

**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, 7th May 2024**

COUNCILLORS

IN PERSON:

R Martin (Mayor)

P Jenkins, A Le Geyt, C Knight, M Rowlands, R Penhale-Thomas, G Thomas, G Williams, and I Williams

ONLINE:

F Abedalkarim,, AR Davies, C Davies, P Davies, R Lewis, and L Thomas

APOLOGIES:

R Collins

NO APOLOGIES:

A James

DECLARATION OF INTEREST:

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

Cllr AR Davies declared an interest in S137 application for Caerau Primary School.

Cllrs C Davies and G Williams declared an interest in any matters that may relate to Caerau Men's Shed.

Cllr R Penhale-Thomas declared an interest in any matters that may relate to Maesteg Welfare Park.

551. POLICE MATTERS

Apologies were received from South Wales Police as they were dealing with Police matters, however, the following crime figures were provided prior to the meeting.

Maesteg Crime Statistics for April 2024

| | Caerau / Nanty | Maesteg East | Maesteg West | Llan | Total in category |
|------------------------------------|----------------|--------------|--------------|------|-------------------|
| Robbery | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Drugs | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Dwelling burglary | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 2 |
| Burglary other | 1 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 3 |
| Theft of vehicle | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Theft from vehicle | 0 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 4 |
| All other theft | 5 | 8 | 11 | 0 | 24 |
| Damage | 15 | 2 | 6 | 0 | 23 |
| Violence against The person | 18 (3) | 16 (4) | 12 (3) | 3 | 49 (10) |

| | | | | | |
|------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|----------|------------|
| Domestic related Occurrences | 10 | 5 | 3 | 0 | 18 |
| All crime total | 40 | 30 | 34 | 3 | 107 |
| ASB total | 10 | 3 | 5 | 0 | 18 |
| Drink Driving | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

552. TO RECEIVE MR R WOOD FROM INVISIBLE WALLS

Mr Wood sent his apologies and would not be able to attend tonight's meeting but would attempt to reschedule.

553. RECEIVE THE MAYORS REPORT

The Mayor advised that she attended the following events:

| | |
|------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 17 th April | Mayors charity meeting |
| 20 th April | Opened Tenovus Charity Shop |
| 24 th April | Bicentenary Group Meeting? |
| 27 th April | Mayors Coffee Morning |
| 4 th May | Cancer Research Event |
| 5 th May | Classic Car Show |
| 5 th May | Llynfi Valley BMX Regional Race Event |

RESOLVED: To note the information

554. 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** – 02/04/2024 emailed 05/04/2024
- **Full Council CONFIDENTIAL** – 02/04/2024 emailed 05/04/2024
- **Extraordinary Meeting** – 23/04/2024 emailed 24/04/2024

The **Finance Committee** – 30/04/2024 emailed 30/04/2024 minutes were disputed as the committee were told the meeting was inquorate. The Clerk apologised and advised that the Clerk believed that there needed to be 2 thirds of the committee to be quorate. The minutes will be amended to confirm this.

RESOLVED: to note the information.

MATTERS ARISING

555. MINUTE 517

MINUTES – EVENTS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

1. 03/04/24 EPM contacted to accept and proceed with Keepers Run & Family fun day and Christmas Parade
04/04/24: Completed the online permission form with Natural Resources Wales for the fun run event

- 08/04/24: Emailed Maesteg Comprehensive School for permission to hold the fun run event
2. 03/04/24 advised EPM to re-submit a food festival for the market square and be on a far smaller scale than originally proposed.
 3. 03/04/24 Production 78 contacted to accept tender Q2420064 for Santa's Grotto in 2024 to the cost of £10,456.10.
 4. Completed expression of interest form for the Christmas grotto.
 5. 05/04/24 Emailed OVW to investigate the legislation for sponsorships of events from private companies. If deemed legal, Council to determine the scope of company involvement.

Response OVW: We have previously referred such queries to NALC our legal advisers. NALC have advised that the legal issue in their view is that local councils have no power to carry commercial advertising.

Section 142 (1) of the Local Government 1972 Act enables local councils to carry or provide information (as such, advertising) concerning the services available within the council's area provided by the council or other local authorities and other authorities specified in subsection (1B) or by government bodies or charities and other voluntary organisations and other information relating to the functions of the relevant council (for example, details of burial charges). NALC's view of the section is that local councils could advertise community organisations that come within the section 142 definition on their websites and newsletters etc but they cannot advertise local businesses or commercial organisations.

7. 09/04/24: Emailed a sign shop to obtain costings of portable 'picture frames' with Maesteg Town Council branding – quote = £50 = ordered 2 for the Council to use at events. These are located in the office.

RESOLVED: to note the information.

556. MINUTE 519

BLAENCAERAU PLAYPARK

05/04/24 Emailed Thomas & Thomas requesting update and giving authorised signatories availability.

05/04/24 **Response:** An officer will be taking the Transfer to The Mayor directly who will arrange to have this signed by you all.

The final correct plan has only just come in as Valleys to Coast have changed this 4 times now and each time its been incorrect!

10/04/24 Cllrs R Martin & G Thomas and Clerk have signed the paperwork.

RESOLVED: to note the information.

557. MINUTE 520

OLD CHRISTMAS LIGHTING LOCATIONS

09/04/24: Emailed Centregreat to chase the streetlight not working in Maesteg Park and to ask again for the costs for 2024

11/04/24 **Response:** Shouldn't be anything to do with ourselves as all the guys would have done is switched off the cut out for the feature and removed from the column so should not have affected the streetlight at all? I have someone who lives in Maesteg and will get him to pop in on the way home to check for you not a problem.

11/04/24: Forwarded to BCBC Streetlighting

11/04/24 **Response:** I have raised a fault ticket with this streetlight and we will take a look to see what we find.

Mayor advised that the light has been fixed.

RESOLVED: to note the information.

558. MINUTE 522

DISABLED TOILET – PORTABLE TOILETS

09/04/24: emailed BCBC for permission to hire portable toilets to be placed in the market square & Llynfi Rd car park.

Response – No response to date.

RESOLVED: Cllr R Penhale-Thomas advised that he would take this matter on with BCBC and report back with the outcome.

559. MINUTE 524

BUS ROUTE 37 TRIAL

A member asked when the date of the bus committee meeting would be taking place. The Clerk advised that a request for availability was sent to the committee members and it is hoped this will be held at the end of May / beginning of June.

RESOLVED: To note the information.

560. MINUTE 525

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

05/04/24: Email received advising that the portrait is to be delivered.

Portrait received need to decide where to hang the portrait. Members put forward several locations, Cllr F Abedalkarim **recommended** that the portrait be placed in the entrance foyer – members **agreed** with this.

RESOLVED: To hang the portrait in the foyer of the building.

561. MINUTE 528

EVENTS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

05/04/24: Completed the Events Grant application for the Keeper of the Colliery fun run & family fun day event.

RESOLVED: To note the information

562. MINUTE 529

LIST OF PAYMENTS FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH 2024

08/04/24: Completed, scanned and forwarded the NNDR DD forms for the Council building and the unit to BCBC Taxation.

RESOLVED: To note the information

563. MINUTE 532

ARCHIVING OLD MINUTES

26/04/24 Emailed Glamorgan Archives with a list of minutes to be deposited.
3 boxes of Minutes to be delivered to Glamorgan Archives.

| Box 1 | Box 2 | Box 3 |
|-----------|-----------|-------------|
| 1974 – 75 | 1984 – 85 | 1993 – 94 |
| 1975 – 76 | 1985 – 86 | 1994 – 95 |
| 1976 – 77 | 1986 – 87 | 1995 – 96 |
| 1977 – 78 | 1987 – 88 | 1996 – 97 |
| 1978 – 79 | 1988 – 89 | 1997 – 98 |
| 1979 – 80 | 1989 – 90 | 1998 – 99 |
| 1980 – 81 | 1990 – 91 | 1999 - 2000 |
| 1981 – 82 | 1991 – 92 | |
| 1982 – 83 | 1992 - 93 | |
| 1983 - 84 | | |

Clerk advised still waiting on a date for depositing the minutes and that no minutes could be found for 2000 – 2013.

RESOLVED: To note the information

564. MINUTE 533

SAFE HAVEN MAESTEG

09/04/24: Emailed Safe Haven Maesteg to advise them to complete an additional S137 application to give the gas/electricity to the family.

RESOLVED: To note the information

565. MINUTE 534

REQUEST TO ADVERTISE A WALK

05/04/24 Walks advertised on the website

RESOLVED: To note the information

566. MINUTE 535

FIRE DOOR TO THE REAR OF THE BUILDING

03/04/24 Emailed FireRite to accept the quote – waiting for installation date.

RESOLVED: To note the information

567. MINUTE 536

ARMED FORCES COVENANT

23/04/24 Completed new Armed Forces Covenant

RESOLVED: To note the information

568. MINUTE 538

CHAMBER SOUND UPDATE

09/04/24: Members have been provided with the following emails and responses with Shure.com the manufacturing company of the system:

Deputy Clerk went directly to the manufacturer of our new microphones to see if they knew of any potential issues with teams compatibility etc.

They provided the below response which is pretty technical and we don't fully understand what they need us to do but, we have forwarded this onto Total Sound Solutions to replace the disqualified piece of hardware and for them to fulfil the other recommendations from Shure.

When we hear back from total sound, and when they perform the required fixes, we will then setup another mock meeting with the clerk laptops and with some other, more powerful laptops on standby, just to see what works or not.

Hopefully after the troubleshooting mentioned below we will either have the issue fixed or narrow down the actual issue. We are in talks with our internet service provider and ITCS about potential upgrades to the internet and hardware in the form of a standalone unit to run our remote meeting.

Case #: 01230463

I would suggest getting a Dante based headphone amp where you can route the output of the MXCWAPT to it. For example if Dante Output 1 is being sent to the P300, route the audio to Dante Output 2 as well and then from there to the headphone amp.

You could also do something similar with the P300, route the same audio that is feeding the USB output to a Dante output and then to the amp.

This way you can monitor the direct audio before it hits Teams to hear whether there is any dropout. If this is all clean, the issue is further down the line.

I would also look at the wireless settings and make sure that the spectrum is clean and to check that there are not many bad/red wifi channels.

It is worth pointing out that those Netgear switches are part of our disqualified list of switches meaning that there is a potential for there to be issues with the Dante audio and/or device discovery. If the Dante clocking is off, that would certainly cause audio to drop as well. See here for more info:

https://service.shure.com/s/article/disqualified-network-switches-for-shure-dante-devices?language=en_US

Officially the only Netgear switches that we recommend are AV Line M4250 range.

Yes the issue only seems to be for those who are attending online, we record our teams meetings as well and the recording shows the same issues with both the sound and video feed being choppy. When it is just people in the chamber, the microphones seem to work well.

We use the P300, I believe it is called MXCWAPT on your website – small white box and that connects to a netgear prosafe GS110TP via a ethernet cable and then ethernet to the laptop. We use the shure discovery app as well and the devices come up on that.

Case #: 01230463

Thanks for contacting Shure and sorry to hear about these issues. Is this issue only being seen on the far-end? When using the delegate units in the council chambers, can all the local members hear each other perfectly?

How is the MXCWAPT being connected to Teams, ie what kit is being used?

If the video feed and audio cut out at the same time (and if this is an issue only for the online participants), that would certainly indicate some kind of network or internet issue. Depending on how the MXCW system is connected to Teams, I would be intrigued to see how the systems works/sounds when monitoring the output directly - this test will depend on the kit being used.

Case Number: 01230463

Case Description: I was hoping for your advice on an issue we have been having with our video conferencing hardware. The end of last year we purchased the MICROFLEX COMPLETE WIRELESS system and had the installer link up everything with teams etc. Since then our sound has not been of a good quality, it cuts in and out and members online cannot hear what is being said in the chamber. In addition, those in the chamber can hear those attending online perfectly.

We have spoken to the contractor who installed the new microphones and, after much back and forth they seem to believe the matter lies with the internet connection based on this recording of a recent meeting;

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=285URSNRXdw> in the recording the video feed and the sound cut out at the same time. We spoke with our internet service provider who said that there are no issues with our connection.

Have you come across this issue before? We are currently in the process of sourcing different laptops to identify if it is a processing issues, so far we have tried 3 different laptops and all produce the same issue.

Members queried what the next steps are now with the sound system. It was noted that the sound was excellent for those attending online, however the sound in the chamber was now rather quiet. The Deputy Clerk advised that if the sound can be fixed for all parties, then we would mark the issue closed, there appears to be an issue with teams settings right now and we will speak with the contractor about these. There is a meeting scheduled with the internet provider and BCBC Conservation Officer mid-May and these concerns will be discussed.

RESOLVED: To await further investigations

569. MINUTE 540

BUS SHELTER DAVIES TERRACE, NANTYFFYLLON

03/04/24: Emailed BCBC to proceed with the bus shelter repairs.

Members raised concerns about no public transport using this bus stop so may make sense to remove it and eliminate the chance for anymore ASB. One member mentioned that this bus stop is used by children going to school. It was **agreed** to find out who uses the bus stop and revisit this item at a later date.

RESOLVED: To investigate the bus shelter usage

570. MINUTE 541

DETERIORATION OF GRASS VERGES AT CHRISTOPHER ROAD AND HEOL Y LLWYNI

05/04/24: Emailed Cllr Fadhel Abedalkarim & Cllr Marting Hughes to advised MTC unable to assist with the grass verges.

RESOLVED: To note the information

571. MINUTE 543

FINANCIAL APPLICATIONS

Letter of thanks received from the following organisations:

- The Mayors Charity Fund
- Bois Goetre-Hen Choir
- Billys Gym and Wellness Centre

- Llynfi Valley Angling Association
- Classic Car Owners Group

RESOLVED: To note the information

572. MINUTE 547

CONFIDENTIAL

08/04/24: Emailed letter

18/04/24: Cheque received

RESOLVED: To note the information

573. LIST OF PAYMENTS FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL 2024

RESOLVED:

That the tables of **Expenditure (£402,694.95) Income (£455,879.13)** during the month of April 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 April 2024 totalling **£25,308.23**.
- A copy of the Receipts and Payments Account which includes expenditure against the budget and the budget remaining and an income analysis.

The Chair of Finance advised that 3 payments were made to the CCLA account as we had received our precept payment for 24/25.

A member requested that the Communications Committee meet to discuss ongoing contract terms with ITCS or an alternative provider. The member was advised of the current end date of the ITCS contract and was advised that a meeting would take place before the end of this.

CMO Summary Report – April 2024

This month have included me taking the remainder of my 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. 6, 15, 20, 23a, 24, 27, 36, 37a, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45b, 46, 47, 48, 52, 62, 64, 74, 77, 82
- Milage at start of month – 58065 at end 58296 (231 total miles)

- Inspected and cut back on cycle track from the tundra to the lights, Bridge Street to Castle street, Nanty primary steps, behind the crown and Woodlands Terrace.
- Delivered dog waste bags to Maesteg Library (4) Maws (2).
- Picked up and placed laminated notices for bus service along the route.
- Washed back of the van out due to leaky bins.
- Inflated van tyres to correct pressure.
- Refitted knob to chamber door
- Reported fly-tipping in several areas.
- Began painting Nantyllyllon Bus shelter
- Cleanup of 2 drums in Nanty and outside offices
- Dropped off and collected tools after servicing in Tondy
- Arranged bin collection with Biffa after leaving bins out for them all additional waste was gotten into and spread across the car park.
- Delivered hanging baskets to Heol Y Cyw.
- Motorway run with van to burn off carbon.
- Reinstalled car park bin after vandals broke fixings.

Works to be Carried out Next Month;

- Weekly building checks that include:
 - fire alarm
 - emergency lighting
 - legionnaires disease
- Weekly bin emptying on the cycle track
- Daily bin emptying in Llynfi Rd car park
- Inspect and, where necessary, cut back overgrowth or clear debris on rights of ways.

CORRESPONDENCE

574. NEWSLETTERS / FLYERS / BRIEFING NOTES/ CONSULTATIONS

Emailed to all Councillors for information:

- BCBC - Bridgend Valleys Placemaking Property Improvement Grant
- OVW APRIL, MAY & JUNE 2024 TRAINING
- BCBC Play park updates
- G4S Hartshorn House - Newsletter & information
- OVW - Pre-election Period Timetable of Actions
- Update Morgannwg Endeavour Charity Golf Event
- Armed Forces Covenant (AFC) - Veterans' Harmful Gambling Pathways Study - Welsh & English
- Cymdeithas yr Iaith - Gwaith Ystadegol Addysg Gymraeg i Bawb // Universal Welsh-Medium Education Statistical Work
- BCBC – T&CC Code of Conduct training resources from the Monitoring Officer, that was either used or referred to during the recent training sessions.

- OVW - New Contract of Employment templates
- Ray of Light Cancer Support
- Maesteg Branch RBL - D-Day Anniversary Poster
- BCBC - Christmas Event Contribution – Maesteg
- AFC - Armed Forces Covenant Fund project job vacancies
- OVW - News Bulletin

RESOLVED: To note the information

575. REFFERALS

- **05/04/24:** fly tipping in Oakwood, Maesteg.

Response: no response to date

- **08/04/24:** Pathway down to Ewenny Train Station public pathway appears to have a pulled down wire fence and bits of debris.

It looks like work has taken place to remove either rotten or hazardous trees and on doing this no effort has been made to replace the fence. This is a hazard and opens access to the train embankment.

Additionally where the trees once were it seems to allow the whole part of that footpath to be flooded when raining. Rain water is ok to walk through but if not looked into why flooding is happening on this particular part of the pathway, it will become a hazard once winter comes around.

Response: 09/04/24 Response from TFW Our Case Reference: TfWRS-20240408-C9M8X0

Thank you for contacting us regarding Maesteg (Ewenny Road) train station. I was sorry to read about the issues in and around the station with damaged fencing and flooding and I apologise for any inconvenience this has caused. I can assure you that we do take customer satisfaction seriously, and whilst it is disappointing to receive complaints about the service we have provided, we value all feedback as it enables us to continue improving and meeting our customers' expectations. I apologise that we failed to meet your expectations on this occasion and assure you that your feedback has been logged and referred to the relevant members of our station management team. Where further investigation is necessary, I assure you that we will ensure this is carried out and that appropriate action is taken to address your complaint.

RESOLVED: To note the information.

576. CAERAU STONES

Clerk has spoken to the stonemason who has advised the following process / criteria for the stones:

Names can go onto the stones for any resident that has achieved any type of success whilst living in Caerau. The achievement can be for anything e.g. sporting, dance, literature etc.

The original 6 structures were parallel to 'new town' and were created in memory of Cllr David Lloyd, they were supposed to replicate terraced houses. Due to developments, they were demolished and were replaced / re-created 3 structures in their current position. One company build the structures and the Stone mason was instructed by Council to add the names.

Names have to be recommended to Council who make the decision and then instruct the stone mason to install. The stone mason advised that any recommendations need to be investigated as previously a resident's name was recommended and they did not achieve their success whilst living in Caerau – but achieved it whilst living in Milton Keynes.

Members deliberated this questioning whether a nomination form would be required? It was **agreed** that Caerau Ward members would receive and discuss nominations before bringing them to Council to agree before instructing the stonemason to add the names.

RESOLVED: Caerau Ward Councillors to receive nominations and to bring names to Council.

577. GOOD FRIDAY PROCESSION - A REQUEST TO THE TOWN COUNCIL, AND THE EVENTS COMMITTEE

On Good Friday, the Passion Play took place in Maesteg Market to a large crowd which comprised members of many local congregations, but also members of the public who stopped to watch and listen. As you know, this event has been a feature of Maesteg life for many years.

Several prominent local individuals came to speak to me after the Passion Play with a specific request for help. They wanted to restore the procession, which in previous years had preceded the Passion Play. Normally the procession advanced along the main road from the Catholic Church to the town centre. However, because of logistical difficulties (with traffic etc), costs of policing and supervising the event, and the disruption and hiatus during the pandemic, this annual event has temporarily ceased in recent years.

The group who approached me would like to meet with the Events Committee of the Town Council to explore whether the procession could be reintroduced as part of not only the religious tradition of the Llynfi valley, but also as part of the events calendar of the town and valley too. They are happy to assist with fundraising towards the costs of reinstating the procession but would like to meet with the events committee to see whether there is any help and support which may be offered, and whether this could

also form part of the annual events calendar of the town in which the Town Council has such a key role.

Mr T Mullins has offered to be a conduit to the many others who wish to see the procession back in place as a proud part of the traditions of the town. I have copied him into this email. I hope you may be able to discuss this request at the full council meeting tomorrow evening and respond positively to the request for a meeting with the Events Committee.

My kind regards,

Huw Irranca-Davies MS

Members discussed the request and agreed for the Events Committee to discuss further.

RESOLVED: Events committee to meet and discuss this matter in further detail.

578. SUPPORT YELLOW LINES: HEOL FAEN AND TALGARTH STREET

Cllr P Jenkins received the following request:

Could you look at the dangerous situation on Bridgend Road. The junction at Duke Street has yellow lines that prevent parking of vehicles. So a drivers vision is clear when emerging from there. The junctions at Heol Faen and Talgarth Street have no yellow lines. Cars continually park on Bridgend Road close and right up to these junctions. Drivers vision of oncoming traffic is dangerously impaired when emerging from these junctions. I did mention this to PCSO before and was told the Highway Code regulation is only advisory. I don't know if that is the case or they couldn't be bothered to do anything.

I am requesting you both to look at this situation and if possible have double yellow lines painted to stop this dangerous practice of parking close to a junction and in my experience parking on the junction. This is an accident waiting to happen when drivers park in an irresponsible manner. A few fines and then perhaps they'd get the message.

Members stated that this was a concern throughout the valley with notable streets being Fairfield Avenue and Pit Street. It was **agreed** that there was no reason not to ask BCBC to re-paint the yellow lines and to ask T&CC Forum for the BCBC Policy on Yellow lines and dangerous junctions. It was also agreed that BCBC Members to raise as a members referral.

RESOLVED:

- Ask BCBC to re-paint the yellow lines
- Ask BCBC T&CC Forum for a copy of the BCBC Policy on Yellow lines and dangerous junctions
- BCBC Cllrs to also raise a member referral

579. KONE REMINDER INVOICE

19/04/2024 – received an email from KONE, the previous lift contractor, asking when we would be paying the invoice for ‘lift maintenance’ for year 2023 to 2024. The amount is for £852.91.

Due to the issues we experienced with them not identifying issues with the lift and being unable to have it working in any capacity, Council previously decided to end the contract after KONE themselves advised that we could cancel the contract with no penalty – we just had to give 60 days notice.

The Chair of Finance wrote to KONE previously and has received no response. Council agreed to await further correspondence from KONE and to not pay the invoice as per all previous correspondence.

RESOLVED: To await further correspondence

580. BUS SHELTER – DAVIES TERRACE

The bus shelter in Davies Terrace has been vandalised – this bus shelter is the responsibility of MTC.

BCBC advised that it is disappointing to hear that a panel has been damaged at the same site.

Our Building Maintenance don’t use toughened safety glass, they use Polycarbonate panels for bus shelters. I’ve checked with Building Maintenance, and they’ve confirmed that the previous job to replace the missing panel was completed on 08 April 2024. Therefore, the broken panel in the image must be one of the original panels from the installation of the bus shelter.

Due to the bus shelter being owned by MTC, MTC are liable for the clean up costs of the broken glass approx. £30.00. It will also cost approx. £200 for the replacement panel.

Clerk has given permission for BCBC to clean up the glass and replace the damaged panel.

RESOLVED: To note the information.

581. WARD NOTICEBOARDS

As previously agreed, all wards can have a notice board.

If ward members would like to discuss locations and the type of notice board they would like for their area that would be helpful. Some examples would be <https://www.greenbarnes.co.uk/product-category/external-noticeboards/aluminium-noticeboards/>

Metal is the best to combat anti-social behaviour and last longer hopefully.

Installation is dependent on permissions being granted by the landowners.

A member stated that they seen little reasoning for the placing of a noticeboard in each ward and that more than 1 would be needed per ward most likely. The member was advised that this motion was passed previously by Council, the only remaining matter are the locations.

RESOLVED: To await locations before purchasing notice boards

582. BCBC - ADDITIONAL ROUND OF TOWN & COMMUNITY COUNCIL FUND 2024/25

The second round of the Town & Community Council Fund for this year, 2024/25.

Applications to the fund will be made available in June 2024 with the deadline for receipt of applications taking place on Saturday 31st August 2024. Decisions on the allocation will be made by Cabinet in the following months and councils will be informed in due course.

An allocation up to £181,061.50 is available for the year with each Town or Community Council able to apply for individual grants up to £20,000. A fuller list of criteria is shown below.

As with previous years, Bridgend County Borough Council continues to focus capital funding through the Town & Community Council Fund on bids that support Community Asset Transfer (CAT) and that look to focus on reaching net zero carbon by 2030.

However, in 2024/25 we are also looking for applications to show alignment with Bridgend County Borough Council's seven priorities as outlined in our latest Corporate Plan. As a consequence, applications will be assessed using a scoring system out of five each for CAT and Net Zero, and out of seven for alignment with the Corporate Plan. For any help in developing a robust application for your project, please feel free to contact Guy Smith. Bridgend County Borough Council's Corporate Plan can be accessed through the Council's website, www.bridgend.gov.uk.

With challenging budgets, CAT may allow community-based activities to continue when local partners, such as Town and Community Councils, work in partnership with the Authority. We have a good track record of delivering projects together and recognise the support and contribution you can continue to make to sustaining local assets.

Assets that were transferred previously under CAT that can be subject to a project that will help the asset move towards a net carbon zero county borough, while aligning with our new corporate plan will be considered.

Projects will be considered against the following criteria:

- Any projects should ideally be linked to BCBC Asset Management Plan 2021 (CAT Policy) and Corporate Priorities – see attached Policy.
- Applications should show how projects link to the goal of reaching net zero carbon in Bridgend County Borough by 2030. To find out more about this please visit <https://gov.wales/net-zero-wales> or contact Guy Smith or Andrew Care to discuss any project ideas.
- Applications should show how projects link to Bridgend CBC's corporate plan, namely: protecting our most vulnerable; fair work, skilled, jobs and thriving towns; creating thriving valleys communities; helping people meet their potential; responding to the climate and nature emergency; making people feel valued, heard and part of their community; and supporting people to be healthy and happy.
- Town and Community Councils to meet at least 50% of the project costs or obtain match funding.
- Projects should have a total value in excess of £5,000 to include the 50% match.
- The County Borough Council's maximum contribution will be limited to £20,000 for each bid. Consideration may be given to larger applications dependant on the nature of the project and will be appraised on a case by case basis.
- Town and Community Councils will need to provide details of when money will be spent. Failure to spend the money in the allocated timescale, without a justifiable reason may result in the funding being rescinded.
- All expenditure to be claimed through the Town & Community Council Fund should have a capital nature – e.g., to create a new asset or enhance the value of an existing asset.
- Payment of any grant from the fund will be dependent upon receipt of evidence of costs having been incurred and a full audit trail provided by the Town or Community Council. Further details will be provided in an offer letter if the Town or Community Council is successful in the application process.
- The applicant must provide copies of public / employee / buildings insurance certificates, where appropriate.
- Grant applications cannot be made retrospectively.
- The grant must only be used for the purpose for which it was awarded, unless written approval has been received from the Council for a change in use.
- The Council has the right to reclaim the grant if it has not been used for the purpose specified on the application form, or revised purpose following subsequent agreement.
- In the case of grants awarded for projects for which additional grant funding is to be sought to enable the project to proceed, the funding approved will only be available when all other funding is secured / in place.
- On-going commitments to award grants in future years will not be made. A fresh application will be required each year.
- Any ongoing revenue costs associated with the project will be met by the Town or Community Council.

A member advised that MTC are currently in the process of CAT of Blaencaerau play park and that MTC should apply for the T&CC Grant towards this. It was noted that the CAT of the play area is with V2C and not BCBC – in response the member advised that there was no harm in applying

RESOLVED: To apply for the T&CC Grant for Blaencaerau playarea..

583. REACH FUNDING - EOI, MAESTEG WELFARE PARK

The Friends of Maesteg Welfare Park recently submitted an application to BCBC's Reach Funding programme looking at 'access to the park, improvements to the sports pavilion and the potential development of a splash pad'.

Before the application is formally assessed, can members please consider in-principle support for the application as a key partner alongside the Friends group?

For clarity, this is an expression of interest (EOI) only. Should the application be successful (very likely) a third party will be commissioned to undertake detailed feasibility analysis. The council is not required to fund anything at this stage, but rather to be part of continuing conversations as per the results of the analysis.

Members **agreed** that, as there was no cost to the Council, then support should be given to Maesteg Welfare Park.

RESOLVED: Advise Friends of Maesteg Welfare Park that MTC support the application.

584. ADVERTISING IN WHAT'S ON MAGAZINE

What's On is a huge part of the magazine, we showcase the best family events, shows, and activities happening across South Wales every month which is why it is so popular with both our readers and advertisers.

The South Wales Magazine is the biggest what's on and lifestyle magazine for South Wales

- Vibrant A4 What's On and Lifestyle Magazine
- 20,000 copies giving you a readership of 70,000 every month
- Digital magazine sent to our growing subscribers list, currently at 12.5k.
- Free to pick up in places with high footfall inc Theatres, Museums, Leisure centres, High street shops, cafes, salons etc
- Covering Cardiff, Vale, RCT, Bridgend, Neath, Swansea
- Plus our website is doing really well too, with an average of 46k users each month

SPECIAL OFFER

Quarter page advert just £145+vat
Website banner advert just £45+vat

Please let me know if I can secure this special offer for you in our June issue.

Cllr F Abedalkarim proposed, **seconded** by Cllr R Martin, to purchase both advertisements. The Chair of Finance requested to know which budget line the funds would be coming out of as the Councils spend has been budgeted for. The Clerk advised that the fun run is currently under budget and there are funds there which are appropriate for this use. Members agreed.

RESOLVED: to proceed with both advertising options

585. TO NOMINATE AND AGREE MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES FOR 2024-25 TO BE RATIFIED AT ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING TO BE HELD ON 21ST MAY 2024 – (COMMITTEE CHAIRS WILL BE DECIDED AT THE AGM)

1. Confirm appointment of **His Worship the Mayor for 2024-25 and to sign the declaration of acceptance:** Cllr C Davies

2. To Nominate a **Deputy Mayor for 2024-25**

| Nominations | Vote | Confirmed Deputy Mayor |
|---------------|------|------------------------|
| Cllr G Thomas | No | Yes |

3. To nominate the minor authority representatives on the **Governing Bodies** of the following Primary Schools:

| | |
|---|---|
| Caerau Primary School | Cllr C Davies – term ends 06/05/2027 |
| Nantyffyllon Primary School | Cllr A James – term ends 20 May 2026 - currently suspended from role by LEA |
| Plasnewydd Primary School | Cllr G Thomas – term ends 20/05/2026 |
| Garth Primary School | Cllr C Knight – term ends 04/05/2027 |
| St Mary’s & St Patrick’s Primary School | Cllr R Collins - terms ends 02/06/2024 |
| Ysgol Gynradd Cynwyd Sant | Cllr AR Davies – term ends 04/05/2027 |

Please note that the appointment terms for School Governors is set by BCBC and whether a Councillor is re-elected or not the terms stand unless the Councillor resigns as a governor.

Nominations for:

| Nantyffyllon Primary School – to be appointed from 21/05/2024 | | |
|--|-------|-----------|
| Nominations | Votes | Appointed |
| R Lewis | No | Yes |

A member queried if Cllr A James can return as governor following the suspension? Clerk advised that BCBC had not given any advise on this, however it is MTC decision whether to change the governor for this school.

| St Mary's & St Patricks Primary School – to be appointed from 03/06/2024 | | |
|---|--------------|------------------|
| Nominations | Votes | Appointed |
| R Collins | 6 | No |
| L Thomas | 9 | Yes |

4. To nominate membership of the **Finance Committee for 2024-25** to carry out Internal Audit Function in compliance with the Account & Audit Regulations: **(7 members)**

Current membership: GT (Chair), FA, PD, CK, AL, RM and LT

It was agreed to re-elect the current finance committee with the following changes:

- Remove Cllr R Martin
- Add Cllr C Davies

Current Bank Mandate Signatories (Cheque & online) currently all payments need the Clerk / Deputy Clerk plus 2 members to authorise payments:

Cllrs: F Abedalkarim, C Davies, C Knight, R Martin and G Thomas

It was **agreed** to keep the current bank mandate signatories.

5. To nominate membership of the **Planning Committee for 2024-25 (5 members)** (This committee is used when a site visit is required by BCBC)

Current membership: RM (Chair), MR, FA, LT & RL

It was agreed to re-elect the current planning committee with the following changes:

- Remove Cllr R Martin
- Add Cllr C Davies

6. To nominate membership of the **Events Committee for 2024-25: (5 members)**

(Meetings open to all Members of Council, however only the committee have voting rights during meetings)

Current membership: RM (Chair), PD, CK, LT & CD N.B. PJ & IW co-opted onto committee in March 2024

Committee = 5 members and includes the Mayor (as chair) and 1 member from each ward

| Mayor | Caerau | Maesteg East | Maesteg West | Nantyffyllon |
|----------|--------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| C Davies | MR | CK | LT | GT |

7. To nominate membership of the Rights of Way/Environment Committee for 2024-25: (5 members)

Current membership: IW (Chair), RM, PD, GW & CD

It was agreed to re-elect the current ROW/Environment committee with the following changes:

- Remove Cllr R Martin
- Add Cllr R Lewis for Nantylffyllon

Co-opted Member: Community Maintenance Officer D Passey

8. To nominate membership of the Property/Health & Safety Committee for 2024-25: (5 members)

Current membership: I Williams (Chair), FA, P J, RM & RP-T

It was agreed to re-elect the current Property/H&S committee.

