

**Minutes of the Meeting of  
Risca Town Council  
held on Tuesday 11th February 2014, 7.00pm at  
Bethany Baptist Church, Tredegar Street, Risca**

**Present:**

Cllr Anthony Davies, Cllr Hazel Dupre (Mayor), Cllr Brian Hancock, Cllr Michael Parker (Vice Mayor), Cllr Joy Parsons, Cllr Louise Stephens & Cllr Stephen Tom

**In Attendance:** CCBC Officer Mr John Thomas, Police Inspector Mr Ian Muirhead and local residents Ms Susan Werner & Mr Paul Brereton.

**RFO/Proper Officer:** Ms C Mortimer

The Mayor, Cllr Hazel Dupre, welcomed CCBC Officer Mr John Thomas, Police Inspector Mr Ian Muirhead and local residents Ms Susan Werner & Mr Paul Brereton to the meeting.

**179 Flood Prevention – Caerphilly County Borough Council’s Officer,  
Mr John Thomas**

In summary, Mr John Thomas stated that the existing flood defenses that were put into place in the 1980’s were showing signs of deterioration. Natural Resources Wales has placed Risca in the top 10 priority listing in South East Wales to be addressed. The flood alleviation scheme is likely to take a 2 phase approach. The first phase will include repair work to existing river walls, reinforcing current embankments and earth bunds created at the weakest points, which are by the cricket pitch and Fire Service, so that water can escape into reservoirs.

The NRW has to explore all avenues and the 2<sup>nd</sup> phase, which is being investigated, is the removal of the listed Pontymister Bridge, known locally as Stoney Bridge, which is another pinch point in the river. This is likely to be more problematic due to it being an emotive subject with local people and also it being Cadw protected.

Members spoke about canal sluices and whether water from the mountain and canal had been taken into consideration. Also concerns were raised in relation to the cleaning of the drains not being undertaken.

To reassure people, an emergency planning process needs to be in place in the event of a flood happening.

Phase 1 works have to be completed by March 2015 and under current Welsh policy, Arup has to prove that the likelihood of flooding increases to a 1:1000 year event.

(Cont'd – Flood Prevention)

Mr John Thomas added that a consultation exercise is taking place alongside the Risca & Pontymister Town Centre Action Plan 2014 – 2019 on 4<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> March at Risca Palace Library. The NRW will be present on the 4<sup>th</sup> March to answer any further concerns that people may have.

*The Mayor, Cllr Hazel Dupre, thanked Mr John Thomas for his update.*

*Mr John Thomas subsequently left the meeting*

## **180 Police – Inspector Muirhead**

Inspector Mr Ian Muirhead apologized for not being able to provide a report but it was due to the recent change over in computer systems. However in summary he reported the following:

There was a rise in shoplifting due to the Christmas period and an increase in assaults o/s The Rolling Mill which is under new management. The Police are looking at personal licenses to ensure that public houses have suitable and responsible people in post.

There had also been an increase in domestic abuse.

Risca Town Council and CCBC were concerned about the fair that was coming to the town, to the rear of Alpha-Vets. The Police were powerless to do anything about it unless of course there were any public disorders. The Town Council and CCBC were unable to stop the fair from going ahead as it was being sited on private ground. Cllr Dave Rees had contacted the landowner, but agreements had already been signed and therefore it was going ahead.

Cllr Stephen Tom who had previously written to the Inspector was still awaiting a reply in relation to speeding traffic on the southbound side of Commercial Street. The Inspector suggested that the Town Council make enquiries with CCBC in relation to traffic calming measures, as the Police did not have the resources.

The Clerk stated that she would obtain a quote for the next meeting, for supply and installing a vehicle-activated sign that could be rotated around a few areas in Risca.

The Police were undertaking a blitz on illegal parking in the town. The Field Hospital homecoming was going to be policed but any other events taking place on the day would not be policed.

