

**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 March 2024**

COUNCILLORS

IN PERSON:

R Martin (Mayor)

F Abedalkarim, P Jenkins, A Le Geyt, M Rowlands and I Williams

ONLINE:

R Collins, AR Davies, P Davies and L Thomas

APOLOGIES:

Apologies were received from Cllrs C Davies, C Knight, R Lewis, R Penhale-Thomas, G Thomas, and G Williams

NO APOLOGIES: A James

DECLARATION OF INTEREST:

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

473. POLICE MATTERS

The Mayor welcomed Sgt Watts to the meeting who provided the following crime figures.

Maesteg Crime Statistics for February 2024

	Caerau / Nanty	Maesteg East	Maesteg West	Llan	Total in category
Robbery	0	0	0	0	0
Drugs	2	0	1	0	3
Dwelling burglary	0	0	0	0	0
Burglary other	0	1	0	0	1
Theft of vehicle	1	0	1	0	2
Theft from vehicle	0	0	0	0	0
All other theft	4	10	7	0	21
Damage	4	4	1	1	10
Violence against The person	23 (5)	17 (4)	15 (2)	5	60 (11)
Domestic related Occurrences	4	8	4	1	17
All crime total	34	32	25	6	97
ASB total	10	6	3	1	20
Drink Driving	0	0	1	1	2

The following questions were raised:

- Sgt advised that arrests have been made for the burglaries of the Vape Shop and Gift shop, SW Police not seeing dwelling burglaries as it seems that shops are being targeted.
- Members raised the issues of parking on the pavement in a number of areas that are making it difficult for pedestrians to use, also damaging the flagstones. Sgt advised that these issues have been highlighted to BCBC and that the Town Council should continue reporting the issues to BCBC.
- The issue of the police station counter not being manned? Sgt advised that before being closed a footfall survey was undertaken and it was found that on average only 1 or 2 people were visiting the police stations in person in any 24-hour period. Maesteg Police station does have a defibrillator and an emergency phone that is always available.
- Concerns raised with nighttime economy and possibility of asb
Sgt invited all members to join one of the team on a Friday / Saturday evening to go around town and to see that the nighttime economy is not as bad as people think.

The Mayor thanked the Sgt for attending the meeting.

RESOLVED: to note the information

Cllr L Thomas advised that the sound quality again is really poor, and it was difficult to hear the meeting.

474. TO TENOVUS CANCER CARE

The Mayor welcomed Judith Major, the Community Engagement Officer for Tenovus Cancer Care.

Members were advised of the role of Tenovus cancer care and that their role within the communities include:

- Free benefits advice line
- Help completing applications for benefits / blue badges
- Free ask the nurse line – helpful to explain some of the medical terminology / queries with treatments. This is also for families not only patients
- March is free will month
- Counselling Service for patients and families
- Mobile support units / lorries that can be used for patients receiving chemotherapy
- Sing with us Choir – one in Bridgend – all welcome
- Majority of funding is received via the tenovus cancer charity shops and very little from grants.
- Have many fundraising opportunities and volunteering opportunities

- All Wales Cancer Community – available to everyone affected by cancer, they also complete surveys and collect data on a number of issues one being the time taken to get diagnosed to seeing a specialist.

Members thanked Judith for attending.

RESOLVED: to note the information

Cllr L Thomas re-iterated that the sound quality was extremely poor and that if it continues, he will leave the meeting. It is essential that the audio company come back and attend a meeting both in person and online to see the issues firsthand.

475. RECEIVE THE MAYORS REPORT

The Mayor advised that she attended the following events:

08/02/2024	Shrek @ Maesteg Comprehensive School
21/02/2024	Mayors Charity Fund meeting
24/02/2024	Curtain Up – Annie Jr
01/03/2024	Maesteg Welsh Cake festival

RESOLVED: to note the information

476. 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** – 06/02/2024 emailed 08/02/2024.

The meetings of the following committees were inquorate, the minutes were taken as read, accepted as a true record and signed by the mayor:

- **Events Committee** – 13/02/2024 emailed 13/02/2024
- **Policy Committee** – 20/02/2024 emailed 20/02/2024
- **Maesteg Welfare Park Sub-Committee** – 29/03/2024 emailed 01/0/202

The Mayor advised of her dissatisfaction with these meetings being inquorate and that not only had this wasted the clerk, deputy clerk and mayors time, with 2 of the meetings having external attendees - this non attendance reflects badly on the Council.

Members also concerned that 3 committees were not quorate and that the Council should look at the procedures if committee members are away.

Clerk advised that in the 1st meeting 2 members had given their apologies in advance of the meeting and a 3rd gave apologies on the day of the meeting, 2 members attended the meeting along with an external person. In the 2nd meeting 2 members had given their apologies in advance of the meeting and the 3rd gave apologies 20 minutes before the meeting. In the 3rd meeting 2 members had given apologies in advance of the meeting. 2 members didn't give apologies and 2 attended the meeting along with an external person.

Cllr M Rowlands proposed that the Maesteg Welfare Park Sub-Committee be added to the projects committee this was agreed unanimously.

The Clerk had tried to rearrange the meetings with only the Events committee agreeing to Wednesday 20th March 2024.

Members discussed this and agreed to co-opt the following members onto the committees for meetings to be held in March:

<u>Committee</u>	<u>Co-opted for meeting in March / April</u>
Events	Cllr P Jenkins & I Williams
Policy	Cllr F Abedalkarim

It was also noted that the policy committee didn't need to meet until April/May

RESOLVED: to note the information and for the above co-options to be included in meeting agendas for March 2024

MATTERS ARISING

477. MINUTE 435

PROJECTS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

b) 07/02/24 – email sent accepting the quote to install baby change unit.

e) BCBC REACH in regard to a Business Plan for the Council:

07/02/24: Members advised of the following: The procurement document is with BCBC REACH who will appoint a company to create our long-term action plan.

The plan is that the company will start its work on 1st March 2024 and complete in full on the 30th of November 2024. This will include extensive public consultation with the population but also key stakeholders such as Awen and Halo leisure.

The next update we receive will be the name of the company who will be undertaking this project for us which we will forward onto members.

The schedule of works are as below;

- Initial Engagement
- Desktop Study
- Extensive Community Consultation
- Stakeholder Engagement
- Monthly progress meetings
- Draft Report
- Presentation of findings
- Final Report

More detail on each stage;

5.1.1 Successful Initial Engagement Meeting

Meet with the steering group and members of the REACH team to determine the project methodology and to share information.

5.1.2 Desktop Study

Background research and a desktop study on similar strategy and action planning in comparable organisations should be undertaken, in order to inform the consultation and action plan moving forward.

Review the findings of recent studies and surveys where they have reference to the Llynfi Valley area, such as the Valleys Regeneration Strategy survey carried out on behalf of BCBC.

5.1.3 Extensive Community Consultation

A significant element of this study is to consult with the people of the four wards on what they would like to see in the Maesteg Town Council area. Work with Reach officers and Clerks to construct a suitable set of questions. Using a wide range of consultation techniques, collect responses from substantial representative section of the community.

This consultation, in discussion with the Clerks, will incorporate information to promote understanding of the work of the Maesteg Town Council.

5.1.4 Stakeholder Engagement

This will take the form of detailed discussions or correspondence with the main partners and stakeholders in the wider Maesteg area, such as Halo Leisure and Awen Cultural Trust. It will look at what their projects and priorities are and whether there is an opportunity to work more proactively with the Maesteg Town Council, for the benefit of the people of the area.

5.1.5 Monthly Progress Meetings

These will be pre-arranged and conducted in-person or via electronic media with Reach officers and Clerks (if available) to update on progress and any delays or risks to the project.

5.1.6 Draft Report

The draft report should include details regarding the methodology used, the consultation undertaken, identification of potential funding sources and costed recommendations for the Town Council to take forward,

5.1.7 Presentation of Findings

The findings and recommendations should be presented to the Town Council, with feedback being collated.

