

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting of Risca Town Council

Held on Tuesday 13th Mar 2018 at

Bethany Church Hall, Risca

Cllr Louise Stephens, Cllr Joy Parsons, Cllr Brian Hancock, Cllr Mike Parker and County Borough Cllr Ross Whiting were present

Clerk/Proper Officer: Robert Campbell

Cllr Louise Stephens as Mayor chaired the meeting that commenced at 6.30 pm

467 Apologies

Cllr Tony Davies, Cllr Hazel Dupre, Cllr Brian Davies, Cllr Sally Davies and County Borough Cllr Bob Owen

468 Presentation

Sgt Philip O'Connell and CSO Paige Greenhalgh gave the Council an update of the recent Risca crime reports and the local Police priorities. Philip reported that there had been a recent push to check on the area's licensed premises for drugs misuse via a new very sensitive detection kit. He added that there had also been three off-road operations where 10 vehicles had been impounded. Recent fly-tipping reports and a rise in high value pedal cycle thefts had also been investigated. Philip added that the local Police were keen to support the plans for the re-introduction of the scenic drive at Cwmcarn. The local Police were also promoting an event for bike riding and bike security marking. The Town Cllrs wished to be involved in this future event. Paige reported that she had been focusing on the recent complaints of illegal and obstructive car parking on Tredegar Street and Park Place. Cllr Parker and the Clerk asked Paige to inspect similar, regular obstruction complaints in Station Terrace and on Maryland Road

469 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Joy Parsons declared an interest in a financial assistance request item from the Kidney Wales

470 Residents' addresses

None

471 Minutes of the previous meeting held on 8 January 2018

Cllr Stephens signed the minutes as a true and correct record

472 Chair's and County Members' updates

Cllr Stephens reported that she intended to make a donation to Risca Brownies as well as to the Risca Air Cadets from her Mayor's annual allocation. County Cllr Whiting reported that there was little CCBC Highways could do to cut down traffic noise on the A467. He added that potholes in the short side road of Commercial Street near to the Alphavet shop were to be investigated by Highways. He added that CCBC and Tesco had agreed to extend the deadline date to release the associated S106 monies

473 Clerk's Report

473.1 Notice Boards

The replacement board's contractor's issue had been resolved and it should be in place very soon

473.2 Finance Report

The current statements are satisfactory. Any future funding for the role of Data Protection Officer has not been budgeted for in 2018/19 so this possible cost will be considered when we know more details

473.3 One Voice Wales/CCBC/WG

The Clerk noted that three Councillors are to attend OVW 'public participation' training module at Usk on Thurs 15 March. This will greatly assist the Town Council to be able to organise an event for the residents with a view to inviting their comments and suggestions on future projects and improvements.

Cllr Brian Davies is to attend at CCBC offices to undergo his Code of Conduct initial training on Wed 14 March. Cllr Brian Davies, Cllr Brian Hancock and the Clerk are also to attend the Town and Community Council joint liaison Committee later that evening on Wed 14 March at the CCBC offices.

The Clerk highlighted that the new Data Protection Act was set for 25 May 2018 and that there could be a greater onus on all Town and Community Councils to ensure there are no data breaches. Each Council is to nominate a Data Protection Officer to ensure this. However, there is uncertainty in the Act on who this officer can be. The Clerk will consider all options for this role together

with WG, CCBC, OVW and the other 17 Clerks within the Caerphilly county borough area

473.4 Correspondence/financial assistance applications –

The Council again considered the recently submitted application from the Risca P&LG group together with the submitted safety/risk assessments from both CCBC and the Skate park contractor following on from their recent, joint public meeting held at Ty-Sign. Three of the Town’s Councillors were present at the public meeting and they suggested that the Skate park’s organisers take on board the Town Council’s concerns for improved security and safety infrastructure measures of boundary fencing, CCTV and lighting to be built into the scheme at its earliest rebuilding phase. The Council thus agreed to contribute £2,000 to Risca P&LG group to assist with these improvements. The Council also considered a financial assistance request from Kidney Wales and they agreed to donate £100 to this charity. The Clerk is to arrange for the payment to be made in April

473.5 Ty Isaf School

A date for a future afternoon appointment at the School has yet to be agreed

473.6 Administration

A possible Mayor’s medal and lanyard options are still under consideration

474 Current Projects Summary

Project No.	Project Name	Description & Comments	Amount Paid	Amount Pledged
	Pantomime 2018	8/9 Dec – 4 performances by Kate Poole Productions of Risca have been provisionally booked by the Town Council		5000

475 Planning Applications

None

476 Exclusion of press and public

A discussion on Risca East Community Council's recent decision to no longer jointly fund a 2018 Pantomime project and their personal criticism of the Town Council Chair took place. The Council decided to formally respond to Risca East noting their decision to be no longer involved in the 2018 Pantomime project

The meeting closed at 8.30 pm

Signed:

Date:

