

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

**Held on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2019 at**

**Bethany Church Hall, Risca**

**Cllr Mike Parker, Cllr Hazel Dupre, Cllr Sally Davies, Cllr Louise Stephens, Cllr Tony Davies and Cllr Brian Davies**

**Clerk/Proper Officer: Robert Campbell**

Also in attendance were County Cllr Ross Whiting and four representatives from Hare Structural Engineering

**Cllr Tony Davies as the Mayor chaired the meeting that commenced at 6.35 pm**

### **647 Apologies**

**Cllr Joy Parsons, Cllr Brian Hancock, Youth Rep Xander Barratt and County Cllr Bob Owen**

### **648 Presentations**

Heddlu Gwent Police Officers Louise and Jason advised the Council of the recent policing activities and recorded crimes in the Town area. There were five incidents reported on Halloween night and one incident on Bonfire night. A recent anti-drugs warrant exercise in the area had been successful

Andrea Kelleher and Joe Newman from Hare Engineering gave the Council an update on their steel fabrication works and future proposals for their local engineering development on the former Rowecord site. Their plans include being up to 75% capacity in April with 35 staff on site. The plan includes for a 30 new staff apprenticeship scheme starting in March/April 2020. Working hours' restrictions are planned for about 120 staff in total over two shifts between 8 am on Mondays to 8 pm on Fridays with a Saturday working time of between 7 am and 4 pm. They have a new planning application to submit to Caerphilly county borough council in a few weeks' time to include plans that satisfy the health, safety and noise criteria. They also intend to meet with the Fields Road residents in the very near future. The Chair thanked both Police and the Hare representatives for their presentations

### **649 Declarations of Interest**

None

## **650 Residents' addresses**

None

## **651 Minutes of the previous Council meeting held on Mon 14 October 2019**

Cllr Tony Davies signed the October minutes as a true and correct record

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

The Chair, Cllr Tony Davies reported again on how successful the recent joint Armistice Concert on last Friday 8 November had been. He suggested that Gareth Dupre should be recompensed for his excellent work on designing and producing the Armistice posters, programmes and leaflets. The Council agreed for the Clerk to arrange a payment of £200 for his community work. County Cllr Ross Whiting reported that he attended a recent CCBC Planning Committee site meeting at the Tanybryn former service station site and noted that any decision had been deferred. He added that there was a new business interest in the former Rolling Mill property

## **653 Clerk's Report**

### **653.1 Finance Report**

The current statements were agreed as satisfactory by the Council. The Clerk submitted his first draft Budget report in tandem with a new Projects list for 2020/2021 for the Council's early consideration towards setting a precept figure for the new financial year. He added that the Council must make a decision on the Budget in December and that it must be ratified in January 2020 in order for him to submit a budget and precept to Caerphilly county borough council by 31 January. The Council agreed to reconsider the list and the budget figures with a budget costing for either a Christmas Fair or a Pantomime next year, at their December meeting. The Clerk was pleased to report that the Council's new flagpole and base for the Pontymister Memorial Gardens had been erected prior to the events for the Armistice Services last weekend and that Risca Royal British Legion were able to fly their flags for that weekend. The Clerk reported that his second Bank Mandate to HSBC Bank to update the signature on the Mayor's account had not been recognised at the Newport Branch. He added that as the Risca Branch of Barclays Bank had corresponded with the Council asking for local business that he wished to move the Mayor's account to that Risca Branch. The Council agreed and asked the Clerk to pursue moving both Risca Town accounts to Barclays Bank at Risca as soon as practically possible

### **653.2 One Voice Wales/CCBC/WG/SLCC/TCCLC**

The Clerk advised that all notifications had been circulated. The next TCCLC Joint meeting with the CCBC Councillors is set for Wed 20 November at the CCBC's Tredomen Offices' Chamber when CCBC are due to consult the TCCLC on their budget for 2020/2021. The Clerk and Cllr Tony Davies are due to attend this meeting

### **653.3 Correspondence/financial assistance applications**

The Council considered the October meeting request for funding for a summer sport scheme for activities at Risca Leisure Centre over the six week summer holidays of 2020. The Council agreed to give this financial funding request further consideration in early 2020. The Clerk reported on a recent letter from Llamau asking for a donation to their scheme to provide Christmas gifts for local children affected by homelessness. The Council agreed for the Clerk to arrange a donation of £150 to the Llamau Charity for this good seasonal cause. The Clerk also reported that Risca Skatepark had sent him their bank details so that the Council can make their previously promised donation towards the skate park costs. The Council agreed for the Clerk to transfer £2000 from their Election/Reserves account to the Skatepark's account. The Clerk reported on the recent advice and instruction from the Electoral Services Officer at Caerphilly CBC to advertise a Casual Vacancy following the long term sickness of a Council Member. The Council agreed for the Clerk to advertise the vacancy notice with immediate effect

### **654 Current Projects Summary**

At 8.30 pm Cllr Mike Parker asked that Standing Orders be suspended so that the remaining agenda business items could be discussed. Cllr Parker reported that the plans for the Town Council's first Winter Fair on Sat 30 Nov had been finalised. However he added that new Christmas Tree lights were needed and the Council agreed to spend £150 on new lights.

<b>Project No.</b>	<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Description &amp; Comments</b>	<b>Amount Paid</b>	<b>Amount Pledged</b>
<b>64</b>	Armistice 2019			
	1/ 11.00 am Mon 11 Nov	Pontymister small cenotaph/gardens		100
	2/ 7.00 pm Friday 8 Nov	Risca Town and Risca East joint concert		950
	3/ 10.30 pm Sunday 10	RBL organised parade plus PA system		

	Nov	programmes and adverts		550
	<b>JOINT EVENT</b>			440
<b>68</b>	Winter Fair 2019	Sat 30 November		7000
		Christmas tree and lighting		500

### 655 Planning Applications

Case Ref: 19/0010/FULL. An application for a block of 18 flats / apartments at the former Pontymister Service Station site on Newport Road next to Tanybryn. The Council had already reported its objection to this application and noted that any decision by CCBC had been deferred

Case Refs. 19/0851 and 19/0852 were noted

### 656 Exclusion of press and public

None

**The meeting closed at 8.55 pm**

**Signed:**

**Date:**

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