*The Mayor, Cllr Hazel Dupre, thanked Inspector Ian Muirhead for his update.*

*Inspector Ian Muirhead subsequently left the meeting.*

### **181 Apologies**

Apologies were received from Cllr Sally Davies due to other commitments, Cllr Phyllis Griffiths & Cllr Dave Rees due to CCBC business.

### **182 Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest

### **183 Mayors' Announcement**

Cllr Hazel Dupre announced the following:

- Risca Town Council had met with Risca East Community Council to discuss joint projects
- The Caring for Carers sub group will be visiting possible venues on Wednesday afternoon. Cllr Louise Stephens who is steering the group, will provide further information under "Projects"
- Cllr Hazel Dupre has been invited to join CCBC's Mayor & Mayoress, Cllr Michael Gray and Mrs Gray, to judge the St David's Day best dressed shop windows.
- The Mayor would like to purchase a small inexpensive badge with out logo, on a ribbon, out of the Mayors fund, to be worn at Civic events etc, to show that Risca Town Council representation.
- The British Legion Bikers have asked to participate in the St David's Day homecoming and medal ceremony of the 2013 (Welsh) Field Hospital. The Clerk advised that they speak directly with CCBC, as they are the organizers, and the Town Councillors are merely guests at the event.
- **Our congratulations go to Risca Primary School for:**
  - (1) Coming 2<sup>nd</sup> in Gwent in the School Banding, and 44<sup>th</sup> in Wales out of 1350 schools.
  - (2) Receiving their 3<sup>rd</sup> Eco-School green flag from Keep Wales Tidy after showing a commitment to improving the sustainability of the school and surrounding community
  - (3) Nursery pupil Cagla Kayo who won a national prize for her healthy lunchbox design and was rewarded with a trip to 10 Downing Street.

**184 Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 14/01/2014 were confirmed and signed as a correct record.

**185 Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising

**186 Current Financial Situation**

Details of the current financial situation of the council as at 1/02/2014 were received, confirmed and signed as a correct record.

**187 Financial Assistance**

There were no applications received

**188 CCBC Employment Sites Supply And Market Appraisal**

The following sites were noted:

Bird's site, Ty Darren Nursing Home, Entrance on the other side of the river near Tesco (Birds site), the old Grammar School Gymnasium, Risca Urban District Council building. Andrew Highway would be able to provide a list of vacant shops in the town and Mr Colin Jones a comprehensive list of CCBC owned vacant buildings.

**189 Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) – Publication Scheme**

Correspondence received from ICO (letter dated April 2008) and the Town Council's commitment in making information readily available to the public was discussed.

It was RESOLVED to adopt the Publication Scheme schedule, which informs the public the type of information that is available and any fees charged for that information.

The publication scheme letter and schedule will feature on the Town Council's website.

**190 Minor Authority Governor at Ty Isaf Infants School – Vacancy exists**

Unfortunately Cllr Sally Davies has reluctantly stepped down as minor authority representative on the board of governors at Ty Isaf Infants school due to the meeting times conflicting with her work, hence a vacancy existing.

Nominations were received from members to fill the new vacancy.

It was RESOLVED that Cllr Mike Parker be minor authority representative on the board of governors at Ty Isaf Infants school.

**191 Logo Competition**

Our 3-primary/infant schools were invited to design a logo for the town council. Cllr Hazel Dupre has collected entries from Risca Primary School and Ty Isaf Infants School. Ysgol Cwm Gwyddon had decided not to take part. Members provisionally agreed to judge the entries on 18<sup>th</sup> February 2014 at Risca Library Training Room at 6.30pm

## 192 Project Summary

- **School Poppy Planting Project:** Members discussed a schools poppy-planting project to commemorate the Great War and inviting Risca East Community Council to participate too, so it becomes a joint project. Planting will take place the last week of June. The Clerk will confirm further details & times closer to the date.  
It was RESOLVED that the poppy project takes place as a joint project with Risca East Community Council.
- **Pantomime**  
It was confirmed and noted that the date of our Christmas pantomime is: **14<sup>th</sup> December 2014 2.30pm & 5.30pm**
- **Wild flower planting**  
Members provided the following areas for wild flower planting:
  1. R/about into Risca
  2. Tanybryn verges
  3. Between Risca Builders and Oxford House
  4. In the park to the side of the Police station
  5. Triangle of grass by St Mary's Church
  6. Grass Verge in front of Rowecord
  7. Ty Isaf parking circle
- **Caring for Carers**  
Cllr Louise Stephens briefly updated the Members stating that several meetings had taken place including a visit to a Dementia Café in Bargoed. Suitable venues were being explored which included a trip to the Brooklands Day Centre. It was estimated that a sum of £400 would be required from the Town Council and Risca East Community Council to cover rental costs for the first 6 months and for teas, coffees refreshments etc.  
It was RESOLVED that £400 be funded towards the joint project
- **Firework Display**  
The Clerk presented her report to the Members, which they duly discussed. Due to the costs for a 30 minute event and in the current economic climate and the Town Council's intentions to undertake more worthwhile and sustainable projects,  
It was RESOLVED that the firework project would not be taken forward.

## Project Summary

Project No.	Project Name	Description & Comments	Date	Amount Pledged
12	Christmas Tree	To fund in partnership with Risca East Community Council	2013/14	500
11	Herbaceous Borders & Planters	To obtain costs and seek support from local businesses & CCBC	2013/14	
10	Young Citizens Community Awards	To recognise & reward youths that undertake good deeds within the community	2013/14	
9	Sports/Healthy Living Day in Summer 2014	Clerk to obtain costs etc and to source funding to stage an event for local school children	2013/14	
7	Bands in the Park 2013 Tredegar Park	Booked for 7th July 2013 Additional spend for banner	2013/14	331 36
6	External Notice Board	Board & site agreed £1479 (board) + £365 (header) + £150 (Installation cost £150) Ward members agreed Area Forum	2013/14	0
5	Internal Notice Board	To be fitted into Library Supply & fit	2013/14	145
4	Spring Bulb & Daffodil Planting	Met with CCBC's Area Supervisor Awaiting Quote	2013/14	376
3	Pantomime in partnership with East CC	Cross Keys College hall hire  Stage hire 2 performances Sunday 15th December 2013 2.30pm & 5.30pm Tickets, beverages, gifts etc	2013/14	477  60 545  545 1000
2	Website	Work in progress £500 from WG to fund	2013/14	0
1	Newsletter	Cllrs contact details & photos Historical account, Fusion Dance Projects (estimate/budgeted)	2013/14	600

**193 St David's Day Celebrations & Parade – Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> March**

Members confirmed attendance. Cllr Joy Parsons gave her apologies, as she would be attending a family wedding.

**194 Christmas Figurines**

A quote was presented however it was agreed that this item be deferred to a future meeting.

**195 County Member Update**

Both County Members were absent due to County Council business.

**196 Planning Applications**

Members made the following comments in relation to recent planning applications:

**•14/0062/TPO - objection to felling Ash 1 on the grounds of no reports received from tree surgeon.**

**•14/0001/RET - objections on the grounds of (1) retrospective planning (2) Section 7 - no environmental control in relation to oil, antifreeze etc (3) No evidence of waste control license (4) Insufficient parking for customers and staff which has resulted in cars being parked along the lane, which in turn poses a health and safety risk as in access issues for emergency services.**

The Clerk will also request that CCBC Officers provide Risca Town Council with more detailed reports on the above applications

The Clerk will also insist that more information is detailed in the proposal section of the application listing in the first instance, to enable Members to make more informed decisions/comments.

There were no objections to the following:

- 14/0020/COU
- 14/0039/FULL

**The meeting was closed at 9.10pm**

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Chairman