

**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, 6th February 2024**

COUNCILLORS

IN PERSON:

R Martin (Mayor)

F Abedalkarim, A Le Geyt, M Rowlands,

R Penhale-Thomas, G Thomas, L Thomas, G Williams, and I Williams

ONLINE:

R Collins, AR Davies, P Davies

APOLOGIES:

Apologies were received from Cllrs C Davies, A James, P Jenkins, C Knight and R Lewis.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST:

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

432. 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 January 2024

	Caerau / Nanty	Maesteg East	Maesteg West	Llan	Total in category
Robbery	0	0	0	0	0
Drugs	2	0	0	0	2
Dwelling burglary	1 att.	0	2	0	3
Burglary other	0	3	0	0	3
Theft of vehicle	1	0	0	0	1
Theft from vehicle	0	0	1	0	1
All other theft	1	13	7	1	22
Damage	2	4	2	0	8
Violence against The person	23 (2)	7 (2)	6 (1)	4 (1)	40 (6)
Domestic related Occurrences	5	1	2	1	9
All crime total	30	27	18	5	80
ASB total	8	4	1	0	13
Drink Driving	0	1	0	0	1

RESOLVED: to note the information

433. TO RECEIVE THE MAYORS REPORT

The Mayor advised that she attended the following events:

10/01/2024	Mayors Charity Fund meeting
20/01/2024	Mayors Charity Fund event in Nantyffyllon RFC
24/01/2024	Llynfi Valley Historical Society meeting
31/01/2024	Mayors Charity Fund meeting

RESOLVED: to note the information

434. 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** – 09/01/2024 emailed 06/02/2024.

The minutes of the **Finance Committee** – 23/01/2024 emailed 04/02/2024 were taken as read and the following recommendations were accepted:

1. To note Q3 analysis
2. Property Committee to look at the asset register.
3. To remain with the current poop scoop bags provider.
4. To remain with one events company for 3 years for fun run, summer events and Christmas parade.

The clerk requested if the Council wished to enter into a 3-year contract with the Christmas grotto. The Chair of Finance advised that, as the grotto was not discussed in the finance committee, then that should remain the same and receive a yearly tender allowing flexibility.

A member suggested that the Fun Run should be arranged if funds dictate and not set in stone each year, they continued, adding that an event such as the parade is expected by the community whilst the fun run is not currently. Another member stated that the Fun Run is very well received and, despite its short life, is becoming a staple in Town Council events with an increase in participation each year. Cllr G Thomas **proposed**, seconded by Cllr R Penhale-Thomas that a middle ground can be found with the Fun Run, advising that a company may have a 3-year contract, but the Council is to agree the final costings in advance before each year. If the costs, go too high then the Council can veto the event. All members were in agreement.

RESOLVED: to note the information and accept the recommendations

MATTERS ARISING

435. MINUTE 393

PROJECTS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

b) baby change facility – quote received to install = £560.00 this included removing

sections of the wall and install plywood on adequate timber framing into the wall to secure the baby change facility. Members agreed to the quote.

c) CCTV installers – awaiting quotes

e) BCBC REACH in regard to a Business Plan for the Council: 17/01/24: Following a meeting with BCBC REACH - they will be procuring a company to complete our long-term action plan.

They are currently putting together a specification for the appointed company to view and then start their work, they asked for the recent history of the Council and what we are currently doing within the community to add to the document and give context. When the specification is done, they will forward a draft copy onto the Council can review it and determine if there are other key factors that they would like to include.

They have said that the appointed company will, in the first instance, want to come in and talk to the Council as well to determine what the Council believes the long-term goals (5 years) should be. The company will be conducting a public consultation as well to compare and contrast them with ours and form an action plan based on that.

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

A member asked if the Council will be footing the bill for the business plan that is currently with REACH within BCBC. They were advised that the REACH program covers the costing in full up to £15,000, tenders above this amount are automatically disqualified.

RESOLVED:

- Proceed with baby changing installation quote
- Await consultation with BCBC REACH
- Chase noticeboards

436. MINUTE 395

BLAENCAERAU PLAYPARK

Cllr M Rowlands advised that there was a delay as V2C placed a highway on the application. This has since been amended and the proper plans just for the park have been submitted.

06/02/24 Update from Thomas & Thomas: I have now heard from Valleys to Coast Solicitors regarding the plan. V2C have the plan and have advised that V2C have now advised that the road is no longer being transferred and they intend to include rights of access of the same within the transfer. Please confirm if this is correct and we will then be able to proceed with reviewing and reporting to you on the proposed transfer.

Cllr M Rowlands confirmed that this is correct and to advise Thomas & Thomas to proceed,

RESOLVED: advise Thomas & Thomas to proceed,

437. MINUTE 401

OLD CHRISTMAS LIGHTING LOCATIONS

11/01/24: Emailed Centregreat to see how many old Christmas lights are suitable for distributing throughout the 4 wards.

15/01/24: Response: Waiting for officer to return to work, will then get a response.

A member requested that we ask for price on the installation of sockets and other necessities on the lampposts to have Christmas lights working on them from next year.

RESOLVED: contact Centregreat to request costs for installation of sockets and other necessities on the lampposts to have Christmas lights working on them from next year.

438. MINUTE 402

FINANCIAL APPLICATIONS (NOVEMBER)

11/01/24: Emailed Llynfi Valley Council of Churches to see when the crib will be moved back into storage.

Crib to me moved back into storage on 25th January 2024.

RESOLVED: to note the information

439. MINUTE 406

CAERAU CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTS SWITCH ON

11/01/24: Centregreat confirmed there will be no additional charge for switching on the Christmas Tree in Caerau.

RESOLVED: to note the information

440. MINUTE 411

FINANCIAL APPLICATIONS

Happy Crafters

A member of the Trustees of Nantyffyllon Miners Institute came into the office and was asked whether the Happy Crafters has asked for permission from the board of trustees at Nantyffyllon Mining Institute to install the locked storage cabinet and he has provided the below response.

I can confirm that the crafters had not asked or consulted with the board of trustees about having steel cabinets in the Institute Trustees discussed the matter in the trustees meeting of last Wednesday 10 January 2024, and decided against steel cabinets being brought in to the Institute, the crafters are not tenants within the

building, or have any agreement with the management, but are classed as casual users only.

Perhaps they may have found another venue for these cabinets, but it is not in our building. I did suggest to colleagues that perhaps they could be placed in the old box office, but my suggestion was rejected. Our Secretary informed BAVO of the decision taken by Trustees, as BAVO emailed the secretary for the outcome of the meeting. Someone should have informed the council, I believe the Secretary was expecting BAVO to do that, as BAVO had informed the Secretary of the council decision when their application was discussed in council.

Following this the Happy Crafters were also contacted, who have provided the following response:

Thank you for the information. The trustees from the Miners Institute have not been in touch with us.

Due to the cold in the hall, the group is looking for a new premises. Many of their members are older and have some health problems and the hall is extremely cold. They have tried to resolve this problem with the trustees but have now decided they need to find new premises. Are you able to hold the grant funding for a little while longer while the group find new premises?

The Clerk advised that an email came in today advising that the happy crafters have moved locations and have updated their S137 request for the following items.

As requested, below please find a rough breakdown of items required: -

12 x 64L plastic storage boxes @ £16 each - £192

10 x 32L plastic storage boxes @ £12 each - £120

Plus £188 to include: -

3 x Dressmaking scissors @ £9 each - £27

Pk Crochet Hooks @ £12

Pk Knitting Needles @ £17 and Craft resources.

Total = £500

Cllr G Thomas proposed, seconded by Cllr L Thomas, that we accept the amended spend as requested by the happy crafters. The initial application was costed at £484, and the new submission was for £500. As the initial application was not paid and £500 is the limit per grant application it was decided that this was a fair substitution.

RESOLVED: To proceed with £500 S137 grant.

441. MINUTE 412

LIST OF PAYMENTS FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER 2023

Combicare have provided the following costs for a maintenance plan for the boilers:

The cost of the maintenance plan would be £28.40 per boiler per month. MTC has 2 boilers = £56.80 per month = £681.60. The boiler service in December 2023 cost £192.00 + VAT

This would include an annual service and certificate, any call outs relating to no heating or no hot water. It would also include any parts required on the boiler ONLY. Any external valves, Pumps, pipework, radiators that are leaking or faulty would not be included. We can however provide an estimate of works after the call out which would be included.

A member suggested that as the boilers are brand new and there is a 15-year warranty, it does not make much sense to go with a service plan. If additional costings occur for the boilers, then the Council will already have an additional £400 that it would not have had if we signed up to the service plan.

RESOLVED: To decline the service maintenance plan quote.

442. MINUTE 415

WELSH GOVERNMENT - WORKPLACE RECYCLING LAWS 2024

Meeting to discuss the new Welsh Government recycling laws to be held in Council office 19th February 2024 with the new BCBC waste recycling provider.

19/01/24: Biffa phoned to see if the wheelie bin contract will be affected by the new laws, Clerk advised that the waste collected is from litter bins on the cycle track and 2 from the car park bins, this waste is unable to be sorted into recyclable and non-recyclable.

Clerk asked for quote for the office trade waste and for Paper/Card it's a roll of 50 bags at £2.50 per bag = £125.00 + VAT and collection is at least fortnightly.

Biffa agreed that the office won't generate 5kg of food waste, therefore the general waste would not need to be sorted.

Please see attached BIFFA booklet on workplace recycling.

Members agreed to add a recycling policy to the Councils policy library which is to be considered by the policy committee in the first instance.

RESOLVED: Policy Committee to develop a recycling policy.

443. MINUTE 421

REQUEST FOR NAME TO BE ADDED TO STONES IN CAERAU

15/01/24: Telephoned the stonemason and left an answerphone message requesting the stonemason to contact the office to provide information on criteria for adding names to the stone pillars.

No response to date - The Clerk advised that the office is attempting to make contact each week with the stonemason and will report back when there is an answer.

RESOLVED: Continue chasing stonemason.

444. MINUTE 423

MAESTEG HARLEQUINS RFC

16/01/24: Letter of support sent to Maesteg Harlequins RFC

RESOLVED: to note the information

445. LIST OF PAYMENTS FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY 2024

RESOLVED:

That the tables of **Expenditure (£11,233.53) Income (£30,445.00)** during the month of January 2024; 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 February 2024 totalling **£67,951.49**.
- A copy of the Receipts and Payments Account which includes expenditure against the budget and the budget remaining and an income analysis.

CMO Summary Report – January 2024

This 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
- Inspect and, where necessary, cut back overgrowth or clear debris:
Fp. 2a, 6, 15, 20, 23, 24, 27, 36, 37a, 38, 39, 41, 42, 44, 46, 47, 52, 62, 64, 74, 82
- Milage at start of month – 57618 at end 57731 (113 total miles)
- Un-installed crib in Market Square.
- Delivered correspondence to Councillors.
- Delivered dog waste bags to special families (8) and office (10)
- Removed wreaths from war memorials.
- Reinstalled bin in car park due to vandalism
- Collected gazebo from Maesteg park.
- Collected our storage boxes from care homes.
- Took van for a longer journey to burn off carbon.
- Fixed broken disabled toilet handle

- Reported vandalism to signage on cycle track
- Emptied room in office ready for coat swap shop

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.

RESOLVED:

The clerk advised that the CMO will be doing some volunteering with the Friends of Maesteg Welfare Park, however, the dates that have been previously set have had to be cancelled due to the bad weather.

A member requested that the Finance Committee look at long standing contracts and suggests that ITCS Contract is evaluated.

The Clerk advised that a new quote was received for the tarmac in Maesteg Welfare Park which will then have in situ, the new miners sculpture. This was for £5,800 which is almost half of the original quote from BCBC. Members agreed to accept this quote since time was running out and the sculpture needs a home in the near future.

CORRESPONDENCE

446. NEWSLETTERS / FLYERS / BRIEFING NOTES/ CONSULTATIONS

Emailed to all Councillors for information:

- GO SAFE - Community Speed Watch
- BCBC – Valleys Regeneration Strategy – public consultation sessions 22 & 23 January 2024
- BCBC - COF webinar recording, slides and top tips
- BCBC Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) relating to dog control in public spaces. Public consultation ends 6th March
- OVW Training dates for January, February & March 2024
- Welsh Government - Secondment opportunity - ARWAP (Anti-racist Wales Action Plan) Programme Delivery Manager
- Llais Cwm Taf Morgannwg - Support to raise awareness of engagement events in Bridgend
- Welsh Government - Job advert for the post of the next Older People's Commissioner for Wales
- Audit Wales – FeeScheme 2024-25
- Planning Aid Wales - Strategic Development Plans Training

- BCBC - Maesteg ASB Management 12.2.23 Agenda items request
- OVW - National Awards Conference 27/03/2024

RESOLVED: to note the information

447. CLASSIC CAR SHOW

Owing to the great success last year Caerau men's shed are looking to run 2 Classic car shows this year for the community at Tesco Car park on Sunday 5th May & Sunday 25th August.

Would it be possible to ask for the MTC council support again this year in paying for flyers for both events?

Cllr L Thomas **proposed**, seconded by Cllr F Abedalkarim, that we support this event and purchase the requested fliers.

RESOLVED: advise that MTC will fund the fliers

448. REFFERALS

04/01/24: evidence of a Cherry Tree showing signs of rot and splitting in Maesteg Welfare Park

Response: No response to date

04/01/24: tree fallen on Bridleway 46 – further email with exact location and photographs sent to BCBC ROW

Response 05/01/24: Thanks for the photos and the further explanation of where the tree is. Thanks too for advising that the tree appears to have been rooted in the farmers field. You're right that this would make a difference because technically if the tree was growing in the adjoining field, then the owner of the field would be responsible for clearing it.

BCBC ROW will take a look at it as soon as possible to determine where it's fallen from and who will need to clear it. We'll let you know when we've made some progress.

16/01/24: Centregreat emailed the following: a parent attending Plasnewydd Primary School has reported seeing one of the Christmas light fixtures nearest the Masonic Hall in a dangerous position, "dangling in the wind".

Response 16/01/24: Centregreat have had a call from Bridgend CBC who are visiting to take down and store for us.

RESOLVED: to note the information

449. REQUEST TO USE COUNCIL CHAMBER – PLASNEWYDD PRIMARY SCHOOL

A class is doing a project where they have to create a promotional video about Maesteg. The children will be looking into the history of the town, how it's changed, what they like about Maesteg and putting the information into a video to share. As part of the project, it would be great if we could visit the council chambers, or for someone to visit us and share their work, would that be possible?

Clerk has advised that they are more than welcome to use the Council Chamber and we would also try and get some councillors to attend – dates yet to be provided.

RESOLVED: to note the information

450. MAESTEG EAST DEFIBRILLATOR INSTALLATION QUERY

Cllr F Abedalkarim has queried when the 2 defibrillators will be installed outside the Workmen's club and the Crown Inn pub.

Maesteg First responders have advised that the defibs have been on site since receipt, just awaiting on the electrician's availability to install.

It was noted that the defibrillator outside the Crown Inn pub has been installed.

RESOLVED: to note the information

451. REQUEST FOR HANDRAIL

Cllr F Abedalkarim has emailed a request for a handrail to follow on from the one already there to be installed on the steps wall running down between Commercial Street and Church Street as I found it unsafe in winter months to walk down as I did fall on my back side in the past as it becomes very slippery. I would be very grateful if you could add this to the projects committee to discuss / Maesteg West members Ward Fund.

Email forwarded to all Maesteg West Ward members with the following responses:

- Cllr R Penhale-Thomas has agreed to use the Ward Fund for this.

The remaining West Ward members - Cllr R Collins, G Williams, R Martin and L Thomas offered their support in this use of the ward fund.

Cllr L Thomas made an additional request that the planter in park view be upgraded with ward funds. West members agreed to this, the Clerk advised that some costings will be provided with the current supplier, but additional costings can be obtained by the West Ward as well.

RESOLVED:

- Get quotes to install handrail.
- Get costs for planter.

452. TOWN & COMMUNITY COUNCIL CLERKS MEETING

The next meeting of the above will be held on Monday 12 February next at 10am in Committee Room 2/3, Civic Offices, Angel Street, Bridgend.

Clerk unable to attend, Deputy Clerk will attend remotely.

RESOLVED: to note the information

453. COMPAINT TO PSOW (PUBLIC SERVICES OMBUDSMAN WALES)

A complaint has been made to the PSOW and is being investigated. Both parties have been notified by PSOW and this is currently Private & Confidential

RESOLVED: to note the information

454. DISABLED TOILET

There is a small leak in the disabled toilet sink which David the CMO checked this morning – he will return with some silicone to rectify this, and the toilet will be unavailable for 24 hours whilst the silicone dries.

Whilst in the toilet he noticed that the flush handle was broken and has replaced this today – I have re-ordered some more handles as we no longer have any spares in the building.

Cllr R Penhale-Thomas advised that he recently spoke with the cleaner and was advised that the public toilet is still being subject to defecation up the walls and around the toilet facilities including sink and bin. Cllr Penhale-Thomas advised that something substantial needs to happen to combat this before the Council loses a member of staff. Members brought up previous suggestions of disabled key and number access only, but this would remove a public amenity for the vast majority of users who use the toilet appropriately. Cllr R Penhale-Thomas **proposed**, seconded by Cllr L Thomas, that we involve South Wales Police and draw up an action plan, following this the Council may need to take more drastic measures.

RESOLVED: Contact SW Police to arrange a meeting to discuss the ASB.

455. UPDATE FOR BUS SHELTER ON COMMERCIAL STREET

17/01/24: email received, and all members cc'd:

In terms of an update, I've listed some milestones below:

- The licence agreement is being signed by Highways, with a copy being sent to Maesteg Town Council.
- Letters to nearby residents will be sent tomorrow, with copies to Maesteg Town Council. I'm not expecting any objections, but I will let you know if anyone does object.
- The street bin on the site will need to be relocated. I'm currently in discussion with our Street Cleansing Department.

- Bus Shelters Ltd will be ready to receive my purchase order. The installation may not be until after the financial year. However, they would be willing to issue an invoice before installation, in order to make the end of financial year budget.
- Bus Shelters Ltd may need to install on a Sunday, due to Commercial Street being busy during the week. Either way, Traffic Management will be required, and Sunday's may be less impact.

I hope this information is of assistance. In the meantime, should you have any queries or require further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

RESOLVED: to note the information

456. DAMAGED NRW SIGN

A damaged NRW sign has been reported to Spirit of Llynfi Woodland who have also reported to NRW as there are other signs also failing.

RESOLVED: to note the information

457. TRANSFORMING TOWNS GRANT

19/01/24: Email received and forwarded to all members to advise that MTC grant application has been assessed and BCBC are able to offer a grant of £97,737.56 towards the improvement works at the Maesteg Town Council building.

Please note, a restriction and Legal charge will need to be placed onto the property- please see pages 12-13 section 8.0 of the Terms and Conditions. Please note this can be done in tandem with the improvement works but by signing the award letter you are confirming acceptance that the restriction and legal charge will be placed on the property.

The Clerk requested the Mayor and Chair of finance to review the award documentation ready to be signed and returned to BCBC. The Chair of Finance has forwarded this to the internal auditor with the following question: MTC have been given a grant of over 90K towards the cost of the building works and BCBC have issued us with a contract. I'm fine with everything in it except there is a clause for BCBC placing a charge on the property for 5 years to secure its money if we don't complete the project etc. I have no real concern, we are doing the project and we will keep enough in reserves to cover paying the grant back if we don't do the work, but do you have any concerns? It's the first grant of this size we have received so I'm not sure the process. If I'm honest it looks like a standard BCBC contract for a standard third party rather than an authority.

The Chair of Finance advised that £50,000 of the grant monies must be spent by April 2024 and the remainder by next year. A member asked how the grant monies affects the Councils budget over the year. The member was advised that as the works to the building are completed and monies claimed from BCBC then Maesteg Council can

move earmarked funds back into reserves and will allow that money to be allocated elsewhere.

RESOLVED: Mayor, Chair of Finance and Clerk to sign award letter and confirm acceptance that the restriction and legal charge will be placed on the property.

458. CLLR P JENKINS REQUEST - ROW

22/01/24: Cllr P Jenkins emailed the following:

Dear Clerk Mathew sian please would you submit the r following application to ANDREW MASON, FOR A R O WAY, TO BE ESTABLISHED. FROM JUNCTION OF CROWN ROW ALONG PATHWAY REAR OF FIELDBAY HOME, PROCEEDING ALONG REAR OF CROWN RISE TO BOTTOM OF CHRSTNUT GROVE. PATH BREN ESTABLISHED AND WALKED BY MANY OVER SEVERAL DECADES. if you could start ball rolling with immediate effect. I would be most grateful. Thank you.

This was forwarded to BCBC ROW who have provided the below response:

24/01/24 Response: Thank you for your email relating to a request Cllr Phil Jenkins has asked you to submit to the Rights of Way team for the addition of a Right of Way between Crown Row to Chestnut Grove, Maesteg.

I have checked the Definitive Map and can confirm that the route in question is not already shown thereon as a registered public right of way nor have the Council received any Definitive Map Modification Order (DMMO) applications to add the route referred to onto the definitive map at this time.

Whilst the Council can create a public right of way this would generally require the agreement of the landowner or, where this is not forthcoming, result in the Council making an Order and then having to pay compensation to the landowner. However, and as you may be aware, where a route has been used for a considerable amount of time and it is not currently registered, the best course of action for getting it registered as a public right of way is through the submission of a Definitive Map Modification Order application under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.

If you feel that it would be more appropriate in this instance to submit such an application then I am attaching a full set of the County Borough Council's application forms and guidance notes in relation to the submission of a DMMO application. Please note one person or organisation (the Town Council would be suitable) needs to act as the applicant and be the main point of contact for the Rights of Way team. We also require a minimum of 6 user evidence forms (WCA 8 form) from members of the public to be submitted showing no less than 20 years constant use of the route in question.

Once an application has been received to register a new route it will go through a scoring process based on the range of criteria previously agreed upon by the Council to identify where it will be placed within the Council's list of priorities for

determining DMMO applications. The applicant will then be advised where the application sits within the list of priorities once the process has been completed. The County Borough Council would suggest that, along with the submission of the application and user Evidence Forms the applicant should also include, if available, any other evidence, such as old photos, maps or references in books to show how the route used to be, how it has been used and how it is now. Once the application has been received and given a priority number a member of the Rights of Way Section will carry out a site visit to look at the claimed route.

On 24/01/24 Clerk was made aware of the following Facebook post on Cllr P Jenkins personal account:

To the wider public of Garth. MAESTEG. ON BEHALF OF PHIL, JENKINS, MARTIN HUGHES, if you have used the Small pathway to the rear of old Ilwynderw school and squash club that borders rear of crown rise, fieldbay care facility exiting onto lower crown rd at junction of crown road and lewis road. If used by yourselves over a period of 20yrs or more on frequent occasions, if required would you be prepared to sign a statement to that effect at a later date when required. If so could you indicate to MAESTEG TOWN COUNCIL CLERK your prepared to do so. Contact 01656732631 or clerk@maestegcouncil.org. This would be of great assistance, thank you PHILIP JENKINS MARTIN HUGHES.

RESOLVED: The Council agreed that Cllr Jenkins suggestion is fine as this is the proper process to create a right of way.

459. QUERY REGARDING LIFT

29/01/24 Email received: Can you please give me the status of the lift in the council offices. Last time we corresponded a few weeks ago you said, you were one repair off getting it working. I didn't really understand that but hopefully you have some good news.

Deputy Clerk advised: We entered into a contract with a new lift company last year and they fixed a number of issues and advised us that they needed to go away to source a part and when they return, they will be able to have the lift working again. Unfortunately, when they turned up recently, they were under the impression that the lift had been fixed when it has not. The main issue they said they are having is sourcing a part that is no longer manufactured. They are in talks with their supplier to try and find a solution, but we have no updates yet. It's frustrating given the time the lift has been out of service and the number of engineers that have come to view and to 'fix' is rather high.

Hopefully we'll have a better update for you soon, but we will reach out as soon as some positive news is passed onto us.

Response from resident: Thanks for the prompt reply and the update. Our group will make some investigations as we feel it's been going on too long. I will get to you with our findings.

Cllr R Martin: This whole lift thing is completely unfair on our Clerks. It's been an ongoing issue for some time, with the Clerks having to report back to the users of the room upstairs. Investigations? could be regarding access for disabled users. I'm sure that would have an impact on us through the disability discrimination act. It certainly would if we had a disabled councillor.

The lift itself has been a total problem from the start. Obviously, the installation wasn't correct. Citizens Advice used the lift on a daily basis and I can't remember a week without someone getting stuck in the lift.

It's not a surprise to any Councillor and it needs to be discussed at our next meeting about plans going forward. We as a council have a duty to have a working lift to accommodate disabled users.

Members discussed that there is so much trouble with this lift and that the Council should consider changing the lift altogether. It was agreed to invite the lift maintenance company in to attend a Property Committee meeting to advise of the problems incurred and costs for upgrading / changing the lift.

RESOLVED: Property committee to invite the lift maintenance company in to attend a Property Committee meeting to advise of the problems incurred and costs for upgrading / changing the lift,

460. REQUEST FOR A MEMORIAL
29/01/2024 we received the below email.

It was great sadness I read that Doug Dixon had passed away. Doug was passionate about Maesteg and its people. He did an enormous amount of work for our community, both for the people and the environment and he left some big shoes to fill. To this end I think there should be some sort of memorial to him in the town so we can remember this incredible gentleman.

Members discussed that this was indeed sad news to hear and commented on the commitment Mr Dixon had to the improvement of the Llynfi Valley and he completed a lot of projects and works himself. It was **agreed** to write to Mr Dixons family to find a suitable place to place an appropriate memorial

RESOLVED: to write to Mr Dixons family to find a suitable place to place an appropriate memorial.

461. MAESTEG TOWN COUNCIL BUILDING

31/01/24: Email received and forwarded to all members with additional quote for additional work to the building Q4202.d = £28,880.00

Dawsons Stonemasonry advise that this is for removing the existing pennant upstand. Fitting a new lead tray under the wall area tied into the existing plinth upstand lead. Then rebuilding pennant work. We have discussed the lead detail with Camilleri Roofing, and they have suggested coating both faces with bitumen as protection from the lime mortar beneath the walling.

Our Agent advises that this is for the repair that no one knew would be advisable, because it relates to the leadwork beneath the sloped capping stonework, which was not visible, and which, on opening up, appears to be in a poor condition. Whilst the work we are already doing might solve all of the water ingress issues, we cannot be sure. It is possible that this perished lead dpc is also part of the problem, and to address it would provide much greater hope that the whole issue is addressed.

Members agreed to the additional works on the basis that if more water does get into the building, then a much larger bill will be footed further down the

RESOLVED: To accept the quote and for the additional works to be completed.

462. TRAINLINE REQUEST

I'm reaching out from Trainline, one of the world's leading rail and bus booking platforms. We've recently enhanced our offering with the launch of Trainline Business, a new service designed specifically with businesses in mind.

Trainline Business integrates our vast network, selling tickets from 270 carriers across 45 countries and covering 80% of all routes in Europe, with a range of business-friendly features. It offers a consumer-style booking experience to employees, giving them full visibility of their travel spend while providing cost efficiencies and controls.

We'd love to be included among the valuable resources on <https://maestegcouncil.org/useful-info/> and wonder if you would consider linking to our new platform at <https://www.thetrainline.com/business>

A member commented on the current limited traffic to the Councils website and that adding this would at least attract a few more visitors who can see the good work that the Council is doing. Some members thought this may open the Council to scrutiny and demands to place more businesses on the website which could single out other businesses in the area. It was **agreed** to place the trainline request onto the website and other requests are to be considered on their own merits.

RESOLVED: Advise Trainline that MTC will allow a link on our website.

463. BCBC CODE OF CONDUCT TRAINING FOR TOWN AND COMMUNITY COUNCILS [IN PERSON] TRAINING IN BCBC COUNCIL CHAMBER 19/02/24 4PM – 6PM

A member advised that the monitoring officer in BCBC advises that Councillors should aim to complete Code of Conduct training at least once per term of office. Cllrs F Abedalkarim and I Williams request to be added to the training. Cllr G Thomas advised that he did this training through his role within the standards committee.

RESOLVED: advise BCBC that Cllrs F Abedalkarim & I Williams will attend the training

464. ONE VOICE WALES – NATIONAL AWARDS CONFERENCE 27 MARCH 2024

Cllr G Thomas has requested that at least 1 of the councillors plus one of the clerks should attend this conference. Apart from finding out what's happening with the future of councils and OVW there will be chance for the council to speak to others in the same position and get much needed ideas on what's available to councils. At £60 per person, I think it's invaluable for someone to attend.

MTC OVW delegate is Cllr L Thomas.

RESOLVED: Cllrs to let clerks know.

465. GLEEMAN REQUEST

Maesteg Gleemen have requested the permission of the Council to have the Town Councils crest on their choir shirts.

RESOLVED: advise Gleemen that Council have agreed to the request.

466. AGENDA ITEM 9 - TO DISCUSS THE GRAFFITI MURAL PROJECT – SPECIAL MOTION TO RESCIND PART OF MINUTE 271 REGARDING THE GRAFFITI MURAL PROJECT ON THE PILLARS IN LLYNFI ROAD CAR PARK

Following January's full council meeting, Cllr P Jenkins sent the following email to a member of the public.

10/01/2024 - Firstly on reflection regarding the pillars i assume under carpark, it is only in principle i am aware of for locations even, though costings sought. I am in favour of your suggestions on commemorative figures etc, but not at this location for graffitt art, given the public feed back to me on this location and the graffitinart ect being done by the youths using this area most evenings plus it dim lighting, and general use, ie park up go about your buisness and drive home. The council in my opinion has to be mindful of public spend, and the consideration of a public toilet at this location is a priority, to this end graffiti art underground is not money well spent. To say again your ideas certainly have merit. And perhaps a more vibrant, visiually

attractive location could be sort. My opinion of course and based upon some public comments on. The site in question, regards P W J

Once the Facebook post was updated with a closing date for registering groups and organisations – the post received a number of negative comments.

Cllr AR Davies emailed the following.

18/01/2024 - With the news breaking of vital services being cut back at BCBC level, including a 5% cut to the education budget, and more to follow in the coming years, there appears to be a bit of backlash locally with regards to the money being spent on the graffiti at the car park. Would it not be wise to suspend plans, for at least a short period, whilst people are being told to tighten their belts?

A council tax rise of around 9.5% is expected and whether we like it or not, the majority of residents do not differentiate between MTC and BCBC as being any different and therefore are seeing us as raising taxes and cutting services at one level but then spending thousands on a project which in truth is not essential and will be largely hidden from public view. Just a thought before we commit to it in full as we are, after all, funded by council tax raising powers.

I am not saying to shelve the project entirely, but given the current news coming out at BCBC, it may be wise to suspend the project until the financial position locally is looking somewhat better.

In reference to the above, our standing orders dictate the below to rescind a previous resolution.

7. PREVIOUS RESOLUTIONS

a) A resolution shall not be reversed within six months except either by a special motion, which requires written notice by at least (6) councillors to be given to the Proper Officer in accordance with standing order 9, or by a motion moved in pursuance of the recommendation of a committee or a sub-committee.

b) When a motion moved pursuant to standing order 7(a) has been disposed of, no similar motion may be moved for a further six months.

22/01/2024 email from a member of the public.

Dear Council, no apologies for saying this. Are you serious? What a complete waste of money. Any of you inspected the car park lately? When was the last safety inspection carried out? The upper tier is cracked and water seeps through down the pillars which would ruin any artwork, that is, of course, should the antisocial faction not ruin it as soon as it's done. Who will see it? Only those parking in that spot. I realise these grants must be used in accordance with certain rules, but if this is an "ART" grant, then may I say there are many different types of art. One of my suggestions is to use the grant to clean up the Council Offices, bring them back to its' former glory, scrub the entrance, get rid of pigeon droppings, new bannisters up the steps. In other words, beautify this part of town for all to see not just car owners.

Speaking personally, i haven't been up town for a number of years as there are no public conveniences and when you get to my age, you can't go too far from a toilet. How about a beautifully "graffitied" fully functional public convenience as an art form. Another department of "art" is the performing art. How about helping our talented societies by subsidising the hiring of our newly refurbished town hall when it is finally open. Just a few other suggestions. I beg you all seventeen of you not to go ahead with the car park plan. You will be making many people very angry and do yourselves no credit.

We have responded confirming where our responsibilities lie and the ongoing works to the Council offices etc.

SPECIAL MOTION TO RESCIND PART OF MINUTE 271

24/01/2024 Email received:

Dear Clerk(s),

It has become more than evident in recent weeks that there is little to no appetite for the planned graffiti art project at the underground car park in Maesteg to continue publicly. Given the concern raised, we, the undersigned, do not believe it is in the interest of this council to ignore the wishes of the wider general public that it is duty bound to serve.

Concerns highlighted include, but are not limited to:

- the reduced levels of footfall in the vicinity due to the closure of Wilko;
- the lack of policing to protect the art from being damaged post-completion;
- anti-social behaviour in the proposed area;
- flooding of the upper car park section which subsequently results in excess water running down the pillars;
- only visible to those who access the car park in vehicles for parking purposes;
- money could be invested on a more central project, i.e. improving the outlook of the council offices;
- a waste of tax payers money when families are being told to tighten their belts and brace for a council tax hike expected in the region of 9.5% at BCBC level;
- a non-essential project when essential services and budget cuts are at their worse.

Please accept this as an official request to put forward a resolution to rescind the minute specifically relating to the planned graffiti art relating to the 52 pillars of the underground car park in Maesteg Town Centre.

Given the evident lack of support publicly, we do not believe the council can push forward with its plans at the underground car park given the lack of appetite for this project to progress and the animosity it has caused on social media to date. We call on the council to come together to source a new location for the graffiti art to be sited

where it will be more central and beneficial to the wider public and to review the expenditure budgeted for the project as a whole.

Whilst this may come as a disappointment to some councillors, this does not mean the project at the site needs to be shelved in its entirety. An alternative solution could be reached by working with local schools and organisations whereby children could be tasked with the opportunity of adding their own pieces of art to the pillars at the underground car park. This would have little financial impact on the public purse and would equally give children locally the incentive to protect the site through a sense of pride and ownership. We thank you for your time in addressing this matter and would appreciate it if you could disseminate this to all councillors for information.

To clarify, our request is to rescind a specific section of the minute which is in relation to the underground car park project ONLY and not the other two graffiti projects which were passed under the minute.

Yours Sincerely,

Cllr. Adam Rhys Davies
Cllr. Andrew James
Cllr. Fadhel Abedalkarim
Cllr. Gwyn Williams
Cllr. Idris Williams
Cllr. Leighton Thomas
Cllr. Paul Davies
Cllr. Phillip Jenkins
Cllr. Rosemary Martin
Cllr. Ross Penhale-Thomas

Members discussed the Special Motion and the Chair of Finance advised that the precept and budget has already been set for the year and this project has already been costed and budgeted for. Any changes to this project such as shelving it just means that more money would lay in reserves, and it has to go somewhere as deemed by the auditor. A member commented stating that the Council should learn a lesson and consult the public before such projects in the future.

Another member stated that the project should go ahead as planned, the negative feedback has come from Facebook comments and only consists of 6 people at the maximum and those that would benefit from the car park being made to look more appealing would be hundreds per day. The member continued, explaining that those comments on Facebook were from users who wish potholes to be filled and the Cwrt y Mwnws Bridge to be fixed instead of street art projects, however, the Town Council are not the highway authority, and the purpose of the Town Council is to promote the area and this project meets that criterion. It was also noted that if the Council were to put social media posts out to the public explaining its expenditure on every project, then the same backlash would ensue as potholes always need to be fixed etc. Members

agreed that the current state of the underground in the car park is not inviting and the graffiti there at the moment is deeply offensive, so something needs to be done.

The Chair of Finance advised that the sum earmarked for the car park street art project is under £5,000 and that this is a nominal amount when considering the effect it may have for the daily users of the car park. A member did add that this project may not stem the entire issue with the profanity directed graffiti, but, with schools and young people being involved that may make the issue less substantial.

A member raised the issue that a special motion has been brought to the Council with 10 signatures so would seem that no vote should take place on the matter and the minute should be repealed. This was answered with the standing orders of Council meetings allow a minute to be brought back before the Council within a 6 month timeframe to be reconsidered but, for the motion to carry, a vote must take place.

The following vote took place on if members were **FOR or AGAINST** the special motion to **not** continue with the street art under the Llynfi Road car park. If **AGAINST** then the project will continue as previously planned and costed.

For = Project NOT to go ahead

Against = Project to go ahead

Cllrs	For / Against	Cllrs	For / Against
F Abedalkarim	Against	R Penhale-Thomas	Against
R Collins	Against	M Rowlands	Against
AR Davies	Abstain	G Thomas	Against
P Davies	Abstain	L Thomas	Against
A LeGeyt	Against	G Williams	For
R Martin	Against	I Williams	For

The result stands as;

8 votes against the special motion

2 votes in favour of the special motion

2 Abstentions

The special motion falls and the original decision will continue with the aim to have street art replace the vandalism on the lower level of the Llynfi Road car park.

Upon the conclusion of the vote, a member requested information on how all the street art projects are looking at the moment and current timescales. It was advised that the car park will be completed first and the additional projects will follow after its completion.

RESOLVED: .

To continue with the street art project in all areas as per Minute 271

467. FINANCIAL APPLICATIONS

1. KLASS SEWING CIRCLE

Date received: 09/01/2024

Request £500 towards purchasing sewing supplies to enable members to enhance their sewing skills.

Supplies required:

Cutting mat 48" x 36"	£84.95
Rotary cutters x 2	£41.20
Blades x 2	£24.00
Quilting rulers	£28.99
Circle rulers	£10.98
Electric Cutter	£49.99
Machine needles x 5	£30.00
Bobbins for machines x 2	£25.00
Scissors x 2	£40.00
Machine feet sets	£30.00
Accuquilt cutting dies	£100.00
Iron	£40.00
TOTAL	£505.11

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. CAERAU DRAGONS BOXING CLUB

Date received: 12/01/2024

Request £500 towards purchasing new boxing kit for shows.

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)

3. MAESTEG UNIFORM SWAP SHOP

Date received: 22/01/2024

As the uniform swap shop does not have a bank account, they are requesting that Maesteg Town Council purchase the following equipment to be used in the Town Council building for the purpose of the uniform swap shop:

Item	Estimate cost within application	Amazon Business price excl. VAT
3 x Large heavy duty Plastic storage Boxes	£60.00	£49.99
100 Coat Hangers	£30.00	£29.89
2x Shoe Racks	£25.00	£18.32
4x Heavy Duty Hanging Rails	£180.00	£166.64
TOTAL	£295.00	£264.84

1st time to request S137

RESOLVED: Council to purchase the above items under Section 137 of the Local Government Act (as amended). The property will be that of the Council and be housed and operated within the Council offices.

4. KIDS CANCER CHARITY

Date received: 26/01/2024

We are helping three families in Maesteg that have a child affected by cancer. The children are receiving play therapy sessions to help them understand and come to terms with their illness, they do this with our therapist through play, a language a child understands, with puppets, figures, play hospital buildings and operating theatre's, computer programs to name a few. The families are also booked to have a respite break in one of our four luxury mobile homes, situated around the beautiful Welsh coast, they are set in prime positions on the beach, all in Haven parks with leisure facilities and entertainment for the families to enjoy, we also source tickets to the local attractions.

Request £500 towards one family from Maesteg to have a respite break.

The cost for one family to stay in one of our luxury mobile homes in the UK is £500.

The cost for a 10 week course of Play Therapy is £500.

We have 3 families booked to have a respite break plus the 3 children are receiving play therapy.

Signed accounts to March 2023 and recent bank statement provided.

Last received £500.00 S137 grant in May 2022

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

468. DELEGATES REPORTS

BUS ROUTE 37 SUB-COMMITTEE HELD AT THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNCIL OFFICES, TALBOT STREET, MAESTEG, ON MONDAY 22ND JANUARY 2024.

PRESENT: R Martin and R Penhale-Thomas

APOLOGIES: P Jenkins

Forge Travel were invited into the Chamber to discuss the trial bus route 37 as per Minute 210, Full Council 5th September 2023:

MINUTE 210 - MINUTES

- *The minutes of the **CONFIDENTIAL Bus Sub Committee** – 30/08/2023 emailed 30/08/2023 meeting were taken as read and the following recommendations were discussed with the following observations:*
 - a) *Council accepts the quote from Forge Travel to run the trial bus route 37 with a clause to re-evaluate every six months*
 - b) *To agree a Tuesday and Friday for the trial.*
 - c) *To include Oakwood Estate within the trial and if successful add more areas.*

A member requested that the trial is re-evaluated every 3 months and that the contract could be cancelled with 1 month notice. It was agreed that the finer detail of the contract would be discussed with the winning tender.

*Cllr G Thomas **moved** and seconded by Cllr L Thomas that all 3 recommendations are accepted.*

Members welcomed Gareth from Forge travel and advised of Council agreement as per minute 210.

Forge travel agreed that a quarterly review of the trial and the 1 month notice to cancel is acceptable. Forge Travel advised that the bus to be used would be a 16-seater with electric doors and will be fully wheelchair accessible.

Prior to the meeting a proposed bus timetable was provided with two timing options in the afternoon so that the bus is able to collect school pupils wishing to use the service as they finish at 14:50hrs. The timings in Blue allow for this to work both on AM and PM journeys.

With the 2 options for timetable, Forge travel advised the following:

- 9am – 3pm = £300 per day – this could also be 8.30am – 2.30pm
- 8am – 4pm = £350 per day (to include provision for school pupils)

A change to the timing would require Council agreement.

In addition to the timetable the Driver requires a Minimum of 45 minutes break, this has been highlighted in yellow on the below timetable.

Stop

Alma Road (Garn Inn)	800	900	1000	1100		1300	1315	1400	1415	1500	1515
Red Cow	803	903	1003	1103		1303	1318	1403	1418	1503	1518
Brynlywarch/Heol Cefn Ydfa	805	905	1005	1105		1305	1320	1405	1420	1505	1520
Corner Brynteg	806	906	1006	1106		1306	1321	1406	1421	1506	1521
Fairfield Ave 1 (Shop)	809	909	1009	1109		1309	1324	1409	1424	1509	1524
Fairfield Ave 2 (School)	811	911	1011	1111		1311	1326	1411	1426	1511	1526
Police Stn (Drop Only)	813	913	1013	1113		1313	1328	1413	1428	1513	1528
Oakwood Estate	818	918	1018	1118		1318	1333	1418	1433	1518	1533
Ewenny Rd (Weighbridge Café)	820	920	1020	1120		1320	1335	1420	1435	1520	1535
Crown Inn/Maesteg School	825	925	1025	1125		1325	1340	1425	1440	1525	1540
Maesteg Bus Station	830	930	1030	1130		1330	1345	1430	1445	1530	1545
Maesteg Bus Station	840	940	1040	1140		1340	1355	1440	1455	1540	T 1555
Crown Inn/Maesteg School	845	945	1045	1145		1345	1400	1445	1500	1545	
Ewenny Rd (Weighbridge Café)	847	947	1047	1147		1347	1402	1447	1502	1547	
Oakwood Estate	850	950	1050	1150		1350	1405	1450	1505	1550	
Alma Road (Garn Inn)	900	1000	1100	1200		1400	1415	1500	1515	T 1600	

Lunch Break

It was **agreed** that the driver will record passenger numbers and provide monthly figures to the Council.

Forge Travel also mentioned that the bus upon exiting Ewenny Road could cross and go up Cemetery Road as well in this timetable whereby there is a possibility of adding a stop at the junction of Cemetery Rd/Turbeville St (By Garage) and a stop at Maesteg Cemetery – members agreed to wait for the 1st quarter review to see if this would be added. In addition to this it was also discussed of possibly adding a stop at Maesteg Hospital where the bus from leaving Fairfield Avenue could cross via Salisbury Avenue over to the Hospital and then down to Maesteg Bus station before going to Oakwood Estate. Again, this would be something to discuss at the 1st quarter review.

Forge Travel advised that they require 1 week notice before starting the trial and members discussed that once timings had been agreed in February Full Council time would be needed to print, deliver and advertise the new trial with leaflets being delivered to Maesteg Park and Oakwood residents. A provisional date of 27th February was discussed, and Clerk advised that Andrew’s leaflet delivery had been contacted for a quote to deliver leaflets. Members discussed that maybe the CMO and Cllrs could deliver the leaflets along with publicising the timetable on the website, social media, noticeboards in Bryncelyn and Special Families.

Following the meeting Andrews leaflet delivery have advised that they would guess Oakwood Estate and Maesteg park is about 750 letterboxes roughly (I'm sure you will have more accurate data available). The cost would be £45 per 1,000 leaflets delivered. Weather permitting as we don't want to deliver them in a poor condition about 7 days approx.

Cost to print timetables for residents:

A5 Quantity	Next day delivery if ordered before 4pm
1000	£39.49
2000	£54.51

A4 Quantity	Next day delivery if ordered before 4pm
1000	£63.56
2000	£92.23

It was agreed to run the most basic service to start at £300 per day for the hours 9am to 3pm. Cllr G Thomas **proposed**, seconded by Cllr R Penhale-Thomas and L Thomas that the £350 cost per day is preauthorised for the Bus sub-committee should the service prove a success. It was also agreed to purchase 1000 A5 leaflets to the sum of £39.49 and postage at £45 per 1000 leaflets

RESOLVED: To proceed with the bus trail service, order and deliver leaflets.

469. 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/23/741/CAC
Applicant: Mr J Richards
Location: 17 Talbot Street Maesteg CF34 9BW
Proposal: Take down existing first floor dangerous bathroom annexe: form flat roof over ground floor rear shop area to match existing wc/staff room
Ask for: Dion Douglas

Ref: P/23/647/FUL
Applicant: Mr T Cadogan
Location: 98 Yr Ysfa Maesteg CF34 9BE
Proposal: Partial demolition of garage and construction of two storey rear extension to provide a family room and utility to the ground floor and 2no. bedrooms to the first floor; create 1no. additional parking space to front and extend dropped kerb
Ask for: Julie Earp

Ref: P/23/773/FUL
Applicant: Mr P Tabor
Location: 16 Turberville Street Maesteg CF34 0LP
Proposal: Demolish existing conservatory and replace with a single storey flat roof extension to rear
Ask for: Julie Earp

Ref: P/24/11/FUL
Applicant: Mr A Shearan
Location: Autumn Cottage Commercial Street Maesteg CF34 9DL
Proposal: Extend existing single storey front porch
Ask for: Julie Earp

Ref: P/24/26/FUL
Applicant: Mrs L Bowen
Location: 3B Crown Row Maesteg CF34 0LG
Proposal: First floor rear extension, single storey side extension, front canopy, single storey garden room and associated parking to front.
Ask for: Richard Hawkey

Minutes emailed to Councillors to Read on 8th February 2024

Minutes accepted at a Hybrid meeting of the Council held on 5th March 2024

.....
Mayor