

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 21 September 2020

Cllr Mike Parker, Cllr Sally Davies, Cllr Tony Davies and Cllr Hazel Dupre

Clerk/Proper Officer: Robert Campbell

Chair/Mayor Tony Davies chaired the virtual meeting that commenced at 6.35 pm

727 Apologies

Cllr Brian Davies, Cllr Joy Parsons, Cllr Louise Stephens, County Cllrs Bob Owen and Ross Whiting

728 Presentations

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

729 Declarations of Interest

None

730 Residents' addresses

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

731 Minutes of the previous Council meeting held on Mon 13 July 2020

The meeting acknowledged that the agreed minutes were signed as a true and correct record. The Clerk will arrange for the September meeting minutes to be exchanged by post for signature as soon as practically possible

732 Chair's and County Members' updates

The Chair, Cllr Tony Davies reported that he had received complaints from residents that drivers were bypassing the road humps on Grove Road and are instead driving in its rear lane causing a road safety hazard for residents in that lane. He also added recent complaints of 'drug dealing' openly taking place in the Ty Isaf area. The Clerk is to take both matters up with the two Risca Town Ward Members and the local Police

Cllr Bob Owen had submitted a written report saying that he was considering challenging the recent further planning application to CCBC for additional residences at the former Pontymister filling station site on Newport Road. He also reported the news that Cllr Ross Whiting had recently been appointed as a Cabinet Member on Caerphilly county borough council (CCBC) and added his congratulations to Ross. The Council also wished to record their congratulations to Ross

733 Clerk's Report

733.1 Finance Report

The Clerk reported that the 19/20 annual return had been received at the Audit Wales nominated contractor in Southampton. The monthly account summary to date was agreed as satisfactory by the Council. The Clerk reported that the new Barclays Bank main account was still not accessible to the Chair and he will contact Barclays Bank for an issued card and security machine as soon as possible. The Clerk noted that the amount held in the elections/reserves account did not satisfy the minimum amount of at least 30% of the annual precept as recommended by One Voice Wales. The Clerk suggested that as the Council was unable to hold its summer and winter events this year due to the health crisis that a further amount can be added to the reserves account. The Council agreed for the Clerk to transfer funds to bring the account up to a total of £14,000

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

The next Area meeting of OVW via a remote virtual platform is set for Wed 7 October, Cllr Sally Davies and the Clerk are to attend via video. The Clerk reported that he is planning to set the next Town and Community Council liaison meeting for Wed 21 October also via a remote virtual platform that Cllr Tony Davies and he are to attend via video

733.3 Correspondence/financial assistance applications

The Clerk said he was still unable to progress re-advertising the Councillor Vacancy at Pontymister Lower due to the current health crisis. Cllr Mike Parker offered to seek an alternative location for the community defibrillator

The Clerk reported that he had not yet received the financial assistance form from the new Risca Covid-19 Group

The Council discussed the recent CCBC new one way system and short term road closures for Graig View and Wesley Place at the main entrance to Risca Primary School and noted that several road safety issues were being reported at Gwendoline Road. The Council agreed to ask its County Borough Ward Members to investigate these issues

Cllr Mike Parker reported that he had no news yet about the former Machen Round Table's Santa's Sleigh. The Council still need more details and information on the Sleigh to be made available

734 Current Projects Summary

The Council agreed that this year's summer baskets project is again very successful and wished to thank their local contractor Greenleif for their excellent work. They also agreed to purchase 10 more sets of flower baskets and brackets for next summer. The Council are aware that CCBC recently removed ten street planters from Tredegar Street and the Council agreed to ask CCBC if six of these planters can be repositioned on the grassed area on Commercial Street at the Pontymister Roundabout. The Council wished to report their thanks to Castle Bingo for the loan of their 4 tiered large planter that was located in the Park near the toilet block over the summer months. The large planter with its floral display received several positive comments from residents. Consequently the Council agreed for the Clerk to investigate if two such planters can be purchased for next summer with one for the Park and the second to be placed at the grassed area near the Pontymister Roundabout. The Clerk is to seek CCBC's permission to place both planters next year. Providing that permission is granted for all the planters, then the Council offered to tend all the planters for next year with the assistance of the local Scouts and Guides Groups

The Council agreed to go ahead with its Christmas festive lanterns project for December

Cllr Hazel Dupre reported that due to the current health crisis the Risca Royal British Legion will not be holding any formal Armistice events in November. However, they had agreed that those wishing to lay wreathes at both Risca cenotaphs could do so providing all the current Covid-19 Regulations are observed. The Chair reported his wish to lay wreathes at both cenotaphs and asked the Clerk to arrange to purchase two wreathes. Cllr Mike Parker suggested that the Council could proceed with a new Christmas tree in the Park similar to last year's. The Council agreed for him to contact Greenleif to supply and fit a tree in the same location. The Clerk is to seek permission from CCBC to erect the tree in the Park over the festive holiday period

Project No.	Project Name	Description & Comments	Amount Paid	Amount Pledged
	Summer Flower baskets	Erection along Commercial Street and Tredegar Street between late June and late September		4000
	Christmas Festive Lanterns plus new Tree			4700

735 Planning Applications

Application Case Ref. 20/0635 for the former Pontymister filling station site. The report update from Cllr Bob Owen on this application was discussed and noted under minute 727 above

Cllr Sally Davies reported that there had been no updates from CCBC on a site meeting for Case Ref 20/0071 at the former Rolling Mill

736 Exclusion of press and public

None

The meeting closed at 7.55 pm

Signed:

Date:
