

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

Present:

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

In Attendance: Caerphilly County Borough Council's Mayor & Mayoress,
Cllr Michael Gray and Mrs Ruth Gray.

RFO/Proper Officer: Ms Ceri Mortimer

197 Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr D Rees & Cllr P Griffiths

198 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest

199 Mayors's Announcement

The Mayor, Cllr Hazel Dupre, announced the following:

'Since the last Town Council meeting, we have again met Councillors from Risca East CC. Future joint events were discussed and a reports of the sub-committees arranging the Band Concert, the Carers' Cafe and the inaugural 4 Risca 4 Run were given. From a standing start to arranging our 3rd 4th and 5th joint venture in just a year is evidence enough of our commitment to co operate on joint community events.

I was pleased to join the Mayor and Mayoress Cllr and Mrs Michael Gray in judging the best decorated shop window in Risca as part of the St. David's Day Celebrations. Almost all shops and premises in the main town area joined in and the job of choosing was quite difficult. Eventually, 'Thoughts' stationer and card shop was chosen as the winner with 5 others highly commended. Perhaps a certificate could be awarded in any future competition.

Also thanks to all who were able to attend the St. David's Day event. The Daffodils and leeks were well-received and helped to make sure our national day was celebrated as well as our warm 'welcome home' to the 203 (Welsh) Field Hospital.

Now that we have our logo, I will investigate the badge of office before the next meeting'.

- During the Mayors Announcement and prior to CCBC's Mayor & Mayoress' arrival, Members resolved to contribute £200 towards the Mayors Charity Appeal in support of their chosen charities LATCH & the Alzheimer's Society.

CCBC's Mayor & Mayoress, Cllr Michael Gray and Mrs Ruth Gray arrived at the meeting.

The Mayor, Cllr Hazel Dupre extended a warm welcome to the Mayor and Mayoress of Caerphilly County Borough, Cllr Michael and Mrs Ruth Gray. Cllr Dupre invited our guests to speak

200 Caerphilly County Borough Council's Mayor & Mayoress, Cllr Michael Gray and Mrs Ruth Gray

Cllr Gray thanked the Members for the kind invitation to the Town Council meeting and for the good work that is undertaken by newly formed Risca Town Council.

He spoke about one of his charities, the Alzheimer's Society, explaining that some dear friends, some who had had professional careers had sadly succumbed to Dementia. And most families know someone who has suffered from this terrible disease. The hope is, by supporting this charity, a cure will be found one day.

Mrs Gray spoke about the other charity that the Mayor & Mayoress are supporting, LATCH, an acronym of Llandough Aims to Treat Children with Cancer and Leukemia with Hope.

Thirty years ago, a local child from Crosskeys was diagnosed with leukemia at 8 years of age, and very sadly passed away. To support other families that were faced with similar circumstances, her mother along with other families formed LATCH in 1982. They tirelessly raised much funding not only to cover medical support but also to support social and welfare concerns and ease the emotional and financial burden on families with a child receiving treatment.

Often families have to travel considerable distances to access vital treatment and resources. In the early days facilities were very basic at the Oncology Department at Llandough Hospital but through ongoing support and fundraising, the paediatrics oncology unit was relocated to the new children's hospital for Wales, where they have state of the art facilities for children and comfortable accommodation for families.

Cllr Hazel Dupre presented a cheque to the Mayor & Mayoress, on behalf of the Town Council, to help with their charity appeal.

To date the Mayor's Charity Appeal has raised approximately £5,000.

The Mayor & Mayoress invited the Members to join them in an 'Evening with Roy Noble' with Aber Valley Male Voice Choir and Seren performing, at the Central Methodist Church, Blackwood, on Thursday 10th April 2014 at 7.00pm. All proceeds going to the Alzheimer's Society and LATCH.

The Mayor and Mayoress thanked Risca Town Council for inviting them to their meeting and for their generous contribution and good works throughout the community, and subsequently left the meeting

201 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 11/02/2014 were confirmed and signed as a correct record.

202 Matters Arising

In relation to minute no.190 Cllr Brian Hancock was nominated and resolved as representative on the board of governors at Ysgol Cwm Gwyddon.

