

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, 4th February 2025**

PRESENT: Clerk & Deputy Clerk

COUNCILLORS

IN PERSON: **C Davies (Mayor)**

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

ONLINE: AR Davies, P Davies, R Lewis and L Thomas,

APOLOGIES: R Collins & R Penhale-Thomas G Williams

DECLARATION OF INTEREST:

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

Cllr AR Davies and G Williams declared an interest in items relating to Caerau Market Garden

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

401. 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 January 2024

	<u>Caerau/ Nanty</u>	<u>Maesteg East</u>	<u>Maesteg West</u>	<u>Llan</u>	<u>Total</u>
Robbery	0	0	1	0	1
Drugs	1	0	0	0	1
Dwelling Burglary	0	1 attempt	1	0	2
Burglary other	1 attempt	0	0	1	2
Theft of vehicle	2	0	0	0	2
Theft from vehicle	0	0	0	0	0
All other theft	1	7	12	1	21
Damage	4	4	0	0	8

Violence against a person	20 (4)	10 (3)	22 (5)	6 (1)	58 (13)
Domestic related	4	5	7	1	17
All Crime TOTAL	29	22	34	8	93
ASB	8	5	3	3	19
Drink Driving	0	1	0	0	1

RESOLVED: To note the information.

402. TO RECEIVE A REPRESENTATIVE FROM GRASSHOPPER TO DISCUSS THE PROPOSED FOEL TRAWSNANT GRIF CONNECTION

The Mayor welcomed officers from Grasshopper and Pennant Walters. Prior to the meeting members were provided with the following:

We'd like to introduce you to our new scheme, Foel Trawsnant Grid Connection, situated predominantly within Bridgend CBC, running from Foel Trawsnant wind farm through the western side of Maesteg and down to a connection point southwest of Llangynwyd.

We are proposing a 66kv underground and wooden pole overground route to connect the wind farm to the national grid. As you may be aware, the wind farm, featuring 8 turbines, was consented in April 2023. It is estimated that the wind farm could generate up to 33MW.

Due to the scale of the proposed grid connection, it is classed as a Development of National Significance (DNS) and the intention is that a planning application will be submitted to the Planning Environment Decisions Wales (PEDW) for determination.

We are at an early stage in the project and a scoping request is due to be submitted to PEDW in the next day or so to ensure the appropriate environmental studies are carried out as the proposals are finalised.

Pennant Walters is a Wales based renewable energy development company operating since 2002 with its head office in Hirwaun, near Aberdare South Wales. We take projects from origination, through planning, financing to construction and then operational management. We manage all six of the wind projects we have built and so landowners, local community and other stakeholders have continuity and get to deal with the same PW personnel they met at the outset of the project.

Currently we have just under 124MW of operational onshore wind capacity in South Wales with another 104MW of onshore capacity permitted awaiting construction over the next few years. We are Wales' largest home grown renewable energy developer.

We are planning to launch a statutory consultation in Spring 2025 for statutory consultees, local residents, community and interest groups. During this period, we are holding drop-in events.

Officers gave a PowerPoint presentation as part of their community engagement to give an insight into the grid connections for the PEDW pre-application process.

The following questions were raised:

- **How many turbines will there be?**
Approval has been confirmed for 8 turbines up to 143 metres high with 66kv output
- **When are works to install the turbines and power cables likely to take place?**
We're waiting on the conclusion of the consultation, and a full submission of details will be sent to PEDW in the summer before works can be considered.
- **The power cable proposal shows that some cabling is over ground and some under?**
This is dictated by National Grid; we aren't sure of the full reasoning behind this but its likely due to access and the works entailed.
- **How long would the ground works take, we imagine there will be a lot of disruption to the community?**
There will be a traffic management plan included in the consultation that will be confirmed at a later stage. It is hoped that the works will take less than a year hopefully but this is difficult to fully confirm currently.
- **Will there be compensation for the impact the works have to the community?**
Its unlikely, although we will need to confirm with National Grid.
- **Will there be community benefit fund from the wind farm?**
We are hopeful, although this again will be at the discretion of National Grid.
- **There is the proposed Y Bryn windfarm and Power Plant energy schemes. Why not use the same cabling for all those to save more groundworks being done in the future?**
Those 2 proposed projects are far larger and their output will be greater so larger cables will be needed so there is no possibility for all 3 entities to share the same network.
- **Why is the connection to the national grid based in Llan?**
This is dictated by the national grid.
- **Have Llan Middle CC been contacted?**
Llan Middle CC have received the same correspondence as MTC.
- **Why are there only 2 public consultation venues? Surely there should also be a venue within Llan Middle CC?**
Originally it was agreed to hold public consultation in Nantyffyllon Primary School and Maesteg Town Hall, however, will be looking at a venue within Llan Middle CC.
- **What is the lifespan of wind farms?**
Currently wind farms that are maintained regularly have a lifespan of up to 25 years.

- **Wind turbines are viewed as not being able to produce enough energy to offset the carbon emissions associated with their production, is this true?**
The wind turbines are almost 100% recyclable.
- **Are there occasions with severe weather that the wind turbines are switched off?**
The wind turbines have automatic safety mechanisms for severe weather.
- **How many local jobs will be created?**
Cabling installation - National Grid use companies from South Wales.
Wind Farm - there are many jobs created as part of the wind farm.

The Mayor thanked the officers for attending the meeting.

RESOLVED: to note the information

403. **THE MAYORS REPORT**

Mayor Cllr C Davies attended the following events:

8 th January	Mayors fund meeting
24 th January	Race night raising £596 for the mayor's charity.

RESOLVED: To note the information.

404. **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** – 14/01/2025 emailed 15/01/2025

The **Communications Committee - confidential** 28/01/2025 emailed 29/01/2025 were taken as read and recommendations 1-6 and 9-12 were accepted. Due to a further update, recommendations 7-8 were rejected.

The Chair of Finance requested to know which budget line the agreed upon items would be coming from. The Clerk advised that the laptop is budgeted for under 'office equipment upgrade'. The remainder (circa £3,000) would come from reserves as the Chair of Finance stated that it is almost a certainty that the S137 budget line would be well within budget for this financial year, likewise the Warm Hub Budget was not going to be used as BCBC/BAVO have a grant scheme in place.

A member commented their disappointment at the fact that a full parting from the current IT supplier was not considered. The member was advised that as the notice period with our current supplier is 90 days and the communications committee were unable to meet throughout the majority of 2024 then this caused the contract to roll over until 2027. Cllr G Thomas **proposed**, seconded by Cllr L Thomas that notice is given to current ICT service provider and ask for termination options.

Another member raised the possibility of Council running an Instagram social media page, Deputy Clerk advised that this isn't really used within the sector and that the Facebook page is for information purposes.

Members agreed to pursue the full termination costs of the current IT supplier to be considered at the next communications committee meeting.

- 1) The committee to review the provider of the Microsoft 365 licenses (Cllr Emails and Microsoft applications) at their next meeting to take place before August 2025.
- 2) Notice to be served to ITCS to cancel the Veeam backup software as soon as is possible. With the auto renewal, the contract will end in February 2026 so notice will be served after the next meeting.
- 3) Deputy Clerk to investigate the correct use of One Drive for Council use. If not appropriate, then quotes from an alternative Cloud Server to be sought.
- 4) Clerks to purchase at least 1 portable hard drive and 1 memory stick for offsite storage of Council data – This can be fulfilled when the final decision is made on how data storage will work in the future at the next meeting.
- 5) Purchase an additional laptop to the value of up to £1,500 excluding VAT to allow both clerks to run meetings and work from a single machine. Both laptops need to be on the ITCS servers currently, this entails a fee of up to £50 per laptop.
- 6) Deputy Clerk to seek quotes from other companies to run the Council website.
- ~~7) Deputy Clerk to create a demo site for the committee to review practicalities of bringing the website 'inhouse'.~~
- ~~8) Website internal/external feasibility to be reviewed at the next meeting of the Communications Committee.~~
- 9) The committee would like Councils input on offering a bilingual option for the website if possible.
- 10) Clerks to proceed with quote QH-04680 which is to purchase a .gov.wales domain name for the website at £120 per year. Associated costs, up to £200 to be covered if ITCS charge to change the domain name (this does not happen automatically when purchased).
- 11) Pursue quote QH-04923 for the 'Decisions' app for up to 3 users. (2 clerks and a nominated member). Cost: £2,712.50 +VAT with the annual cost going forward of £825.
- 12) Social media channels to remain as Facebook only.

The **Finance Committee** meeting was the night before full council meeting, there was not enough time for members to be emailed and to read the information prior to the meeting - these will be looked at in March full council meeting.

RESOLVED:

- agreed recommendations from Communications Committee to be enacted.
- notice is given to current ICT service provider and ask for termination options.

The Mayor asked the Deputy Mayor to take over chairing the meeting due to feeling unwell. The Deputy Mayor Cllr G Thomas chaired the remainder of the meeting.

MATTERS ARISING

405. MINUTE 351

DIGITAL TRAILS

The **ROW Committee** to meet 18th February 2025. Cllr K Duggan requested to attend the meeting. Clerk advised any member can attend any meeting as an observer only.

RESOLVED: To note the information

406. MINUTE 353

MINUTES

Minute 341 resolution amended, and minutes uploaded onto website.

RESOLVED: To note the information

407. MINUTE 359

CHRISTMAS 2024

Grotto Figures for 2023 for comparison:

	2023	2024
Total number of children attended Santa's Grotto	561	556

RESOLVED: To note the information

408. MINUTE 360

LITTER BIN – CHURCH STREET RIVER WALKWAY

Update from Cllr G Thomas? – BCBC unable to empty additional bins as they are in contract with Plan B and this would mean a change in the contract.

Cllr F Abedalkarim emailed asking: I would like to know the exact number of litter bins are MTC own. Where do they placed and how many times each litter bin serviced every week, please. Thank you

Response: Currently the CMO empties the following bins:

Location	No of bins	Times per week emptied
Llynfi Rd Car Park	2	5
Cycle track – general waste bins	4	2
Cycle track – dog waste bins – on metal posts (usually full of general waste)	5	2
TOTAL	10 bins = 28 sacks per week	

On the cycle track – 3 bins need replacing due to age and rusting. – it might be worth changing the smaller bins on posts to larger bins.

