



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, 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2024**

**PRESENT:** Clerk & Deputy Clerk

**COUNCILLORS** - Due to the Mayor feeling unwell the Deputy Mayor was asked to chair the meeting

**IN PERSON:** **G Thomas (Deputy Mayor)**  
F Abedalkarim, K Duggan, P Jenkins, M Rowlands, L Thomas,  
G Williams and I Williams

**ONLINE:** R Collins, AR Davies, C Davies, P Davies, A LeGeyt, R Lewis and  
R Penhale-Thomas

**APOLOGIES:** C Knight and R Martin

**DECLARATION OF INTEREST:**

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

Cllr I Williams declared a personal interest in any matters pertaining to Maesteg Celtic

Cllr R Penhale-Thomas declared a personal interest in any items relating to Friends of Maesteg Welfare Park

Cllr P Jenkins declared a personal interest in S137 application from Llangynwyd Rangers FC

**311. POLICE MATTERS**

Members welcomed Sgt Watts & PCSO Haslam from SW Police to the meeting. Members were provided with the following crime figures prior to the meeting:

### Maesteg Crime Statistics for November 2024

	<u>Caerau/ Nanty</u>	<u>Maesteg East</u>	<u>Maesteg West</u>	<u>Llan</u>	<u>Total</u>
Robbery	0	0	0	0	0
Drugs	1	0	0	0	1
Dwelling Burglary	0	0	0	0	0
Burglary other	1	1	0	0	2
Theft of vehicle	1	0	1	1	3
Theft from vehicle	0	0	0	0	0
All other theft	4	10	10	0	24
Damage	4	5	3	1	13
Violence against a person	24 (1)	12 (2)	10 (1)	3 (1)	49
Domestic related	4	2	0	2	8
All Crime TOTAL	35	28	24	5	92
ASB	15	7	12	4	38
Drink Driving	1	1	0	0	2

Members raised the following questions -

- Have you received reports about the gang causing havoc in Caerau square?  
*No but we are aware of what has been going on and staff are taking on overtime to increase patrols in the area. Most scenarios are not reported to us so we cannot evidence the need for further resource allocation to tackle the ongoing issues – it is vitally important to report every instance to us through the online form, or 101/999.*
- Have you been into schools to educate and find suspects?  
*Yes, and this has been particularly successful especially when the seating in 7777's was damaged recently, and remediation of offences has taken place when individuals are identified.*
- Are you aware of the Councils bin being burnt out by the Llynfi Road car park?  
*Yes, but we have not found the culprit.*
- Are you aware of an individual going to people's homes and asking for money and often intimidating people?  
*Yes, and we have invited the person in for questioning and they have been cautioned against further such actions.*
- There are rumours of potential drug operations in certain locations are you able to advise at all?  
*We cannot currently reveal the strategies or evidence that is being used to conduct our operations.*

**RESOLVED:** To note the information.

### 312. THE MAYORS REPORT

Mayor Cllr C Davies attended the following events:

8 <sup>th</sup> November	RBL Festival of Remembrance
11 <sup>th</sup> November	Remembrance Sunday in Maesteg
20 <sup>th</sup> November	Town Hall Opening

21 <sup>st</sup> November	Nantyffyllon Primary School – infants
23 <sup>rd</sup> November	Charity piano concert
25 <sup>th</sup> November	Nantyffyllon Primary School – congratulate poster competition winner
26 <sup>th</sup> November	Garth Primary – thank the runner up for entering the poster competition
27 <sup>th</sup> November	Cwmfelin Primary - thank the runner up for entering the poster competition
30 <sup>th</sup> November	Caerau Christmas lights switch on

Deputy Mayor attended:

11 <sup>th</sup> November	Remembrance Sunday in Caerau
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**RESOLVED:** To note the information.

### 313. MINUTES

The following minutes, copies of the which minutes have been circulated to Members, were taken as read, accepted as a true record, and signed by the Mayor:

- **Full Council** – 05/11/2024 emailed 14/11/2024
- **Full Council Confidential** - 05/11/2024 emailed 14/11/2024
- **Extraordinary Confidential** - 14/11/2024 emailed 18/11/2024

The **Finance Committee** 19/11/2024 emailed 19/11/2024 were taken as read and the following recommendations were accepted.

1. Revised Draft Budget is discussed and accepted.
2. Internal Auditor Quote 4 is accepted for a 1-year trial.
3. Accounting software – deferred to the next Finance Committee meeting until further quote received.
4. Warm Hubs Policy – deferred to the Policy Committee to discuss.
5. Selection Boxes Policy - deferred to the Policy Committee to discuss.

The **Projects Committee** 28/11/2024 emailed 03/12/2024 were taken as read and the following recommendations were accepted.

1. To invite the FMWP and EPM to the next projects committee meeting to discuss the event, monies other miscommunications and future plans for the centenary events in 2025.
2. The chair to report costings for Blaencaerau playpark to the Council when in receipt of the quotes.
3. See below.
4. See below.
5. Chair to communicate with Llan Middle CC in regard to the crash site bench and report back.
6. See below.
7. Committee to obtain costings for scaffolding to be erected when the graffiti artist is ready to paint the mural on the lower end of commercial street.

The Following recommendations had the following comments:

3. Revisit the Bridge Street project when a new permanent CAT officer is in situ within BCBC. – members were advised that there is a temporary person in place

4. Committee to request a budget line for a new digital noticeboard either this or next financial year – Clerk advised that companies would not give quotes until dimensions were provided - members believe a 4ft x 5ft free standing notice board should suffice. It was suggested that £1000.00 should cover the costs for a digital noticeboard.

6. Committee to obtain costings for a tree surgeon to investigate the lower end of commercial street and issue a report on the trees and their condition and future management. – ask BCBC as the trees are believed to be on land owned by BCBC

### **314. TO CONSIDER DRAFT BUDGET**

Members were provided with the Finance Committee revised Draft budget and were also provided with the following report from the Chair of Finance:

Please see below some detail around the proposed changes to the draft budget following council's request.

- Blaencaerau park – kept at 40k to enable grant funding application
- Bus to Caerau park - this a generalisation, the plan is to extend the existing bus trial to Caerau for a period of 12 months. The details are to be worked out by the subcommittee, but the expected cost will be around 30k (which is based on existing trial)
- Both the welfare park & old library feasibility studies were reduced by 10K given the committee thought that 10K would be adequate for the initial study to be undertaken, if it's not then we could prioritise which one we did this year.
- Staff costs – increased to allow for NI contributions after the budget.
- Welfare park – reduced to 35.5K due to 14.5k being spent this year.
- Added a line for AWEN Trust – this needs to go to the policy committee to agree the format of the grants and how they are allocated but 15K set aside
- Digital rights of way – cost for conversion of all our rights of way to a digital app linked to heritage.
- Children's playschemes – cost reduced to remove inflation; it's a fixed price so didn't need to be increased.
- Civil award ceremony – on the back of the grasshopper report
- Rivergroup – to allow partnership with the river group
- MTC rebranding – a very generic item that is meant to allow some of the small things under the grasshopper report such as room hire for business forums, advertising etc.
- Reduced the training budget – it has not been used for the last few years so reduced by 50% - Clerk advised that the training policy states that £3,000.00 to be set aside each year for training – it was agreed that the policy committee look into amending the training policy

- Rugby club grants – reduced by £1000 – since only Celtic will be next year the 7777 will be the year afters budget.
- Removed the fruit scheme – very difficult to administer and needs a lot more thought.

The committee looked at various options but agreed that an increase in the precept was the right thing to do. In practice it would be less than £6 per year per household increase and for that the council could deliver some really ambitious projects and start to be seen to make a difference.

Prior to the meeting BCBC Electoral Services had provided the following electorate figures for Maesteg:

The electorate stats for Maesteg as of 01/12/24 will be:

Caerau (OH1, OH2, OH3)	2,643
Nantyfyllon (OH4, OH5)	2,324
Maesteg East (OL1, OL2, OL3)	3,813
Maesteg West (OM1, OM2, OM3, OM4)	4,519
<b>TOTAL ELECTORATE</b>	<b>13,299</b>

2025-26 maximum S137 = 13,299 x £11.10 = £147,618.90

Members discussed the revised draft budget and agreed to the below with the addition of £1,000 for a digital noticeboard it was also noted that the Cenotaphs budget line be changed to War Memorials:

<i>EXPENDITURE ANALYSIS</i>	<i>Budget set</i>	Comments
<b><i>CAPITAL PROJECTS</i></b>		
<i>CAT Blaencaerau Park</i>	40,000.00	
<i>Bus to Caerau Park &amp; Blaencaerau Trial</i>	30,000.00	Added - a new trial for 50 weeks
<i>Feasability study of Old library / church</i>	10,000.00	Reduce as this is a feasibility study
<i>Welfare park - green spaces feasibility study</i>	10,000.00	Reduce as this is a feasibility study

<b><i>REVENUE BUDGET</i></b>		
<i>Staff costs</i>	105,000.00	
<i>Maesteg 200 grant</i>	50,000.00	
<i>Christmas lighting</i>	40,000.00	
<i>Maesteg Festival - Christmas grotto &amp; parade</i>	36,750.00	
<i>Premises running costs</i>	36,750.00	
<i>Maesteg Festival - Summer Festival - Maesteg Welfare Park</i>	35,500.00	50K set aside for Maesteg welfare park - £14,500 allocated in December 2024
<i>Bus service - Maesteg Park</i>	34,020.00	
<i>S.137 donations</i>	25,000.00	
<i>Maesteg Festival - Keeper Run</i>	20,000.00	

<i>AWEN - Town Hall</i>	15,000.00	Added - need a policy for the grants to groups for hire charges
<i>Floral displays</i>	14,000.00	
<i>General Fees</i>	7,000.00	
<i>Digital ROW systems</i>	7,000.00	
<i>Children's Playschemes</i>	6,600.00	reduced
<i>Dog waste bags</i>	6,228.92	
<i>Office costs</i>	5,775.00	
<i>Telephones and IT</i>	5,775.00	
<i>Members expenses</i>	5,152.00	
<i>Ward Specific - Maesteg East</i>	5,000.00	limit carry over to 5K from last year
<i>Ward Specific - Maesteg West</i>	5,000.00	limit carry over to 5K from last year
<i>Ward Specific - Nantyllyfyllon</i>	5,000.00	limit carry over to 5K from last year
<i>Ward Specific - Caerau</i>	5,000.00	limit carry over to 5K from last year
<i>Civic Award ceremony</i>	5,000.00	
<i>Insurance</i>	4,200.00	
<i>Mayoral Office</i>	3,465.00	
<i>Van</i>	2,625.00	
<i>War Memorials</i>	2,310.00	
<i>CMO equipment allowance</i>	2,100.00	
<i>Llynfi Rivercare Group</i>	2,000.00	Added - partnership with Llynfi Rivercare Group to purchase PPE / Skips etc
<i>MTC Re-Branding from Grasshopper report</i>	2,000.00	
<i>Training</i>	1,500.00	Reduced - not many Cllrs complete training
<i>Maesteg Cemetery - opening and closing</i>	1,500.00	
<i>Defibrillator Maintenance</i>	1,155.00	
<i>Rugby club reserver Celtic /7777</i>	1,000.00	Reduced as £1,000.00 is for 2026-27
<i>Warm Hubs</i>	-	Removed
<i>Lift Replacement</i>	-	need to look into costs for upgrading / replacing
<i>Elections</i>	-	Use from Reserves if required
<i>Free Fruit initiative</i>	-	Remove
<i>digital noticeboard</i>	1,000.00	added as per projects committee
<b>Totals</b>	<b>595,405.92</b>	

Carry over expected	224,734.07
Draft Budget Spend	595,405.92
Reserve %	15.00%
Required Reserve	89,310.89
Total required	-459,982.73
Expected income	62,127.72
Shortfall	-397,855.01
Last years Precept difference	357242
	-40,613.01

		increase %
<b>New Precept</b>	<b>397,855.01</b>	<b>10.20799311</b>
Reserve		
3 months precept	99,463.75	

Cllr P Jenkins **proposed**, seconded by Cllr I Williams that following copies of the hire rate card the AWEN – Town Hall budget to assist community groups with hire costs is increased to £20,000.00 a vote ensued with the following results:

F Abedalkarim	Disagree	R Lewis	Disagree
R Collins	Disagree	R Penhale-Thomas	Disagree
AR Davies	Agree	M Rowlands	Disagree
C Davies	Agree	G Thomas	Disagree
P Davies	Disagree	L Thomas	Disagree
K Duggan	Disagree	G Williams	Disagree
P Jenkins	Agree	I Williams	Agree
A LeGeyt	Disagree		

**4 x Agree 11 x Disagree**

Following the result the proposal falls, and the amount stays at £15,000.00.

Members deliberated the need for a 15% reserve which was discussed at length. Cllr G Thomas advised that the recommendation was a **proposal**, seconded by Cllr I Williams that the reserve remains at 15%. Cllr R Penhale-Thomas **requested an amendment**, seconded by Cllr L Thomas that the reserve is reduced to 12% a vote ensued on the amendment with the following results:

F Abedalkarim	Disagree	R Lewis	Disagree
R Collins	Disagree	R Penhale-Thomas	Agree
AR Davies	Disagree	M Rowlands	Disagree
C Davies	Disagree	G Thomas	Disagree
P Davies	Disagree	L Thomas	Agree
K Duggan	Disagree	G Williams	Disagree
P Jenkins	Agree	I Williams	Disagree
A LeGeyt	Disagree		

**3 x Agree 12 x Disagree**

Following the result the amendment falls, and the reserve stays at 15%.

Cllr L Thomas disagreed with the precept increase and **proposed**, seconded by Cllr P Jenkins that the following budgets be deferred to 2026-27 financial year:

- Digital ROW,
- Civic Award,
- Re-branding

a vote ensued with the following results:

F Abedalkarim	Disagree	R Lewis	Disagree
R Collins	Disagree	R Penhale-Thomas	Disagree
AR Davies	Disagree	M Rowlands	Disagree
C Davies	Disagree	G Thomas	Disagree
P Davies	Disagree	L Thomas	Agree
K Duggan	Disagree	G Williams	Disagree
P Jenkins	Agree	I Williams	Disagree
A LeGeyt	Disagree		

**2 x Agree 13 x Disagree**

Following the result the proposal falls, and the budget is accepted. Cllr L Thomas wished that his objection to the precept increase is noted.

**RESOLVED:**

- Budget is accepted for 2025-26
- Policy Committee create a policy for AWEN Town Hall Grant
- Policy Committee amend the Training Policy to reduce the amount set aside for training each year

**315. TO SET PRECEPT REQUIREMENT FOR 2025-26**

Following the above agreed budget, the Clerk provided members with the following precept calculation:

Band D = Divide the Precept required by Tax Base  
 Band D = £397,855.00 / 5670.28 = £71.16

**RESOLVED:** Advise BCBC that the precept requirement for 2025-26 = £397,855.00

**316. TO CONSIDER GRASSHOPPER REPORT**

Members were provided with the final draft of the 5-year business action plan that had been completed by Grasshopper ltd.

The chair requested to hear any comments or feedback from members in regard to the plan that will be adopted by the Council.

A member stated their dissatisfaction with the lack of responses to the community questionnaire. The member was advised that a community engagement session was proposed to the Council to take place in a local supermarket that would likely have captured many responses, but the Council decided against this.

There was no other feedback received, the chair advised that with no other feedback then the report would be accepted in its current state which is to be published and adopted by Maesteg Town Council.



The Deputy Clerk reminded the Council that acceptance of this report in its current state means that the expectation from the community would be for the Council to be beholden to the recommendations that are set within. It was also explained that the clerk work hours are recommended to increase along with other larger commitments would be seen to be committed to that may need further scrutiny.

The Council decided that it would accept the report in its current form, and it will decide which recommendations to pursue over the next 5 years.

**RESOLVED:** To accept the report in current form and to discuss the recommendations at a later date.

## **MATTERS ARISING**

### **317. MINUTE 263**

#### **QUERY FROM CLLR ABEDALKARIM**

07/11/24 Emailed OVW to check the requirement for Matters Arising

**Response 07/11/24:** It sounds like there may be some confusion here between any other business and matters arising in respect of the minutes but not otherwise on the agenda.

We have attached a copy of NALCs legal topic note on Community Council meetings which confirms a council cannot lawfully transact any business which is not included on the agenda.

Under section 24 it states that “Additionally, the item could be used to allow genuinely urgent issues to be raised but no decisions should be taken in respect of issues so raised (other than to ensure that they are dealt with properly at a forthcoming meeting, with due notice having been given) and no expenditure should be approved as a result of issues raised under ‘any other business’.

**RESOLVED:** To note the information

### **318. MINUTE 270**

#### **MEMORIAL BENCH: D. DIXON**

Benches have arrived and we are awaiting their installation when the weather permits.

**RESOLVED:** To note the information

### **319. MINUTE 276**

#### **COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE**

Clerks met with another IT provider who has provided information on the systems they offer. Communications committee to meet to review ITCS contract and new quotes.

**RESOLVED:** Communications Committee to review contracts and quotes.

**320. MINUTE 277**  
**CHRISTMAS 2024**

06/11/24 Ordered allergen free selection boxes

**TOURISM EVENTS SUPPORT FUND: PARADE DRUMMERS**

We have been contacted by the events officer in BCBC who has funding available to enhance our parade with lit up drummers who will be in costume and lit up and playing whilst walking the parade route. Originally this was meant to be arranged through Awen, but the grant funding terms do not allow payment to be made to Awen. Both parties have requested that Maesteg Council pay for the drummers upfront and grant funding will follow after the parade. The invoice is for £3,840 +VAT (£768) totalling £4,608.

Chair of Finance advised that MTC could do this. Members agreed to proceed.

**RESOLVED:** To note the information

**321. MINUTE 282**  
**REQUESTS CLLR F ABEDALKARIM (from October)**

07/11/24 Emailed BCBC ROW regarding steps between Commercial Street & Church Street becoming a public ROW.

08/11/24 Emailed BCBC Street cleansing section regarding condition of steps

07/11/24 Emailed BCBC Street cleansing section to see if the bin can be reinstated on the river walk next to the Bridge in Church Street

**Response from BCBC:** Unfortunately, due to budget cuts and service restraints we are not installing any further bins in the borough within this financial year.

Cllr F Abedalkarim asked if the Ward could fund installing a bin and the CMO to empty the bin, the Deputy Mayor advised this is for the East Ward to agree. It was also agreed that the Clerk to ask BCBC if MTC install a bin will BCBC empty it.

**RESOLVED:**

- Clerk to ask BCBC if they will empty a bin if purchased by MTC
- Maesteg East Ward to discuss purchase of bin

**322. MINUTE 284**  
**REQUEST – CLLR R MARTIN**

06/11/24 Ordered Employment Law an Advisors handbook by Legal Action Group and the latest edition of the Arnold Baker Local Council Administration book.

**RESOLVED:** To note the information

**323. MINUTE 287**

**MAESTEG JUDO CLUB REQUEST FOR SELECTION BOXES**

With the purchase of allergen free selection boxes the Maesteg Judo club selection boxes can be used from the already purchased and now surplus selection boxes, therefore there will be no costs to the 4 wards.

**RESOLVED:** To note the information

**324. MINUTE 288**

**ISSUE WITH STRONG ROOM / VAULT DOOR**

07/11/24 Graphite lube purchased – delivered and CMO has cleaned and lubricated the door and it opens/closes much easier.

**RESOLVED:** To note the information

**325. MINUTE 291**

**CAERAU ALL WHITES FC – CHANGE OF USE FOR MTC CAT GRANT**

07/11/24 Emailed Caerau All Whites FC & BCBC CAT Officer that Council agreed the change of use for the Grant.

**RESOLVED:** To note the information

**326. MINUTE 293**

**ITCS – CHAMBER EQUIPMENT**

20/11/24 ordered projector screen – delivered and asked CMO to install.

**RESOLVED:** To note the information

**327. MINUTE 295**

**PUBLIC TOILET DOOR**

07/11/24 Door frame & door ordered – delivered, CMO is painting the door and will install shortly.

**RESOLVED:** To note the information

**328. MINUTE 296**

**FINANCIAL APPLICATIONS**

Letter of thanks received from the following organisation:

- Caerau All Whites FC
- Caerau Development Trust
- Caerau Dragons Boxing Club
- Nantffyllon Mini's & Junior Section

**RESOLVED:** To note the information

### **329. LIST OF PAYMENTS FOR THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER 2024**

#### **RESOLVED:**

That the tables of **Expenditure (£29,713.76) Income (£2,071.57)** during the month of November 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 December 2024 totalling **£9,486.72**
- A copy of the Receipts and Payments Account which includes expenditure against the budget and the budget remaining and an income analysis.

#### **CMO Summary Report – November 2024**

This month I have been:

Weekly building checks that include:

- fire alarm
- emergency lighting
- legionnaires disease
- Twice weekly bin emptying on the cycle track.
- Emptying bins in car park
- Inspect and, where necessary, cut back overgrowth or clear debris:  
Fp. 82, 81, 57, 62, 74, 6, 15, 20, 46, 23, 24, 27, 36.
- Skimmed over to make as new.
- Milage at start of month – 59937 at end 60070 (133 total miles)
- Delivered dog waste bags to the special families and Council Offices.
- Cleaned and lubed strong room door with new graphite lubricant – working much better.
- Repaired door handle in Council chamber
- Installed baby change facility in disabled toilet – repainted sections of the wall that were taken out to install onto the concrete blocks.
- Drainage inspection around the rear of the building as evidence of water ingress
- Delivered selection boxes to schools.
- Leaf blower used on the war memorial in readiness for Remembrance Sunday
- Removed rubbish from the office
- Measured, ordered and received delivery of new door for the disabled toilet. Obtained prep materials and have given several coats of paint so far. Will install in December when all prep is finished.
- Took delivery of benches – gathered materials in readiness for install.
- Helped casualty on FP27 who had a suspected broken leg – opened up NRW barriers, made casualty warm and contacted office to chase ambulance.
- Gritted bridge on Town Hall open day due to ice warning

- Met with Clerks to discuss installation of a projector in the chamber – will obtain correct materials that are in keeping with current ones and will install in December.
- Met with plumbers to discuss boiler service – discussed legionnaires testing and water temperatures.

### **Works to be Carried out Next Month;**

- Weekly building checks that include:
  - fire alarm
  - emergency lighting
  - legionnaires disease
- Biweekly bin emptying
- Inspect and, where necessary, cut back overgrowth or clear debris on rights of ways.

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

### **330. NEWSLETTERS / FLYERS / BRIEFING NOTES/ CONSULTATIONS**

Emailed to all Councillors for information:

- Festival of Remembrance and Remembrance Sunday Maesteg
- BCBC News bulletin for Councillors
- Department of Work and Pension Scam
- SBRI Challenge - Regeneration of Post Industrial Sites in the South Wales Valleys
- SW Fire & Rescue - Safer Together - Have Your Say 2024
- OVW: TRAINING DATES - NOVEMBER -DECEMBER 2024
- OVW: One Voice Wales - Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales - Consultation on draft Annual Report 2025
- DNS/3264571 - Y Bryn - Suspension of Examination
- Welsh Government: Wales COVID-19 Inquiry Special Purpose Committee
- BCBC: Annual Christmas Campaign Launched to Support Town Centres – Maesteg
- Llynfi Valley Ministry - Christmas Tree Festival & Carol Service invitation
- Caerau Mens Shed winners of The UK Men Shed of the year 2024 award for Health and wellbeing Impact
- OVW: Guidelines about Email and Procurement
- OVW: Top 10 Things to do for Councils
  - Use the right powers
  - GPOC
  - S137
  - Approve your Financial Regulations
  - Approve your standing orders
  - Other activities
  - Adopt the code of conduct

- Training is vital
- Pay membership fees
- Keep members informed
- Update on Storm Bert - Network Rail and Transport for Wales

**RESOLVED:** To note the information

**331. LACK OF DISABLED PARKING – TALBOT STREET**

The only area within the street is at old post office (2 vehicles) and with members of the public who have to use wheelchairs/scooters having to cross a series of roads leading to the bank, chemists etc, this being very dangerous. Could the council be made aware of my concerns and possibly discuss and get back to me.

Clerk has advised that these concerns should be addressed by BCBC and provided contact information.

**RESOLVED:** To note the information

**332. CAR PARK BIN VANDALISED**

12/11/24 Emailed members with a photo of the car park bin that had been vandalised and burnt with only the inner shell remaining. CMO has removed as much of the burnt plastic from the area. The incident has also been reported to SW Police and a post placed on Facebook.

Members agreed that the bin should be replaced with a metal bin. Clerk to proceed and order a new bin.

**RESOLVED:** to order a new bin

**333. REFERRALS**

**12/11/24:** sent to V2C - unsafe bench on Zoar Place, Maesteg. We have checked with Bridgend County Borough Council who have said that this bench is the property of V2C, would you be able to confirm and fix if possible?

**Response: No Response to date**

**12/11/24:** sent to V2C - report fly tipping issues in Zoar Place , it's been in the area for more than two weeks

**Response:** 21/11/24 Cllr FA advised fly tipping removed

**18/11/24:** Fly tipping in the lane to the rear of Ivor Street, Maesteg next to the garage for number 1 Yr Ysfa

**Response:** 19/11/24 BCBC advised fly tipping removed.

**RESOLVED:** To note the information

### **334. BRIDGEND PARKS TENNIS ACTIVATION**

There has been £30million UK Government and [LTA Tennis Foundation](#) investment along with local authority supporting funding to help bring thousands of existing park tennis courts in poor or unplayable condition back to life for the benefit of communities across the country, as well as making it easier to find, book and get on court.

You can view Bridgend Tennis Park sites newly refurbished here and book online in simple steps - [Bridgend Parks Tennis / Home \(lta.org.uk\)](#) including Maesteg Welfare Park, Griffin Park, Heol Y Cyw Park and Caedu Park - Ogmores Vale.

Public tennis courts are key to Tennis' long-term future as they are often where many people first play the game and are venues that have higher participation rates amongst women and girls and disadvantaged communities.

There are currently 1.7 million adults and many more children who play tennis in a local park every year, and park tennis courts are particularly important in providing affordable, engaging, and accessible opportunities to play. Through the project, our aim is to substantially increase annual participation in parks by over 500,000 players in the next few years.

One way in which we are trying to activate park tennis courts is via the initiative we have on offer called Free Parks Tennis, the Park Run equivalent to tennis. In Bridgend there is a lack of tennis coaches and community park activators are vital in activating the parks in the borough namely.

You can view the offer [Tennis Wales In The Park / FREE TENNIS](#), but in essence we have an offer named above that provides local residents with;

- Free online activators training course to run fun activities
- Safeguard training included in the course
- Equipment bag for FREE
- An activator hoody to feel part of a team

Request MTC to advertise on social media and website

Members agreed to assist with advertising the of the scheme on social media and website.

**RESOLVED:** aid with advertising on social media and website.

### **335. ROLE OF MAYOR**

Cllr P Jenkins has requested:

Please place on December agenda the above item for discussion by council, only the duties expectations, protocol and custom and practices to be discussed. This is nothing to with how or who council appoints, it is necessary for all councillors including i to understand clearly what is expected under the ceremonial Highly respected position of Mayor plus the subsequent result for councils approved deviation on matters

relating to our ceremonial Mayors position. I stress there is no axe to grind or malice toward our Mayor but believe now that councillors particularly new ones do not understand the roll that historically since the recent inception of a ceremonial civic Mayor was introduced. Please agenda in the interest of clarity and future expectations, yours Respectfully philip w jenkins.

The Clerk has advised:

There is no specific legislation on the role of the Mayor, however BCBC have it listed as:

The Mayor has several roles. They chair full meetings of Council, represent the council and local community at formal and ceremonial occasions locally and elsewhere. The Mayor also acts as the borough's ambassador at:

- citizenship ceremonies for residents completing the process of becoming a British citizen
- civic ceremonies
- events for charitable/voluntary organisations
- events that recognise the achievements of residents and council staff
- receptions and functions at the civic office for special occasions and for visitors to Bridgend
- royal visits

The Deputy Mayor acts as the Mayor's representative at all events, including chairing Council, if the Mayor is unavailable.

It was also noted that during the Town Hall opening ceremony, many Cllrs were unaware that BCBC Mayor takes precedence over the Town Mayor due to them being the Borough Mayor. Additionally, a few members queried why the Deputy Town Mayor didn't wear his chains at the ceremony, Clerk advised that the Mayor is the official representative, and the Deputy Mayor can only wear chains when deputising on behalf of the Mayor, the only exception is Civic Sunday.

Cllr P Jenkins began detailing the protocols set out previously followed by Maesteg Town Council although there were no official documents documenting these protocols. Many members disagreed with Cllr P Jenkins and a heated debate ensued. The Deputy Mayor as Chair of the meeting asked Cllr P Jenkins not to speak any further which was ignored by Cllr P Jenkins.

A member queried the protocol for the forthcoming Christmas Parade, whereby it was noted that in November full Council meeting that the Mayor would be on the Mayors Charity Fund float and the Deputy Mayor on the bus. Would there be 2 chains being at the same event?



Cllr L Thomas **proposed**, seconded by Cllr I Williams that there should only be 1 chain used at the event, Cllr G Thomas objected to this and requested a vote with the following result:

**1 chain at Christmas parade**

F Abedalkarim	Disagree	R Lewis	Disagree
R Collins	Disagree	R Penhale-Thomas	Disagree
AR Davies	Disagree	M Rowlands	Disagree
C Davies	Disagree	G Thomas	Agree
P Davies	Disagree	L Thomas	Agree
K Duggan	Agree	G Williams	Agree
P Jenkins	Agree	I Williams	Agree
A LeGeyt	Disagree		

**5 agree     10 disagree**

Following the above result the proposals falls, and 2 chains (Mayor & Deputy Mayor) are able to wear their chains at the parade.

Many members requested that there is a policy created with the role and protocol of the Mayor and Deputy Mayor at events.

**RESOLVED:**

- Mayor and Deputy Mayor can both wear their chains at the Christmas Parade
- Policy Committee to meet to discuss a policy on the Mayor and Deputy Mayor and protocols to follow.

**336. FLORAL DISPLAYS**

Quotes received for the following:

Winter 2024/25 Floral Displays

Flower bed Garn Rd & maintenance throughout Winter	£600.00
17 street planters with Winter bedding & maintenance	£1,650.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£2,250.00</b>

Summer 2025 Floral Displays

Installing 102 Hanging baskets	£1,540.00
Flower bed Garn Rd & maintenance throughout Summer	£600.00
17 street planters with Summer bedding & maintenance	£1,650.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£3,900.00</b>

Watering Visits

Hanging baskets - £160 per visit with plant food added every week

Street planters - £120 per visit with plant food added every week

### Hanging Baskets

107 Hanging baskets £23 per hanging basket – same price as 2024	£2,461.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£2,461.00</b>

Budget remaining in 2024-25 for floral displays = £1,850.00

Members discussed the quotes and agreed to proceed with them.

**RESOLVED:** to proceed with the quotes

### **337. MEETING OWL 4+ 360 DEGREE CAMERA**

Clerk & Deputy Clerk met with an online cloud based IT company to discuss our IT requirements – they have sent us a quote for the communications committee to consider. During the online call they advised that they are recommending Councils to purchase Owl 4+ 360 cameras for Hybrid meetings as England are in the process of changing the laws for Hybrid meetings (Wales its already legal to hold hybrid meetings). These are AI assisted cameras that negate the need to manually turn and point.

Please see YouTube link to What Makes the Meeting Owl 4+ So Smart? Tech Specs & Features [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BeIet3\\_L0XQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BeIet3_L0XQ)

Clerks have looked online and these cost approx. £1,699.00 excluding VAT via amazon.

Deputy Mayor advised that he uses a similar piece of kit in his professional role, he will bring the camera to the next full council meeting to see how this would work in the Council Chamber.

**RESOLVED:** Cllr G Thomas to bring a 360<sup>0</sup> camera to the next full council meeting to trial.

### **338. CASUALTY - FP27 CYCLE PATH**

19/12/24: CMO called to advise there is an elderly man with a broken leg just off footpath 27 (cycle track). His condition is fairly stable, but he is deteriorating having been waiting for an ambulance since 7am this morning. Deputy Clerk in talks with the ambulance and fire service. The ambulance service is extremely busy and there is no ETA on them attending the site. There are people posted around the location to flag down emergency services, CMO has said the person is getting very cold and wet, so Deputy Clerk went up to assist and took some tarpaulin.

The casualty was hoisted and taken down to the main road by emergency services and went to hospital. He remained responsive as he was taken away but naturally, was in a lot of pain. His present family member was very thankful to CMO for stopping this morning and taking care of matters.

Deputy Clerk did complete employers first aid training last year and CMO has a background in giving first aid, so we did not move the gentleman – just made him comfy. All the access gates to the cycle track have been locked behind us.

There was a sticking point with no one on site having ‘What 3 Words’ so Deputy Clerk did have to give some complicated description of the location to the emergency services from the office until he could get to site. During the downtime waiting for the ambulance, I showed CMO how to use it so that should help him going forward. I’ll put a post on our Facebook page encouraging others to do the same especially as we come into winter.

Members thanked the Deputy Clerk and ask that thanks are also passed onto the CMO

**RESOLVED:** Thank CMO

**339. CHRISTOPHER WILLIAMS – FAMILY VISITED TOWN COUNCIL BUILDING**

Following the Town Hall re-opening event - we were fortunate enough to be visited by the granddaughter of Christopher Williams and we showed them the paintings that we have in the Town Council building.

The granddaughter’s husband has extensive family history and an array of other information regarding Christopher Williams. During our discussions the granddaughter’s husband pointed out Christopher Williams’s father in the Council chamber on the wall of previous chairman.

Contact details were passed to Llynfi Valley Historical Society as they would like to discuss any other information available on Christopher Williams.

**RESOLVED:** To note the information

**340. BOILERS SERVICED**

Both boilers have received their annual service the only comment made by the engineer is that there is no CO (Carbon Monoxide) alarm fitted. Clerk has requested that they quote to fit a CO alarm.

Members agreed that a CO alarm should be purchased ASAP and preferably a wired CO alarm. Members request that the Clerk ask for advice from SW Fire & Rescue

**RESOLVED:**

- To contact SW Fire & Rescue for advice
- To order a suitable CO alarm

### **341. UPDATES FROM BCBC PROPERTY DEPARTMENT**

Property department came in to drop the keys off for the Grotto and the officer advised the following:

1. Property will pay for the Christmas Lights in the Market Square – once the invoice is received from Centregreat, Clerk to raise an invoice to the Property department excluding VAT.
2. Property has received grant funding and has offered to refurbish the current public toilet and request quotes to be sent to them for costs involved. Please note this is to refurbish the current toilet and **not** to reconfigure the outside storeroom into a toilet.

**RESOLVED:** To note the information

### **342. MAESTEG EAST WARD FUND REQUEST**

Cllr I Williams declared an interest in the following item, therefore took no part in the discussion.

Cllr P Jenkins has requested the following:

please could you contact our previous handrail supplier manufacturer, and ask if they could attend the Celtic social sports club, and measure up for supply fit of handrails with quotes front of pavilion club house down to the field both sides. Other ward members in favour please could you help with this.

Deputy Clerk has advised: Is this private land/owned by Maesteg Celtic? You would need to request the quotes with ironmongers and meet them on site.

When we receive the above, permission will need to be granted by Jason Jenkins in BCBC before committing to the project.

Members raised concerns on land ownership and agreed for the Clerk to ask BCBC if the land is BCBC owned and if permission could be granted to install a handrail.

**RESOLVED:**

- to ask BCBC if the land is BCBC land and if permission can be granted to install a handrail
- Wait for further quote before any decision is made

### **343. LIFT REPAIR QUOTE**

We have received the below quote from our lift contractor, the material cost is a part that they have been trying to obtain for a while.

Description	Price
Engineers to attend site and replace automated door operator and circuit board as per our engineers service report. Supply wiring diagram drawings.	£2,600.00
Material Cost	£4,225.65

**All Prices are Exclusive of Tax      £6,825.65**

Members agreed that we need a fully working lift, a member queried what guarantees there would be once the lift is working again?

**RESOLVED:** To proceed with the quote and ask what guarantees / warranty there would be on the lift.

#### **344. ASB IN MARKET SQUARE**

Following the EPM meeting, Clerk could hear a disturbance and banging outside, having looked outside the office window could see a number of youths climbing over the market square gates next to the bus station. Clerk reported this online to SW Police who have advised that in the future to ring 999.

It was also noted that a similar occurrence happened again after the Projects Committee meeting whereby the Chair of Projects telephoned 999 – the police did not attend immediately, and it is unknown if they attended following the report.

**RESOLVED:** To note the information

#### **345. REBRANDING**

From the grasshopper meeting and feedback received during our events, it's clear that people do not understand what the Town Council do. It has been suggested that a rebrand would help assist this going forward and would tie in with the bicentenary coming up soon. The current coat of arms can be retained but small adjustments such as the wording Maesteg Town Council should be present to make our branding clearer. A change of our logo is unlikely to cost much, however, a whole 'rebrand' as quoted by grasshopper would be circa £6,720 which includes workshops, brand strategy, colours, stationary design, tone of voice and corporate house style. Branding strategy and management courses can be taken for roughly £500 remotely if the Council wish to appear more professional in its communications going forward and the deputy clerk is happy to undertake this remote learning.

Members felt that the costs provided by Grasshopper were not feasible and that MTC could look into this further in the next financial year.

**RESOLVED:** To note the information

#### **346. FINANCIAL APPLICATIONS**

##### **1. LLANGYNWYD RANGERS FC**

Date received: 15/10/2024 Request £500

The club has just completed the community asset transfer from BCBC, in conjunction to this we secured a Cymru Football foundation grant to develop the changing facilities at Llangynwyd playing fields. Within the facility there is a function room that the club would like to utilise further to allow greater use to the wider community.

During the process of the redevelopment and improvements we have seen costs increased and just recently we have seen vandals come down to the area and cause significant damage to the playing fields.

The club are now looking to ensure we have adequate security around the area and have had quotes for roller shutter security doors for the front of buildings, as well as CCTV around the building and playing fields. The club has invested over £50k of its own funds on professional fees, (design, planning, RIBA, QS and other various consultants), and we have also had support from Llangynwyd middle council but still the costs grow, and we are looking for support from the Town council, given that we have over 500 playing members, 50+ coaches and volunteers that reside throughout the Llynfi valley.

We are committed to making this is true community project whereby the area is available to use throughout the midweek day time, as well as offering support to the local schools.

The club would welcome a visit from council members as we looking to have an official opening day which will have leading members from BCBC cabinet, hopefully Stephen Kinnock and Huw Irranca-Davies as both have already met with us to back phase 2 of the project. We will also have Cymru Football development team and hopefully Welsh International players involved.

The project is now over £575k

Request £500 towards CCTV, and security shutter doors. 1<sup>st</sup> time to request S137, although they did receive a MTC CAT Grant in April 2021. Bank statement provided.

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

## 2. MAESTEG HARLEQUINS RFC

Date received: 04/11/2024 Request £500.

Maesteg Harlequins RFC mini and junior section is requesting a grant to support rugby development for over 60 kids within the valley. Our aims are to improve the training of coaches to effectively teach the game, ensuring they understand both the technical and values-based aspects of rugby efficiently using key training equipment and providing facilities to manage this.

With the support of this grant, we will be able to fund indoor training sessions and new playing equipment for our mini and junior sections.

This will help improve key skills within our u7s u12s and u16s teams. The key focus will be to provide better rugby development for over 60 kids within the valley.

Last received S137 in November 2023. Bank statement provided.

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

### **3. WALES AIR AMBULANCE**

Date received: 11/11/2024 Request £500

Request £500.00 towards the running costs of the helicopters and rapid response vehicles, so we can continue to provide our lifesaving service in your area.

Provided the following:

- Annual Report & Accounts 1 August 2022 – 31 July 2023
- Fundraising bank statement

Last received S137 in November 2023

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

### **4. URDD EISTEDDFOD**

Date received: 20/11/2024 Request £500

Request £500 towards the running of the local, regional, and national rounds of the Urdd Eisteddfod competitions. This will include paying for local and regional adjudicators and accompanists, printing of programmes and renting of buildings. At national level the funds will be used to help build the 2025 festival for the 90,000 visitors coming to Margam Park. The funding will help the children and young people of Maesteg connect with the Welsh language and enjoy the experience of performing and competing at local and regional levels and enjoy a day at the festival site in Margam Park, Port Talbot.

Provided the following:

- Report of the Trustees and Audited Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2023
- Articles of Association
- Bank statement provided

Last received S137 in December 2022

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

## 5. MAESTEG MINERS BASKETBALL CLUB

Date received: 25/11/24

Email received and forwarded to all members with the following request:

Over the past 8/10 weeks both myself and Cllr Chris Davies, with the support of Basketball Wales (BW) have been engaged in the re-development of the sport of basketball within the valley....with the enhancement of the possibilities to re-engage and develop a club for children and young people between the ages of 10 - 12 years ..namely Maesteg Miners Basketball Club.

The progression since the early days is extremely encouraging with the participation on the weekly 1 day, 1 hour session (Thursday) at Maesteg Sports Centre being just 8 young athletes to the present being 22, and more expected ...deems this project as being successful.

The young athletes have been coached by Ed Ellis, originally from Swansea but now residing in Nantyffyllon, Sam Gilbert (BW development officer) and Gavin Williams (CEO of BW) as well as both Chris and I.

BW have continued to give financial and staffing support, but as this is part of a community development programme, they BW, shall shortly be retracting and allowing the club to develop under its own steam...we have started to create a committee to run the club and on this knowledge I have worked with both BW and Maesteg SC to arrange an event that shall both launch the club and allow the young athletes to show how they have developed, this being a proposed 3/4 club tournament participating :

- Maesteg Miners
- Pontypridd Panthers
- Merthyr Mustangs
- Tonyrefail Tigers

If all clubs attend, we anticipate 60 + athletes . I am, within the next 2/3 days, confirming attendance.

This now allows me to make a request to Maesteg TC for the possibility of the council to sponsor the event and also request that the Mayor Cllr. Chris Davies officially opens the event (by the normal 'basketball' way of throwing up the ball at 'tip off')

I have provided the date, times and a financial breakdown of cost for the councillors deliberations and look forward to a prompt response after your next council meeting (05.12.2024)

Launch of Maesteg Miners Basketball Club



Date:- Saturday 14.12.2024  
Venue:- Maesteg Sports Centre  
Time:- 12 noon start

#### Financial Breakdown for assistance

Court hire (3 hrs) = £60  
Tournament trophy (Maesteg TC) = £40  
Athletes medallions = £120 - £160  
Total:- £220 - £260

It is my intention to approach Tesco Maesteg for the supply of water bottles for each athlete.

To conclude I would like to inform Maesteg Town Council members of the history behind the development of basketball within the valley, when way back in 1964 two young pupils from the then Llwynderw Comprehensive School put Maesteg on the basketball map when they both played for Wales - namely myself, Phillip John and Michael Summers...who, under the guidance and coaching of the great Brian 'Sparky' Sparkes.

Over a period of 14/15, years there were over 60 + basketball internationals coming from the valley - including your very own present Mayor Cllr. C Davies.

Basketball has been huge in the valley, unfortunately not being in existence since the early part of 2000+ ...but this new insurgency is extremely exciting. If there any changes to this proposal I shall immediately contact you.

I look forward in earnest to receiving a response to this request

Clerk advised they should apply for S137 funding, however the application form did not arrive until after meeting summons had been sent and this is a time sensitive request.

S137 application provided before the meeting, which members agreed to consider.

Request £260 towards purchasing extra football kits, goals (3 sizes), footballs (different sizes), extra water bottles, cones, discs etc. These are needed as more players registered than anticipated and FAW have not responded to request for funding.

Have supplied the following:

- Order for goals/ bibs, match balls, cones = £504.60
- Invoice for additional jerseys = £227.50
- Caerau All Whites FC Accounts 2023/24
- Bank statement – August 2024

1<sup>st</sup> time to receive S137

**RESOLVED:** Council to donate the sum of £260.00 under Section 137 of the Local Government Act (as amended).

**347. DELEGATES REPORTS**

None received prior to the meeting

**RESOLVED:** To note the information

**348. PLANNING**

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

Ref: P/24/646/FUL

Applicant: Mr S Oatley

Location: 5 Station Terrace, Nantyffyllon, Maesteg, CF34 0HR

Proposal: Demolition of existing outbuilding and construct detached double garage to rear of house

Ask for: Julie Earp

Ref: P/24/700/FUL

Applicant: Mr D Jenkins

Location: 10 Garnwen Road, Nantyffyllon, Maesteg, CF34 0EY

Proposal: Two storey bedroom extension to rear elevation

Ask for: Ashita Guru

Ref: P/24/688/FUL

Applicant: Mr J Birch

Location: 27 Coegnant Road, Caerau, Maesteg, CF34 0TD

Proposal: First floor extension above existing ground floor extension to rear of house (resubmission of approval P/19/812/FUL)

Ref: T/24/11/CON

Applicant: Rev R Gratton

Location: St David's Church Talbot Street Maesteg CF34 9UN

Proposal: Crown lifts to 1 Oak (Tree 1), 2 Beech (Trees 2 & 4) & 1 Lawson Cypress (Tree 3)

Ask for: Sarah Gray

Ref: P/24/667/FUL

Applicant: Mrs A Stoneham

Location: 196 Bridgend Road, Garth, Maesteg, CF34 0NA

Proposal: Two storey rear extension

Ask for: Kittie Powell

Ref: P/24/599/FUL  
Applicant: Mr & Mrs J Thomas  
Location: 74 Neath Road Maesteg CF34 9PL  
Proposal: Single storey kitchen extension and internal alterations below a mono pitch roof

Members **had no objections** to the following application other than a query on parking:

Ref: P/24/677/FUL  
Applicant: Valleys to Coast Housing Association  
Location: Bridgend College, Maesteg Campus, Castle Street, Maesteg, CF34 9UN  
Proposal: Partial demolition of the former Maesteg Campus building (retaining the front facade), and the redevelopment, which includes the erection of new 3 storey and 2 storey buildings and associated work to provide 13 x 1 bed apartments  
Ask for: Lee Evans

**Minutes emailed to all Councillors to Read on 9<sup>th</sup> December 2024  
Read and accepted at a remote meeting of the Council held on 14<sup>th</sup> January 2025**

.....  
**Mayor**