

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, 14th January 2025**

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, C Knight, A LeGeyt,
R Penhale-Thomas, M Rowlands and I Williams

ONLINE: AR Davies, C Davies, P Davies, R Martin and L Thomas,

APOLOGIES: G Williams

NO APOLOGIES: R Collins,

Cllr R Lewis had difficulties connecting online to the meeting

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 C Davies declared an interest in items relating to Maesteg Miners Basketball

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

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

350. POLICE MATTERS

SW Police gave their apologies prior to the meeting due to resource demand.

Members were provided with the following crime figures prior to the meeting:

Maesteg Crime Statistics for December 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	4	1	0	1	6
Dwelling Burglary	0	0	0	0	0
Burglary other	0	0	0	0	0
Theft of vehicle	1	0	0	0	1
Theft from vehicle	0	1	1	0	2
All other theft	3	6	10	0	19
Damage	3	1	4	1	9
Violence against a person	17 (3)	9 (3)	13 (4)	1	40 (10)
Domestic related	4	1	3	0	8
All Crime TOTAL	29	18	28	1	76
ASB	5	4	6	3	18
Drink Driving	0	0	1	0	1

RESOLVED: To note the information.

351. TO RECEIVE A REPRESENTATIVE FROM AT CREATIVE TO DISCUSS MAESTEG 200TH ANNIVERSARY DIGITAL TRAILS

The Deputy Mayor Cllr G Thomas welcomed D Boys from *At Creative* to discuss the digital trails project. Members were provided with a PDF copy of the digital app proposal. This proposal outlines the details involved in digitising the rights of way with Maesteg for them to be accessible through an android/iPhone application.

Mr Boys showed several examples of the app in action and noted that the app is interactive and there is also an audio section that explains certain points of interests. The app can list all local trails and can display historic photographs of Maesteg along the walking routes to see what places used to look like.

The following questions were raised:

- **Is the app available for both IOS and Android systems?**

Yes,

- **Is there a limit on the number of trails?**

No limit

- **How would content be uploaded?**

This can be done inhouse or At Creative could do this

- **How would be digitise the current paper walk leaflets?**

Training is available for Maesteg Council staff to create the walks, or the information can be sent to At Creative who will upload this data accordingly.

- **Are there analytics for users to see how many people are using the app and how many people are completing the walks?**

Yes, you can also check what people are clicking on the app – no personal data is stored, the app is fully GDPR compliant.

Is there a cost to download the app?

- *This is up to the Town Council, although many Town and community councils provide this free of charge.*
- **Are there any limitations on the number of users?**
No limitations, once downloaded the app works offline and is independent of how many people have downloaded or currently using
- **Any studies showing that the app increases tourism?**
No specific studies but the app is well received by those who use the app.
- **Is there support offered after initial purchase?**
Yes, 12 months support and maintenance.
- **Is the app targeted at any specific age groups and is it complicated to use?**
No, its straightforward in its appearance and use. We have been around since 2012 and have worked on the feedback received since then to create the product we do now.
- **Is the app online only?**
The app is downloaded from an app store – it is then available offline. The downloading of further updates or new walks will require mobile data or a WIFI connection.

The Deputy Mayor and Councillors in attendance thanked D Boys for his attendance and presentation. Members briefly discussed the presentation and summarised that the budget line for digitising our rights of way is not available until the new financial year. In the meantime, it is **recommended** that the Rights of Way committee meet to discuss the viability of this and make the final recommendation to Council.

It was also noted that the Clerk had made initial enquiries with BCBC Tourism and ROW departments for advice on any available grants.

RESOLVED: Rights of Way committee meet to discuss the viability of this and make the final recommendation to Council.

352. **THE MAYORS REPORT**

Mayor Cllr C Davies attended the following events:

6 th December	Plasnewydd Primary & Ysgol Cynwyd Sant - thank the runner up for entering the poster competition
12 th December	Llynfi Valley Historical Society Christmas lunch
14 th December	UDC Christmas show

RESOLVED: To note the information.

353. **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** – 03/12/2024 emailed 09/12/2024

It was noted that the resolution for minute 341 should have said to obtain quotes to refurbish the public toilet, it was **agreed** to amend the minutes

- **Extraordinary** - 10/12/2024 emailed 10/12/2024

RESOLVED: To note the information and minutes amended as per above.

MATTERS ARISING

354. MINUTE 313 MINUTES

The **Finance Committee** recommendations.

05/12/24 Emailed new Internal Auditor for a 1-year trial.

RESOLVED: To note the information

355. MINUTE 314 TO CONSIDER DRAFT BUDGET

16/12/24 2025-26 Budget uploaded onto website

RESOLVED: To note the information

356. MINUTE 315 TO SET PRECEPT REQUIREMENT FOR 2025-26

09/12/24 Emailed BCBC MTC Precept requirement for 2025-26

RESOLVED: To note the information

357. MINUTE 316 TO CONSIDER GRASSHOPPER REPORT

12/12/24 Emailed Grasshopper to accept the report

RESOLVED: To note the information

358. MINUTE 317

Cllr P Jenkins wished to discuss this minute number from Decembers full council meeting. This item covered a legal topic note that was shared by One Voice Wales that was: LTN 5W | COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETINGS (WALES).

Councillor Jenkins then wished to continue his point under minute 335.

RESOLVED: To note the information

359. MINUTE 320
CHRISTMAS 2024

2024 GROTTO ATTENDANCE FIGURES

Date	No. Children
30/11/24	77
01/12/24	86
07/12/24	CANCELLED due to weather
08/12/24	69
14/12/24	106
15/12/24	66
21/12/24	84
22/12/24	68
TOTAL	556

A member asked what the attendance figures were in 2023, Clerk advised that this would be provided next month. Clerk also advised that even though all tickets had sold out not everyone attended and that is where the surplus of selection boxes arose from. The grotto is ticketed for 120 children per day = 960 selection boxes ordered, only 556 attended = 404 surplus. Surplus selection boxes delivered to:

- Blaenllyfi, Caerau, Garth & Plasnewydd Flying Start provisions
- CDT, Cwm Calon & Noddfa food pantries

A member advised that they took their grandchildren to the grotto and was very pleased with the event.

16/12/24 Asked Production 78 to release any unclaimed rearranged grotto tickets to be made available to other residents.

RESOLVED: To provide ticket information for 2023 for comparison.

360. MINUTE 321
REQUESTS CLLR F ABEDALKARIM (from October)

05/12/24 Emailed BCBC to see if MTC purchased bin would BCBC empty it?

Response 05/12/24: Unfortunately, we could not service the bin as this would mean additional costs for department along with additional disposal costs.

Waiting on Maesteg East Ward members to see if they wish to purchase a bin. Cllr F Abedalkarim noted that it was agreed to purchase a bin out of ward funds, to which Clerk advised this was on the proviso of BCBC emptying the bin which they will not do. Members agreed that this response from BCBC was not acceptable, the deputy Mayor advised that he and the Clerk are meeting in BCBC next week to discuss the collaborative working with BCBC and will raise this issue at the meeting.

RESOLVED: Deputy Mayor to raise the bin issue with BCBC

361. MINUTE 326

ITCS – CHAMBER EQUIPMENT

12/12/24 Projector screen installed

Clerk advised that this was installed by the CMO and NOT ITCS, additionally the Clerk and Deputy Clerk sorted out the cables for the digital projector.

RESOLVED: To note the information

362. MINUTE 327

PUBLIC TOILET DOOR

02/01/25 New door frame & door installed

Members wished to express thanks to the CMO for installing the door frame and door. Clerk advised that even though the frame and door had been painted prior to installation with the horrendous weather the paint had started to run, therefore the CMO has sanded it back, added 2 coats of undercoat and is in the process of re-painting.

A member asked if we should be pointing the public in the direction of the Town Hall to use public toilets going forward since its reopening. The deputy clerk advised that when he spoke with the manager of the Town Hall, she advised that the toilets will be for the users of the Town Hall only. If we are seen to direct people over there when the toilets are not for public use then this could cause some friction.

A member stated that the Town Hall toilets are said to be for public use and requested that we check this with the Town Hall manager.

RESOLVED: Check with the Town Hall manager that the toilets within the Town Hall are for public use.

363. MINUTE 332

CAR PARK BIN VANDALISED

04/12/24 Ordered new bin, currently out of stock but is hoped to be delivered in January 2025.

Bin delivered and installed 08/01/2025

RESOLVED: To note the information

364. MINUTE 335

ROLE OF MAYOR

Cllr Jenkins referenced the legal topic note 5W | COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETINGS (WALES) and wished to explain why he continued to ignore the Chair of the previous full council meeting after multiple warnings.

Cllr Jenkins believes that he needed to warn the Council against making an unlawful decision as the item discussed, The Role of the Mayor, was not an agenda item.

Cllr Jenkins was informed that the Role of the Mayor was an item within correspondence last month which made it perfectly legal to discuss and make a decision on. Cllr Jenkins wishes to dispute this claim.

RESOLVED: Clerks to check that the item: ‘The Role of the Mayor’, was included in correspondence in Decembers (2024) meeting.

365. MINUTE 336
FLORAL DISPLAYS

04/12/24 Quotes accepted and companies notified

A member asked if the Council went to tender for the floral displays. The member was advised that the Council did not request for the clerk to go to tender and it does not have to for tenders that are less than the threshold amount (£60,000). According to our financial regulations (items 10.3, 11b, 11f), if the Council determine that they are receiving value for money then going to tender is not required. The Council are also under no obligation to accept the lowest costed tender if multiples are received. Given our history with the current floral display company and the continuous positive feedback, the Council do not feel that they need to tender for this at this moment in time.

RESOLVED: To note the information

366. MINUTE 342
MAESTEG EAST WARD FUND REQUEST

Cllr I Williams declared an interest in this item as it involved Maesteg Celtic RFC, Cllr Williams therefore took no part in the discussion.

16/12/24 Emailed BCBC to see if the land is owned by BCBC and if permission can be granted to install a handrail

BCBC advised that they would like to see the design and installation method before giving permission to install.

RESOLVED: Cllr P Jenkins to provide this information to the office who will then forward onto BCBC.

367. MINUTE 343

LIFT REPAIR QUOTE

05/12/24 Emailed OTIS to accept the quote – awaiting a date for the repairs to be made

10/01/25 Chased OTIS for a date for the works to be completed

RESOLVED: Clerks to continue to pursue OTIS.

368. MINUTE 346

FINANCIAL APPLICATIONS

Emails of thanks received from:

- Llangynwyd Rangers FC
- Maesteg Harlequins RFC
- Maesteg Miners Basketball Club
- Urdd Eisteddfod
- Wales Air Ambulance

RESOLVED: To note the information

369. MINUTE 349

QUOTE FROM PRODUCTION 78 TO ADD 6 HOURS ONTO REMAINING SANTA'S GROTTO SESSIONS FOR THOSE THAT MISSED OUT DUE TO THE EXTREME WEATHER CANCELLING 7TH DECEMBER 2024

10/12/24 Emailed Production 78 accepting the quote

A member queried why an extraordinary council meeting was called and that a decision should be made by delegated powers. The Deputy Mayor advised that this is to be discussed in a finance committee whereby Financial Regulations would need to be updated to allow for delegated powers and for how much. In addition to this they will also be looking at committee chair delegation for budgets. A member queried what safeguarding measures would be put in place for this? The deputy Mayor advised that this would be part of the finance committee discussion and recommendations.

RESOLVED: To note the information

370. LIST OF PAYMENTS FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER 2024

RESOLVED:

That the tables of **Expenditure (£58,033.07) Income (£81,238.71)** during the month of December 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 January 2025 totalling **£3,098.41**

- A copy of the Receipts and Payments Account which includes expenditure against the budget and the budget remaining and an income analysis.
- Q3 VAT Return totalling **£8,293.25**

CMO Summary Report – December 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. 2a, 6, 15, 20, 23a, 27, 41, 42, 44, 52, 57, 62, 64, 74, 82.
- Milage at start of month – 60081 at end 60293 (212 total miles)
- Removed old disabled toilet door and installed new one and applied paint
- Found lost keys on cycle track and delivered to resident
- chamber screen brackets made and installed along with projector screen
- collected concrete for bench plinth.
- Made plinth and installed new bench on cycle path
- Caerau and Town Centre poppy wreaths removed.
- delivered selection boxes to schools.
- inspection of fallen trees after storm.
- Delivered dog bags to the menshed, office, and Noddfa
- cleaned and tidied up unit.
- lubricated and cleaned CMO equipment
- Grit car park and school bridge during icy conditions.

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

371. NEWSLETTERS / FLYERS / BRIEFING NOTES/ CONSULTATIONS

Emailed to all Councillors for information:

- OVW: Digital Guidance - Cloud

- Welsh Government: Have Your Say 2024: A message to older people
- OVW: Digital Health Maturity Report
- One Voice Wales National Awards 2025
- Welsh Government: Day and Respite Opportunities Questionnaire
- BCBC: News bulletin for Councillors
- Green Top Markets - Christmas Street Market 14th December
- Neath Port Talbot CBC: RLDP Pre-Deposit (Preferred Strategy) Consultation
- OVW: TRAINING DATES - JANUARY - MARCH 2025
- Welsh Government: REVIEW OF SENEDD CONSTITUENCIES Consultation ends 13 January 2025
- Maesteg Hospital Briefing
- UK Government: Consultation on Reforms to the Compulsory Purchase Process and Compensation Rules – Consultation ends 13 February 2025.
- Post Office Limited - Maesteg - CF34 9BY – public consultation Closes 18 Feb 2025

RESOLVED: To note the information

372. ROAD SAFETY – CASTLE STREET

Cllr F Abedalkarim has emailed:

Residents in Maesteg East raised concerns about road safety condition in Castle Street, where a school Patrol officer is currently employed to assist pupils crossing the road from Maesteg school.

My project proposal is to provide safe crossing / Light controlled crossing funded by MTC ward fund or from the saving that we hold in the bank.

I would be very grateful if you can add this proposal to the agenda for discussion either in next full council meeting or next project committee meetings, please.

Clerk advised that any traffic schemes would need permission from BCBC Traffic & Transportation and would need Council full support as this would cost more than the ward fund allocation. As discussed in last night's full council meeting there would not be any money available for 2025-26 budget but could be added to the 2026-27.

Cllr F Abedalkarim stated that this item is of great importance as there is bound to be an accident sooner or later at this location. He notes that there is nothing in the budget this year but if BCBC welcome such a scheme then it's best to have everything in place prior to committing the monies next year.

Members agreed to ask BCBC about Cllr F Abedalkarim request and to report back when an answer is received.

RESOLVED: Clerks to contact BCBC Traffic & Transportation with Cllr F Abedalkarim request.

373. REFERRALS

11/12/24 Garnwen Terrace lane - Trees Fallen

Response 16/12/24: Status: Closed Reason: No action is required as there is no defect in excess of safety defect criteria for this category of street.

RESOLVED: To note the information

374. CMO REQUESTS

1. CMO requests a 14inch chainsaw in order to cut back thicker branches that overhang the footpaths. Quote received from BGS, have also asked if a chainsaw license is required for this size chainsaw. BGS have advised that the CMO has had chainsaw training in a previous job. However, the certificate has been misplaced.

You do not need certification to buy or use a chainsaw. However, as you would be employing him to use it you would need to make sure he has adequate training in order to cover yourselves should there be an incident.

Quotation

Oleomac GSH400-14	14" Chainsaw	£164.06
Oregon chainsaw helmet		£22.50
Oregon chainsaw gloves		£22.08
Oregon Chainsaw trousers		£100.00
Oregon chainsaw jacket		£45.83
Oregon chainsaw boots		£107.50
Oregon chain maintenance kit		£16.67
Total		£478.64
Vat		£95.73
Vat Total		£574.37

Bridgend College do a City & Guilds Level 2 Certificate of Competence in Chainsaw Maintenance and Cross-cutting

Duration: 2 Days Training

Start Date: TBC end of February 2025

Venue: Bridgend College, Pencoed Campus, CF35 5LG

Cost: 450 plus VAT = £540 per delegate – this includes training, assessment, use of all PPE & equipment, ID Card and certificate

2. Need to think about possibly changing the van to a bigger van as CMO would like to keep a small selection of tools in the van to avoid having to go back and forth the unit when out working.

Cllr G Thomas **proposed**, seconded by Cllr C Knight, that the chainsaw quote and associated training be accepted.

The Clerk advised that she was able to get the CMO onto a free weed spraying course with Pencoed college and he will be proceeding with this imminently. Additionally Pencoed College may be running a PAT Testing Course which would also be a free course.

Members noted the excellent work that the new CMO has been doing since his appointment and suggested that the property committee meet to discuss van options.

RESOLVED:

- The chainsaw, equipment and college course to be purchased.
- Property committee to meet to discuss van options.

375. REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY 2025

The Chairman of the Maesteg Branch RBL has advised that for Remembrance Sunday 2025 the route will change to the following route:

- St Michaels Church
- Church Place/Brynmawr Road
- Neath Road
- Talbot Street

The Clerk advised that this would mean a changing of the route when we apply for the road closure which may affect the price that has been paid in recent years.

RESOLVED: To proceed with obtaining a new route road closure quote for 2025.

376. BCBC WARM HUB GRANTS

BAVO will be administering the grant, and we are currently putting the full agreement together.

The amount available to each group will be between £500-£2000.

All grants need to be spent by 31st March 2025

BAVO will have a rolling programme until the funds are fully allocated

The funding is not intended to replace or duplicate existing activities but looks to expand or extend existing projects or enable further warm hubs to be developed.

Examples of eligible spend includes but is not limited to:

- Consumables such as provision of refreshments, snacks and if relevant to the location/need, more substantive meals.
- Additional expenses associated with extending the opening hours of existing facilities or contributions to heat and light utilities/ broadband if facilities are opened specifically.
- Additional costs relating to cleaning costs, refuse removal (for example, community halls).
- Small items of equipment to support adaptation of spaces, chairs, tables, kettles, cups, plates etc.
- Contribution to internet costs (particularly to support advice service provision in community areas/centres) - it is not anticipated that this will include costs relating to hardware.
- Facilities for charging mobile phones/IT equipment.
- Enrichment items/activities.
- Transport to/from warm hubs - depending on local need.
- Volunteer costs.
- Advice and support services to those who attend, this can be for example advice and support on financial matters, health and well-being or digital accessibility.
- Activities such as exercise, or arts and cultural activity.

This programme can support people of any age including older adults, families, young people and young adults for activity up to 31st March 2025. The scheme will not fund large items of equipment.

RESOLVED: To note the information

377. REQUEST FOR A DIVERSION ORDER TO BE MADE UNDER SECTION 257 OF THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990, PROPOSED PART DIVERSION AND PART EXTINGUISHMENT OF FOOTPATH 58, MAESTEG AT FORGE INDUSTRIAL ESTATE.

An application has been received to divert a section of Public Footpath 58, Maesteg as shown by a bold black line (A-B) on the attached plan (scale 1:4500). I also enclose a map extract of the Definitive Map of Public Rights of Way showing Public Footpath 58 Maesteg.

The diversion has been requested by Siderise Insulation Limited, Forge Industrial Estate, Maesteg, Bridgend CF34 0AH to allow the erection of a new building for training and office space alongside with access, parking, landscaping and drainage infrastructure works (P/22/71/FUL).

The proposed diversion route is shown on the attached plan by a short dashed black line (A-F-G).

Bridgend CBC also proposes to extinguish an additional section of Footpath 58 which has been identified as an anomaly on the Definitive Map, the route of which is shown on the plan by a bold black line (C-D-E).

Below is a description of each of the routes;

The section of Footpath 58 Maesteg to be diverted commences at Point A (Grid Ref. SS 8495 9184) and proceeds in a south by west direction for approximately 51 metres to Point B (Grid Ref. SS 8494 9179) where it terminates. The width is undefined.

The proposed diversion route commences at Point A (Grid Ref. SS 8495 9184) and proceeds south by west direction along the footway to Point F (Grid Ref. SS 8495 9184) then continues along an already constructed path in a general south south-easterly direction for approximately 130 metres to meet the adopted footway at Point G (Grid Ref. SS 8500 9172).

The approximate length of the diversion route is 138 metres and the proposed width is to be between 2.4 and 1.7 metres

The additional part of Footpath 58 to be extinguished commences at Point C (Grid Ref. SS 8493 9169) and proceeds in a general northerly direction for 32 metres to Point D (Grid Ref. SS 8494 9172), then proceeds east northeast for 69 metres to Point E (Grid Ref. SS 8500 9175) where it terminates.

The approximate length of the additional extinguishment is 101 metres and the width is undefined.

I should be grateful to receive your organisation's views on the proposal within a period of 28 days from the date of this letter. If you require a further period to consider the matter or would like to carry out a site visit to look at the proposal, please contact Public Rights of Way so we can make arrangements for a site visit.

Cllr G Thomas stated that he has reviewed the site, and the plans submitted and believes there will be no issue with the community for this diversion to be instated so the Council should support it. Members agreed.

RESOLVED: Clerks to submit the Councils support for the diversion.

378. CHRISTMAS SHOP WINDOW COMPETITION

Unfortunately, the committee due to select a winner for the Christmas shop window competition were unwell over the Christmas period. As a result, the participants were not judged and no winner was selected. The shop window competition winner was due to receive £100 this year which was budgeted for but remains unspent, how does the Council wish this to proceed?

Cllr G Thomas proposed, seconded by Cllrs R Martin & L Thomas that the competition is moved to Easter as Christmas 2024 was not awarded. After Easter, the Council are to continue with the shop window competition as normal, which is for Christmas and judged in December. Members **agreed** and noted that not as many shops dress their shops for easter so this will have to be advertised.

RESOLVED:

- Move the shop window competition from December 2024 where no winner was selected to Easter in 2025
- Letters to be sent out to all the shops advising of the competition
- Competition remains as a Christmas competition from Christmas 2025.

379. MAESTEG MINERS BASKETBALL CLUB – REALLOCATION OF FUNDS

Cllr C Davies, declared an interest in this item and therefore took no part in any of the discussion.

I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge and thank the members of Maesteg Town Council for their financial support to the launch of the above mentioned Maesteg Miners Basketball Club which took place on Saturday 14th December 2024 and where your very own Mayor Cllr. Chris Davies attended throughout and presented the Awards at the conclusion.

I am quite sure that the Mayor shall confirm that the event was an outstanding success as did all the other 3 clubs involved with the 'Miners' - Pontypridd Panthers, Tonyrefail Tigers and Merthyr Mustangs...a fantastic launch with very good spectator support.

As previous stated in the application to MTC the figure of £260 ...I can give you a breakdown of cost so far -

Cup/Medals £140 - Photographer £25 ...Hire of court £50 ...please note Basketball Wales (BW) have very kindly paid this bill as also they provided basketballs for the athletes to warm up with.

Therefore, the costs at present is a total of £165 ...therefore a surplus of £95. and without making any other cost linked to the event, and to the earlier statement of the lack of basketballs for the club may I make suggestions that we, the club can use the surplus to purchase basketball for the club to function. We can access basketballs at £10 each so we could have 10 basketballs.

Members thanked the MMBB Club for their consideration with asking to reallocate the funds. Members **agreed** to grant the proposed request.

RESOLVED: Notify MMBB Club that they can repurpose the remainder of the grant funds for basket balls.

380. **FLAGPOLE**

CMO went up to change the Welsh Flag and unfortunately the flagpole has broken. A photo of this was sent to all members via WhatsApp.

A member suggested that the CMO replace the pole to a metal pole – it was currently a fibreglass pole.

The current flagpole access is extremely precarious with staff having to climb a ladder into the attic, climb through a small window in the roof space and then out onto the roof with limited space. Would council consider installing a flagpole outside the building? Advice would need to be sourced as to whether planning permission would be needed. Members recognised the danger in changing the flag on the roof and stated that its unsafe for staff to attempt this. Council requested that the clerk explore options for a new flagpole either on the building or on the highway and report back to Council.

RESOLVED: Clerks to investigate new location for a flagpole with BCBC planning / Conservation Officer and obtain quotes to purchase and install new flagpole.

381. **MEETING PAPER PRINTING**

Currently when printing full council paperwork, Matters Arising, Correspondence, Financial Applications and Delegates Reports are printed on coloured paper, this coloured paper is now coming to an end – do Council still need these printed on different coloured paper or is it ok to print on white paper?

Currently coloured paper costs £7.79 per pack of 500 sheets when purchasing 5 reams or more (per colour)

A4 white paper is approx. £3.99 per pack of 500 sheets

Cllr L Thomas **proposed**, seconded by Cllr R Penhale-Thomas, that coloured paper not be ordered after the current stock runs out.

Cllr G Thomas disagreed and felt that using coloured paper makes filing and finding information easier during the meeting.

The following vote took place with the criteria: ‘To no longer use coloured paper for meeting packs’.

Cllr	Agree/Disagree	Cllr	Agree/Disagree
F Abedalkarim	Disagree	A Le Geyt	Agree
AR Davies	Left the meeting	R Martin	Disagree
C Davies	Disagree	R Penhale-Thomas	Agree
P Davies	Disagree	M Rowlands	Agree
K Duggan	Disagree	G Thomas	Disagree
P Jenkins	Disagree	L Thomas	Agree

C Knight	Disagree	I Williams	Disagree
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Results:

4 – agree to no longer use coloured paper

9 – disagree and should keep coloured paper

1 – left the meeting

Following the above results the proposal falls and Council continue to use coloured paper within the meeting packs.

RESOLVED: Council to continue to use coloured paper for meeting packs.

382. **CHAMBER SOUND**

Further remedial works are required to uninstall the old hearing loop system (that doesn't not work correctly). A plug socket needs to be installed to accommodate the projector screen and the wiring needs a final sort out.

ITCS have quoted £704+VAT. They have stated that the engineer fee will be reduced if the job takes less than the suggested 1.5 days so this amount may decrease. We are also due to speak to our accounts manager as we have had ITCS out several times to sort out our wiring which is not to the best standard, we're hoping to further reduce this amount.

The deputy clerk advised that the tidying of the wires has been the main criteria for the past several visits by ITCS and there is still remedial works to be done. He advised that Council staff found disconnected wires screwed under the table when they should have been taken away. They also found old cables from previous systems still in situ when it appears clear that certain equipment is no longer needed.

Members agreed with the deputy clerk and commented on the current hybrid meeting setup being perfect in terms of sound and display so further tidying up of wires is not an important concern. The deputy clerk advised that a further tidying up of wires can be completed by staff, the only consideration is the hearing loop.

The current hearing loop does not appear to work, and, given its age, it does not have the capacity to link in with our new sound system. We can remove the old system easy enough but would need to replace this with a new 'hearing loop' which retail circa £100-£200 and should wirelessly connect to our new microphone system and be easier for people to connect to.

An additional item that should be considered is the installation of a plug socket that would facilitate the newly installed projector – members agreed to request an electrician out to review a new plug socket.

Deputy Mayor asked those online if the webcam used at the meeting was sufficient and it was agreed that the webcam was very useful for the hybrid meeting. It was **agreed** to purchase the same webcam and a fraction of the cost of a Meeting Owl.

RESOLVED:

- Clerks to remove what other wiring they can safely including the broken hearing loop.
- Order new hearing loop system.
- Request an electrician out to review a new plug socket and other needed works.
- To order a 360 degree webcam

383. DELEGATES REPORTS

Cllr G Thomas advised that he attended a meeting of the Maesteg 200 committee who have requested a plaque and armorial bearings to be used when they attend the Menai Bridge 200 anniversary bike ride.

