

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting of Risca Town Council

The meeting was held as a ‘hybrid meeting’, thus it was open as an in-person, indoors meeting at the Bethany Church Hall and available on request as a remote virtual meeting on Monday 12 Dec 2022

Present: Cllr Sally Davies, Cllr Mike Parker, Cllr Tony Davies, Cllr Clare Evans-Powell, Cllr Louise Stephens, Cllr Ffion Green and Cllr Joy Parsons
Clerk/Proper Officer: Robert Campbell

The Clerk reported that he had received no requests to join in virtually.

Chair/Mayor Cllr Sally Davies chaired the meeting that commenced at 6.30 pm
The Council observed a minute’s silence in memory of the recent passing of Town Cllr Brian Davies

977 Apologies

Police Officers Oliver Petty and Louise Jenkins and County Cllrs Bob Owen and Ceri Wright

978 Presentations

None

979 Declarations of Interest

None

980 Residents’ addresses

None

981 Minutes of the previous Council meeting held on Mon 14 Nov 2022

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

982 Mayor’s and County Cllrs updates

The Mayor, Cllr Sally Davies, thanked Cllrs Tony Davies and Joy Parsons for attending the recent funeral service for Town Cllr Brian Davies. The Mayor also presented her choice of a Mayor’s chain and pendant for the Town Council. County Cllr Ceri Wright had submitted an emailed report on her recent Ward activities to the Clerk

983 Clerk’s Report

983.1 Finance Report

The Clerk's monthly account summary to date was agreed as satisfactory by the Council. The Clerk asked the Council to consider his previously presented budget proposal for 2023/2024. He asked them to decide upon that budget and precept for the next financial year, in order for him to present it to Caerphilly county borough council in January 2023. The Town Council are fully aware of the financial demands on households in 2022 with a current interest rate of over 10%, high energy bills and the rising cost of living that is likely to continue into 2023. The Council is aware that it decided upon a **Nil** council tax increase last year and that its planned running costs and Projects for the Town for next financial year will be higher than the last 2 years. Taking all these factors into consideration the Council decided on a compromise rate increase of 5%. This means the annual rate for Band D properties, that was set in Dec 2021 at £27.70 per year, will raise by £1.30 per year to approximately £29 per Band D household for 2023/2024

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

The next meeting of the One Voice Wales Area Committee is scheduled for Wed 11 Jan 2023. The dates for the 2023 Town and Community Councils Liaison Committee are to be presented by the CCBC Liaison Officer very soon

983.3 Correspondence

- 1/ The Clerk was pleased to report that Audit Wales had very recently returned the 2020/21 Town Council's Audit papers that were successfully passed. He added that he had received no news from Audit Wales on the 2021/2022 Audit
- 2/ The Council are still waiting for Risca Foodbank to provide details of their financial accounts and those of the Trussell Trust charity to assist them in deciding on their financial assistance application
- 3/ The Council agreed for the Air Ambulance Wales to receive a donation of £250

984 Current Projects Summary

The Clerk reported that he will make donations to those Risca groups who attended and supported the Remembrance Service held last month. The Council are aware that its inherited festive lanterns from Caerphilly county borough council are about 15 years old and will consider purchasing new lanterns early in 2023. Following the success of the Town's Queen's Jubilee summer fair last June, the Council will give consideration in January 2023 for another Town Summer Fair in either May or June next year

Project No.	Project Name	Description & Comments	Amount Paid	Amount Pledged

	1/ A new flagpole at Darren Gardens	New flagpole estimated at £900 from Town Council – Jointly funded with Risca East CC		
	2/ Water supply at Pontymister Gardens	Risca Town’s contribution to Risca RBL for a new water supply from Dwr Cymru/Welsh Water	1500	
	Remembrance services and parade	JOINT with Risca East CC		2000
	Festive Lanterns and Tree			5000
	Festive Windows prizes			300

985 Planning Application

Case Ref. 22/0957 was noted

986 Exclusion of press and public

None

The meeting closed at 7.30 pm

Signed:

Date: