

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 14 December 2020

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

Clerk/Proper Officer: Robert Campbell

Chair/Mayor Tony Davies chaired the virtual meeting that commenced at 6.30 pm.

757 Apologies

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

758 Presentations

Risca Town resident Mrs Ffion Green was introduced to the Council as an applicant for the Member Vacancy for the Risca Pontymister Lower Ward. The vacancy has existed since May 2019. Ffion has been the Town Council's nominated representative on the Risca Primary School's board of governors since 2013 and she is the current Chair of that Board of Governors. The Council unanimously agreed to co-opt Ffion onto the Council as the Member to represent the Pontymister Lower Ward in time for its next Council meeting on Mon 11 January 2021. The clerk is to inform the Electoral Services Officer at Caerphilly county borough council of the agreed co-option

759 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Brian Davies declared an interest in the financial application from the Senior Citizens Hall as a family member of one of the Hall's Committee

760 Residents' addresses

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

761 Minutes of the previous Council meeting held on Mon 9 November 2020

Risca Town Council – Minutes of 14 December 2020. A copy in Welsh will be provided upon request.

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

762 Chair's and County Members' updates

The Chair confirmed that the Council had transferred £5000 from the Town's main account to the Risca C-19 Volunteers Group account. The Volunteers Group were assisting Risca residents who were in need during the current health crisis

763 Clerk's Report

763.1 Finance Report

The Clerk reported that he still had not received the 19/20 annual return for Audit Wales from their nominated external auditor and that the half year internal audit for this year had been completed by exchange of emails only. The monthly account summary to date was agreed as satisfactory by the Council. The Clerk reported that he was awaiting written confirmation from HSBC Bank to transfer the amount of £365 in the Chairperson's account (that we can no longer access) to the main HSBC account. The Clerk presented a budget report for 2021/2022 for the Council's consideration and decision. The budget included a slight increase in expected expenditure across a few headings to take into account prices inflation and an anticipated services increase on the Projects for next financial year. This showed an increase of the annual Band D household rate from this year's figure of £26.50 to £27.70. The Council agreed to the £1.20 rate increase for 2021/2022

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

The Clerk attended the virtual Town and Community Council Liaison Joint meeting with the CCBC Cllrs on Wed 18 November. CCBC reported that the Welsh Government 2021/2022 annual financial settlements for the 22 Principal Councils had been delayed due to the health crisis, until 18 December. Thus any services provision CCBC were unable to provide would not be known until late December/early January. CCBC offered two virtual meetings with the Town and Communities in the next week of December to discuss their possible budget for 21/22

763.3 Correspondence/financial assistance applications

Cllr Mike Parker confirmed the alternative location for the community defibrillator is with staff at the Exchange Post Office

The Clerk reported that CCBC had removed some of their road works barriers on Tredegar Street for the Christmas shopping period

The Council considered the recent receipt of a financial application from the Senior Citizens Hall Secretary for a further donation towards ongoing improvement works at the Hall. The Council agreed to support this application with a donation of £1500

The Clerk reported on an annual request from Llamau for childrens' Christmas presents and the Council agreed to support this charity with a donation of £100

764 Current Projects Summary

The Council were awaiting CCBC 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 agreed to purchase two new 4-tier planters for next summer and will continue to liaise with the local Scouts and Guides Groups for assistance, to tend to all the planters for next year

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	4143	4000
	Street and Park flower planters	Near Pontymister Roundabout and in the Park		4000
	Christmas Festive Lanterns plus new Tree			5700
	Christmas Window Comp	3 x £100 prizes – to be paid out of the Mayor's annual allowance		

765 Planning Applications

Case Refs. 20/0932, 20/0952, 20/0945 and 20/1000 at the location of the former Welsh Oak Inn were all noted. The Council wished to add its comment that the Welsh Oak building should remain unaltered due to its history with the Chartist Movement

766 Exclusion of press and public

None

The meeting closed at 8.10 pm

Signed:

Date:
