

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting of Risca Town Council
Due to the current Coronavirus crisis it was held as a remote virtual
meeting on Monday 11th May 2020

Cllr Mike Parker, Cllr Sally Davies, Cllr Tony Davies and Cllr Joy Parsons

Clerk/Proper Officer: Robert Campbell

Also in attendance were County Cllrs Ross Whiting and Bob Owen

Clerk Bob Campbell facilitated the virtual meeting that commenced at 7.00 pm

697 Apologies

Cllr Hazel Dupre was unable to access the virtual platform due to technical difficulties. Cllr Louise Stephens and Cllr Brian Davies were unavailable

698 Presentations

None due to the Coronavirus crisis and Government lockdown and the current Welsh Government emergency regulations. The Clerk reported that due to the current health crisis the April meeting had been cancelled and that the 2020 Annual General Meeting (AGM) due to be held in May was postponed to later in the year. The current Chair and Vice Chair are allowed to stay in office if they so wish. Cllr Tony Davies and Cllr Mike Parker agreed to stay in office as Chair and Vice Chair respectively until the AGM can be arranged when allowed by Welsh Government

699 Declarations of Interest

None

700 Residents' addresses

None due to the Coronavirus crisis, the Government lockdown and the current Welsh Government emergency regulations

701 Minutes of the previous Council meeting held on Mon 9 March 2020

The meeting agreed the minutes as a true and correct record. The Clerk will arrange a two persons meeting between himself and Cllr Tony Davies to enable the minutes to be signed, as soon as practically possible

702 Chair's and County Members' updates

The Chair, Cllr Tony Davies had no updates to report. County Cllr Ross Whiting reported that Caerphilly county borough were considering how to safely re-open libraries and recycling centres when possible. County Cllr Bob Owen reported that Caerphilly were not able to hold their own Council meetings to date but noted that most Council services were continuing where safe to do so. He added a Planning Meeting held remotely is likely to be the first Caerphilly Council meeting since the health crisis to be held in the very near future

703 Clerk's Report

703.1 Finance Report

The Clerk presented account statements for April and early May and they were both agreed as satisfactory by the Council. The Clerk reported that he had completed his 2019/2020 annual accounts. He added that he had recently submitted them with the associated backup papers to the Internal Auditor. The accounts had been checked and balanced and he intends to present them to the Council for their consideration and signature at the June meeting. The Clerk reported that the new Risca Barclays main bank account was now up and running and the first Town Council precept from Caerphilly county borough council had been credited to the account on 30 April. He also confirmed that a new Mayor's account was also up and running. The first payments to progress Council business were due out from the new account very soon. The Council noted that as the Tredegar Park Toilet Block was not open during the current health crisis then it will postpone its decision to make a donation to the 'Save Risca Toilets' local charity to its June meeting. The Clerk reported that he had responded to The Pensions Regulator on the 3 years' auto-renewal for staff by confirming in writing that as the only staff member he has again opted out of the scheme

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

The Clerk advised that Cllr Sally Davies and he attended the TCCLC Joint meeting with CCBC Cllrs/Officers that was held on Wed 11 March at the CCBC Offices Chamber at Ty-Penallta

703.3 Correspondence/financial assistance applications

The Clerk said he was unable to progress re-advertising the Councillor Vacancy at Pontymister Lower due to the current health crisis. The Clerk reported that he had a recent email response from St John's Ambulance that the Risca Depot is still planned to be used for staffing and is due for reopening in the near future but progress is on hold due to the health crisis. St. John's also said the community defibrillator housed at the Risca depot would be available for use in the near future. The Clerk is to ask for the latest update on its availability to the community and if an alternative housing location can be found. The Clerk also reported on a recent email from a resident in Risca East seeking financial assistance for a new Risca Covid-19 Group that was set up to assist residents during the current health crisis. Cllr Bob Owen advised that the new Group offered support for those residents who could not access local services and shops. He added that the Group had acquired funding from Channel View Community Centre and Risca East Community Council to buy Personal Protective Equipment for its volunteers via the Caerphilly county borough council procurement system. It may be sufficient for use by the volunteers at the present time. The Council noted the reason for the Group's request and were sympathetic to its cause. They decided to reconsider the request at its next meeting alongside any updated Government regulations on the health crisis

704 Current Projects Summary

Cllr Mike Parker noted that most community projects are on hold due to the current health crisis but he hoped that the previous VE Day plan for an event in Tredegar Park, Risca could be held on 15/16 August to coincide with VJ Day. The Clerk confirmed that the Summer Baskets project for the Town Centre is going ahead

Project No.	Project Name	Description & Comments	Amount Paid	Amount Pledged
	Summer Flower baskets	Planned for erection along Commercial Street and Tredegar Street between late June and late September		4000

705 Planning Applications

Applications 20/0190 and 20/0300 were both noted

706 Exclusion of press and public

None

The meeting closed at 8.00 pm

Signed: *A. Davies*

Date: 22-5-20