Cllr I Williams **proposed**, seconded by Cllr P Jenkins, that the Council grant this request.

RESOLVED: Provide a plaque and armorial bearings.

384. FINANCIAL APPLICATIONS

1. STITCH IN TIME

Date received: 02/12/2024

Request £498.25 towards purchasing material, timber and curtain tape to produce wall hangings for the Maesteg 200 celebrations

Provided a Llynfi Valley Credit Union – copy of paying in book

Not previously received S137 grant funding.

Members did state that the Maesteg 200 group already have earmarked funds of £50,000 so questioned this application. The chair of finance advised that the budget line for the Maesteg 200 group comes into effect from the next financial year and, given the nature of this project, it will take a long time to complete so in this instance – granting the funding is the best choice.

RESOLVED: Council to donate the sum of £498.25 under Section 137 of the Local Government Act (as amended). Cllr G Thomas (MTC representative on Maesteg 200) will speak with the Maesteg 200 group to inform them that other such applications for funding will have to be received by them out of the monies we have appointed within the budget for 2025-26 financial year. Clerk advised that a further S137 application had been received on 14th January ready for February full Council meeting – a copy of which will be given to Cllr G Thomas to take to the next Maesteg 200 meeting.

385. **PLANNING**

Members **supported** the following applications:

Ref: A/24/21/ADV

Applicant: Greggs plc

Location: 7 & 8 Talbot Street Maesteg CF34 9BT

Proposal: Two new externally illuminated fascia signs and one projecting sign

Ask for: Kittie Powell

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

Ref: P/24/748/CAC

Applicant: Walters Environmental Ltd

Location: 145 Commercial Street, Maesteg, CF34 9DW

Proposal: Conservation Area Consent for the partial and temporary demolition of the front chamfered/angled corner of the existing building together with reinstatement of the area partially demolished following the necessary wind turbine load movements associated with Foel Trawsnant Wind Farm

Ask for: Lee Evans

Ref: P/24/601/FUL

Applicant: Mr & Mrs Griffiths

Location: 47 Alma Road Maesteg CF34 9AN

Proposal: Proposed double storey rear extension

Ask for: Ashita Guru

Ref: P/24/737/FUL

Applicant: Mr S Hill

Location: Maes Yr Haf, Keir Hardie Road, Maesteg, CF34 9NG

Proposal: Demolition of existing stables and extensions and alterations to an existing bungalow

Ask for: Julie Earp

Ref: P/24/747/FUL

Applicant: Walters Environmental Ltd

Location: 145 Commercial Street, Maesteg, CF34 9DW

Proposal: Partial and temporary demolition of the front chamfered/angled corner of the existing building together with reinstatement of the area partially demolished following the necessary wind turbine load movements associated with Foel Trawsnant Wind Farm

Ask for: Lee Evans

Ref: P/24/464/FUL

Applicant: Mr R Lewis

Location: Cwmdy Lodge Maesteg CF34 0DH

Proposal: Retention of an existing log cabin as a rural enterprise dwelling/farm workers dwelling

Ask for: Kittie Powell

Ref: P/24/690/FUL

Applicant: Mr R Williams

Location: 33 Salisbury Road, Maesteg, CF34 9EG

Proposal: Demolish single storey lean-to extension to rear of property and replace with double storey extension to provide WC/shower room and utility to ground floor and bathroom and bedroom to first floor.

Ask for: Ashita Guru

Ref: P/24/617/FUL

Applicant: InPost UK

Location: Spar Stores 138 Mill View Estate Maesteg CF34 0DD

Proposal: Retrospective application for siting of InPost Parcel Locker

Ask for: Kittie Powell

Members had **no comment** on the following application:

Ref: P/24/605/FUL

Applicant: Mr N Stokes

Location: 100 Yr Ysfa Maesteg CF34 9BE

Proposal: Change of use of land into garden curtilage and retention of 2no. outbuildings and associated works

Ask for: Kittie Powell

**Minutes emailed to all Councillors to Read on 15th January 2025
Read and accepted at a remote meeting of the Council held on 4th February 2025**

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Mayor