

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 9 November 2020

Cllr Mike Parker, Cllr Sally Davies, Cllr Tony 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 6.30 pm. County Cllr Ross Whiting also joined the meeting

747 Apologies

Cllr Brian Davies, County Cllr Bob Owen

748 Presentations

None

749 Declarations of Interest

None

750 Residents' addresses

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

751 Minutes of the previous Council meeting held on Mon 12 October 2020

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

752 Chair's and County Members' updates

Cllr Ross Whiting reported that the recent amendment planning application for the former Rolling Mill site had been approved by CCBC. He added that CCBC were

happy for the street planters to be relocated to the grassed area near Pontymister Roundabout

753 Clerk's Report

753.1 Finance Report

The Clerk reported that he still had no news yet on the 19/20 annual return for Audit Wales and that he has commenced the half year internal audit for this year. The monthly account summary to date was agreed as satisfactory by the Council. The Clerk reported that he had again written to HSBC Bank to transfer the amount of £365 in the Chairperson's account (that we can no longer access) to the main account. He added that HSBC had responded saying they wish to see the minutes of the meeting where this decision was made. Hence the Clerk is noting that decision here. The Clerk presented a first draft budget report for 2021/2022 for the Council's consideration and decision at its December meeting

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

The Clerk and Cllr Tony Davies are to attend the next virtual Town and Community Council Liaison Joint meeting with the CCBC Cllrs on Wed 18 November

753.3 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 Louise Stephens reported that the Town's nominated representative on Risca Primary School Governors board, Ffion Green, is interested in taking up the Town Council vacancy. The Clerk is to make enquires with Ffion as soon as possible via a remote virtual meeting

Cllr Mike Parker reported the good news that he had arranged an alternative location for the community defibrillator with staff at the Exchange Post Office. The Clerk added that the machine's battery and pads needed replacement at a cost of about £200. The Council agreed to pursue the replacement parts

The Council again raised the issue with the County Borough Ward Members to see if the road works barriers on Tredegar Street can be removed for the Christmas shopping period

Cllr Louise Stephens reported that the former Machen Round Table's Santa's Sleigh had been dedicated to another body. Cllr Stephens added that she is making enquiries with a sleigh supplier for Town's possible future use

The Council considered the updates on the financial application from the Risca Covid-19 Group. The Clerk reported that the Group had recently opened their

own dedicated bank account in Cardiff and had received a charity status. The Clerk also updated the Council on a discrepancy in the financial application and the fact that as the Group is only eight months old it would not have financial accounts for at least 12 months as per the Town's policy and criteria. However, the Council are strongly aware that due to the local work the Group are carrying out for the residents of Risca and the ongoing current health crisis, that making a donation as soon as practically possible was in the best interests of Risca Town and Risca East. The Council is conscious that it has a duty to ensure that its public money is spent wisely and that the amount to be donated is well over the set donation budget figure that may cause a query by Audit Wales for its external audit for 20/21. The Mayor is to write to the Chair of the Group to clarify the donation discrepancy and ensure that the funds are only used for the residents of Risca

The Clerk reported on the very recent receipt of a financial application from the Senior Citizens Hall Secretary for a further substantial donation. As not all the Councillors had an opportunity to read the application form with its details the Council agreed to consider this application at its December meeting

The Clerk reported on the recent request from Risca Royal British Legion for a donation towards its Armistice costs for this year. The Council agreed for the Clerk to transfer £500 to Risca RBL

754 Current Projects Summary

The Council noted that CCBC had agreed to relocate the recently removed eight street planters from Tredegar Street to be repositioned on the grassed area on Commercial Street at the Pontymister Roundabout. The Council will continue to liaise with the local Scouts and Guides Groups for assistance to tend to all the planters for next year

The Council agreed to allow a further £1000 in its project budget for the purchase of new Christmas festive lanterns for December

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	Near Pontymister Roundabout and in the		4000

	planters	Park		
	Christmas Festive Lanterns plus new Tree			5700
	Christmas Window Comp	3 x£100 prizes		300

755 Planning Applications

None. The amended application for the former Rolling Mill site was noted

756 Exclusion of press and public

None

The meeting closed at 7.50 pm

Signed:

Date:
