

In line with the Welsh Government's 'Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021' requirement for all 735 Town and Community Councils in Wales to electronically publish the key information and the outcome of their Council meetings within 7 days of the meeting, Risca Town Council hereby publish an unnumbered and unsigned summary of the:

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 10 Jan 2022

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

Clerk/Proper Officer: Robert Campbell

Also in attendance - Risca Royal British Legion representative Steve Veysey and County Cllr Bob Owen

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

A/ Apologies

Cllr Ffion Green and County Cllr Ross Whiting

B/ Presentations

Moriah Church Pastor, Marc Owen addressed the Council to provide an update on the Tredegar Park toilet block. Pastor Owen reported that the toilet block was open to the public for most of 2021 for six days of the week (when allowed by the Govt) except for the Christmas holiday week. He added there had been some vandalism at the block that had been attended to and he was grateful to the Town Council and East Community Council for their continued financial support. He will provide an updated report in May 2022 to include the toilet block's forecasted finances for the 2022/2023 financial year.

Steve Veysey of Risca RBL asked if the Council and the Town Clerk would apply to CCBC for an Armistice/Remembrance parade through the Town in 2022. The Clerk agreed that he would take this role on, providing CCBC again provide the necessary road closures and the public indemnity insurance associated with a parade. Steve also reported that the Risca RBL Branch intended to celebrate the 40 years anniversary of the end of the Falklands War on 14th of July 2022

C/ Declarations of Interest

Cllr Mike Parker declared an interest in a financial assistance from the local nursery group 'Risca Tots'

D/ Residents' addresses

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

E/ Minutes of the previous Council meeting held on Mon 13 Dec 2021

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

F/ Decisions made

F1 Finance Report

The Clerk reported his monthly account summary to date and the Council agreed the report as satisfactory. The Clerk reported that he had still not received any news on the 2020/2021 Audit Return from Audit Wales. The Clerk reported that he had presented the Town Council's agreed no growth budget for 2022/2023 at its December 2021 meeting to Caerphilly county borough council. CCBC had stated that the Band D council tax rate will be set at £27.79 for the financial year. The Clerk will update the Council's 3-year business plan accordingly

F2 Correspondence/financial assistance applications

1/ The Council noted that the Clerk was still in discussion with Caerphilly CBC to provide a detailed cost estimate of an electrical supply to be located into both memorial gardens in the Town and the additional request from Risca RBL for a water supply at Pontymister Gardens

2/ The Clerk is still to arrange for a new defibrillator and outside housing box for the local Fusion Dance Group

3/ The Clerk had investigated costs for the damaged notice board at the local Well Chemist and the main notice board in the Park. The Clerk is to continue to investigate replacements for both notice boards

4/ The Council agreed for Cllr S Davies, J Parsons and L Stephens to make up a Festive Project sub-group for 2022

5/ The Clerk is to check with CCBC if bus drivers were still allowed to use the disabled toilet in the Park

6/ The Clerk confirmed that he had sent out the financial assistance forms to the 'Risca Tots' group

G/ Current Projects Summary

The Council discussed the recent Festive Lanterns and Christmas Trees project and suggested that a Council sub-group ought to consider the project for 2022. The Clerk is to undertake a tender process for its projects for 2022 as soon as practically possible

H/ Planning Applications

The Council were mindful of the ongoing discussions between the two County Council Ward Members and Caerphilly CBC Planning Department over the plans for the Rolling Mill site and the new Travellers' site at Lylac Ridge. Also, the Council wished to note that it was satisfied with the outline planning application for the former Ty Darren site and the very limited information provided to date

The meeting closed at 7.30 pm

The full Minutes when agreed and signed will also be made available on the Council's website as soon as practically possible