5.1.8 Final Report

The final report should include an update incorporating the draft report's feedback and include details regarding the methodology used, the consultation undertaken,

identification of potential funding sources and costed recommendations for the Maesteg Town Council to take forward,

RESOLVED: To note the information

**478. MINUTE 436
BLAENCAERAU PLAYPARK**

07/02/24: Emailed Thomas & Thomas to proceed with the transfer.

RESOLVED: To note the information

**479. MINUTE 437
OLD CHRISTMAS LIGHTING LOCATIONS**

19/02/24: Emailed Centregreat to request costs for installation of sockets and other necessities on the lampposts to have.

Also chased costs for 2024

The mayor mentioned that when the Christmas Tree was removed from Maesteg Park the streetlighting column still doesn't work – Clerk to chase this.

It was noted that no further information was provided before the meeting.

RESOLVED: To chase the costs and streetlighting column issue.

**480. MINUTE 440
FINANCIAL APPLICATIONS**

07/02/24: £500 S137 grant paid to Happy Crafters

RESOLVED: To note the information

**481. MINUTE 441
LIST OF PAYMENTS FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER 2023**

08/02/24: Email sent to decline the service maintenance plan quote.

RESOLVED: To note the information

**482. MINUTE 442
WELSH GOVERNMENT - WORKPLACE RECYCLING LAWS 2024**

Due to Policy Committee meeting being inquorate there is a need to agree a recycling policy before the workplace recycling laws come into effect on 1st April 2024.

**MAESTEG TOWN COUNCIL
RECYCLING POLICY – needs to be agreed, below is a draft**

From 6 April 2024 Welsh Government are implementing a new recycling law for all businesses, charities, and public sector organisations to sort their waste for recycling.

Members have previously been provided with BIFFA booklet on workplace 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, plastics/metal and general waste.

Quotes have been received from the following organisations:

Biffa	for Paper/Card	a roll of 50 bags at £2.50 per bag = £125.00 + VAT and collection is at least fortnightly.
Plan B Management Solution	Annual Duty of Care Charge	£85 per year
	For Paper/Card	£10 for a sack then £5 each time it is emptied
	For Plastics/Metals	£10 for a sack then £5 each time it is emptied
	General Waste	A roll of 50 bags at £6 per bag = £300

In order to implement a policy MTC will need to purchase extra bins in order that the waste can be separated – it was suggested for the following areas:

AREA	BIN TYPE
Ground Floor Kitchen	General Waste
Ground Floor Kitchen	Cartons Metals & Plastics
Ground Floor Office	Paper & Card
First Floor Kitchen	General Waste
First Floor Kitchen	Cartons Metals & Plastics
First Floor Office	Paper & Card

Clerk advised that the easiest way to sort waste would be to purchase bins with different coloured lids to make recycling easier. It was suggested that we should purchase 50L bins & lids and placing laminated sign onto the lids to make recycling easier. On Amazon Business there are packs of 2 x 50L bins at £21.99 excluding VAT or pack of 3 x 50L bins at £31.07 excluding VAT. Once bins are purchased and installed, Staff and organisations using Maesteg Town Council building will need to separate waste into the following bins:

	To be recycled	Not to be recycled
Paper & Card	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paper, • cardboard packaging, newspapers / magazines / catalogues, • envelopes, • paperback books etc • Shredded paper, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • paper or cardboard contaminated with food / oil / grease / paint Tissue paper / paper towels / kitchen rolls • Till receipts • Metalised cartons • Rigid paper containers

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Laminated paper cups
Cartons, Metals & Plastic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cartons • Drinks cans • Plastic bottles 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paper cups with a compostable, biodegradable inner waterproof plastic layer • metal coffee pods, scrap metal, paint cans • plastic food trays, bubble wrap, crisp packets, cling film
General Waste	All non-recyclable items must be placed in a designated General Waste bin	

Cllr I Williams **proposed**, seconded by F Abedalkarim that only one set of 3 bins are purchased initially and to revisit the need for additional bins upstairs in the future. Members agreed to this proposal.

Cllr R Martin **proposed**, seconded by F Abedalkarim that the town council engage with Plan B for trade recycling waste for paper/card and cans/metals/plastics and to purchase one sack of each recycling containers to see how much waste is generated.

RESOLVED:

- Go into contract with Plan B for trade recycling – purchase 1 paper/card sack and 1 cans/metals/plastic sack
- Purchase 1 x 3 50l bins for the building
- Make building users aware of new recycling policy
- Place new recycling policy onto website.

483. MINUTE 445

LIST OF PAYMENTS FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY 2024

07/02/24 ITCS emailed to ask for contract details.

07/02/24 **Response:** forwarded to all Cllrs

Please find the attached contracts that Maesteg Town Council hold with ITCS.

The Contract end dates are as follows;

IT Support	December 2024
Office 365	December 2024
Disaster Recovery Service (DRS)	February 2025
Website monthly package	May 2025

It would be great if we could arrange a meeting so I can pop out and perform a review meeting based on your services you have with ourselves.

Members agreed that the Communications committee should discuss this more in the summer.

RESOLVED: To note the information

484. MINUTE 447

CLASSIC CAR SHOW

08/02/24 emailed to advise MTC will fund the purchase of event fliers – received a copy of the flier and waiting for how many required.

Fliers ordered and were collected by a member of COGS.

RESOLVED: To note the information

485. MINUTE 454

DISABLED TOILET

19/02/24 Emailed SW Police for meeting to discuss ASB at the public toilet to the rear of the building.

Met with SW Police who advised the following:

- The Public Spaces Order for Maesteg has lapsed and in order for this to be reinstated they require evidence to support the need for an PSO.
- All incidents of ASB need to be reported no matter if they are reported on the day or a few days later. This can be done by phoning 101 or completing an online form on SW Police website <https://www.south-wales.police.uk/>
- PCSO's are unable to be toilet attendants but will patrol the market square when they are in the area.

RESOLVED: To note the information

486. MINUTE 459

QUERY REGARDING LIFT

Waiting for Property Committee to meet and to invite the lift company.

RESOLVED: To note the information

487. MINUTE 460

REQUEST FOR A MEMORIAL

20/02/2024 letter sent to Mr Dixons family to find a suitable place to place an appropriate memorial.

RESOLVED: To note the information

488. MINUTE 462

TRAINLINE REQUEST

08/02/24: emailed Trainline to advise that MTC will allow a link on our website.

RESOLVED: To note the information

489. MINUTE 463

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

08/02/24 emailed BCBC to advise that Cllrs F Abedalkarim & I Williams will attend the training.

Cllr I Williams apologised for not attending the training. Cllr P Davies advised he had attended the training as a refresher.

RESOLVED: To note the information

490. MINUTE 465

GLEEMAN REQUEST

08/02/24: Emailed Gleemen that Council have agreed to the request.

19/02/24: member of the Gleemen came into the office for a hard copy of the notification allowing the Gleemen to use MTC crest. We copied the extract from the minutes to which he advised that the logo is to go on the chest of the shirts not the arm. Office advised that Cllr G Williams advised that it was going to be on the arm.

RESOLVED: To note the information

491. MINUTE 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

06/02/24: email received from Cllr AR Davies and forwarded to OVW for clarification:

Dear Clerk(s),

No complaints about the result this evening, happy to accept it but really would like some clarity from One Voice Wales for future purposes if that's ok?

I am not convinced that vote was legal tonight but it's not my ward area so not going to question the actual result and hope we get a positive response from the majority of the public. But the procedure for me, it just seems bizarre to have a special motion signed to rescind a minute, which the letter clearly states, by 10 out of 17 councillors,

only to have it quashed by 8 (still a minority) because of attendance and connectivity issues.

The letter never stated a discussion but an official request to rescind. I believed that was the procedure I was following when drafting on request of all. Can I get some clarification please for future reference?

I have included the councillors in this email who signed the request just so they can be updated on the process, but equally happy for it to be shared to all so we are all aware in future of what we are actually doing when we are asked to support a motion to rescind a minute.

OVW Response 08/02/24: This matter has been dealt with in accordance with the councils standing orders and the council were quorate at the time the decision was looked at again. This response was also forwarded to all members.

RESOLVED: To note the information

**492. MINUTE 467
FINANCIAL APPLICATIONS**

Letter of thanks received from the following organisations:

- Kids Cancer Charity.
- Klass Sewing Circle
- Maesteg Uniform Swap Shop

RESOLVED: To note the information

**493. MINUTE 468
DELEGATES REPORTS - BUS ROUTE 37 SUB-COMMITTEE HELD AT THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNCIL OFFICES, TALBOT STREET, MAESTEG, ON MONDAY 22ND JANUARY 2024.**

08/02/24 Timetable leaflets ordered and will be delivered to Andrews Leaflet delivery on 12/02/24.

15/02/24 – CMO has been hanging up laminated copies of timetable along route as well as a few dotted around the bus station and post office in town. Facebook and Website updated with the timetable.

22/02/24 – Andrews Leaflet delivery advised that leaflets had been delivered to the following areas:

- all of Maesteg Park,
- Llynfi Court,
- Bryn Celyn,
- ¾ Ystad Celyn,
- Alma Rd,
- Oakwood Estate
- Oakwood Drive

- Fairfield (Special Families)
- Bryncelyn Care home
- Adjoining pubs, social centres, shops, hairdressers, businesses

Were unable to deliver to the following addresses:

- 27 & 28 St Cynwyds Avenue as they were boarded up
- 6 Brynteg – dog running loose
- 7 Greenways – dogs running loose

RESOLVED: To note the information

494. LIST OF PAYMENTS FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY 2024

RESOLVED:

That the tables of **Expenditure (£85,195.47) Income (£52,601.78)** during the month of February 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 March 2024 totalling **£1,092.30**
- 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 – February 2024

This month have included me taking at least 1 days annual leave each week due to build up over the year and 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. 15, 37a, 38, 39, 40, 42, 46, 47, 62, 74.
- Milage at start of month – 57788 at end 57933 (145 total miles)
- Rear of crown road path
- Inspected Nanty Primary steps.
- Lane adjacent to Woodlands Terrace
- Dropped CMO equipment to BGS in Tondu for servicing.
- Delivered dog waste bags to special families (6), Menshed (8) and office (10)
- Took van for a longer journey to burn off carbon.
- Fixed disabled toilet leak under sink.
- Cleared some rubbish from offices.

- Attended Maesteg Welfare Park several times to assist with community maintenance but called off due to weather.
- Picked up and placed laminated notices for bus service along the route.
- Volunteered with Llynfi Woodland group.

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 were also provided with copies from CMO workbook for further detail to each day worked.

CORRESPONDENCE

495. NEWSLETTERS / FLYERS / BRIEFING NOTES/ CONSULTATIONS

Emailed to all Councillors for information:

- Welsh government – Older Peoples Commissioner Report Launch
- JOINT EVENT ONE VOICE WALES AND PLANNING AID WALES – THURSDAY 7 MARCH 2024 FROM 10.00AM UNTIL 2.00PM (REMOTE)
- Welsh Government -Secondment Opportunity - Job title - Programme Delivery Manager, Aspiring Board Members Programme - Anti-racist Wales Action Plan (ArWAP)
- Welsh Government Public Appointments x3
- AWEN - Bringing Maesteg Artist Christopher Williams' 'Llynfi Iron Works' Home
- Martyn's Law webinar
- Counter Terrorism Policing Wales / Personal Security Briefings 2024
- Coedwig Genedlaethol i Gymru/The National Forest for Wales
- BCBC – Support for New Look staff
- LGPS – Employers pension contributions increase for 2024-25
- BCBC - Site Marketing Underway - Ewenny Road Industrial Estate

RESOLVED: To note the information

496. REFFERALS

31/01/24: We have had reports of fly tipping on the way up to the BMX track in Maesteg. **Response 05/02/24:** Thank you for your e-mail. We have been informed by our Cleaner Streets Supervisor that this has been removed

RESOLVED: To note the information

497. BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 EMERGENCY FOOTPATH CLOSURE (FOOTPATH 14 & 19 MAESTEG)

THE BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL, as the Traffic Authority for Maesteg, hereby gives notice that under Section 14(2)(b) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, no person shall proceed along the following: -

- That section of Footpath 14 Maesteg approximately 634 metres north west from the north western boundary of No.47 Kings Terrace, Nantyffyllon proceeding in a general east south-easterly direction then in a general southerly direction for approximately 564 metres to its junction with Footpath 19 Maesteg.

- That section of Footpath 19 Maesteg from its junction with Footpath 14 Maesteg proceeding in a general south south-westerly direction for approximately 303 metres to a point 339 metres south west from the north western boundary of No.47 Kings Terrace, Nantyffyllon.

The restriction is in the interest of public health and safety as a result of required urgent forestry operations meaning that it is unsafe for the public to use. An emergency closure is needed to protect the public as there is danger that there is an increased risk to members of the public using the footpaths.

The closure is to be effected from 7th February 2024 for a maximum period of 21 days.

The alternative route for pedestrians travelling in a northern direction is via Footpath 17 Maesteg, Footpath 13 Maesteg, and Footpath 15 Maesteg and vice versa when travelling in a southerly direction.

RESOLVED: To note the information

498. BRIDGE – CWRT Y MYNWS

08/02/24 copied in to email from Cllr P Jenkins to BCBC Highways:

Dear officer you are aware of the ever outstanding issues at this location over 2years or longer numerous complaints have been made to which Maesteg council can testify to, we were promised a team from your technical and design department were looking for a long term solution to the continued vandalism on this much used and valued asset. I myself having had experience in erection of steel walkways small bridges etc, have sent my opinion on how to solve this problem, it is to if the existing frame is solid and strong enough would be to place chequer plated floor down welded and bolted similarly to its sides, if frame unsuitable the steel rsjs be constructed and floor and sides be welded upon it. In Maesteg there is a suitable steel fabricator who could tender for such works alongside others either for supply only or supply and fit. I stress this situation has now exhausted everyone's patience, as stated these are not one off incidents and given it is highlighted as a safe route to school also, hence can you update us on the progress or proposal to resolve this problem, in order not to further this issue outside of BCBC.

Response 09/02/24: response forwarded to all members:

We can advise, that the design of the replacement deck has now been completed and the contract documents have been prepared for the scheme to go out to tender.

They are currently being reviewed by BCBC officers with a view to going out to tender within the next few weeks.

It is anticipated that works will then start as soon as possible after the contract has been awarded, but certainly in late spring/early summer.

We note your comments regarding local fabricators, however highway contracts are awarded through the South East Wales Framework, which is the preferred methodology for the procurement of such works by Bridgend County Borough Council's highway Department, as the contractors/suppliers have already been assessed in regard to their suitability to carry out such works on the public highway. We are aware of some recent issues with planks being damaged and the team have attended to make safe the area in the interim.

RESOLVED: To note the information

499. FREE PORTRAIT OF HIS MAJESTY THE KING FOR COMMUNITY, TOWN AND CITY COUNCILS IN WALES

To celebrate the new reign of His Majesty The King, the Cabinet Office announced a government funded voluntary scheme throughout the United Kingdom to allow public authorities to apply for a free, framed portrait.

The scheme launched on 14th November 2023 and is now open for applications from Community, Town, and City Councils. Portraits of our past Monarchs also hang in public buildings across the United Kingdom. From local council offices right up to 10 Downing Street. They are a visible reminder of the institutions that tie our United Kingdom together.

The pictures are A3 in size and come framed.

Members discussed this, Cllr F Abedalkarim proposed, seconded by P Davies that MTC agree to apply for a free portrait of the King. Members requested a vote on this proposal with the following results:

It was noted that Cllrs AR Davies & L Thomas had left the meeting

F Abedalkarim	For	A LeGeyt	Abstain
R Collins	For	R Martin	For
P Davies	For	M Rowlands	Against
P Jenkins	Abstain	I Williams	Abstain

Abstain = 3 For = 4 Against = 1

Following the above vote the proposal stands and the Clerk to apply for the free portrait of the King.

RESOLVED: Apply for the free portrait of the King.

500. LLYNFI VALLEY COUNCIL OF CHURCHES (LVCC) – GOOD FRIDAY EVENT

LVCC have requested use of the raised platform for Good Friday 29/03/2024 and request if Maesteg Town Council public liability insurance will cover the event.

As per previous events the office have advised that the public liability insurance will cover the event.

RESOLVED: To note the information

501. LAND ENQUIRY - LANE LEADING FROM FOWLERS PLACE TO THE REAR OF BEDW STREET, CAERAU.

Cllr P Davies has requested a land search for the lane leading from Fowlers Place to the rear of Bedw Street, Caerau where there was a serious incident in the area whereby a lady from Filco fell into the brook which outflows into the river Llynfi at the rear of Fowlers Place, Caerau (adjacent to the Filco car park). I have suggested that we use our ward fund to put up some sort of railings along the brook to prevent further injuries to residents using this path, the path is unkept and it has no lighting.

BCBC property have indicated that they have no land interests at this location.

A majority of Caerau Cllrs have indicated that they would like to proceed and I am wondering what the next step would be.

Members discussed the request and **agreed** to proceed with the land registry search for this area.

Clerk requested that Cllr P Davies comes into the office to pinpoint the exact location of the area concerned to complete the land registry search. Once ownership is confirmed to proceed to get costs to install railings.

RESOLVED: Complete land registry search and get costs for railings.

502. DEFIBRILLATOR ISSUES

Email received from Cllr AR Davies:

Could you possibly make contact with The Circuit officially as a council and the funder of the majority of defibs in the local vicinity regarding the incorrect location of defibrillators on their map? This is currently only a Caerau issue but I will in time check all Maesteg defibs on the maps. I have spoken to Nik Dart regarding the issue and have contacted defib finder but the initial response I've had from the defib website is somewhat bizarre and says it is ok so long as the comment box is accurate. This

doesn't really seem to make sense as if the pin drop is incorrect, they'll assume a defib is too far away and won't even consider reading the comment box of a defib which is actually closer. I have attached screenshots to give further clarity.

As you will see, the Noddfa defib is pinned a fair distance away and the market garden defib is also incorrect. Subsequently, a heart attack took place in the spot marked green the other night and there was confusion over the nearest defib. I'm just hoping that if the council can approach them officially, it may get better guidance as to how we can get the matter resolved and any further errors identified in the future.

Response from Maesteg First Responders: I am sorting this from a Maesteg perspective. Only Noddfa is incorrect on the Defibfinder pin map and I have explained to Rhys that the CAD in Control doesn't go by the map pin, but by the w3w distance and doesn't use DefibFinder. Noddfa (nearest) was deployed. The Circuit does recommend leaving a gap of 500m between defibs, incidentally.

RESOLVED: To note the information

503. COMPLAINT RECEIVED – COMPLETION OF WORKS PARK VIEW

Complaints have been received about the completion of some works on the roundabout at the bottom of Park View in Maesteg. The complaint was forwarded to OGI who have provided the following response:

Thanks for getting in touch. I've checked the whereabouts and spoken to the supervisors and our teams have not been working on Park View recently. If you have a resident on the street who can take a photo of the chamber or toby boxes in the ground, there should be a logo on top.. Might help with narrowing down (although on some streets ours are next to Virgin ones but it might help).

RESOLVED: To note the information

504. OFFENSIVE GRAFFITI REFERRAL

28/02/2024 - I am making contact to ask for some graffiti to be removed. On two roads that are opposite the small road going up to Maesteg golf club. This is the road off the Neath road where the green patch of land is by Bron y Garn surgery.

Someone sprayed swastikas on the road signs.

RESOLVED: To note the information

505. FINANCIAL APPLICATIONS

1. LLYNFI VALLEY 11-25 PROJECT – THE COURTHOUSE

Date received: 08/02/2024

Request £500 towards utilities costs

Financial report and unaudited financial statement for the year ended 31st January 2023 provided. Waiting for up-to-date bank statement.

