERFORMANCES & CAFE'S

08/11/23: Telephone call received from a café on Commercial Street advising that they did not receive a letter to tender for the hot drinks and mince pies during the performances in the market square. With the café owner's permission their email address has been given and passed to Friends of Maesteg Welfare Park to see if they

would like a vender at their event on 3rd December, the email address also passed onto our current events management company to see if they could be used for future events.

A member telephoned to advise that another café on Commercial Street had also not received the tender invitation – however when the Deputy Clerk delivered the invitation Cllr L Thomas was in the café at the time – Cllr L Thomas conformed this in the meeting.

Another member advised that he had been accosted on the weekend by a café owner complaining about not receiving the tender invitation and that they feel that the lower end of Commercial Street is forgotten about.

Members discussed the tendering process and were advised that letters went out to all Cafes. Louchis was closed on the several times a member of staff went over and there is no post box to allow the posting of the tender letter. The Mayor also advised that she spoke with a member of staff face to face in Louchis and discussed the tender document for hot drinks and mince pies with them.

A member requested that an apology letter be sent to Louchis and Valley Café, Valley Café claim not to have received a letter also but a Councillor was in there the day a member of staff delivered the letter. Members requested that the Clerks send a letter to Valley Café and Louchis explaining the situation.

Performances in the Market Square – Clerk approached Curtain Up who are unavailable to perform.

RESOLVED: letter to be sent to Valley Café and Louchis explaining the situation.

358. MINUTE 318
CHRISTMAS TREE OUTSIDE TOWN HALL

08/11/23: emailed Centregreat to advise a large tree outside the Town Hall and no tree outside MTC building.

RESOLVED: to note the information

359. MINUTE 319
OLD CHRISTMAS LIGHTING LOCATIONS

13/11/23: emailed Centregreat to advise Council do want the old lights on Castle Street

RESOLVED: to note the information

360. MINUTE 320
SANTAS GROTTO 2023

09/11/23: Emailed Production 78 to advise that Council agree to the additional costs

RESOLVED: to note the information

361. MINUTE 321

TO DISCUSS THE POST OFFICE

13/11/23 Emailed members with the report from 2020

RESOLVED: to note the information

362. MINUTE 322

TO DISCUSS BUSINESS RATES RESPONSE FROM BCBC

Outstanding payments made – see finance sheets

14/11/23: emailed Valuation office to make MTC building 1 building and not 2 buildings

RESOLVED: to note the information

363. MINUTE 323

FINANCIAL APPLICATIONS

Emails of thanks received from:

- Caerau Community Growers CIC
- Friends of Maesteg Welfare Park
- Llynfi Valley Boxing Club
- Llynfi Valley Council of Churches
- Llynfi Valley Historical Society
- Maesteg Harlequins
- MAWS
- Wales Air Ambulance

RESOLVED: to note the information

364. MINUTE 333

PROJECTS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Deputy Clerk has found the Ogmore Vale Strategy and Action plan for 2022 – 27. It was completed by Gareth Kiddie Associates who are in Barry. They weren't appointed by the Council though; they were appointed by Bridgend Reach which is run through BCBC with funding from the UK Gov. Please see below links for further information.

Both Ogmore Vale and Reach have been emailed to ask about the process and any potential costings and if MTC qualify for the Reach program. They have come back to advise that its best to have an initial meeting but they believe it is definitely something they can help with and would like to setup a meeting. Deputy Clerk will look to arrange a meeting pending the acceptance of the recommendation in full council on the 5th December.

- Ogmore Vale Strategy and Action Plan 2022- 2027: Part-1-Ogmore-Valley-Strategy-and-Action-Plan-Research-Results-12.03.21-2.pdf (ogmorevalecommunitycouncil.co.uk)
- Reach: Home - Reach (bridgendreach.org.uk)

- Gareth Kiddie Associates: Home | mysite (gka.org.uk)

Cllr R Penhale-Thomas has asked that the following is added to a meeting with BCBC CAT Officer to look at the possibility of a basketball court on the dis-used tennis court at Maesteg Welfare Park and also a splash pad.

RESOLVED: Members agreed for the Council to open communications with Reach and to discuss projects and additional items with BCBC CAT officer.

365. MINUTES 340

FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

BCBC have provided the Base Tax Rate of 5674.80 for 2024-25 this information was forwarded to all members. Extraordinary Council meeting to be arranged in December 2023.

RESOLVED: to note the information

366. LIST OF PAYMENTS FOR THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER 2023

RESOLVED:

That the tables of **Expenditure (£117,868.49) Income (£177,947.46)** during the month of November 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 November 2023 totalling **£10,394.61** – a member queried the final payment to EPM for the Christmas Parade – Clerk advised that EPM had honoured the quote although some of the final costs were above what was quoted
- A copy of the Receipts and Payments Account which includes expenditure against the budget and the budget remaining and an income analysis.

A member requested if income can be added into the budget since it will make up for items that need reserves pulled in from. Members agreed to add guaranteed income although bank interest and CCLA dividends are dependent on the amount of money in each account and varies throughout the year. It was agreed that a copy of guaranteed income is provided to all members. It was also agreed that once the budget is set, this can be reviewed at the quarterly meetings and amend a necessary.

CMO Summary Report – November 2023

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
- Daily emptying bins in car park
- Moved benches in market square
- Renewed handle in disabled toilet
- Assembled knapsack sprayer and calibrated
- Attended Pencoed College to complete pesticides spraying course
- Inspect and, where necessary, cut back overgrowth or clear debris:
Fp. 6, 24, 27, 38, 39, 52, 57, 77, 82, Cwmdy Rd kissing gate to cemetery, overgrowth by the planter on Crown Rd, steps between Castle Street and Bridge Street, by the dram in Nantyffyllon, footpath next to Nantyffyllon Primary School, footpath in between Nantyffyllon Surgery and pharmacy.
- Milage at start of month – 57339 at end 57440 (101 total miles)
- Delivered defibrillators to Maesteg First Responders,
- Delivered dog waste bags to special families (8) including walk leaflets, Offices (10), Noddfa (8),

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

Members asked whether it would be useful to put the work the CMO completes onto the Facebook page to show the public what work is being done by the Council.

It was agreed to ask the CMO to take some photos for the Clerk's to update social media.

Another member raised concerns with complaints sent to Cllr M Hughes regarding sprays on the road and that MTC have no powers to stop street hawkers or shops from selling silly string – can this also be added to Facebook to tell the public that we don't have powers and any complaints should be directed to BCBC Licencing department.

CORRESPONDENCE

367. NEWSLETTERS / FLYERS / BRIEFING NOTES/ CONSULTATIONS

Emailed to all Councillors for information:

- OVW - NOVEMBER & DECEMBER 2023 TRAINING DATES
- WLGA - Road Safety Strategy Consultation
- CCLA - October 2023 PSDF Factsheet
- BCBC - Council Launches Annual Christmas Campaign to Boost Town Centres

- Welsh Government - Cymru Can – Future Generations Cymru Strategy
- Welsh Government - Minister's letter re. Asbestos Management
- South Wales Police and Crime Commissioner Annual Community Survey
- Welsh Government - Vacancy: Head of Escalation and Enforcement
- Welsh Government - Vacancy: Senior Anti-racist Wales Action Plan (ArWAP) Regional Forum Convenor – SEO x 4 roles
- BCBC - Assia Domestic Abuse Service Christmas Campaign
- Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP) for Wales Draft Annual Report - February 2024 – consultation ends 8th December 2023
- Welsh Government - New consultation: Local Government Finance (Wales) Bil – consultation ends 15th January 2024
- BCBC - Coychurch Crematorium Xmas Service - 14 December 2023

RESOLVED: Cllr C Davies advised that Caerau Menshed will be doing their ‘Santa through the valley’ on the 22nd and 23rd of December.

*** The Council chamber had a new microphone system installed and users online were having interference and could not hear the meeting in full. Cllr Adam Rhys Davies left the meeting at 7:36 PM due to this. ***

368. NALC NEW PAY SCALES

The pay scales valid from April 2023 to March 2024 received and forwarded to all members.

Pay Scale	Current	New for 2023-24
Deputy Clerk Scale 24 - 28 Currently Scale 24	£16.16/hr	£17.16/hr
Clerk Scale 33 – 36 Currently Scale 34	£21.04/hr	£22.57/hr

Clerk needs an appraisal before the next pay scale point is awarded – this is usually done in December.

Deputy Clerk appraisal is done at the end of March before the next pay scale is awarded in April.