N.B. The wheelie bin is full every week, should more litter bins be requested then we would need an additional wheelie bin at an additional weekly cost of £17.71 + VAT (the general waste costs would double) this equates to an additional £920.92 + VAT extra per year.

Clerk has spoken to CMO who is happy to add more bins, although consideration would need to be given in the Summer months that priority is given to clearing the rights of way rather than emptying bins.

Members discussed this and **agreed** to order an additional wheelie bin and for the East Ward fund to purchase the river walkway bin and for CMO to empty the bin. The funding will be sourced from the warm hubs budget line as BCBC/BAVO introduced a funding stream for this initiative.

Regarding the deteriorating bins on the cycle track, it was **agreed** to wait until the new financial year before making any decisions.

RESOLVED:

- To order an additional wheelie bin
- Order 1 bin for the river walkway from Maesteg East Ward funds

409. MINUTE 362

PUBLIC TOILETS IN TOWN HALL (MTH)

16/01/25 Emailed MTH Manager to see if the toilets in the Town Hall are public toilets.

Response: They are open to everyone but are obviously only open when the building is open.

Notice placed onto the door advising that additional toilets are located within the town hall during their opening hours.

RESOLVED: To note the information

410. MINUTE 364

ROLE OF MAYOR

16/01/25 This was included as part of correspondence, original email sent to all members forwarded again to all members.

RESOLVED: To note the information

411. MINUTE 366

MAESTEG EAST WARD FUND REQUEST

Waiting for the handrail design and installation method from Cllr P Jenkins.

Design and installation method received and forwarded to BCBC Parks department, waiting for the license to install.

RESOLVED: To chase BCBC Parks for permission to install handrail

412. MINUTE 367

LIFT REPAIR QUOTE

15/01/25 Chased OTIS – awaiting a date for the repairs to be made

16/01/25 Email advising parts due to be delivered next week and once delivered they will make the necessary repairs

Clerk advised that BCBC Cllr M Hughes had recently tagged MTC on Facebook regarding the lift. This is not within the remit of the Facebook page to respond to queries. Should any member of the public wish to ask a question they should email or telephone the office.

RESOLVED: To keep chasing OTIS

413. MINUTE 372

ROAD SAFETY – CASTLE STREET

16/01/25 Emailed BCBC Traffic & Transportation

23/01/25 Response:

There is currently formal pedestrian crossings at the junction of Castle Street with Talbot Street and at the junction of Bridgend Road with Crown Road . Additionally, there is a SCP present at the start and end of school times located by Ferriers Row.

A feasibility study would be required to identify whether there is anywhere suitable for an additional crossing to be located along Castle Street.

However, in the first instance before a feasibility study is undertaken and even if funding could be found, an assessment would have to be undertaken to see if the number of pedestrian and vehicle movements of the road would meet DfT guidelines for installing a controlled crossing. The provision of a formalised crossing requires the site to meet certain criteria, such as volume of pedestrians against time it takes to cross the road; The number of recorded personal injury accidents for this location and specifically in regard to pedestrian-related incidents, as well as many others. This helps to ensure that the significant funds required for such measures are targeted to locations where they are most needed and will be widely used.

Following a feasibility study, Castle Street being an A road and emergency services route, and therefore in addition to seeking funding there is a requirement to consult

with the emergency services, police, statutory bodies and engage with local residents and due to the number of parking places which would need to be removed there are likely to be a number of objections.

Traffic Management would have to apply to Welsh Government for a road safety grant for funding; however, owing to the collision history this location would not meet their criterion for funding. There have been Zero Personal Injury collisions along Castle Street between its junction with Bridgend Road and Talbot Street which his the latest verified data provide by WG and the police.

Based on previous quotes of similar crossings (pelican) it would cost in excess of approximately £100k for construction works. The cost mentioned is not an exact cost as there are many factors that cannot be identified and therefore costed for until such a crossing is designed and then put forward to cost from the engineers.

Cllr F Abedalkarim requests again that MTC install a pelican crossing in this area. Clerk advised that the response from BCBC is that there is no need for a crossing. The Deputy Mayor advised Cllr F Abedalkarim that he write a proposal for the projects committee to look into. Cllr P Jenkins advised that a pelican crossing is also needed near the Castle Street / Bridge Street junction – again the Deputy Mayor advised that a proposal should be written for the projects committee to discuss.

RESOLVED: Projects Committee to wait for proposals from Cllrs F Abedalkarim and P Jenkins.

414. MINUTE 374
CMO REQUESTS

16/01/25	Chainsaw Course booked
16&17 January 2025	CMO attended introduction to pesticides course
29&30 January 2025	CMO attended PA1 & PA6 Pesticides course
4 th February 2025	PA1 online exam - passed
17 th February 2025	PA6 practical assessment

RESOLVED: To note the information

415. MINUTE 375
REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY 2025

16/01/25 Emailed Sunbelt rentals to quote for Remembrance Sunday 2025 road closures with the new route – still waiting for quote

RESOLVED: To chase quote

416. MINUTE 377

PROPOSED PART DIVERSION AND PART EXTINGUISHMENT OF FOOTPATH 58, MAESTEG AT FORGE INDUSTRIAL ESTATE.

16/01/25 Emailed BCBC ROW advising MTC Support the diversion and part extinguishment.

RESOLVED: To note the information

417. MINUTE 378

CHRISTMAS SHOP WINDOW COMPETITION

Letter to be hand delivered to all businesses on Commercial Street, Talbot Street, Market and Castle Street

RESOLVED: To note the information

418. MINUTE 379

MAESTEG MINERS BASKETBALL CLUB (MMBC)– REALLOCATION OF FUNDS

16/01/25 Emailed MMBC to advise they can use the remaining grant to purchase basketballs.

RESOLVED: To note the information

419. MINUTE 380

FLAGPOLE

16/01/25 Emailed BCBC Planning, Conservation Officer etc to ask for permission to relocate the flagpole.

Response Planning: The relevant part of the Advertisement Regulations 1992 state that you can erect a flag pole and display the national flag of any country without requiring advertisement consent:

CLASS I

The national flag of any country.

1. Each flag is to be displayed on a single vertical flagstaff.

2. Neither the flag nor the flagstaff may display any advertisement or subject matter additional to the design of the flag.

However, the Town Council is a Grade II* Listed Building (which includes the curtilage of the building) and it lies within Maesteg Town Conservation Area so Listed Building Consent only would be required to erect a flagpole outside the building.

RESOLVED: To pursue with the conservation officer

420. MINUTE 382

CHAMBER

17/01/25 360° Webcam ordered & delivered

New Hearing Loop to be ordered – it was noted by Cllr I Williams that the current hearing loop seems to be working.

Electrician to be contacted to install plug socket and CO₂ alarm

RESOLVED: To note the information

421. MINUTE 383

DELEGATES REPORTS – PLAQUE & ARMORIAL BEARINGS

14/01/25 Cllr G Thomas collected plaque and armorial bearings ready for the Maesteg 200 meeting in readiness to present to the Menai Bridge 200

RESOLVED: To note the information

422. MINUTE 384

FINANCIAL APPLICATIONS

Emails of thanks received form:

- Stitch in Time – who also requested a copy of MTC Crest in readiness for the wall tapestry, a copy of which was printed on A3 paper for them.

RESOLVED: To note the information

423. LIST OF PAYMENTS FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY 2025

RESOLVED:

That the tables of **Expenditure (£22,047.03)** **Income (£26,635.64)** during the month of January 2025; 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 Deputy Mayor.

Members were also provided with:

- list of payments to be made in February 2025 totalling **£27,163.22**
- 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 – January 2025

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. 27, 57, 82
- Milage at start of month – 60313 at end 60389 (76 total miles)

- Delivered dog waste bags to Council Offices
- Took down and disposed of broken flagpole
- Sanded and glossed toilet door and frame.
- Started repairs to fire exit doors as they were sticking.
- Fitted weather strip to fire exit doors to reduce water ingress
- Requested quotes to replace timber on Council Offices
- Delivered tools to Tondy for annual maintenance
- Attended introduction to pesticides course in Pencoed College – using own transport
- Removed fly-tipping from bin locations

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

424. TO DISCUSS BCBC REVIEW OF COMMUNITY ARRANGEMENTS OF THE COUNTY OF BRIDGEND

Members decided against going into committee to discuss this agenda item as this was only a consultation document for consideration.

Members discussed the proposed review with the following comments:

- We've known about this for years, proposals seem fair
- Could we create a working group to deal with the merger?
- Proposal to represent the whole valley is good
- This was suggested to Llan Middle CC many years ago and was objected at the time, now it seems good for the valley
- Nothing is set in stone

Cllr L Thomas **proposed**, seconded by Cllr G Thomas, that the Council support the proposal to merge Maesteg Town Council with Llangynwyd Community Council. Cllr P Jenkins objected to the draft proposal and wanted his objections noted.

RESOLVED: To support the draft proposal of merging MTC with Llan Middle CC

CORRESPONDENCE

425. NEWSLETTERS / FLYERS / BRIEFING NOTES/ CONSULTATIONS

Emailed to all Councillors for information:

- OVW: Celebrate the successful One Voice Wales event at the Senedd 27.11.24
- BCBC: Warm hub funding
- OVW: 2025 TRAINING DATES - JANUARY - MARCH 2025

- BCBC: Mayor's Citizenship Awards 2025
- OVW: One Voice Wales National Awards 30 April 2025 – Cllr G Thomas believes MTC should apply for the following categories:
 - Best Governance Initiative This could include your Annual Report or other sound or innovative governance arrangements, which reassure the public that the Council is well run and properly managed.
I would use your annual report – given OVW contacted you and asked to use it as a benchmark for others.
 - Best Community Engagement Initiative
Keeper of the Collery fun run & the Christmas parade.
 - Best Devolution of Service or Asset Project
The community bus service and mention its now being expanded?
- BCBC - Polling Place Review – no changes for MTC
- Want more information on Section 106 Obligations?
- BCBC - Proposed change to Speed limit Neath Rd Maesteg
- Post Office Ltd = Duke Street Drop & Collect service - CF43 0LR
- EPM - Report from EPM about cancelling Christmas Parade
- T&CC Fund 2025/26 – open
- TFW: Storm Eowyn Check Before You Travel
- AWEN - Llynfi Valley Film Festival
- Llynfi Woodland Group - Invite to talk and AGM on Wednesday 26 February 2025
- Safety of Lithium-ion Batteries Campaign

RESOLVED: To note the information

426. VE DAY 80TH ANNIVERSARY – 8TH MAY 2025

Email sent to Maesteg Branch RBL regarding VE Day 80th anniversary on 8th May 2025:

Will the Maesteg Branch RBL be doing anything to commemorate the VE Day 80th Anniversary on 8th May 2025?

We have been asked today by a member of Llan Middle CC what we are doing and have also been sent information by email from <https://www.veday80.org.uk/>

I know Llan Middle CC lit a beacon on D-Day anniversary and I have been told by a past Cllr that there used to be a beacon on St Michaels Church?

Let me know what your thoughts are. I know we have a few months yet but its best to start thinking about these things early.

Response: We will be getting some pins in for that day, and we will be laying a wreath at the war memorial at 11.00 o'clock.

Clerk suggested that Council may want to bring back the Senior Citizens Afternoon Tea in the Town Hall and get local schools to entertain the seniors as a way of commemorating the VE Day 80th Anniversary and raising the profile of the Council. Members felt that this was a good suggestion and asked that the Events Committee discuss this in more detail.

Cllr P Jenkins advised that there was a beacon in St Michaels Church, clerk advised that this has not been forthcoming from the church or RBL.

RESOLVED: Events committee to meet in February to discuss a possible VE day afternoon tea event in town hall.

427. REFERRALS

13/01/25: Caer Gymrig,

There is a missing drain cover on the road. A Councillor has attempted to find it in case it had been moved but it appears to have been stolen. There is currently a cone covering the hole that was the Councillors property.

Response: Thank you for your enquiry, the defect you have raised has been identified, made safe and an order has been issued for action. The works will be undertaken when resources permit.

14/01/25: Chestnut Grove,

Drain cover is missing, there is no sign of it in the immediate area so perhaps stolen. This was reported to us, apparently it is just after the sharp bend although the exact location we are unsure of.

Response 16/01/25: Thank you for your enquiry, the defect you have raised has been identified, made safe and an order has been issued for action. The works will be undertaken when resources permit.

16/01/25: Caer Gymrig,

Residents are requesting that the shrubs/ trees/ brambles to the right of the road as you drive through are cut back or removed. I've been asked to report that the shrubs was planted as a way of taking land that does not belong to them. Also the house on the right hand corner as you approach Caer Gymrig has put up a large fence on land they believe does not belong to them. There is no pavement on that side of the road and this fencing makes them walk out on to the road to get past. Putting them in danger. Could this also be reported

Response: No response to date

23/01/24 The bus shelter in the main bus station in Maesteg – the electric doors aren't working. I understand that an engineering firm came out last week to fix them but I just had a few members of the public in to say they are not working this morning.

Response: A job has been raised for the contractor to reattend asap.

RESOLVED: To note the information

428. ELECTRICITY/GAS/WATER/WASTE - THE GREEN ENERGY ADVICE BUREAU

Email received from The Green Energy Advice Bureau:

I understand that you normally wait for your renewal letter from your supplier, but my aim is to provide you with a more streamlined approach and taking advantage of the whole sale side of the market, meaning your energy needs, will become more cost effective.

Advance procurement refers to the process of purchasing goods or services ahead of time, often to prepare for future needs. Here are several benefits of advance procurement:

1. **Cost Savings:** By buying in bulk or securing prices ahead of time, organizations can often negotiate better deals, reducing overall costs.
2. **Supply Chain Stability:** Advance procurement helps ensure that necessary materials or services are available when needed, minimizing disruptions in production or operations.
3. **Improved Budgeting:** Planning purchases in advance allows for better financial forecasting and allocation of resources, leading to more effective budget management.
4. **Mitigating Risks:** Early procurement can help avoid price fluctuations and shortages, especially in volatile markets or during peak demand periods.
5. **Enhanced Vendor Relationships:** Establishing long-term agreements with suppliers can lead to better service, reliability, and collaboration on future projects.
6. **Better Planning and Strategy:** Advance procurement aligns with strategic planning, allowing organizations to anticipate needs and streamline operations.
7. **Quality Control:** By allowing time to select the best suppliers and materials, organizations can ensure higher quality and compliance with standards.
8. **Time Efficiency:** Planning and procuring in advance frees up time for teams to focus on other critical tasks, rather than rushing to secure resources at the last minute.

Overall, advance procurement is a proactive approach that enhances operational efficiency and helps organizations stay competitive.

At GEAB, our Customer Care Team ensures a seamless transition when your contract goes live. They will contact you 30 days in advance to confirm that all details, including direct debit arrangements, are in place and to ensure that your previous supplier is aware of the transition with no outstanding debts. Additionally, our team conducts monthly bill validations to identify any discrepancies, such as overcharges on KVA, VAT, and CCL. If any issues are found, we will pursue compensation from your supplier for up to four years.

I have also attached our company brochure for your reference: [GEAB Brochure](#).

I look forward to speaking with you again in the nearby future.

Members mentioned that the town Council have only recently entered into a contract with another provider who source the cheapest providers on a regular basis so do not see the benefit of this agreement.

RESOLVED: To decline the offer of GEAB

429. CLLR R MARTIN REQUEST – BIN MAESTEG PARK

There are many complaints from residents of Maesteg Park regarding the amount of Dog Poo bags thrown onto public paths and gardens. Dog walkers have a regular route to Llynfi Court through St Cynwyd's. I have visited the area and the amount of bags thrown around the estate is disgusting. This is a health risk, children play on the grass verges where this dog waste is thrown. I know there is currently too many bins to empty but can we consider a bin. I am sharing this with my ward Councillors.

Following Minute 408 whereby it was already agreed to have an additional wheelie bin and the agreeance of Maesteg West Ward members, it was agreed to purchase an additional bin and for CMO to empty.

RESOLVED: West Ward to fund the purchase of new bin and for CMO to empty.

430. CLLR F ABEDALKARIM REPORT OF CRACKS ON WAR MEMORIAL

I would like to bring this matter to your attention. The war memorial stone have got some defects / cracks, it might come as a health and safety issue for people placing flowers / wreaths at the foot of the stone .

Clerk has spoken to the Stonemason who advises that these cracks have been there for 30-40 years, reports on this have been provided many years ago to the council (these cannot be found on file), in his opinion these cracks do not compromise the structure of the war memorial, however, to confirm this council would need to engage with a specialist monuments company to complete a structure integrity report. A further report from the Stonemason was received and emailed to all members prior to the meeting.

A member mentioned that grant funding is available through the War Memorial Trust to aid in refurbishment works and this would be worth looking into.

Cllr F Abedalkarim **proposed**, seconded by Cllr G Thomas, that costs be obtained for a structural engineer to review the war memorials and highlight any potential fixings of them both in Maesteg and Caerau. It was noted that the land surrounding the war memorial in Caerau is BCBC owned.

RESOLVED: To obtain costings for a structural engineer to visit the war memorials in Maesteg and Caerau and issue a report on their findings along with any associated costs for repairing said memorial stones.

431. LLYNFI VALLEY COUNCIL OF CHURCES – GOOD FRIDAY PARADE

Email received: You may remember our brief discussion on Huw Irranca-Davies letter asking whether the March of Witness would be supported by the Council as one of the scheduled events in the town.

I think it was going to be tabled at a meeting, but not sure. Can you advise whether this is the plan, and do we need to provide any additional information?

Clerk requested: Can you send me the exact route to be used, and which roads would need to be closed for the event. Once we have the route we can get a quote for the road closure, council will then decide whether to support. Unfortunately, our Events Committee have yet to meet to discuss so if you can provide as much information as possible that would be great

The march begins in Commercial Street on the road near Our Lady and St. Patrick's Church. It continues up to the traffic lights then turning right into Talbot Street following the road and exiting at the entrance to the market square.

Clerk advised that a quote had been received from Sunbelt Rentals for £2,140.10 + VAT

Cllr F Abedalkarim **proposed**, seconded by Cllr L Thomas that the road closure be agreed for the event to take place. A member suggested that this monies be allocated out of the summer festival budget line that was not spent this year and this was agreed.

RESOLVED: Proceed with the road closure for the Good Friday parade to take place.

432. AUDIT WALES – 2022-23 AND 2023-24 ACCOUNTS HAVE BEEN UNQUALIFIED (NO PROBLEMS).

Copies of the Audit Wales notices have been placed onto the website and in the noticeboard.

The only recommendations are:
2022-23

The Democracy and Boundary Commission Cymru etc. Act 2013 requires community councils to publish certain information on their websites. This includes a requirement to publish, as far as is practicable, documents that are circulated to members alongside meeting agendas. During the audit we noted that Maesteg does not routinely publish all papers e.g. schedules of payments to be approved. We recommend that the Council reviews its publication policy to ensure that it fully complies with the requirements of the 2013 Act.

2023-24

I draw the Council's attention to the following matters and recommendations which do not affect my audit opinion but should be addressed by the Council: Internal audit report I draw attention to the Internal Auditor's statement regarding the Council's grant awards process. We recommend that the Council takes steps to ensure it has a robust procedure in place at the earliest opportunity. ... There are no further matters I wish to draw to the Council's attention.

The chair of finance advised that the Council should produce all paperwork onto website although had concerns with finance papers due to employee salary details. The clerk advised that the receipts and payments paperwork only lists staff costs and no other information so this will be suitable for uploading.

RESOLVED: To publish all paperwork and the receipts and payments information on the Councils website when publishing agendas.

433. ROSPA PLAYGROUND INSPECTION TRAINING. - WALES

The clerk of another community council in a neighbouring borough has emailed the following:

We are looking to arrange a few members of staff to do the ROSPA playground inspection training in the summer. To make it cost effective do you guys need anyone doing and maybe we could arrange a doing course in one of our areas?

A few people have asked about cost.

This was in the email from ROSPA:

We also offer Routine and Operational Playground Inspection training on client's own premises. This is most cost effective as a group session as we charge an initial set fee for up to 6 attendees. If you would like more information and a quote for us to come to you, please can you let me know your venue address.

If I can get more than 6 interested, I would go to them for a quote. Obviously, the more attendees the cheaper the cost to each.

Members agreed that the CMO should complete this training as he will be inspecting the playpark in Caerau. Members also agreed that Cllr M Rowlands should also complete the training as a Cllr for the Caerau ward.

RESOLVED: the CMO and Cllr M Rowlands names to be put forward for the aforementioned training.

434. MTC CAT GRANTS

Clerk has emailed the BCBC CAT Officer with the following:

Caerau All Whites

Clerk received a telephone call advising that the Caerau All Whites CAT is complete, please can we have a copy of the lease/tenancy and once received MTC can process the MTC CAT Grant to Caerau All Whites as long as they can also provide copies of invoices/receipts for the following works as agreed in minute#292 Full Council 05/11/24,

Response: Unfortunately, the lease has not yet been signed and is with legal for final consideration. I am able to provide a letter of comfort, if this would be of use, but at present, the final lease has not been signed. I will, of course, let you know when this has been completed.

RESOLVED: to await confirmation of CAT transfer to Caerau All Whites.

435. OUTSIDE NOTICEBOARD

The current noticeboard is not fit for purpose, the frame has swelled, the cork inside is very thin and the padlocks have rusted. Can permission be granted for clerk to ask the CMO if he would be able to replace this with a more effective noticeboard. We are still waiting for BCBC Conservation officer permission to install a digital noticeboard as the projects committee have yet to agree a design and dimensions.

The clerk advised that the projects committee have yet to agree with the type and size of noticeboard to be placed outside the Council Offices so this would be a temporary fix until a more permanent solution is found.

Members agreed to not pursue with the creating of a new noticeboard.

RESOLVED: Not to proceed with CMO creating a new noticeboard

436. BUCKINGHAM PALACE GARDEN PARTY

The Buckingham Palace Garden Parties will take place this year on Wednesday 7 May and Tuesday 20 May. I will try to accommodate the preferred choice of date but I can't promise so make sure that the nominated person is available for both dates.

Please let me know if you would like to nominate one of your councillors to go into the draw. As soon as the draw takes place, I will notify the successful Member and a form will be sent to the individual to fill out.

If you don't hear from me, it means that the application has not been successful.

This invitation is for Councillors only and is no longer restricted to the Chair. It is in recognition of past service. The guest doesn't have to be a Councillor but must be over 18 and resident in the UK.

This is a once in a lifetime experience so please do not nominate anyone who has previously attended a Garden Party. The Palace keep strict records and their application will be refused.

I will need to know the following information by Friday 14 February:

Which Council do they sit on

The name of person being nominated

Telephone number for the person being nominated

Email address for the person being nominated

(so that I can send them a form to complete if they have been successful in the draw. Nominations by post will not be accepted because of the short timeline)

As in previous years we will not be sending this letter to any council who has been successful in the draw there have been 229 so far – we hope by doing it this way all councils have the chance to attend.

Cllr L Thomas nominated Cllr P Jenkins citing his 30+ years of public service.

Cllr F Abedalkarim nominated Cllr C Davies as the Mayor of the Council. Cllr C Davies declined the nomination.

Members agreed to nominate Cllr P Jenkins.

RESOLVED: to nominate Cllr P Jenkins into the ballot

437. DISABLED TOILET REFURBISHMENT GRANT

BCBC have asked for a progress update regarding the refurbishment of the disabled toilet which they have grant funding to pass onto us to complete. They need the works completed by the end of March. We have requested quotes from 8 businesses and only have the 1 returned quote. We also have a quote for a new toilet door that has radar key access and contactless payment option which should reduce the ASB and mess that is usually left for our cleaner to deal with.

The works would have to be paid initially by the Council and then later reimbursed by BCBC.

Would the Council see fit to delegate powers to the clerks to carry this refurbishment out. We still have to receive quotes for the flooring to be replaced and an electrician to come out to fit the new door.

Members agreed to delegate powers to the Clerks to discuss and authorise works to complete the refurbishment of the toilet.

Clerk asked if Council would still accept having a door with a radar key and contactless payment installed – members advised that its possible to have this but not to charge, so the toilet would be locked and only opened with either a radar key or the tap of card but not charged.

RESOLVED: powers be delegated to the clerks to authorise works to the disabled toilet.

438. DELEGATES REPORTS

None received

RESOLVED: To note the information

The time was 9pm which signals the end of the meeting as per the Councils standing orders. A member requested that the Council suspend this standing order to finish the meeting in its entirety. The Deputy Mayor advised that the standing orders are in place for a reason, and he would not support this but, as the Mayor was present, the decision was passed to him. The Mayor agreed to a vote on the basis of suspending the standing order and to finish the evenings business.

The following vote took place **to suspend the standing order** and continue the meeting:

Cllr	Yes/No	Cllr	Yes/No
C Davies	Y	C Knight	Y
I Williams	Y	A Le Geyt	Y
P Jenkins	Y	G Thomas	N
R Martin	Y	K Duggan	Y
F Abedalkarim	Y	M Rowlands	Y
R Lewis	N	L Thomas	Y
AR Davies	Abstain	G Williams	N

The results of the vote:

10 yes.

3 no.

1 abstain.

Standing orders were suspended and the meeting continued.

439. FINANCIAL APPLICATIONS

1. CAERAU COMMUNITY GROWERS CIC

Date application received: 02/12/2024

Request £500 towards costs with running an open day for the community at Caerau Market Garden. We would like to offer a range of free activities to our visitors for both children and adults to enjoy. Additionally, this will assist us in basic running costs such as the need to fuel generators on site as well as pay for characters in costume to attend the site. Additionally, this will allow us to provide resources for the activities put on. A full report can be offered following the event for council to scrutinise at its leisure.

Bank Statement received 14/01/2025

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

2. NANTYFFYLLON NON-POLITICAL CLUB

Date application received: 10/01/2025

Request £500 towards altering the cellar and seating to help reduce energy costs.

Bank Statement received 16/01/2025

Not previously received S137 grant funding.

RESOLVED: Council to refuse grant funding on the belief that this entity is a for-profit business.

3. WEST GLAMORGAN RAYNET

Date application received: 19/01/2025

Request £500 towards purchasing 2 x YAESU FT5DE handheld radios.

RAYNET have been in existence since the 1953 Floods. West Glamorgan RAYNET were formed in 1976 affiliated to the Radio Society of Great Britain and in 2018 becoming part of RAYNET-UK (formerly RAYNET Voluntary Emergency Communications which amalgamated with the RSGB). Our prime purpose is to provide Emergency Communications to the emergency services, local authorities, the NHS, and other voluntary organisations, usually when mobile phone networks collapse or when there are large scale power outages. For training purposes we provide communications for Community Events with Radio Marshalls often where mobile phone coverage is poor or due to the number of participants the (radio) traffic volume is high. We are licensed and governed by OFCOM through the RSGB. There are some 40 licensed Radio Amateurs in the CF34 postcode. The nearest RAYNET group to the east is Cardiff, to the west is Pembroke, to the north-west is in Ceredigion, to the north is in Powys. We do not have an office or fixed base. RAYNET-UK have a Google footprint.

Bank Statement & Financial Statement 24-25 received 19/01/2025

Not previously received S137 grant funding.

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

440. PLANNING

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

Ref: P/24/745/FUL
Applicant: Mr C Jones
Location: Land adjacent 1 George Street, Caerau, Maesteg, CF34 0UU
Proposal: Demolition and rebuilding of retaining wall to form hardstanding area to store small trailer
Ask for: Kittie Powell

Ref: P/25/25/FUL
Applicant: Mr C McShane
Location: 73B Ystad Celyn, Maesteg CF34 9LT
Proposal: Single storey extension to rear; 2no. velux windows to front elevation
Ask for: Julie Earp

Members **objected** to the following application due to the number of HMO's already in the vicinity.

Ref: P/24/806/FUL
Applicant: Mrs J Ibe
Location: 34 Caerau Road, Caerau, Maesteg, CF34 0PB
Proposal: Change of use from use class D1 to 6 bed House of Multiple Occupation (use class C4) and associated works
Ask for: Huw Boaler

Members were made aware of the following planning appeal:

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990

Appeal Reference: **2019**

Related Application Number: **P/23/647/FUL**

Proposal: **Partial demolition of garage and construction of two storey rear extension to provide a family room and utility to the ground floor and 2no. bedrooms to the first floor; create 1no. additional parking space to front and extend dropped kerb**

Site: **98 Yr Ysfa Maesteg CF34 9BE**

Appeal by: **Mr T Cadogan**

PEDW reference: **CAS-03804-N2G5P5**

I am writing to inform you that an appeal has been made to Planning & Environment Decisions Wales (PEDW) in respect of the above application. The appeal follows the refusal of planning permission by this Council. The appeal is to be decided on the basis of an exchange of written statements by the parties, and a site visit by an Inspector from PEDW.

You can follow the process of an appeal from the submission of an appeal to the decision by searching for the above *PEDW reference* at <https://planningcasework.service.gov.wales/>

Any comments you submitted to us during the application stage will be forwarded to PEDW and to the Appellant and will be considered by the Inspector when deciding the appeal. If you wish to modify your earlier comments in any way, please use the enclosed form and send to PEDW, Cathays Park, Cardiff CF10 3NQ by **21 February 2025**, quoting their reference **CAS-03804-N2G5P5**. Any representations submitted after the deadline will not normally be considered. Please indicate on your comments form if you would like a copy of the appeal decision letter, which will be sent to you by PEDW. If you would like to submit your comments electronically please email them to pedw.casework@gov.wales and including the above *PEDW reference*

Minutes emailed to all Councillors to Read on 7th February 2025
Read and accepted at a remote meeting of the Council held on 4th March 2025

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Mayor