1st time to request S137

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

2. THE AJUDA FOUNDATION – PURPLE SUNFLOWER PROJECT

Date received: 14/02/2024

Request £500 towards running mental health workshops

Bank statement provided.

Last received £500 S137 in January 2023

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

3. BOIS GOETRE HEN CHOIR

Date received: 21/02/2024

Request £2,100.00 towards hiring Maesteg Town Hall for the Choirs 15th Anniversary Gala Concert in March 2025. 18 of the 30 choristers reside within the MTC boundary.

Receipts & Payments account sheet for period ending 31/12/23 and recent bank statement provided.

1st time to request S137.

Members were very wary of this request as the concert was not until March 2025 and that this request was 4 times more than the S137 Policy allows in full council.

Members requested that Council look into the costs involved in hiring the Town Hall as the costs within the application are extremely high. Should Council agree to this then every other group / organisation within the area would also request this, and this would set a precedent. It was also noted that the choir will probably be selling tickets to this event and that the ticket costs should cover this request.

Members agreed that this should be discussed in the next financial year and that the choir is written to advising them that they are welcome to apply for the £500 grant in the next financial year.

RESOLVED:

- Advise the choir to apply for £500 in next financial year
- Council to look into the costs involved in hiring the Town Hall

506. **DELEGATES REPORT**

TOWN AND COMMUNITY COUNCIL CLERKS MEETING

The deputy clerk attended the TCC clerks meeting with BCBC on 12th February 2024. The meeting mainly focussed on the community feasibility fund which is outlined as:

Funding Support Available

- Feasibility Studies
- 100% of eligible project costs
- Feasibility projects minimum fund of £2,000 and maximum is £35,000.
- Allocated on a first come, first serve basis.
- Open to community groups, voluntary organisations, charities, Community / Town Councils, networks, Third Sector organisations and Public Sector.

Application Process – Conceive & Commission Approach

- EOI
- Eligibility Check
- Full application
- Grant approval panel

BCBC tender exercise to procure services.

We are currently benefitting from this fund with our 5 Year strategic action plan & community consultation. Other projects have included skate parks, play parks, playing fields etc. This is likely the fund in use by BCBC to support our Bridge Street project, all projects are to be submitted by the end of February 2024. For the next financial year it is not yet known if the fund will be continued.

CLERKS DISCUSSION

A discussion followed after the presentation on the feasibility fund from other clerks highlighting the bullying/harassment they have been subject to whilst in post. One clerk is pursuing the matter further and collecting all similar stories from other clerks and reporting/publishing the findings. In response to this we were sent the following.

BBC investigation into public abuse, harassment and intimidation

You may have seen the BBC news coverage recently about public abuse, harassment and intimidation of local government councillors and staff across all tiers. We collaborated with the BBC's investigation into this and very much welcome their research, which found that as well as these behaviours affecting the wellbeing of individuals and their families, they undermine the effectiveness and governance of councils and impact local communities and frontline services.

We have recognised this worrying trend for some time, and in response we founded the Civility and Respect Project together with the National Association of Local Councils (NALC), representatives of County Associations and One Voice Wales (OVW). One of the ways you can demonstrate a commitment to standing up to poor behaviour and help foster a positive change, is to sign up to our Civility and Respect Pledge. By signing the Pledge, your council agrees that it will treat councillors, clerks, employees, members of the public and of partner organisations and volunteers with

civility and respect in their roles, in turn highlighting to the public how seriously your council takes behavioural responsibilities. Over the last year, more than 1,400 councils have signed up to the Pledge.

Cllr P Jenkins requested that the lack of communication between town councils and BCBC be added to the next T&CC Forum agenda

RESOLVED: To note the information

507. 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/24/68/FUL

Applicant: Mrs J Evans

Location: 94 Mill View Estate Garth Maesteg CF34 0DE

Proposal: Demolition of rear conservatory and replacement with a single storey rear extension, loft conversion including an increase in ridge height and 3 pitched roof side facing dormer windows and associated works

Ask for: Julie Earp

Minutes emailed to Councillors to Read on 6th March 2024

Minutes accepted at a Hybrid meeting of the Council held on 2nd April 2024

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Mayor