9. To nominate membership of the Personnel Committee for 2024-25: (5 members)

Current membership: GT (Chair), CK, RM, LT & GW – Cllr G Thomas wished to come off the committee due to time constraints with all other commitments.

It was agreed to re-elect the current Personnel committee with the following changes:

- Remove Cllr G Thomas
- Add Cllr C Davies

10. To nominate membership of the Communications Committee for 2024-25: (5 members)

Current membership: FA (Chair), RM, PD, GW & CD

It was agreed to re-elect the current Communications committee with the following changes:

- Remove Cllr G Williams

Need to elect a member for Nantylffyllon Ward.

Committee = 5 members and includes the Mayor and 1 member from each ward

| | | | | |
|-------|--------|--------------|--------------|---------------|
| Mayor | Caerau | Maesteg East | Maesteg West | Nantylffyllon |
| CD | PD | FA | RM | TBA |

11. To nominate membership of the Policy Committee for 2024-25 (5 members)

Current membership: RM (Chair), RC, CK, RL & RP-T

It was agreed to re-elect the current Policy committee.

12. To nominate membership of the Projects Committee for 2024-25: (5 members)

Current membership: PJ (Chair), RM, MR, RC & GT

It was agreed to re-elect the current Projects committee with the following changes:

- Remove Cllr P Jenkins & Cllr R Collins
- Add Cllr C Davies & F Abedalkarim

Committee = 5 members and includes the Mayor and 1 member from each ward

| | | | | |
|-------|--------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Mayor | Caerau | Maesteg East | Maesteg West | Nantyffyllon |
| CD | MR | FA | RM | GT |

13. To nominate membership of the Standing Orders / Code of Conduct Committee for 2024-25: (5 members)

Current membership: PD (Chair), RC, CK, RM & IW

It was agreed to re-elect the current Standing Orders/Code of conduct committee.

14. To Appoint a Delegate to serve on the BCBC Town & Community Council Forum for 2024-25 (cannot be a BCBC Cllr): (1 delegate)

Current representative: FA

| Nominations | Vote | Representative on BCBC TCC Forum |
|-------------|------|----------------------------------|
| A LeGeyt | No | ALG |

15. To nominate delegates to serve on the AWEN Cultural Trust Group for 2024-25:

Current delegates: MR, CK, RC & CD

Delegates = 1 member from each ward

It was agreed to make the following changes:

| Nominations Maesteg East | Vote | Representative on BCBC TCC Forum |
|--------------------------|------|----------------------------------|
| I Williams | No | Yes |

| Nominations Maesteg West | Vote | Representative on BCBC TCC Forum |
|--------------------------|------|----------------------------------|
| R Collins | 3 | |
| R Martin | 12 | Yes |

New delegates are as follows:

| | | | |
|--------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Caerau | Maesteg East | Maesteg West | Nantyffyllon |
| MR | IW | RM | CD |

16. To nominate delegate(s) to serve on the Llynfi Valley River Care & Environment Group for 2024-25: (1-3 members)

Current delegates: RM & RP-T

It was agreed to re-elect the current delegates.

17. To nominate delegates to serve on the Natural Resources Wales “Spirit of the Llynfi Woodland” Group 2024-25: (1-3 members)

Current delegates: PD & RL

Co-opted: Community Maintenance Officer D Passey

It was agreed to re-elect the current delegates.

18. To nominate a Diversity Champion 2024-25:

Current diversity champion: RL

It was agreed to re-elect the current diversity champion

19. To nominate a delegate for OVW 2024-25:

Current delegate: LT

Cllr L Thomas advised that he wanted to step down as MTC delegate with OVW.

| Nominations | Vote | Appointed |
|-------------|------|-----------|
| G Thomas | No | Yes |

20. To nominate a delegate for Armed Forces Forum 2024-25:

Current delegate: None

| Nominations | Vote | Appointed |
|-------------|------|-----------|
| PD | No | Yes |

586. TO CONSIDER CLLR F ABEDALKARIM VISION FOR MAESTEG 2027.

Members were provided with the below;

Cllr F Abedalkarim Vision for Maesteg 2027

Cllr F Abedalkarim has requested that Council look into the following vision for 2027: The house circled on the sheet is Compulsory Purchased by BCBC then demolished to open up the area leading to the Market Square and bus station.

I would like to ask the Council to consider and discuss my new vision for Maesteg by 2027 .

- 1. Creates new square in Maesteg.*
- 2. Make the bus station smaller and safer*
- 3. Revamp the river wall and the bridge in Llynfi lane and Church Street.*

4. Fully purchase the building behind the carpark in church street
5. Transfer the war memorial to the new square .
6. The area could be used for events such as Xmas markets and Xmas parade and many more.
7. It will bring shoppers from surrounding area to Maesteg .

Cllr F Abedalkarim has been advised that the long-term goals of the Council are to be set upon the conclusion of the business plan that has been commissioned by BCBC REACH. We can add your ideas to the next projects committee meeting if you like but these may be ideas that you feed back to the contractor who will be appointed for the business plan. They plan on interviewing all members and staff along with the local population.

Members thanked Cllr F Abedalkarim for his report and passion displayed in making a meaningful change to the town in the hopes of bringing in more shoppers.

Several Councillors raised concerns about forcing the purchase of a residential house that has been purchased and extensive monies been spent on changing its use from the 'old clinic' that it was previously used for into the lovely home it is today.