203 Current Financial Situation

Details of the current financial situation of the council as at 11/03/2014 were received, confirmed and signed as a correct record.

204 Financial Assistance

- Maple Ave Allotment Association – an application for financial assistance had been received however as the majority of the allotment members resided in Risca East and that the allotments were also sited within the Risca East Community Council, it was resolved that no financial assistance be granted.
The Clerk has already forwarded their application form to the Chairman of Risca East, Cllr Nigel George.
- Llanhillaeth Camera Club - Members resolved to contribute £100 for website photos of members and area photos of Risca
- Mayors Charity Appeal – Charities are LATCH and Alzheimer's Society
Members had previously resolved to grant funding the sum of £200, prior to the Mayor & Mayoress' arrival (minute no.199)

205 Logo Competition

Members have chosen the winning logo.

Discussions took place on the final design and in relation to certificates, and stationery. Quotes had been received and agreed in relation to letter headed paper and compliment slips. Changes were also agreed in relation to the address and the bilingual heading.

206 Risca & Pontymister Town Centre Action Plan 2014 – 2019

Prior to the meeting, the Clerk had received a telephone call from Cllr Dave Rees, requesting that the members defer this item for a future meeting in order to discuss thoroughly.

Members agreed that the Clerk arrange a special meeting at the library training room on Tuesday 18th March at 6.00pm, for the plan to be discussed in detail.

207 Project Summary

Vehicle Activated Signs

Members submitted the following fast roads as potential sites for installing a vehicle activated sign:

- Bottom end of Commercial Road
- New Park Road, from the college
- By Risca train station near Britannia Close
- Maryland Road
- Medart Place
- Newport Road, between the R/A and the junction to Field Road

Members resolved to fund a vehicle activated sign at a cost of £3500-£4000 (including installation) and rotated throughout the above sites. However, CCBC would need to conduct a speed survey in the first instance to ascertain as to whether installing a VAS was justified.

Bands in the Park 2014 – Due to its success last year, Members agreed to fund this event again at Tredegar Park at a cost of £331

Christmas Figurines - Quotes were received for the supply, installation and storage of 2 Christmas figurines. Members agreed to the costs and resolved to purchase 2 figurines to be installed the lower end of Pontymister.

Project No.	Project Name	Description & Comments	Date	Amount Pledged
15	Wild Flower Planting	Areas have been received and submitted for costings	2013/14	
14	School Poppy Planting Joint Project with East	Each child to plant a poppy to commemorate the Great War	2013/14 £550	225
13	Caring for Carers Café Joint Project with East	Café for Carers - every Wed 1 - 4pm at Old Bungalow, Brookland Road	2013/14	400
12	Christmas Tree (East been invoiced £387)	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	
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 (Installation cost £150)	Board & site agreed £1479 (board) + £365 (header) + £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	Members & children participated in planting in the park	2013/14	376
3	Pantomime in partnership with East CC (East been invoiced £1030)	Cross Keys College hall hire Stage hire 2 performances Sunday 15th December 2013 2.30pm & 5.30pm Tickets, gifts & raffle income etc	2013/14	477 60 545 1000
2	Website	Examples received £500 from WG to fund	2013/14	0
1	Newsletter Joint Project with East	In progress	2013/14	600

208 County Member Update

County Members were absent but the Clerk relayed the following information in their absence:

- Neither Ward nor Town Council Members received any communication from the Police in relation to explosives in Risca, which was very disappointing. Communication in general on the day was appalling which resulted in the local butcher and local Town Council Member, Cllr Sally Davies, having to direct traffic away from the town.

It was suggested that Inspector Muirhead be invited to a future meeting to discuss the breakdown and lack of engagement. Local press had received information before the Members. An email from the Police to the press was received.

- There had been a spate of burglaries lately on Cromwell Road.
- Various agencies are working on the on going issues down Commercial Lane.

209 Planning Applications

There were **no objections** to planning application

- 14/0039/FULL

However there **were objections** to planning application

- 14/0096/OUT - on the grounds of highway, the road being too narrow with a blind bend

The meeting was closed at 9.15pm

Signed: _____ Chairman