

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 12 October 2020

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

Clerk/Proper Officer: Robert Campbell

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

737 Apologies

County Cllrs Bob Owen and Ross Whiting

738 Presentations

Paige Greenhalgh of Heddlu Gwent Police gave the Council an update on recent police reports in the Town. Anti-social behaviour reports were higher than usual. Representatives of the Risca Covid-19 Group gave their presentation to back up their financial assistance request to the Council. They highlighted the work they have carried out during the health crisis to help 198 Risca residents with about 190 volunteers and 11 administration staff and gave their plans for the future

739 Declarations of Interest

None

740 Residents' addresses

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

741 Minutes of the previous Council meeting held on Mon 21 September 2020

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

742 Chair's and County Members' updates

Cllr Bob Owen had submitted a written report saying that he was still considering challenging the recent further planning application to CCBC for additional residences at the former Pontymister filling station site on Newport Road. He reported that he had made progress on acquiring a former coal tram to be refurbished and to be placed at a suitable location in the Town. He added that his request to CCBC for the removed street planters to be repositioned near Pontymister Roundabout was being favourably considered by the CCBC Officers

743 Clerk's Report

743.1 Finance Report

The Clerk reported that he had no news yet on the 19/20 annual return for Audit Wales. The monthly account summary to date was agreed as satisfactory by the Council. The Clerk reported that he was due an annual pay rise for 20/21. The Council agreed to the Clerk's request

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

The Clerk reported that Cllr Sally Davies and he had attended the recent Area meeting of OVW via a remote virtual platform. The Clerk and Cllr Tony Davies are to attend the next Town and Community Council liaison meeting on Wed 21 October also via a remote virtual platform

743.3 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 is seeking an alternative location for the community defibrillator. He noted that if the unit is to be fitted to an outside property wall then it will require a housing box with a power supply. The Council agreed that if a local property could take on the responsibility of the unit and a wall box then the Council will pay for the unit's maintenance

The Council are aware of the recent CCBC new, experimental one way system and short term road closures for Graig View and Wesley Place and will monitor it. The Council discussed the road works barriers in the parking places on Tredegar Street by CCBC and noted their disappointment that there had been no progress on CCBC's plans for those street areas over the summer months. The Clerk is to again raise this issue with the County Borough Ward Members to see if the work on the barriers can be progressed

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

Cllr Hazel Dupre reported that the main Notice Board in the Park was continually allowing dampness into it so that condensation on the front viewing covers made the papers inside damp and difficult to read. Cllr Louise Stephens offered to contact the local firm JV Graphics to see if they can cure the problem

The Council considered the financial application from the Risca Covid-19 Group. They were fully supportive of the Group's work for Risca residents and wished to contribute to the Group. The Council are aware that due to the current health crisis and lockdowns, that their planned Summer Fair and Winter Fair projects had to be cancelled this year. Therefore they agreed that an amount of the budget allocated for the Fairs can now be afforded to assist the Group's work for the Risca residents. The Council agreed to donate £5,000 to the Group as a one off payment only, with the condition that the Risca Group provide the Clerk with proof of its new Charity status and the Risca Group's dedicated Bank details

744 Current Projects Summary

The Council are hopeful that CCBC's recently removed eight street planters from Tredegar Street can be repositioned on the grassed area on Commercial Street at the Pontymister Roundabout. These planters plus the two bricked planters in front of the Park's gates plus the Council purchasing two large 4-tier planters for the Park will need filling with soil and plants. The Council agreed to set aside between £3,500 and £4,000 for this work as a new project to be ready for next spring/summer. The Council agreed that the recently received amount of CIL planning monies of £2,900 from CCBC can go towards this environmental project for the Town. The Council are aware that CCBC's permission for this project is needed before any orders for work can be put in place. To meet the flower preparation and planting period, a decision is required from CCBC by early January 2021. The Council will then make an offer to tend all the planters for next year with the assistance of the local Scouts and Guides Groups

The Council agreed to purchase four new Christmas festive lanterns to extend its project to 31 units for December

The Clerk noted the recent letter from Risca Royal British Legion that there will be no formal Armistice events in November. The Chair agreed to lay wreathes at both Risca cenotaphs. The Council intends to supply and fit a Christmas tree in the same location in the Park as last year. The Clerk is seeking permission from CCBC to erect the tree in the Park with surrounding safety barriers over the festive holiday period

Project No.	Project Name	Description & Comments	Amount Paid	Amount Pledged
	Summer Flower baskets	Erected along Commercial Street and Tredegar Street between late June and mid October		4000
	Street and Park flower planters	Near Pontymister Roundabout and in the Park		4000
	Christmas Festive Lanterns plus new Tree			4700
	Christmas Window Comp	3 x£100 prizes		300

745 Planning Applications

Application Case Refs. 20/0635, 20/0771 and 20/0795 were all noted

746 Exclusion of press and public

None

The meeting closed at 8.30 pm

Signed:

Date:
