

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 June 2021

Present: Cllr Mike Parker, Cllr Tony Davies, Cllr Sally Davies, Cllr Louise Stephens, Cllr Joy Parsons, Cllr Brian Davies, Cllr Ffion Green and Cllr Hazel Dupre

Clerk/Proper Officer: Robert Campbell

Also in attendance were County Cllr Ross Whiting and Steve Veysey of Risca Royal British Legion

Chair/Mayor Mike Parker chaired the virtual meeting that commenced at 6.35 pm

817 Apologies

County Cllr Bob Owen and Police CSO Paige Greenhalgh

818 Presentations

Steve Veysey of Risca Royal British Legion updated the Council on the recent environmental works that the Legion, with its friends and residents, had carried out at the Pontymister Memorial Gardens. Steve added that two new benches were to be donated by the community for the gardens. The Chair thanked Steve for the excellent work that has been done at the memorial gardens

819 Declarations of Interest

None

820 Residents' addresses

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

821 Minutes of the Annual General Meeting plus the previous Council meeting both held on Mon 10 May 2021

The meeting acknowledged that both of the agreed minutes were signed as a true and correct record

The Clerk will arrange for the June 2021 meeting minutes to be exchanged by post for signature as soon as practically possible

822 Chair's and County Members' updates

County Cllr Ross Whiting reported the following updates:

- a/ that Caerphilly CBC were to carry out traffic flow surveys along Church Road (health crisis allowing) to provide data for further consideration of a possible one-way traffic order along the road
- b/ Caerphilly CBC were considering a licencing query at the Bowls Welfare ground
- c/ Caerphilly CBC had taken an enforcement action to stop dumping at the former Lylac Ridge site and are considering a new planning application for the site
- d/ Caerphilly CBC were prepared to fund one third of the cost of an electrical supply to be located into both memorial Gardens in the Town, costings for the work are to be pursued

823 Clerk's Report

823.1 Finance Report

The monthly account summary to date was agreed as satisfactory by the Council. The Clerk presented the 2020/2021 Audit Return papers that had recently been internally audited and read through the annual governance statement's nine points, to be recorded on the Return document for Audit Wales. The Council agreed the 2020/2021 Audit Return as satisfactory to submit to Audit Wales and the electorate. The Clerk reported that the funds of £365 in the former Chairperson's account at HSBC Bank had at last been transferred to the HSBC main account. The Clerk wished to record his thanks to Cllr Dupre for her hard work in preparing and finalising this erstwhile transaction

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

The Clerk and Cllr Mike Parker are to attend the Caerphilly TCCLC virtual meeting on Wednesday 16 June and then he and Cllr Tony Davies are due to attend the TCCLC Joint meeting with Caerphilly CBC Cllrs on Wednesday 21 July. The Clerk and Cllr Sally Davies are due to attend the One Voice Wales virtual Area Committee meeting on Wed 7 July. OVW had reported that town and community councils could consider holding their meetings in person indoors, if a building's risk assessment be provided to Welsh Government ensuring all the current Covid-19 regulations are followed. The Council will review this possibility in early September in time for its 20 September meeting.

The Council is aware that Welsh Government had agreed for future council meetings, as long as the health crisis relaxations allow, could be in a hybrid format with in-person and video attendees, if the technology is available for councils

823.3 Correspondence/financial assistance applications

1/ The Council were pleased to hear that Caerphilly County Borough Council were prepared to fund one third of the cost of an electrical supply at both memorial Gardens in the Town. It was unclear if they would include the additional requested cost for a new flag pole at the Darren gardens. The Clerk confirmed that Risca East CC had already indicated they were willing to contribute a share. The Council asked the County Borough Member present for a more detailed cost estimate from CCBC

2/ The Council considered an initial emailed request for financial assistance from Polinate at 44 Commercial Street. Unfortunately, the Council considered this to be from a local business and thus they were unable to commit public funds for commercial use. The Clerk is to write to Polinate to advise them that the Council is unable to assist on this occasion

3/ The Clerk raised a suggestion for the Council to consider if it wished to enter the Town into the 2022 'Wales in Bloom' competition now that the newly added summer flower planters were in situ in the Town, alongside its summer baskets display for 2021. The Clerk advised that the application fee is approximately £125 to £165. The Council agreed to give the suggestion further consideration at its July meeting

824 Current Projects Summary

The Council's summer baskets and flower planters in the Town are now in place in the Town

Project No.	Project Name	Description & Comments	Amount Paid	Amount Pledged
	Street and Park flower planters	Are now in place near Pontymister Roundabout and in the Park	1782 1360	4000
	Summer flower baskets	Are now in place along Tredegar St and Commercial St		4400
	Replacement power supply sockets on lighting columns	As part of CCBC's new Town Wifi project		??

825 Planning Applications

None

826 Exclusion of press and public

One exempt item was discussed on tenders to be considered for the Town Council's 2022 major projects of summer baskets/planters and festive lighting

The meeting closed at 8.20 pm

Signed:

Date:
