

## **Minutes of the Full Council Meeting of Risca Town Council**

**Held on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> April 2018 at**

**Bethany Church Hall, Risca**

**Cllr Louise Stephens, Cllr Joy Parsons, Cllr Brian Hancock, Cllr Mike Parker Cllr Tony Davies, Cllr Hazel Dupre, Cllr Brian Davies, Cllr Sally Davies and County Borough Cllr Ross Whiting**

**Clerk/Proper Officer: Robert Campbell**

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

### **477 Apologies**

**County Borough Cllr Bob Owen**

### **478 Presentation**

Mark Jones from Christians Against Poverty and Risca Street Pastors gave the Council a presentation on both of his local projects and asked for a Council donation to both of them. The first is related to Risca Debt Centre, a debt advice group organised by three local churches, Bethesda, Agape and Moriah. Members of the group could call directly to people's houses giving them debt advice. The second is the Street Pastors that is an established local support group

### **479 Declarations of Interest**

None

### **480 Residents' addresses**

None

### **481 Minutes of the previous meeting held on 14 March 2018**

Cllr Stephens signed the minutes as a true and correct record

## **482 Chair's and County Members' updates**

Cllr Stephens and Cllr Dupre were to attend the Risca Brownies/Guides at their April 26 presentation evening. Cllr Stephens reported that she intends to make a donation to the group from her Mayor's annual allocation towards their 'badge for suffragettes' theme. Cllr Stephens was waiting for a contact's details to make a donation to the Risca Air Cadets also from her Mayor's allocation. Cllr Stephens added that she will consider attending with Risca RBL at a miners' window dedication ceremony later in April

County Cllr Whiting reported that CCBC had agreed to support the City Deal Business with a projected £1.2 billion set aside for the region over 20 years. £734M of this is set towards the Metro project with a new Ebbw Vale line to Newport included. Highways were soon to repair the potholes in Mill Street and he is to ask CCBC if all of the road can be resurfaced

## **483 Clerk's Report**

### **483.1 Notice Boards**

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

### **483.2 Finance Report**

The current statements are satisfactory. The Clerk is still waiting for WG and OVW advice on a future Town Council role of a Data Protection Officer. More details and likely costs are due to be available in late April/early May. The Clerk reported that the Council's Financial Regulations policy will need to be updated at the 14 May 2018 AGM for the new financial year. This is particularly in relation to its contracts' cost limit to cater for any reasonable cost increases to the Town's already committed projects. The Clerk advised that Cllrs' travelling expenses could be paid for out of the CCBC area meetings. The Council agreed to invite Gwyn James to act as its Internal Auditor for the 2017/2018 Annual Audit. The Clerk confirmed that he had returned £10 to Cllr Parker's account that was inadvertently included in the Armistice Concert collection monies last November

### **483.3 One Voice Wales/CCBC/WG/SLCC**

The Clerk noted that Cllr Hancock and he were to attend the next OVW Area Committee meeting on 18 April at Bedwas.

The Council agreed for Cllr Hancock and the Clerk to attend the OVW/SLCC Conference in Llandrindod Wells on 16 May and the Council agreed for the Clerk to attend the SLCC 2 day practitioners' Leadership Conference in Stratford on 6/7 June

The Council noted WG's Green Paper on its latest local government reform suggesting pairing Caerphilly and Newport county borough councils together. The Town Council is to consider its response to WG in time for the consultation deadline of July 2018

#### **483.4 Correspondence/financial assistance applications –**

The Council agreed to donate £2,000 to the local P&LG Group's Skate park refurbishment project in Ty-Sign. The Town Council asked that the donated monies be used towards the scheme's updated security to its boundaries, additional CCTV and additional lighting. The Council agreed to donate £250 to the local Street Pastors request for financial assistance but were unable to support the same request from the Christians against poverty group. The Council had agreed to donate £100 to Kidney Wales and the Clerk is to pursue this. The Council agreed to purchase two WWI soldier silhouettes with info placards for attaching to the rear walls at both of the Town's two Cenotaph Parks. The Clerk is to advise Steve Veysey of Risca RBL of this commitment to the WW1 commemorations. The Clerk advised that he had received a request for funding from the CCBC Events Officer towards the Summer Fayre costs and he had responded to CCBC to say that the Council's budgets had to be set for CCBC by 31 January each year and asking for such funding in very late March could not be considered. The Clerk had seen a note from the Clerk at Blackwood Town that CCBC were no longer able to fund the maintenance of their Planters in all of their towns. The Clerk is to seek clarification from CCBC on this note. The Clerk reported that he had received a letter from HSBC Bank to say the Town Council were now recognised as a Commercial Customer

#### **483.5 Ty Isaf School**

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

#### **483.6 Administration**

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

### **484 Current Projects Summary**

The Clerk confirmed that Risca East had written to say they no longer wished to be part of the Christmas Pantomime as a Joint Project for 2018 and that they had decided not to return their share of the 2017 Panto ticket monies to Kate Poole Productions

The Council agreed that a Sub-committee with Cllrs from Risca East is necessary for the 2018 summer Fayre Joint Project

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

At 8.30 pm Cllr Brian Hancock asked that Standing Orders be suspended so that the two remaining agenda items can be considered

#### **485 Planning Applications**

None

#### **486 Exclusion of press and public**

A discussion on providing flowers for two local traders took place and these were agreed

**The meeting closed at 8.45 pm**

**Signed:**

**Date:**

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