



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, 3rd September 2024**

PRESENT: Clerk & Deputy Clerk

COUNCILLORS

IN PERSON:

C Davies (Mayor)

F Abedalkarim, P Jenkins, C Knight, A LeGeyt, R Martin, M Rowlands, G Thomas, R Penhale-Thomas and I Williams

ONLINE:

AR Davies and P Davies

APOLOGIES:

L Thomas, G Williams,

NO APOLOGIES:

R Collins, R Lewis

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 R Penhale-Thomas declared a prejudicial and personal interest in any items relating to the Friends of Maesteg Welfare park.

Cllr C Davies declared an interest in any items that may relate to Caerau Men Shed.

170. 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 August 2024

| | Caerau / Nanty | Maesteg East | Maesteg West | Llan | Total in category |
|---------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------|----------------------|
| Robbery | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Drugs | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Dwelling burglary | 0 | 1 | 0 | 2 (1att) | 3 |
| Burglary other | 1 | 0 | 2 (1 attemp) | 0 | 3 |
| Theft of vehicle | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 2 |
| Theft from vehicle | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| All other theft | 4 | 5 | 10 | 1 | 20 |

| | | | | | |
|------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|----------|---------------|
| Damage | 7 | 1 | 6 | 0 | 14 |
| Violence against The person | 22 (3) | 14 (2) | 17 (3) | 2 | 55 (8) |
| Domestic related Occurrences | 5 | 5 | 3 | 0 | 13 |
| All crime total | 38 | 22 | 36 | 5 | 101 |
| ASB total | 13 | 6 | 12 | 1 | 32 |
| Drink Driving | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

Members are concerned that there has been non-attendance by the Maesteg Sgt's or PCSO's and request that Clerks email to ask why.

Members are having difficulty in getting through by telephone to Sgt Watts and that his current answerphone message is that he is out of office and returning until the new year 2021.

Clerk advised that contact emails for the 2 Maesteg SW Police Sgt's were listed on the bottom of the crime figures.

Again members were concerned that the Violence against a person was very high and want to know why this may be.

RESOLVED: Clerk to email both police Sgt's with the above concerns.

171. **RECEIVE THE MAYORS REPORT**

Mayor Cllr C Davies

| | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 20 th August | Mayors Charity Fund meeting |
| 25 th August | Special Families Event |
| 25 th August | Classic Car Show |
| 27 th August | Mayors Charity Fund meeting |

In the diary there was a golden wedding anniversary on the 17th August, the Mayor advised that he did not attend due to being away – Clerk to check with the family.

RESOLVED: To note the information, clerk to check with the family of the Golden Wedding anniversary on 17th August.

172. **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** – 06/08/2024 emailed 09/08/2024
- **Full Council CONFIDENTIAL** – 06/08/2024 emailed 09/08/2024

The **Projects Committee** 28/08/2024 emailed 29/08/2024 were taken as read and the following recommendations were accepted:

1. To approve a £14,500 budget for the Christmas lights through the park event. (£13,00 actual and £1,500 contingency).

Members raised concerns that the money was for the centenary year and believed this to be in 2025. Chair of Finance advised that it was agreed to give them £20k in 2024-25, and £30k in 2025/26. Following this the recommendation was agreed.

2. Deputy Clerk to ask CentreGreat for their input for powering and installing the loaned Christmas lights.

Members agreed to this recommendation, although it was noted that there were no street light posts in the Welfare park and clarification would be needed on how to connect them to a power supply.

3. The committee and the friends to meet in 6-8 weeks to discuss next years events in more detail.

Members agreed to this recommendation.

4. Proceed with installing a bench on the crash site location, pursue joint funding with Llangynwyd Middle Council.

Members agreed to proceed with obtaining permission from land owner and going into partnership with Llangynwyd Middle Community Council to install a bench on the bridleway.

5. Request a response from BCBC in regard to the CAT transfer of the land outside of B&M for the installation of a public convenience. If this is not possible, ask if the Town Council could convert the Knox and Wells unit in the market into a toilet facility.

Members agreed with chasing BCBC regarding the land outside B&M however noted that there is a covenant on the land and that BCBC may not be the landowners – possibly Newport Holdings? A member queried where we were with converting the outside storage beneath the Council Chamber into a public convenience and the Clerk advised that our AGENT / architect had been contacted to advise but had yet to provide a response. It was agreed to chase the Agent for plans and costings to convert the storeroom in the basement before contemplating asking BCBC for the Knox & Wells unit.

6. Projects Committee to meet on site (Commercial Street) to discuss ideas.

Members agreed to this and requested that this is done sooner rather than later to progress the project.

RESOLVED: to note the information and accept the recommendations from the minutes.

MATTERS ARISING

173. MINUTE 131 MINUTES

Projects Committee

07/08/24 Letter to residents regarding Blaencaerau play area agreed and letters printed and delivered to Noddfa for Caerau Ward Members to deliver.

Cllr M Rowlands advised that he also attended the V2C open day at Blaencaerau Park estate.

RESOLVED: To note the information

174. MINUTE 140 SOLAR PANELS FOR COUNCIL OFFICE ROOF

Clerk checked emails and found the below response from BCBC Conservation Officer:

The proposal to install photovoltaic panels on the roof of Maesteg Town Council, will require listed building consent. This application will need to be submitted with a Heritage Impact assessment. A guide to writing one and what is required is here: <https://cadw.gov.wales/advice-support/placemaking/heritage-impact-assessment/heritage-impact-assessment>

The application would be considered by Cadw as the structure is a Grade II* listed building and cannot be determined by the local planning authority.

Guidance on alterations to listed building is here:

<https://cadw.gov.wales/advice-support/historic-assets/listed-buildings/listed-building-consent>

Please bear in mind that this process can take time and it is essential to engage with a heritage professional to facilitate this application.

The fundamental assessment of any listed building consent alteration is whether or not it is damaging to the character or appearance of the building.

Please also bear in mind that any unauthorised work is a criminal offence.

RESOLVED: members agreed to proceed with exploring solar panels for the Council offices with CADW.

175. MINUTE 141 REQUEST TO VISIT THE MINER

Still awaiting the paperwork to be posted from NRW confirming our access and terms of use.

RESOLVED: To await the paperwork, then proceed with arranging a suitable dates for a visit to the miner

176. MINUTE 143

MAESTEG FOOTPATH 64 (HEARTS OF OAK)

12/08/24 Cllr P Davies emailed BCBC and all other relevant stakeholders. Citing the already open and non-actioned referral that was issued on the 15/02/2024.

There has been no response to date.

Cllr P Davies advised that he had met with NRW previously who have said that, due to a lack of risk to housing, they would not dredge the river. This information is contrary to local residents and Councillors.

It was agreed that the BCBC members pursue this issue with ROW department and NRW.

RESOLVED: BCBC members to pursue the issue.

177. MINUTE 152

CHRISTMAS PARADE 2024 – TOWN HALL

12/08/24 Emailed AWEN to ask if there are any costs involved should we use the Town hall for performances during the weekend leading up to Christmas.

No response to date.

Clerk advised that the Town Hall manager is returning from maternity leave next week and will re-chase this with her.

RESOLVED: To contact Town Hall manager once she has returned from Maternity leave.

178. MINUTE 155

MAESTEG WEST WARD FUND REQUEST

13/08/24 Emailed winning tender to proceed with the installation of the handrail.

Cllr F Abedalkarim updated members to advise that the winning tender had been to re-measure on Monday and hopefully works are to be completed imminently.

RESOLVED: To note the information

179. MINUTE 156

REQUEST FOR EVENT SUPPORT/SPONSORSHIP: LLYNFI VALLEY BMX

12/08/24 Purchased 2 x banners to be displayed at the Llynfi Valley BMX event to state 'Event sponsored by Maesteg Town Council'

21/08/24 Completed donation to Llynfi BMX

RESOLVED: To note the information

**180. MINUTE 157
CLERK MOBILES**

We obtained the following prices per handset:

| Option 1 | Option 2 | Option 3 |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 50GB Data | 20GB Data Plus Data Rollover | 20GB Data |
| Unlimited Minutes & Texts | Unlimited Minutes & Texts | Unlimited Minutes & Texts |
| EE Network | O2 Network | Tesco Mobile |
| 36 Month Term | 36 Month Term | 36 Month Term |
| £44/month | £39.06/month | £39.72/month |

O2 offers the best coverage in the office and through Maesteg when checking network coverage websites.

Our current office telephone provider advised that they could terminate the office handsets contract in favour of replacing them with a set of mobile phones. The termination cost to part settles the handsets will be £244.80 + VAT and the rental will reduce to £79.20 + VAT per quarter. (Current is £120.00 + VAT per quarter).

Please note the revised pricing above does not include the termination of handsets which is facilitated by tower leasing (£144/quarter).

Deputy Clerk advised that Option 2 had an upfront cost of £20 per handset.

Members agreed to proceed with option 2 due to price and network coverage.

RESOLVED: To proceed with option 2.

**181. MINUTE 158
SPONSORSHIP OF LOCAL RUGBY CLUB ANNIVERSARIES**

Banners:

Cllr M Rowlands has asked - can Llynfi BMX have banners that can be secured with cable ties to be used at the Llynfi BMX event in September. – we currently only have the 2 large ‘Event funded by Maesteg Town Council’ roller banners, but these are subject to falling over with any wind

Cllr G Thomas - with the Rugby club sponsorship - we need to get some advertising coverage from them. Possibly a banner on the field as a minimum, do you have any or can we get some if we need them?

Clerk contacted PC Signs in Aberkenfig who have suggested 5ft wide by 2ft high UPVC banners and are approximately £25 each – pricing does change dependent on the number of banners required. They also print a mesh version (this is made of UPVC but has holes in it to allow wind to flow) for £25 each, the mesh versions are better for banners that are to be in place longer than a day or two.

We just need to agree the wording on the banners, members agreed the following wording:

- for general events: ‘Event Sponsored by Maesteg Town Council’
- for the rugby clubs:
 - Maesteg Quins - 125-year anniversary supported by Maesteg Town Council
 - Nantyffyllon RFC – 125-year anniversary supported by Maesteg Town Council
 - Maesteg Celtic RFC - 100-year anniversary supported by Maesteg Town Council
 - Maesteg 7777 RFC - 150-year anniversary supported by Maesteg Town Council
- for Blaencaerau play area - ‘Blaencaerau play Area now owned and maintained by Maesteg Town Council’

21/08/24 Cllr G Thomas emailed: *‘I Just found out from Nanty that I had the date wrong its this year along with the quins they celebrate 125years not next year. Can you add a quick item to the next full council meeting for me to get it agreed to bring the spend forward (im sure its not an issue) but we will need an extra banner and a page for the program’*

Members agreed to bring the funding for Nantyffyllon rugby club forward to this year.

RESOLVED: To proceed with ordering banners and to request an invoice from Nantyffyllon Rugby Club for the sponsorship.

182. MINUTE 160

FINANCIAL APPLICATIONS

Letter of thanks received from the following organisation:

- Garth Senior Citizens
- Llynfi Valley Rivercare Group - Cllr R Martin added that the members were really pleased with the purchases from the S137 grant, although prices had changed, they were unable to get all as requested in the grant application.

RESOLVED: To note the information

183. MINUTE 161

DELEGATES REPORTS

1. BICENTENARY MEETING – 09/07/2024 - CLLR G THOMAS

15/08/24 Costings for website from ITCS received which are -

Reduced upfront payment from £625.00 plus VAT to £325.00 plus VAT.
£45.00 plus VAT per month to include cyber cover - if they don't want Cyber cover and backups, we can reduce it to £35.00 plus vat on a 24-month contract
If they wish to go ahead, please do not hesitate in letting me know and we can get contracts sorted.

A member advised that the group has sourced a domain and will have a website available imminently so will not need the town councils assistance with this.

The Clerk mentioned that an additional request has come in from the bicentenary group, they have requested some posters to be printed, members agreed to assist the group with their printing needs.

RESOLVED: To note the information

184. LIST OF PAYMENTS FOR THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER 2024

RESOLVED:

That the tables of **Expenditure (£25,870.54) Income (£50,443.73)** during the month of July 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 September 2024 totalling **£27,735.52**
- 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, for this financial year, the Council budgeted to cover the costs of the repairs to the building regardless of grant funding being successful or not. MTC were successful in being granted a Transforming Towns Grant of £97,737.56 towards the improvement works at the Maesteg Town Council building which was not originally budgeted for. The Chair of Finance encourages members to email suggested projects that would benefit the town to be included within the budget discussions for 2025/26. A member suggested that funds be allocated to the bicentenary group to support the events being run to celebrate Maesteg turning 200 years old – this will be considered as discussions and committee meetings take place with the group. Another member suggested a project of bringing a suitable post office to the town such as the one that existed previously. They requested to know how many years of unqualified accounts the Council has before being able to pursue the power of competency. The member was advised that we would likely have 3 years of unqualified accounts this year and the Clerks will need to pass their exams in the winter to obtain the CiLCA qualification – the council can then apply for the power of competence which should empower us to pursue the post office project. It was also noted that the Clerks have to

complete 30 assessments to pass the CiLCA, of which time is needed to complete the assessments.

CMO Summary Report – August 2024

This month have included me taking Fridays off as annual leave each week:

Weekly building checks that include:

- fire alarm
- emergency lighting
- legionnaires disease
- Twice 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, 24, 36, 37, 39, 40, 44, 45b, 46, 47, 52, 57, in addition cleared
brambles from Cemetery car park to gravel yard.
- Milage at start of month – 59082 at end 59238 (156 total miles)
- Delivered dog waste bags to Library, Noddfa, Llan Post Office.
- Delivered paperwork to Noddfa for Blaencaerau playarea.
- Delivered gazeboes to South Parade, Maesteg Harlequins RFC
- Collected gazeboes form Maesteg Harlequins RFC
- Begin training new CMO

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.
- Train new CMO

The clerk advised that the new CMO started at the end of August. Members wished to meet the new CMO and suggested that he attend next months full council meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE

185. NEWSLETTERS / FLYERS / BRIEFING NOTES/ CONSULTATIONS

Emailed to all Councillors for information:

- New events at Maesteg Town Hall
- BAVO: Community Venue Network - Next Meeting - 1 Oct
- BCBC - Business @ Bridgend August E-news Newsletter
- OVW - Attendance by Members – the 6 Month Rule
- BCBC - Statement of Persons Nominated for Caerau by-election
- Introduction to Eden Project Community Action Online Course

- How can we support you - Tenovus Cancer Care
- OVW – Guidance on Powers and Policies

RESOLVED: To note the information

186. SURVEY TO IMPROVE MAESTEG FOR YOUR ORGANISATION

Advert published on Facebook by us but funded by Grasshopper.

Email sent to all known local groups and organisations:

Maesteg Town Council want to hear your perspectives on how we can improve the local area. We want to improve relationships with local businesses and organisations and to find ways work together more effectively in the future. This will help us to develop our five-year strategy and action plan, to make the most of available funding and look at the changes you want to see.

The online bilingual survey is available: <https://re-url.uk/WIDG>

RESOLVED: To note the information

187. REFERRALS

01/08/24: Burial/ashes scattered on Footpath 6 - it appears to either be a burial or ashes scattered ceremony on footpath 6 Caerau.

Response 06/08/24: Thank you for your email dated 1st August 2024 included within which were images of what appeared to be either a burial or ashes scattered ceremony possibly on Footpath 6 Maesteg.

Following receipt of your email I forwarded the details to the Bereavement Services Manager for further consideration as this was not a situation that I had experience of dealing with. I have now received their response and would advise as follows.

If a person wishes to inter or scatter cremated remains, then they should obtain the permission of the landowner before doing so. The memorabilia appear to have been placed on land which is not owned by the County Borough Council. Therefore, as it is not Council owned land the Council does not have any powers over it.

The Bereavement Services manager has further advised that your Council should discuss this matter with the police via the local PCSO or via 101 to take their view on this situation as to whether it should be escalated by the police under their procedures. Whilst it is likely to be tributes commemorating the scatter of cremated remains, it may be something more sinister. After that, it would be up to the landowner to arrange for the removal of the unauthorised memorabilia placed on their land, assuming they have not given their permission for them to be there.

I trust that the above information will be of assistance to you and your Council.

07/08/24: forwarded to SW Police

Response 08/08/24: PCSO Harverson was asked to look at the memorial on path 6 in Caerau. My colleague and I have been up there and did locate it, after finding out some information about it, it was discovered that it is nothing sinister just a memorial for someone recently lost. Just wanted to give you an update, thank you for letting us know.

01/08/24: The path from bottom of Cymmer Hill (opposite Wendels) to Protheroe Street is overgrown

Response: No response to date

02/08/24: The land on Cwmdu Road on lane by allotments. There was an issue not long back when it was being used as a scrap yard. They were ordered to empty it of all rubbish, vans, caravans and stop trading in scrap.

It's now being used as a dumping ground, a van dumped sofas there yesterday. Once that happens everyone will follow and dump their rubbish there.

Response: No response to date

08/08/24: Japanese knotweed and Himalayan Balsam growing in the lane to Allotments. Off Cwmdu Road. A charity with us had a grant refused today as funders are worried about this getting out of hand.

Response: No response to date

08/08/24: Track overgrown to allotments - Magazine Street/Heol Tywith/Coegnant Rd

Response: No response to date

13.08.24: – email from a resident of Alma road stating that the excessive speeding of vehicles on this road has caused their parked car to be written off for a second time. On this second occasion, the person's car was hit so hard that his car was launched into another parked car and that too was written off.

Response from SWP: 16.08.24 –

'I have attended the location today at approximately 0930 hrs to conduct a speed scoping exercise; this is where we take accurate readings of vehicles speed and take note of the speeds to then correlate and evidence speeding issues in specific areas. During my time this morning I have sighted 5 vehicles all of which have been driving below 15 mph. This is when a resident of the street, also a police officer of SWP has approached me to tell me that the speeding issues are from around 2200hrs till 0300 hrs. He stated that the vehicles driving on this road between those times tend to be boy racers and he thinks they go as fast as 80mph. This resident's vehicles have fallen victim to the dangerous drivers twice to which they have been written off. Of course as a police officer he has good knowledge of consequences caused by dangerous driving and he worries that next time it could be a member of public.'

Unfortunately, today my shift ends at 1930 and I am on rest days until next Tuesday so I'm not able to carry out readings that will accurately represent the speeds that these vehicles are driving at early hours of the morning. There may be some NPT officers working till 2am this evening so they might be able to assist with speed scoping. If not then hopefully this is something we can arrange in the near future. My apologies that I couldn't be of more assistance today'.

Sgt Watts raised these concerns with BCBC and commented that the road layout encourages speeding, they had the following response:

Afternoon PC Watts,

'With regards to your opinion that the road layout is enticing drivers to accelerate, the onus is on the driver to drive to the road conditions and speed limit which is set to 20mph on Alma Road.

As reference is made to excessive speed can I suggest you refer this onto Gosafe who are the enforcement agency for speeding . Perhaps this can be also referred to roads policing as reference has been made to boy racers driving in what appears to be a reckless driving or driving in a dangerous manor.

Unfortunately, funding for traffic calming measures to support the introduction of the new 20mph speed limit on restricted roads was not part of the Welsh Government Grant, and is therefore still applied for through bids to Welsh Government. There are specific criteria that schemes have to meet to qualify for such funding which include personal injury collision statistics over the previous three years, however, the collision history at this location would not meet the criteria for WG funding. Additionally, the WG ethos and general consensus is that the new 20mph restrictions should be allowed to embed without the introduction of traffic calming measures.

Finally, with the continuing works required by WG in line with the suggested possible amendments to the 20mph speed limits, Traffic Management have neither the resources of funding to carry out a feasibility study as to whether the road layout could be reconstructed to prevent these boy racers from exceeding the speed limit and driving recklessly and or carelessly. Additionally, to change the road layouts because of reckless driving is not realistic.'

RESOLVED: To note the information

188. OFFICE CONDITIONS

Cllr R Martin emailed: On my visit to the office today (02/08/24), I noticed it was unbearably hot. There were fans on, and wires with extension leads across the floor. This is not a good a good working environment for you both.

Please can we look into a mobile air conditioning unit to suit the size of the office. This needs to be discussed as soon as possible.

Members agreed to look into suitable air conditioning for the office. It was advised that the clerks find permanent measures and not the portable coolers.

RESOLVED: To source suitable air condition units for the office.

189. BICENTENARY GROUP REQUEST

I have recently found out after the exhibition we are having in the town hall in 2026. There is nowhere for the exhibition to go at present. I personally think this is good opportunity for Maesteg to have its first museum.

Please are there any rooms in the council chamber on the level that could be used for this. I'm sure there are many organisations that would contribute to the museum. It would be available to schools. Any organisations and the general public. I am sure this is the best time for doing this as the museum would qualify under the heritage grant and we would access it as part of the legacy section.

Clerk has advised: I will take your request to the next council meeting however our upstairs room is used by community groups for meetings, presentations and some use the room for music etc. Therefore, we wouldn't have the space for a permanent exhibition. This has been brought up previously about storing an exhibition and the issue was the size of the exhibition.

A member stated that as they were part of this group, they know that this request was made prematurely and will likely not need to be brought to this Council. Cllr G Thomas, who is the Council's representative on the group advised that the office contact this individual and advise that such requests should be requested to him to investigate before being presented to Council.

RESOLVED: Advise the bicentenary group member to liaise with Cllr G Thomas the Council's representative on the group.

190. LATE DOUG DIXON MEMORIAL

Clerk met with the late Doug Dixon's son and daughter to discuss a memorial for Doug.

We have agreed that a bench would be nice in the community garden in Garth with the following remembrance plate on the bench:

In Memory of
Douglas James Dixon
18/09/1925 – 27/01/2024
'A true champion of the residents of Maesteg'

A member, who is also on the lease for the community garden in Garth, stated that the lease is due to expire shortly and will not be renewed due to issues such as land insurance, flooding etc. They advised that it would be prudent to approach the family again to find a suitable alternative location. Suggested locations by Council include along the river, Maesteg Welfare Park.

RESOLVED: Approach Mr Dixons family again to find a suitable alternative location.

191. DEGRADED BENCH NCN885

Please see the photograph of one of our sponsored benches on the NCN885 cycleway, the bench has disintegrated and is in need of renewal, is this something that we could put on the agenda for September for discussion, perhaps we need to do a survey of these benches as there are a few of them up there. I don't think it is a ward fund issues as the track is used by residents from all over the valley.



Clerk has checked with CMO who has advised that this was not a bench but a large log placed by the previous ROW contractor.

A member mentioned that there are other similar benches placed on the cycle track and it would be prudent to check the condition of those and replace them if needed at the same time.

Clerk advised that the new CMO is a qualified carpenter and that his advice should be Considered. It was agreed to ask the new CMO his advice and recommendations for replacing the log benches with new log benches.

Cllr F Abedalkarim asked about benches located at Zoar Place that are also damaged. Deputy Clerk advised that these are the property and responsibility of V2C.

RESOLVED: ask the new CMO his advice and recommendations for replacing the log benches with new log benches.

192. FEASABILITY STUDY UPDATE: FRIENDS OF MAESTEG WELFARE PARK

Cllr R Penhale-Thomas declared a personal interest in this matter.

14/08/24: Cllr R Penhale-Thomas emailed:

'Further to the town council's support in June around an EOI from the Friends of Maesteg Welfare Park, wanted to keep you in the loop.'

BCBC has successfully appointed a partner agency, Planning Solutions Ltd, to take forward this work over the next six months. The work is funded by Reach, via the local authority, and the steering group will be made up of the various stakeholders:

- *Planning Solutions Ltd*
- *BCBC*
- *Friends of Maesteg Welfare Park*

- *Maesteg Town Council*

As a reminder, Maesteg Town Council agreed to support the expression of interest and to be involved in the feasibility study, the result of which will be an options appraisal from Planning Solutions Ltd (by February 2025). There is no obligation on any partner to take anything forward or to commit any finance - but I don't doubt the town council will be interested in what arises from it.

I have copied in Mark Blackmore (BCBC) who is the authority's lead on this project, who can share the details of the scope of the work. To that end, can we include in next month's correspondence an action to appoint a town council delegate to the steering group- while I will sit on it, I am twin-hatted as vice-chair of the Friends group and so I think it's only fair that the town council has a individual representative.'

A member asked if the Council have a representative that will be part of the feasibility study. They were advised that we do not currently, but it would be prudent to appoint one. Cllr R Penhale-Thomas advised that as he is already the Vice-Chair of the Friends of Maesteg Welfare Park and a BCBC Member, he was cautious that he shouldn't also be the MTC representative without the permission of Council. Cllr G Thomas nominated Cllr R Penhale-Thomas as MTC representative on the steering group, there were no objections to this.

RESOLVED: Cllr R Penhale-Thomas to represent Maesteg Town Council during the feasibility process.

193. TRAFFIC CALMING BRIDGEND ROAD.

14.08.24 Cllr F Abedalkarim emailed:

'Resident in Maesteg East concerns about speeding cars in lower Bridgend Road . He has requested to have light speed indicator placed by the lights at lower Bridgend Road . I do know that we have requested in the past with no joy . I would be very grateful if we can try again and do another referral to the highway in BCBC please . We cannot ignore residents' concerns; please assists in this matter . Thank you'

16.08.24 Cllr Martin Hughes had a response from BCBC: 'It is highly regrettable that no matter what the speed limit on a road is unfortunately you will always have a small number of drivers who drive at inappropriate speeds. The Police and GoSafe will continue to enforce 20mph, like any other speed limit, to make our roads safer for all users. They are also helping to engage with and educate motorists to ensure that the new speed limits are respected, and driver behaviour change is supported.

Enforcement of inappropriate driving, excessive speed and anti-social behaviour is a matter that has to be dealt with by the police/Go Safe Camera Partnership and does not fall under the remit of the council.

Unfortunately we have no control over where the speed cameras operate they are

regulated by the Wales Casualty Reduction Partnership and if residents have a complaint over speeding traffic they are requested to visit the Gosafe website. The site allows anyone to log their complaints and request that they visit the locations and assess if it meets the criteria for further visits under their criteria of “sites of community concern.” We would advise anyone visiting the website to highlight any specific times or days when they perceive that offences are being committed in order for the Police Staff to attend at the relevant times/days.

With regards to traffic calming measures, we are restricted by the physical measures we can introduce on Bridgend due to it being a bus route. Unfortunately, funding for traffic calming measures to support the introduction of the new 20mph speed limit on restricted roads was not part of the Welsh Government grant and is therefore still applied for through bids to Welsh Government. There are specific criteria that schemes have to meet to qualify for such funding which include collision statistics over the previous three years, however, the collision history at this location would not meet the criteria for WG funding.

Finally, the WG ethos and general consensus is that the new 20mph restrictions should be allowed to embed without the introduction of traffic calming measures.

A member did advise that the appetite for traffic calming measures within BCBC is very low in comparison with our neighbouring local authorities in NPT and RCT. Members did ask if we could install signs that flash slow down such as on Cymmer Hill but it was argued the effectiveness of these as everyone already knows the local speed limit and chances of being caught on our roads are very small due to little to no deterrence.

Another member did suggest that on Bridgend Road, the entrance to the Celtic was meant to be widened to facilitate the new houses that have been built, however, the contractor has not completed this works that was meant to be done over 10 years ago.

RESOLVED: Clerks to request information in regard to the remediation works to the entrance of Maesteg Celtic RFC.

194. IRON WORKS MONUMENT

18.08.24 – Cllr C Davies emailed:

'I have been contacted by many residents and also the manager of Tesco Maesteg regarding the state of our iron works monument near Maesteg Tesco there is so much overgrowth trees etc you cannot see the actual monument. I am aware it's not the council job to clear this or BCBC can we find out a contact number etc so I can contact them to try and resolve this issue it's our heritage.

Thank you'.

19.08.24 – we responded:

'Morning Cllr Davies - You and Cllr Knight raised this issue last year (please see below). BCBC advised that they needed permission from CADW (<https://cadw.gov.wales/contact-us>) to enter the site prior to litter picking. BCBC have been informed of this multiple times since you raised it but clearly nothing has been done.

I'm sure we contacted CADW previously as well, but I cannot find the response, it is my understanding that there would be no issues in accessing the site to tidy it up – which is what CADW are for.

I believe if you can approach BCBC just for access, you could probably get a community event going to litter pick the site since BCBC are likely to offer little to no resources to sort it. With the trees etc, that's likely to need professionals but hopefully BCBC would be able to offer at least some assistance.'

Members were advised that, when asked previously, BCBC advised of health and safety issues in regard to cleaning the site. To date, numerous requests have been made for the site to be cleaned up and all have been declined.

Cllr R Penhale-Thomas advised he had received a response from BCBC in April and will forward that to the Clerk.

Cllr R Martin advised that the Llynfi Rivercare Group would also like to assist as part of their programme of cleaning however they require key access to the site.

It was agreed that Cllr P Davies is to chase the access to the site.

RESOLVED: Cllr P Davies to chase the access to the site

195. COUNTY LAMP POSTS

A member of the public came into the offices to ask if the office was aware of a changing of the lamp posts material within Bridgend County. The individual had said that this change may affect the Councils ability to erect Christmas lights.

16.08.24: We sent an email to our BCBC members to ask if this was something we need to consider.

17.08.24: Cllr P Jenkins responded –

I believe that is other way around, aluminium being the more expensive option and lasting longer, BCBC HAS A LARGE NUMBER TO REPLACE, HENCE THE STEEL OPTION BEING CHEAPER EVEN THOUGH LIFE OF POLE NOT AS LONG WAS CHOSEN. IF I AM CORRECT.

BCBC Members advised that the majority of street lamp posts were to remain as steel lamp post and this shouldn't affect the ability to erect Christmas lights.

RESOLVED: To note the information

196. CLLR P JENKINS REQUESTS:

1. Heritage community hub

Please could you present a proposal for Council's consideration. That us to seek views from various organisations in the valley who would like to see a dedicated heritage community hub within the Town.

The ideal site although in need of restoration as is nearly all our historical buildings would be the existing St Davids Church now surplus to Church's needs, it also houses a dedicated garden of remembrance. This proposal is for discussion only at this time, to consider a way forward, and Council to facilitate if formed the Community Heritage Charitable Trust.

This Council could well be part of such a trust and alongside its partners help to secure funds for the restoration of this building. We have many groups within the valley who represent various forms of heritage from iron – coal to cosmetics and garment making arts and crafts etc.

It would be beneficial if Council could ascertain the long-term vision by the church for this building. With the possibility of long-term lease that would allow a charitable organisation to move forward and in particular seek funding sources. Both BAVO and BCBC could well prove helpful in this field.

I believe only good can come of a project such as this and give profile to this Council. I and many other citizens do not wish to see this building jyst rot away or fall fail of developments.

Members supported Cllr P Jenkins request for a potential community heritage hub. It was **recommended** the Council contact the Church in Wales to determine the use of the church going forward and consider the Councils plans for this.

2. Cut back overgrowth

I wish to request the use of CMO in cutting back overgrowth encroaching upon a very busy single footpath leading from Ffordd Dysgu to Crown Rd. This is a request only not actioned by time it goes before Council in September.

Please note if necessary, I will pay the hourly rate for CMO time and expense incurred.

Cllr Jenkins advised that the overgrowth has been cut now so this request is no longer valid.

RESOLVED: Council contact the Church in Wales to determine the use of the church going forward and consider the Councils plans for this.

197. CAERAU WARD FUND REQUESTS

1. REAR OF BEDW STREET FOOTPATH

Cllr P Davies has requested that the Ward fund is used to fund the repair of the footpath. The footpath at the rear of Bedw Street requires some attention whereby the concrete path has eroded and there is a dangerous pothole near the steps.

It was **agreed** that Caerau Ward members gain quotes and proceed with the proposed works.

2. SKIP FOR RIVERCARE GROUP

Cllr P Davies requests a skip is hired on the behalf of the Rivercare Group for the rear of Caerau Road for a future river clean.

Members queried whether the skip would be hired, filled and collected on the day of a river clean and that the skip would manned to guarantee that residents do not add to the skip. Cllr P Davies advised that this is part of the proposal. Cllr R Martin suggested that the Llynfi Rivercare Group do a river clean / litter pick the week before and also the week of the skip hire to maximise the amount of waste collected.

Clerk advised that Cllr P Davies brought these requests to Council to make Council aware of the proposed Ward spends before any project begins.

RESOLVED: Members agreed to this use of the ward fund and advised the Caerau ward to proceed with obtaining quotes.

198. BIN OUTSIDE B&M

BCBC Town Centre manager came into the office to ask about the ownership of the bin outside B&M, as the manager has asked if they have a key they would empty the bin when our CMO is unavailable.

RESOLVED: To have a key cut and give bin key and bags to the B&M manager.

199. SPRING BULBS 2024-25

In 2023-24 ordered 63 x 25kg sacks at £33 per sack with the below list.

Clerk has contacted GeeTee Bulbs who have advised that the price for the 25kg sacks has increased to £38 per sack – delivery costs are dependent on the number of sacks ordered.

Following requests received:

| WARD | GROUP / ORGANISATION | 2023/24 | TO BE UPDATED |
|--------|-------------------------|---------|-------------------------|
| | | | 2024/25 NO. OF SACKS |
| CAERAU | CDT & Local communities | 6 | 6 |

| | | | |
|---------------------|---|-----------|-----------|
| | Dementia Friends | 2 | 0 |
| | Caerau Primary School x 3 Caerau Market Garden x 3 Community Planting in Caerau x 3 | 9 | 9 |
| | Noddfa & Llynfi BMX | 7 | 7 |
| | | | |
| MAESTEG EAST | Brodawel / Crown Rise | 1 | 2 |
| | Goodwin Terrace, Cross Street & Golden Terrace | 6 | 0 |
| | Local Areas within Ward | 3 | 1 |
| | Llynfi Woodland Group | 2 | 2 |
| | Bron Fair Allotments | 10 | 1 |
| | Garth Primary | 1 | 1 |
| | Plasnewydd Primary | 1 | 1 |
| | Maesteg Celtic | 1 | 1 |
| MAESTEG WEST | Ysgol Cynwyd Sant | 4 | 1 |
| | St Mary's & St Patricks | 2 | 1 |
| | Maesteg Park x 2 & Rivercare Group x 1 | 3 | 4 |
| | Sports Centre Planters | 2 | 0 |
| | Council of Churches Eco committee | | 2 |
| NANTYFFYLLON | Nantyffyllon Primary | 2 | 1 |
| | Caerau Men Shed | 2 | 1 |
| | Gavin Thomas | | 1 |
| | Valleys 2 Coast? | | |
| | TOTAL | 64 | 42 |

N.B. Schools to be checked in September

Cllr P Jenkins asked last year that MTC supply V2C with sacks to plant up in Maesteg and Caerau estates – V2C have been contacted but they have yet to respond with how many sacks are needed.

Members agreed to give each school 1 sack and that if there are any spare once planting has been completed then these can then be shared with V2C.

RESOLVED: To order 42 x 25kg sacks of daffodil bulbs.

200. FINANCIAL APPLICATIONS

Cllr C Davies declared an interest in Caerau Men's Shed and therefore left the room and did not take part in the discussion of the application. Cllr G Thomas was asked as Deputy Mayor to take over the chairing of the meeting.

1. CAERAU MEN SHED

Date received: 28/06/2024

Request £500 towards purchasing a polycarbonate tunnel / greenhouse. Caerau Men Shed have been working with BCBC Local places for nature manager who have been assisting with the Community Garden project. BCBC will be funding the installation of the polycarbonate tunnel along with other aspects of the community garden projects (raised beds / picnic area etc)

Last received S137 funding in January 2023, originally received grant for the polytunnel in October 2022 that was returned as unspent in April 2024 at the request of MTC.

Recent bank statement and Charity Commission for England & Wales Independent examiner's report on the accounts for the year ending 31st January 2023 provided

RESOLVED: Council to donate the sum of £500.00 under Section 137 of the Local Government Act (as amended).

201. DELEGATES REPORTS

No formal reports received before the meeting.

Cllr R Martin provided the following verbal report the bicentenary group is meeting with our events contractor – EPM Creative. The member advised that no costings or agreements are in place, the contractor is there in an advisory role.

RESOLVED: to note the information

202. PLANNING

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

Members **supported** the following application:

Ref: P/24/392/FUL

Applicant: Greggs PLC

Location: 7 Talbot Street Maesteg CF34 9BT

Proposal: Change of use to a mixed A1/A3 use and associated works

Ask for: Kittie Powell

Members **had no objections** to the following applications:

Ref: P/24/208/FUL

Applicant: Mr R Jones

Location: 99 High Street Nantyffyllon Maesteg CF34 0BP

Proposal: Construct new detached garage to rear of dwelling

Ask for: Julie Earp

Ref: P/24/463/FUL

Applicant: Mr G Morris

Location: Maesteg Welfare Park Rear of Neath Road Maesteg

Proposal: Proposed green coloured steel storage container to store maintenance equipment for the bowling green

Ask for: Kittie Powell

**Minutes emailed to all Councillors to Read on 4th September 2024
Read and accepted at a remote meeting of the Council held on 1st October 2024**

.....
Mayor