Members agreed to the pay scale increases and for the Clerk to continue onto pay scale 35 following a successful appraisal. The chair of finance requested that the budget be updated with these new figures.

RESOLVED:

- implement the new pay awards
- Clerk to have appraisal in December and new pay scale in January

369. REQUEST FROM CLLR M HUGHES

Request for Clearance of Overgrowth: Public Right of Way From Cwmdru Road to New Section of Maesteg Cemetery.

CMO has checked the location and it isn't on our rights of way maps. Deputy Clerk has checked the BCBC website for rights of way – apparently this footpath doesn't exist (as a right of way). BCBC ROW Manager has been emailed to check the ownership. CMO has advised he has cut back the overgrowth but would like to confirm ownership.

RESOLVED: to note the information

370. 3 X CONCRETE SLABS FOR BENCHES

1 company have provided a quote and have advised:

When pouring a concrete slab, the ideal temperature should be around 10 degrees. Also, You can actually go down to 4 degrees but as the work is in Maesteg, the weather may be a bit colder there.

None the less, these slabs are quite small and the job will not take long for us to complete. Unless we have a really cold snap or heavy rain, they should be fine to undertake.

If we get the order, I can check for a warmer spell and get it booked in.

The following work you require:

- On arrival, we will commence a site setup, fencing and site signage.
- We will excavate the ground x 3 areas and compact to eliminate movement.
- We will then construct shuttering to receive concrete at the required measurements.
- The concrete will have bevelled edges all around.
- Once the concrete has dried, we will strip the shuttering and clean down the slabs.
- All excavated materials will be removed from site and a waste transfer note supplied.
- All labour and materials supplied and fitting included to complete.
- On acceptance of our quotation we will send over all the RAMS and relevant docs required

Quote = £2,850 Exc. VAT

Cllr G Thomas **proposed**, seconded by Cllr F Abedalkarim, that this quote be accepted since the benches were purchased a long time ago and no other quotes have been brought forward despite the effort of the clerks to obtain.

RESOLVED: to proceed with the quote to install the concrete slabs

371. REFERRALS

13/11/23: Overgrowth behind end property in Pond Mawr overlooking Garth School. Over the years the area outside the boundary wall has become overgrown (ie as no one council/school has kept on top of land). This is now at a detrimental level to the resident's property with overgrown trees and rubbish being fly tipped there. Referral forwarded to Garth School, BCBC Property and BCBC ROW

Response: No response to date

RESOLVED: to note the information

372. CHRISTOPHER WILLIAMS PAINTINGS

We have received communication from a constituent expressing concerns about the condition of the Christopher Williams painting titled 'Sunset off the Llyn (Llyn) Peninsula.' The constituent believes that the painting has been released by the local authority and is currently displayed in the Council Offices in Maesteg.

According to the constituent, the masterpiece is in dire need of restoration. Their dismay intensified upon observing the painting hanging on a nail opposite a row of small-paned windows with full-height openings, exposed to direct sunlight. The artwork appeared dull and devalued in this setting, with a bucket strategically placed to catch drips from the ceiling on the stairs leading to another painting that caught the constituent's attention.

The constituent stated that Christopher Williams, must be, considered as national treasures and to see these works of art kept in such conditions was shocking, but wholly endorsed his beliefs about where values lie today.

After speaking with several people, our constituent, has been made aware that the Town Council would happily restore this painting however, BCBC need to grant ownership to Maesteg Town Council so they can go ahead.

We would be grateful if you could share with him the current situation with regards to these paintings.

Clerk has advised that the paintings belong to BCBC and we only received clarification of this after a year of trying by contacting BCBC Property & BCBC Conservation Officer and finally requesting a freedom of information request – see attached emails

MTC have also enquired with BCBC if they intend to restore the paintings as we have multiple Christopher Williams paintings in our building which also belong to BCBC – to date we have not received any response

Members agreed that we have done all we can to protect and preserve the paintings. The matter rests with BCBC.

RESOLVED: To note the information

373. PSOW COMPLAINT

A complaint has been made to the PSOW from a member of the public about a Town Councillor. The PSOW have decided not to investigate the complaint. The Councillor has been made aware of the complaint and decision.

RESOLVED: to note the information

374. DEPUTY CLERK COMPUTER UPGRADE

The deputy clerks PC in the office has been experiencing slow load times and programs have been crashing. We have spoken with ITCS who advised that the computers are coming to the end of their lifecycle but a RAM upgrade could award a few more years use before having to upgrade the entire system.

They have recommended the installation of an extra 4GB RAM (currently 4gb in situ) which would bring the total to 8GB.

The price for the upgrade would be: £35 Exc. VAT

In addition to the slow computer issues, when ITCS tried to fix it, they uninstalled the Microsoft office package and were unable to reinstall the older product. They said that our license is for the online package only and to upgrade the license it would be £10.30 per month for the Clerk and Deputy Clerk.

Cllr L Thomas **proposed**, seconded by Cllr G Thomas, that the requested upgrades and licenses be accepted

RESOLVED: To proceed with the necessary upgrades

375. CAERAU CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTS SWITCH ON

Caerau Christmas Tree committee would like their tree to be lit up at 5.00pm on Saturday 9th December, as we arranging our usual community event for this. Centregreat have advised that there would be a cost of £200 to do this. Caerau Christmas Tree committee are enquiring if this would be covered by MTC as MTC is funding the Christmas Tree.

Members agreed to the £200 cost of the switch on for Caerau as it's a small amount in comparison to the cost that we paid for the tree.

RESOLVED: advise that MTC will pay for the overtime.

376. REQUEST FOR SELECTION BOXES

It's that time of year again and just asking if I would be able to have 100 selection boxes for the children of Oakwood Estate as usual.

The clerk advised that there is an excess in selection boxes from the Christmas grotto so those can be utilised for this along with flying start provisions and other groups who are looking.

Nantuffyllon Ward members had emailed a request for 150 selection boxes for Caerau Men's Shed for their Christmas grotto and this was accepted. Depending on stock other members can approach the clerk with requests.

RESOLVED:

- To provide selection boxes to Oakwood, Caerau Men's Shed, Flying start.
- Any surplus from the grotto can then be distributed to the following organisations:
 - Bocs Bwyd in Garth Primary School
 - Bocs Bwyd in Nantuffyllon Primary School
 - Bocs Bwyd Cwmfelin
 - Food Pantry in CDT
 - Food Pantry in Cwm Calon
 - Food Pantry in Noddfa

377. POSSIBLE GRANT FUNDING FOR BUILDING FROM BCBC

Email received and forwarded to all members with the possible grant funding for the Grade II* Maesteg Town Council building. This is not confirmed, however if granted it could be up to £97,737.56

RESOLVED: to note the information

378. CHRISTMAS EVENTS: CASEYS CAFÉ

Caseys won the tender and have proceeded to setup in the market square giving out free mince pies and hot chocolate to the Christmas performers and the crowds watching. Caseys informed us that BCBC contacted them advising them that they are not able to do continue doing it as they do not have a license, the permission to use the market square and it will inflict on a new business entering the market from selling the same goods.

We contacted BCBC and they confirmed this was the case. We asked BCBC on behalf of Caseys if they are able to setup outside the Council offices – we were advised that the correct street traders license would need to be obtained along with permission from the highways department. We do not have access to the 2metres which we own around the building due to the scaffolding and Heras fencing so the only land available is BCBC land.

Caseys advised that they purchased all the mince pies and hot chocolate already for the Christmas period so will be taking that financial loss. They have asked if the Council would be able to compensate them.

They quoted £1.65 per mince pie and hot chocolate and the vouchers we were providing were for 785, totalling £1,295.25.

Cllr G Thomas **proposed**, seconded by Cllr P Davies, that if Caseys provide receipts of their purchases, then the Council would seek to reimburse them for their cost price on the condition that the remaining stock is given to the Council to hand out to local groups/organisations

RESOLVED: Request receipts and surplus mince pies from Casey's.

379. MAESTEG TOWN COUNCIL CLAIM FOR REIMBURSEMENT OF THE AGENCY AGREEMENT FUNDING FOR 2023/24

Emil sent to BCBC ROW including a spreadsheet of ROW cleared in 2023-24 to request reimbursement for 2023-24

RESOLVED: to note the information

380. MISSING PANELS IN BUS STOP ON TONNA ROAD

Cllr P Davies declared an interest in this item and therefore did not take part in the discussion.

