

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting of Risca Town Council

Held on Monday 14th October 2019 at

Bethany Church Hall, Risca

Cllr Mike Parker, Cllr Hazel Dupre, Cllr Sally Davies, Cllr Joy Parsons and Cllr Brian Davies

Clerk/Proper Officer: Robert Campbell

Also in attendance were local resident Xander Barratt, Sean Davies of CCBC County Cllr Bob Owen and County Cllr Ross Whiting

Cllr Mike Parker as the Vice Mayor chaired the meeting that commenced at 6.35 pm

637 Apologies

Cllr Louise Stephens, Cllr Tony Davies and Cllr Brian Hancock

638 Presentations

The Vice Chair, Cllr Mike Parker welcomed Sean Davies from Caerphilly county borough who gave the Council a report on the summer sport scheme activities the county borough had successfully completed at Risca Leisure Centre, over the six week summer holidays with the assistance of external funding. He invited the Town Council to provide separate funding for additional local children to be included in a scheme for next summer. He suggested a cost figure of about £80 per head for say 30 children would be about £2500. The Council agreed to give this financial funding request further consideration alongside its other budget commitments for 2020/2021

639 Declarations of Interest

None

640 Residents' addresses

The Vice Mayor formally welcomed local resident Xander Barratt to the Council as a Youth Representative. The Council noted that it is looking forward to working with Xander in the future

641 Minutes of the previous Council meeting held on Mon 9 September 2019

Cllr Davies signed the September minutes as a true and correct record

642 Chair's and County Members' updates

County Cllr Bob Owen reported that discussions on the traffic issues at Church Road were still ongoing with CCBC and the Fernlea residents. County Cllr Ross Whiting asked the Clerk if CCBC Officer Lynne John had asked the Council for its Environmental concerns. The Clerk had not heard from the Officer but looked forward to a future discussion. Cllr Whiting added that the Rowecord site developers were still interested in making a presentation to the Council on its site development plans. The Clerk confirmed that a site representative is expected to address the Council at its November meeting. Cllr Whiting also added that the recent complaint that a trading licence had been issued by CCBC for a trader in Tredegar Park, Risca had recently been stopped pending further CCBC investigations. Cllr Sally Davies reported the news that Cwmcarn Scenic Drive was due to reopen to the public very soon and that following the forest fires of last year a possible archaeological find on Twmbarlwm Mountain is being investigated next spring/summer

643 Clerk's Report

643.1 Finance Report

The current statements and 6 monthly budget reports were agreed as satisfactory by the Council. The Clerk reported that he had received a successful and unqualified Annual Audit Return for 2018/2019 from the External Auditor. The Council agreed to invite the Risca East Clerk, Gwyn James to carry out the half year audit for 2019/2020. The Clerk added that he had received a quote of £532 for a new flagpole and base for the Pontymister Memorial Gardens and that CCBC Parks agreed to accept delivery of the new pole and to erect it in the Gardens. The erection cost will be about £200. The Council agreed to pursue purchasing a new flagpole for the Gardens. The Clerk reported that he had submitted a second Bank Mandate to HSBC Bank to update the signature on the Mayor's account. The Clerk reported that the broken lock on the Well Chemist shop public notice board had been fixed by a local resident. The Council considered a nominal fee to repay the resident and they agreed that the Clerk is to pay the resident £25 for his excellent community work

643.2 One Voice Wales/CCBC/WG/SLCC/TCCLC

Risca Town Council – Minutes of 14 October 2019. A copy in Welsh will be provided upon request.

The Clerk advised that all notifications had been circulated. Cllr Sally Davies and the Clerk had attended the One Voice Wales Area Committee at the Bargoed Town offices on 9 Oct and both had also attended the Town and Community Council liaison committee (TCCLC) on 16 October at the Bedwas Community offices. The Clerk reported that he and Cllr Tony Davies also attended the One Voice Wales annual conference and AGM at Pontrhydfendigaid near Aberystwyth on 5 October. The next TCCLC Joint meeting with the CCBC Councillors has been rearranged by the CCBC liaison Officer 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

643.3 Correspondence/financial assistance applications

The Clerk and the Council noted that the Tredegar Park toilet block had still not been reopened by the Moriah Church's newly formed charity. The Clerk reported on a personal letter he had received from a resident who stated he was an invited member on that new Charity's Committee and was asking the Town Council for considerable additional funding over all future years to pay for the toilet block to be opened and maintained. The Clerk said he had written back to the resident to advise him of the Council's current situation in relation to the toilet block and explaining the legal duty and protocols of all Councils' budgets, their future incomes and expenditure. The Clerk understands that the Moriah Church Charity is still working with CCBC as the property manager to try to reopen the toilet block as soon as possible. The Council considered a request for financial assistance from St Margaret's Church for their Christmas tree event. However, the Council decided that they could not support this request as it was concentrating on their own Risca Town Winter Fair event on Sat 30 November in Tredegar Park, Risca

643.4 Ty Isaf School

As this possible item had not been finalised for a couple of years the Council agreed to remove it from future meetings. It can be re-raised if the item is progressed

644 Current Projects Summary

At 8.30 pm Cllr Hazed Dupre asked that Standing Orders be suspended so that the remaining agenda business items could be discussed.

Cllr Mike Parker reported that his plans with the Town's sub-committee for the Town's Winter Fair had progressed very well. He provided a revised and projected cost breakdown for the Council that showed a new, expected cost to be in the region of over £5,500. Xander Barratt reported that he is discussing with the Risca Comprehensive Headmaster the possibility that his fellow pupils be asked to provide

a music slot at the Winter Fair. Cllr Dupre reported that the plans for the joint Armistice Concert for Friday 8 November were well in hand and posters, programmes and tickets should be available very soon

Project No.	Project Name	Description & Comments	Amount Paid	Amount Pledged
64	Armistice 2019			
	1/ 11.00 am Sat 9 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 Nov	RBL organised parade plus PA system programmes and adverts		550
	JOINT EVENT			440
68	Winter Fair 2019	Sat 30 November – Event Plans are ongoing		4000
		Christmas tree lighting		308
62	Summer flower baskets June to Sep 2019	Local contractor erected and to maintain summer baskets	3752	4000

645 Planning Applications

None

646 Exclusion of press and public

The Clerk reported on the continual long term sickness of a Council Member. The Council noted the information

The meeting closed at 9.05 pm

Signed:

Date:
