

**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, 9th January 2024**

COUNCILLORS

IN PERSON:

R Martin (Mayor)

F Abedalkarim, M Rowlands, G Thomas and G Williams

ONLINE:

R Collins, AR Davies, C Davies, P Davies and A Le Geyt

APOLOGIES:

Apologies were received from Cllrs C Knight, R Lewis, R Penhale-Thomas, L Thomas and I Williams

DECLARATION OF INTEREST:

Cllr R Collins C Davies and P Davies declared an interest in any items relating to Bridgend County Borough Council.

388. POLICE MATTERS

South Wales Police gave their apologies for not being able to attend the meeting but were able to provide the following crime figures.

Maesteg Crime Statistics for December 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	1	0	0	0	1
Burglary other	1	0	0	1	2
Theft of vehicle	1	0	0	0	1
Theft from vehicle	0	1	1	0	2
All other theft	5	17	8	1	31
Damage	2	1	5	1	9
Violence against The person	29 (6)	14 (4)	17 (3)	1	61
Domestic related Occurrences	17	3	2	1	23
All crime total	39	33	31	4	107
ASB total	2	5	4	0	11
Drink Driving	1 other	0	1	0	2

RESOLVED: to note the information

389. TO RECEIVE MR R WOOD FROM INVISIBLE WALLS FAMILY SERVICES TO TALK ABOUT THE WORK OF INVISIBLE WALLS

RESOLVED: Mr Wood was not in attendance for the meeting, so no talk was received.

390. TO RECEIVE MR P WHITTAKER FROM EPM TO DISCUSS THE REPORTS FOR KEEPERS RUN & CHRISTMAS PARADE EVENTS

Members were provided with EPM reports for both the Keepers Run and Christmas Parade.

The Mayor welcomed Mr P Whittaker who provided a brief summary of the fun run that took place on the 9th July 2023.

Members stated that they were impressed with the event and how it was run including the turnout of runners. The consensus of those in attendance was that the event has potential to grow year on year and be a staple in the community.

The following adjustments were recommended by those in attendance:

- More portaloos closer to the start point of the race,
- Move the start point to the rugby pitch,
- Have a trophy for the overall winner with names added each year,

Mr Whittaker moved on to the Christmas parade of 2023 and gave a brief summary of the event and provided feedback that he has received since its conclusion from members of the public, SW Police and BCBC. Members mentioned their concerns with securing the Revlon / Silent Channel site sooner for next time or to have an alternative lined up in case that falls through. The Clerk explained that the site was requested to BCBC in October, but no confirmation came through until the week of the parade – it was suggested that the Council reach out to the owner of the Revlon / Silent Channel site and arrange with them personally for access to the site. It was noted that this land is earmarked for house development in the near future so a contingency will need to be looked at. There were also concerns raised with some groups throwing lollies at each other before the parade started.

The following ideas were put forward for the next Christmas parade:

- Allocate floats appropriately so smaller groups are on the smaller floats,
- Invite PCSO J Banks to parade meetings so she can tackle issues that arise at the assembly point,
- Have more entertainment/characters in between or on the floats to make it more magical and longer – the parade is over fairly quickly from start to finish,
- Book the double decker for next year, it was a crowd favourite.

RESOLVED: to note the information

391. TO RECEIVE THE MAYORS REPORT

The Mayor advised that she attended the following events:

9 th December	Christmas lights switch on in Caerau
14 th December	Race night at Chaplains bar
15 th December	St Davids church
17 th December	Maesteg Park Christmas stars and Santa event
19 th December	CDT pantomime
20 th December	Maesteg Comprehensive school concert
22 nd December	Christmas by candlelight St Michaels church
2 nd December	Christmas Parade

RESOLVED: to note the information

392. 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** – 05/12/2023 emailed 07/12/2023
- **Extraordinary Council** – 14/12/2023 emailed 14/12/2023
- **Extraordinary Council** – 18/12/2023 emailed 19/12/2023

RESOLVED: to note the information

MATTERS ARISING

393. MINUTE 343

PROJECTS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

a) updated costing for new toilets for car park:

Quote 1	Quote 2	Quote 3
£59,825.40 pre fab steel and timber frame. Built offsite and installed.	£15,600 per year. Portaloos, extra £75 per week for disabled portaloos but is not suitable for mobility scooters. Portaloos can only accommodate 60-90 guests per 8 hour period.	£74,250.00 Twin Cubicle HM Touchless toilet with Baby Change. 'brick and mortar with stainless steel interior'. Costings can increase subject to site visit for groundworks.

It was **agreed** that the toilets are to be reviewed by the projects committee to establish the differences in the quotes.

b) baby change facility purchased – have asked Highland Services to install

c) CCTV installers – awaiting suitable date for quote

The Clerk updated members confirming correspondence that we received from the conservation officer stating that it would be best to install CCTV after the works to the building have been completed and it will require listed building consent.

d) Surveys for Bridge Street can/not be done before expression of interest (EOI)

Deputy Clerk met with BCBC CAT Officer and Countryside team on the land adjacent to Bridge Street with the following key points;

Bridge Street.

- To install a bigger bridge by River Street circa £250,000.
- There is a high probability of financial support from BCBC to make the area into a much more appealing 'wild area' with picnic tables, gravel paths and wooden obstacles for children etc.
- Subject to surveys, BCBC would allow a set of goal posts (or similar) in the area but it is unlikely financial assistance would be offered to this. Set of posts circa £3000. Maintenance costs would also be increased. The area is currently used by dog walkers and those gaining access to River Street and beyond and may be affected by those playing sports and could have the possibility of altercations arising between animals and those using the sports area.
- Managing the day-to-day costs of the area, if it is made into a kick about area would need to be considered in the CAT transfer. i.e. if the council can afford/manpower to do it.
- Funding is available through the Town and Community Council partnership. Applications would need to be in by the end of February to be considered this year.
- The Countryside team will be sending some ideas to us for what they think would suit the area, which would complement BCBC's environmental objectives.
- Costings to install an average playpark, if possible due to access for HGV's, to include landscaping, installation, legal work etc is likely to either take up a large portion or even exceed the Councils annual precept.

To proceed, members must decide on a plan for the area and present an expression of interest to BCBC. We are still awaiting case studies from the Countryside team and have sent a chaser email which we will forward the response on to members when we receive it.

The Deputy Clerk advised that when BCBC have sent some ideas across for the land on Bridge street then the projects committee are to meet again to come up with their plan for the land and to submit an EOI.

Maesteg Welfare Park;

- BCBC CAT Officer has already completed an EOI with Sport Wales for a MUGA on the double tennis court in the welfare park. He has since informed me that the EOI was accepted and BCBC have been advised to proceed to the grant application stage.
- BCBC CAT Officer mentioned that the process may be slower with BCBC completing it due to their internal processes, I asked if we could assist in any way and was told that there may be scope for Maesteg Council to oversee much

of the process and would decrease the time it takes overall. I have asked him to send me some information and we'll be able to see if we have the capability of doing it.

- The splash park he said is an idea that will follow when the MUGA is underway. There is nothing official yet, but BCBC CAT Officers idea was to have it somewhere near the pavilion since there is already a water supply and drainage. The proposed splash park would be similar to the one in Aberdare and suitable for children up to teenage years.

There isn't much more to share on this right now until BCBC CAT Officer comes back with further information.

e) 18/12/2023 meeting arranged with BCBC REACH in regard to a Business Plan for the Council. They are in the procurement process to have a company conduct this for us. The company will conduct a public consultation amongst other things and create a strategy to achieve goals over a 5-to-10-year period. We have a follow up meeting on the 17th January 2024 to track the progress so far. REACH advised that the entire process and business plan should be concluded by the end of 2024.

g) drop kerbs – Cllr Fadhel advised that BCBC have installed the drop kerbs along the route from Garth to the town centre.

h) notice boards x 4 cost – contacted MET Fabrications – no response to date, waiting on another company that was recommended by Cllr G Thomas.

RESOLVED:

- Projects Committee to review the quotes for the toilet
- Wait until all building works completed before installing CCTV
- Wait for BCBC to advise of ideas that land off Bridge St can be used for
- Projects Committee to look at ideas and to submit EOI

394. MINUTE 344

RBL – REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

Email from Maesteg Branch RBL forwarded to all members.

Road Closure company contacted to advise of the lateness of closing the parade route roads.

RESOLVED: to note the information

395. MINUTE 346

BLAENCAERAU PLAYPARK

A member requested an update to the current transfer of the playpark. Last month we were waiting on the transfer of documents between each party solicitors.

Members were advised that new documents had to be submitted by V2C as the first documents sent to Thomas & Thomas included the transfer of a highway which was

not part of the agreement. When this new document is given to our solicitors then there should be a 4 – 8 week turnaround to complete the asset transfer.

RESOLVED: To wait for V2C to resubmit the relevant documents

396. MINUTE 347

GRAFFITI MURALS FOR TOWN CENTRE

Website, social media, schools, groups and organisations contacted / updated to request ideas for the Llynfi Road car park murals.

A member said that the website had yet to be updated. The deputy clerk advised that this would be amended accordingly. A member asked if an end date for ideas had been set – 30th January was confirmed. After this date members can meet with potential artists in order to plan how the mural is to be constructed.

The Clerk advised that a number of schools and groups had queried the pillars in the car park and whether this would be one pillar per organisation i.e. 4 sides or would it be one side per organisation? Cllr M Rowlands advised that this is dependent on the number of schools / groups / organisations that apply.

RESOLVED: to update the website and place an end date for ideas

397. MINUTE 349

FIREWORKS FOR CHRISTMAS PARADE

08/12/2023 emailed fireworks company to see if they can provide silent fireworks for next year.

Response emailed to all members: Unfortunately, there is no such thing as silent fireworks but there are lower noise fireworks about 50% of your display was using lower noise fireworks.

We can provide a full low noise display but will struggle to really fill the sky like we do for a finale within the given budget.

There are low noise ariel shells, but we would have to use a lot more of them.

Cllr P Jenkins response: We can find a suitable spot with either quinn's permission or even school, also there is suitable unused waste land on approach to school even a lock up yard used by bcbc many years ago. Rear of harvey street. Suitably positioned toward playing field of school and miner, into middle of sky fall out over this grassed area. One cannot allow the whole valley to be devoid of such what could be a fantastic finale. I sympathise with those who do not wish but for 15 once a year it is a minor inconvenience. Major cities have these, and Edinburgh has not only these bug gun salute each day, and more. We should be looking to improve and invest in an even brighter display. Maybe large versions of laser BEAMS with twinkle, sparkle, rainbow, effect beamed into night sky.

RESOLVED: to note the information

**398. MINUTE 350
LETTER TO KONE**

Waiting for Chair of Finance to email KONE for a response. The Chair of Finance advised that the Council have not received a demand for payment since the initial letter was sent to KONE. He advised that in this situation, to await further correspondence before further action is needed

RESOLVED: To wait for further correspondence before contacting KONE

**399. MINUTE 354
REQUEST FOR LAND SEARCH – PEN Y GARN TERRACE**

Cllr R Penhale-Thomas to contact BCBC Land Registry for advice.

RESOLVED: to note the information

**400. MINUTE 357
PERFORMANCES IN THE MARKET SQUARE – PERFORMANCES & CAFÉ'S**

07/12/2023 Email received from Harmony Choir to advise that they are unable to perform on Saturday 9th December due to member illness.

08/12/2023 Letters posted via post office to Louchi's and Valley Café

RESOLVED: The Clerk advised that receipts and photographic evidence was obtained confirming the posting of the letters.

**401. MINUTE 359
OLD CHRISTMAS LIGHTING LOCATIONS**

A member requested an updated inventory from Centregreat of our old Christmas lights on how many can be repurposed throughout the valley. If there is an opportunity the member would like to utilise the ward budget in Nantyllyllon to house more lights there.

RESOLVED: Clerks to check inventory with Centregreat

**402. MINUTE 363
FINANCIAL APPLICATIONS (NOVEMBER)**

Llynfi Valley Council of Churches have updated the Crib in the market square with the new figurines purchased with S137 Grant:



The old figurines will be displayed in the Credit Union.

A member queried where the Crib and figurines are stored? Clerk advised that they are stored in the basement of MTC building – we are waiting for Llynfi Valley Council of Churches to come and remove the crib from the market square.

RESOLVED: To note the information

403. MINUTE 366

FINANCE

06/12/2023 emailed all members with the guaranteed income received:

	Guaranteed income	Variable income 2023-24 to end of November
BCBC ROW Agency agreement	£3,938.25	
Llan Middle CC Office hire	£2,600.00	
Vault Rental	£1,500.00	
Bank Interest		£292.57
CCLA Dividends		£18,530.83
TOTAL	£8,038.25	£18,823.40

06/12/2023 Caerau Men's Shed emailed to advise that MTC will donate 7 X 24 boxes = 168 selection boxes to them for their Santa's Grotto

Selection boxes were delivered to all 8 Primary Schools and 4 Flying Start provisions:

- Blaenllynfi Flying Start,
- Caerau Primary
- Caerau Primary Flying Start
- Cwmfelin Primary
- Garth Flying Start
- Garth Primary
- Llangynwyd Primary
- Nantyffyllon Primary
- Plasnewydd Flying Start
- Plasnewydd Primary
- St Mary's & St Partrick's Primary
- Ysgol Gynradd Cynwyd Sant

A member thanked the council for providing selection boxes to CDT for Christmas.

RESOLVED: to note the information

404. MINUTE 370

3 X CONCRETE SLABS FOR BENCHES

07/12/2023 company emailed to proceed with the concrete slabs for the benches – the company have advised that they are waiting for better weather before installing the concrete slabs.

RESOLVED: to note the information

405. MINUTE 374

DEPUTY CLERK COMPUTER UPGRADE

07/12/2023 ITCS contacted to upgrade the necessary RAM and to upgrade the 365 Office package for Clerk & Deputy Clerk to include the Microsoft apps onto pc's which has since been installed.

RESOLVED: to note the information

406. MINUTE 375

CAERAU CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTS SWITCH ON

07/12/2023 emailed Centregreat and Caerau Christmas lights group that MTC will pay for the overtime.

A member queried whether we would be charged for the overtime for the lights to be switched on as it was the same person as in previous years. It was agreed for the Clerk to double check this with Centregreat.

RESOLVED: To check with Centregreat if the overtime will be charged for the Caerau lights switch on.

407. MINUTE 376

REQUESTS FOR SELECTION BOXES

06/12/2023 Resident contacted to advise that we have 100 selection boxes for them to give selection boxes to the children of Oakwood Estate.

RESOLVED: to note the information

408. MINUTE 378

CHRISTMAS EVENTS: CASEYS CAFÉ

07/12/2023 Emailed Caseys Café requesting the receipts for the purchase of the mince pies and hot drinks you have already purchased and give us the remaining mince pies which we will then reimburse you.

The clerk advised that Caseys only wanted to be reimbursed for the mince pies and hot drinks given out on the Saturday they attended the market which has since been completed.

RESOLVED: To note the information

409. MINUTE 380

MISSING PANELS IN BUS STOP ON TONNA ROAD

06/12/2023 BCBC contacted to proceed with the necessary repairs and to re-charge MTC – no date given yet for this to be completed.

RESOLVED: to note the information

410. MINUTE 381

MTC CHRISTMAS OPENING AND JANUARY MEETING

20/12/2023 Website and Facebook updated with the building closure dates for Christmas

RESOLVED: to note the information

411. MINUTE 382

FINANCIAL APPLICATIONS

Emails of thanks received from:

- Caerau Development Trust (CDT)
- Cancer Information Support Services (CISS)
- Nantyffyllon RFC mini's & Juniors

Happy Crafters – Waiting for confirmation they have permission to store a lockable cupboard in Nantyffyllon Miners Institute

RESOLVED: to note the information

412. LIST OF PAYMENTS FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER 2023

RESOLVED:

That the tables of **Expenditure (£34,273.79)** **Income (£7,485.32)** during the month of December 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 December 2023 totalling **£617.52** – a member queried if we could obtain a servicing contract with Combicare to pay monthly and receive a yearly boiler service. It was agreed to ask combicare for this.

- A copy of the Receipts and Payments Account which includes expenditure against the budget and the budget remaining and an income analysis.
- Q3 VAT Reclaim sheet (£23,354.27) – agreed for Clerk to proceed with the VAT Q3 (October – December) reclaim.
- Chair of Finance requested that a finance committee meeting be called to discuss the Q3 accounts.

Members were made aware of a quote from BCBC for just under £12,000 to lay tarmac on the site that the new miner’s sculpture will be located in Maesteg Welfare Park. It was **agreed not** pay this cost and to obtain new quotes, if the works have to be completed by BCBCs approved contractors list then that would be considered. If we can obtain other quotes and negotiate with BCBC that would be advantageous also.

CMO Summary Report – December 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
- Inspect and, where necessary, cut back overgrowth or clear debris:
Fp. 2A, 6, 15, 23A, 27, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 57, 62, 74, 82
- Milage at start of month – 57504 at end 57618 (114 total miles)
- Arranged boiler service.
- Volunteered with Spirit of the Llynfi Woodland
- Delivered gazebo to Friends of Maesteg Welfare Park.
- Installed crib in Market Square.
- Delivered Christmas gifts to local care homes.
- Delivered selection boxes to schools.
- Delivered dog waste bags to menshed (4)
- Took van for a longer journey to burn off carbon

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

CORRESPONDENCE

413. NEWSLETTERS / FLYERS / BRIEFING NOTES/ CONSULTATIONS

Emailed to all Councillors for information:

- BCBC - Coychurch Crematorium Xmas Service - 14 December 2023
- Audit Wales Newsletter – November 2023
- Public Services Ombudsman for Wales (PSOW) press release - Equality and Human Rights Casebook
- UK Government - Martyn’s Law to ensure stronger protections against terrorism in public places - GOV.UK
- Maesteg Comprehensive School - Christmas Concert 2023 invitation
- Welsh Government Vacancies:
 - Government Lawyer - Public Law
 - Litigation Assistant x2
 - Senior Interaction Designer
- BCBC - Business @ Bridgend December E-news Newsletter
- Public Sector News - Welsh First Minister resigns | Nottingham facing budget decision | New government headquarters announced.
- OVW - 2024 - TRAINING DATES BY MODULE - JANUARY, FEBRUARY & MARCH
- Older People’s Commissioner for Wales December Newsletter
- Welsh Government: Guest blog: Working together for an Age-Friendly Wales
- BCBC - Council & Partners Arrangements for Christmas Period
- Welsh Government - Future spending purposes for dormant assets funding in Wales – Consultation ends 28th February 2024
- Welsh Government - Consultation: Fiscal Intergovernmental Relations – consultation ends 1st March 2024
- Christmas Cards / emails from:
 - Bridgend Town Council
 - Ty Hafan
 - Sioned Williams MS
 - EPM

RESOLVED: To note the information

414. CHRISTMAS GROTTO ATTENDANCE 2023

No. of children	18/11/23	19/11/23	25/11/23	26/11/23	02/12/23	03/12/23	09/12/23	10/12/23	16/12/23	17/12/23	TOTAL
Expected	97	50	27	32	115	72	114	87	115	108	817
Actual	46	24	38	27	107	36	67	70	79	67	561

RESOLVED: To note the information

415. WELSH GOVERNMENT - WORKPLACE RECYCLING LAWS 2024

From 6 April 2024 it will become law for all businesses, charities, and public sector organisations to sort their waste for recycling.

MTC is unable to sort the waste collected from the bins on cycle track and car park.

MTC is able to sort waste in the building to paper, card and general waste.

RESOLVED: The clerk advised that a meeting is taking place soon with the Councils current waste provider to discuss this further.

416. VULNERABLE HELP

We received a telephone call from an individual advising that The Bridge in Bridgend advised him to contact Maesteg Town Council if they need help with their bills etc. We did advise the individual that we do not have the power to offer such a scheme and that any type of schemes or help offered from a public point of view would be under the remit of Bridgend County Borough Council. We did ask if that may be who they were referred to, but the person was adamant that it was Maesteg Town Council.

RESOLVED: To note the information

417. EMAIL QUERY REGARDING ROAD WORKS IN CAERAU

Hi! I can't figure out the company, so I thought the council is the next option. While we understand all the digging up the roads of Caerau, my grandparent currently been stuck in our house all day, no note or warning that we would be blocked in. With thick concrete or mud or something over the pavement and barriers blocking the road.

Is there any way you know the company and advise them to maybe at least leave a note the day before they start construction? It gave my grandparents quite a fright with a loud machine driving up the pavement. Same with the Caerau church bus stop houses too.

Clerk advised: Thank you for your email, unfortunately Maesteg Town Council do not undertake any road works, you would need to contact Bridgend County Borough Council by completing an online form <https://www.bridgend.gov.uk/my-council/customer-services/reporting-issues/>

I do know that utility companies do not require permission from Bridgend County Borough to complete utility works.

You could also contact your Bridgend County Borough Councillor for Caerau - Cllr Paul Davies Cllr.Paul.Davies2@bridgend.gov.uk or Cllr Chris Davies Cllr.chris.davies@bridgend.gov.uk

RESOLVED: To note the information

418. CROCKERY FOR LOCAL ORGANISATIONS

AWEN Cultural Trust have given permission for MTC to dispose of the crockery from the Town Hall – this has been advertised on Facebook for organisations to get in contact with us on a first come first served basis.

Following organisations have collected some crockery:

- Nantffyllon Mining Institute
- Valley Foxes
- Maesteg Hospital - Mental Health department

RESOLVED: The clerk advised that another post will go out shortly highlighting the remaining crockery to be collected.

419. TRADE WASTE NOT COLLECTED

The CMO advised that the trade waste wheelee bin was not emptied on 5th December – this was reported, and we will not be charged for this. The wheelee bin on 12th December was full due to non-collection the week before.

20/12/2023 the CMO advised that the wheelee bin was not collected on 19th December, we contacted Biffa who apologise and will not charge for the missed collection. The CMO now has 2 weeks' worth of bin emptying in the lock up and has filled the wheelee bin. Biffa have advised that they are not in the area until next Thursday 28th December and have recommended that if we put all the waste not collected this week next to the wheelee bin, they will also collect this with no extra charge. The CMO will empty the bins this week and place them next to the wheelee bin, hopefully this won't attract rats. The CMO will also be up to empty the bins on Thursday 28th December to monitor if the wheelee bin is emptied.

RESOLVED: To note the information

420. CAERAU WALL INSTALLATION UPDATE

21/12/2023: Email received from Cllr M Rowlands and forwarded to all members regarding the Caerau Wall Insulation Scheme Briefing - December 2023

RESOLVED: To note the information

421. REQUEST FOR NAME TO BE ADDED TO STONES IN CAERAU

Email received via Clerk for an application for a name to be placed onto the 'Stones' in Caerau.

The person in question is for a 16 year old who lives in our village and has recently won a series of Hip Hop dance championships.

She started out with UDC but won her titles for Synergy in the Welsh championships and taking the individual title, followed by doing the exact same in the British Championships and again in the 2023 World Championships in Blackpool. This

person has not only made her parents proud but the whole area proud hence we request that this person's name is added onto the 'stone pillars'.

Members debated the process for adding names to the stones. It was noted that the middle of the three stones in Caerau states that the people are on there for their contribution to the community of Caerau.

Members queried where funding for this should be budgeted from, some believed that as this is a Caerau ward asset then the Caerau Ward fund should be used, others thought that it is a full council decision to add the names and therefore a full council expenditure.

It was **agreed** to ask the local stone mason who engraved the stones for his advice on the matter as to the process and criteria. Once this has been confirmed Council can then devise a procedure and application for adding names to the stone pillars.

RESOLVED: ask the stonemason for criteria and process

422. REFERRALS

21/12/23 sent to BCBC Parking enforcement manager: Complaint by a member of the public who recently tried to access Maesteg Library (North's Lane, Maesteg, CF34 9AA) disabled parking bay but was unable to access the lane as the Talbot Fish & Chip shop were having a delivery and the lorry was blocking the lane. When asked to move the lorry the resident was given some abuse and they refused to give access. I have also been advised that the chip shop owners also on occasion block the lane preventing access to the library and tell anyone who complains that they have been given permission from BCBC to park in the lane.

Response 21/12/23: I am not aware of anyone within the Authority who has given permission for any vehicle to block a highway. The lane has parking restrictions in place to prevent parking. Loading and unloading is permitted when there are yellow lines in place, however this does not permit any person from obstructing the highway, which is in itself an offence that a police officer can enforce.

As with all loading / unloading activity and in fact parking on the highway this can cause an obstruction of the highway, and in the majority of cases drivers move as soon as practicable, if as in the case you describe where a vehicle is parked and no loading activity the driver may well be committing an offence of obstruction in addition to parking contrary to the parking regulations.

The Police are the only enforcement agency who can address matters of obstruction, the civil enforcement officers can enforce the parking restrictions, as stated if no loading is taking place.

21/12/2023 response from BCBC forwarded to both SW Police Sgts for Maesteg.

RESOLVED: To note the information

423. MAESTEG HARLEQUINS RFC

Maesteg Harlequins RFC request a letter of support for their CAT transfer.

Maesteg Town Council have previously given the club a £5,000.00 CAT Grant to spend on storage containers and hand tools to enable them to securely store their maintenance equipment. Maesteg Harlequins were given a “License to Manage” with the legal department of BCBC which allows the club to begin the maintenance and management of South Parade from the end of the 2022 rugby season.

The Mayor also advised that they had emailed her asking for support. Members **agreed** to support the application with a supporting letter.

RESOLVED: To write a supporting letter on behalf of the Mayor and Members of Maesteg Town Council.

424. DELEGATES REPORTS

There were no delegates reports this month.

RESOLVED: To note the information

425. FINANCIAL APPLICATIONS

There were no Financial Applications this month.

RESOLVED: To note the information

426. PLANNING

A list of the following planning proposals received from BCBC to date, for discussion and observation.

The following applications had no objections:

Ref: P/23/706/FUL

Applicant: Mr M Thomas

Location: 4 Priory Terrace Maesteg CF34 9PE

Proposal: Revisions to approved garage: Inclusion of window to east elevation, brick detailing around reveals, raising of roof height

Ask for: Julie Earp

Ref: P/23/484/FUL

Applicant: Mr J Richards

Location: 17 Talbot Street Maesteg CF34 9BW

Proposal: Change of use to convert first floor into 1no. 2 bedroom self-contained flat; convert second floor into 1no. 2 bedroom self-contained flat; remove and renew existing shop front; provide new access to proposed flats; demolish defective first floor of existing rear extension and make good

Ask for: Julie Earp

A member wanted concerns noted about parking for the application: P/23/484/FUL, but no objection to the application.

NEW PLANNING ENFORCEMENT APPEAL

ENF/97/20/ACK - LAND AT BRYN LLEFRITH FARM CAERAU

Minutes emailed to Councillors to Read on 11th January 2024

Minutes accepted at a Hybrid meeting of the Council held on 6th February 2024

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Mayor