Cllr P Davies sent a referral to BCBC regarding missing panels in the bus stop on Tonna Road. BCBC have advised:

Many thanks for your referral (MEMREF-564921842 - Missing panels in bus stop - Tonna Road, Maesteg). The bus shelter on Tonna Road is in the ownership of Maesteg Town Council, as per the attached letter dated 23 December 2008. BCBC could carry out the works on behalf of Maesteg Town Council, and recharge them for the cost. Is this something you would like to enquire about directly with Maesteg Town Council?

Email sent to BCBC to ask how much the repairs will cost to make the necessary repairs, officer is on leave until 30/11/2023

RESOLVED: to ask BCBC to proceed with the replacement panels and to recharge MTC

381. MTC CHRISTMAS OPENING AND JANUARY MEETING

To confirm the following:

- MTC closes on Friday 22nd December and re-opens on Wednesday 3rd January 2024.
- January Full Council meeting is moved to the 2nd Tuesday in January i.e. 9th January 2024

RESOLVED: Members agreed to the Christmas opening times.

382. FINANCIAL APPLICATIONS

Members were provided with application forms from the following organisations:

1. NANTYFFYLLON RFC – MINI & JUNIOR SECTION

Date received: 20/11/2023

Request £500 towards purchasing new equipment for the mini & junior sections. The new equipment will help players across the age groups to develop and expand their knowledge of the game.

Bank statement provided

1st time to request S137

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

2. CDT

Date received: 21/11/2023

Request £475 to part fund the cost of the pantomime. The remaining costs will be covered by tickets sold, 60 x £5.00 equalling

Bank statement provided,

Last received S137 grant in December 2020

RESOLVED: Council to donate the sum of £475 under Section 137 of the Local Government Act (as amended)

3. CANCER INFORMATION AND SUPPORT SERVICES

Date received: 22/11/2023

Request £500 to provide counselling support to individuals affected by cancer living in the CF34 postcode. CISS provides telephone/online support in this area which costs in the region of £35 per hour to provide..

Bank statement provided, Accounts ending March 2023

Last received £200 S137 grant in December 2021

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

4. **HAPPY CRAFTERS**

Date received: 23/11/2023

Request £484 for lockable storage cupboards for the craft group to store their resources in the Nantfyllon Miners Institute. The current storage is in very bad condition and insufficient for the needs of the group. We also need some additional resources: 3 dress making scissors, 1 pack of crochet hooks, one pack of knitting needles and craft resources.

Bank statement provided; 1st time to request S137

RESOLVED: Council to donate the sum of £484 under Section 137 of the Local Government Act (as amended) - on the condition that the Nantfyllon Miners Institute have granted the group permission to store the cabinets there.

383. **DELEGATES REPORTS**

Cllr F Abedalkarim advised that he attended the town and community council forum meeting this month and Bridgend County Borough Council are keen to offload suitable assets to those with the means to take them over.

A member asked if we could place an expression of interest with BCBC about the current library for when AWEN move into the Town Hall. Another member wished the Council to express an interest in the market square as a whole and to include the units. Members discussed this and advised that the units are under BCBC control and is income for them so this may not be granted. Members agreed to ask the question to BCBC and report back.

RESOLVED: Contact BCBC to give expression of interest in the Library and market square

384. **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/22/751/FUL

Applicant: Mr M & R Jones

Location: Land adjoining 104 Cwrt Coed Parc Maesteg CF34 9DR

Proposal: 2no. new detached dwellings (amended location plan including access, certificate B and amended plans received)

Ask for: Steven Jenkins

Ref: P/23/634/FPN
Applicant: Natural Resources Wales
Location: Garw Forest East of Cwmdu Ganol Farm Cwmdu Road Maesteg CF34
0DH
Proposal: Prior notification for construction of 725m long forest road to be used by
vehicles to clear larch
Ask For: Phil Thomas

Ref: P/23/715/RLX
Applicant: Llandeilo Building Supplies (LBS)
Location: Maesteg Depot (LBS site) Heol Ty Gwyn Industrial Estate Maesteg CF34
0BQ
Proposal: Vary condition 1 of P/23/25/FUL to refer to revised plans to reposition
the warehouse storage Building
Ask for: Lee Evans

Minutes emailed to Councillors to Read on 7th December 2023

Minutes accepted at a Hybrid meeting of the Council held on 9th January 2023

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Mayor