Cllr F Abedalkarim said that he was flexible with the plan and would welcome amendments even if the river was focussed on to tidy it up and the river wall made more appealing. Members stated that these suggestions went to BCBC a long time ago when they were planning to revamp the market square and what we have ended up with was the idea that BCBC's contractor recommended.

It was reiterated to Cllr Abedalkarim, that the Council are meeting with the company who will be creating our business action plan next week and they will be asking for ideas from across to the board and he will welcome to share it with them.

RESOLVED: To note the information

587. FINANCIAL APPLICATIONS

1. RAW PERFORMACE CIC

Date received: 08/04/2024

Request £500.00 to be cover two coaches per session for free to attend fitness sessions for mixed abilities. During the summer months we would like to run weekly group fitness classes in Maesteg over 6 weeks. The project will also include nutritional support and advice, a six-week challenge, where participants will have challenges to complete in between their weekly sessions. Please take a minute to watch our video and get a real feel for what we deliver. We have made a big difference with people's mental and physical health.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1w9CzYXqp2uHjpkSTYQItp0eJ1cTFkNWI/view?usp=sharing>

1st time to request S137 funding

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

2. CAERAU PRIMARY SCHOOL

Date received: 12/04/2024

Request £300 towards purchasing above ground compost tumblers and food waste caddies to be spread across each classroom for the collection of compostable waste.

Tumblers x5 @ £59.95 each

Caddies x20 @ £3.50 each

Liners x20 @ £2.00 each

Total - £409.75

Last received £300 S137 in August 2023.

RESOLVED: Council to donate the sum of £300 under Section 137 of the Local Government Act (as amended).

3. YSGOL CYNWYD SANT

Date received: 18/04/2024

Request £300 towards purchasing Decorative stones, chippings, plants, shrubs and grasses for their remembrance garden.

Last received £300 S137 in May 2023

RESOLVED: Council to donate the sum of £300 under Section 137 of the Local Government Act (as amended).

4. MAESETG JUNIOR NETBALL CLUB

Date received: 23/04/2024

Request £500 towards purchasing training equipment (balls, ladders, cones, bibs, training attire), new kit and coaching courses.

Last received £200 S137 in August 2021

Recent bank statement provided.

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

5. CURTAIN UP YOUTH THEATRE

Date received: 26/04/2024

Request £500 towards their forthcoming production 'Chicago' by offsetting one part of the production, hire of microphones from stage sound services. The hire cost is usually in the region of £1,200.

Last received £500 S137 in June 2023

Recent bank statement provided.

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

588. DELEGATES REPORT

No reports received.

RESOLVED: To note the information

589. 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/24/150/FUL
Applicant: Mr L Davies
Location: 24 Aneurin Bevans Way Maesteg CF34 0SX
Proposal: Garage and playroom to rear garden
Ask for: Kittie Powell

Ref: P/23/698/FUL
Applicant: Mr G Rees
Location: The Long House Cwmdu Road Maesteg CF34 0DH
Proposal: Reconstruction of dilapidated stone barn/store to store farm tractor/s and machinery and to provide a chicken rearing incubator room
Ask for: Dion Douglas

Ref: P/24/220/FUL
Applicant: Llynfi Valley Boxing Club
Location: Llynfi Valley Boxing Club 136/137 Commercial Street Maesteg CF34 9DW

Proposal: Retention of use from cafe/tiling retail shop to boxing gym/fitness centre (use class A1-A3 to use class D2)

Ask for: Dion Douglas

Ref: P/24/179/FUL

Applicant: Mr & Mrs Hunnam

Location: 17 Llwydarth Cottages Llwydarth Road Maesteg CF34 9HA

Proposal: Retention and completion of engineering and retaining works consisting of off road parking area for two vehicles with dropped kerb access, stepped access, and retaining walls and guard rails; raising and re-profiling ground levels in front garden area and boundary treatments; a retaining wall and ground level re-profiling to side of dwelling, and associated works

Ask for: Kittie Powell

The following application received neither an objection or no objection, members agreed to pass individual comment only and to await further information.

Ref: P/23/319/DNS

Applicant: Y Bryn Wind Farm Limited

Location: Y Bryn Windfarm Bridgend / Neath Port Talbot

Proposal: Development of National Significance (DNS): Installation of up to 18 wind turbines (PEDW ref DNS/3264571)

Ask for: Lee Evans

DNS/3264571 - Y Bryn Wind Farm

Application by: Y Bryn Wind Farm Limited

Site address: Land at Bryn and Penhydd forests, located between Port Talbot and Maesteg

Proposed development: Installation of up to 18 wind turbines

The above application has been submitted to the Welsh Ministers for examination. It is considered to contain all essential supporting documents and the necessary fees have been paid in full; as such, it is a valid application and the examination period will now commence. The Inspector's report will be submitted to the Welsh Ministers within 24 weeks of the date of this letter.

The Inspectors appointed to examine this Development of National Significance (DNS) Application are: Melissa Hall BA (Hons), BTP, MSc, MRTPI and Paul Selby BEng (Hons), MSc, MRTPI

The application documents can be found on the DNS website:

<https://planningcasework.service.gov.wales/> and search for – 3264571

Observations to be emailed to pedw.infrastructure@gov.wales

Members were provided with an email from a concerned resident including the response from the turbine developers

590. RESOLVED: THAT THE COUNCIL GO INTO COMMITTEE

Pursuant to section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 and Local Government Act 1972, ss100 & 102 ‘Members of the public/press can be excluded by resolution if publicity would prejudice the public interest by reason of confidential nature of the business and arising out of the business to be transacted’

592. RESOLVED: THAT THE COUNCIL COME OUT OF COMMITTEE

Minutes emailed to Councillors to Read on 13th May 2024

Minutes accepted at a Hybrid meeting of the Council held on 4th June 2024

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Mayor