

**Minutes of the Meeting of
Risca Town Council
held on Tuesday 14th January 2014, 6.30pm 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

County Councillors: Cllr Phyllis Griffiths & Cllr Dave Rees

In Attendance: Local residents Ms Susan Werner & Mr. Paul Brereton.

RFO/Proper Officer: Ms C Mortimer

The Mayor, Cllr Hazel Dupre, welcomed Ms Susan Werner & Mr. Paul Brereton, to the meeting.

166 Apologies

There were no absences

The Members had a short recess to have their photographs taken for our website

167 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Louise Stephen declared an interest in min no.178

Cllr Dave Rees declared an interest in min no.178

168 Mayors's Announcement

Cllr Hazel Dupre wished everyone a happy new year and thanked the Clerk and Members for helping out at the pantomime, which had been a great success. She also thanked Cllr Brian Hancock, the Clerk and Cllr Nigel George from East for distributing the remaining selection boxes to the food banks at the Salvation Army, local Churches, Brookland Resource Centre, Twyn Carn Day Centre and Barnardos.

Cont'd Mayor's Announcement

Cllr Hazel Dupre attended:

- Meeting at Ty Penallta whereby the Crime Commissioner gave an informative presentation.
- Risca Food bank based at the Salvation Army, which is a highly organized project where people in need can exchange vouchers for a selection of food to provide meals for 2/.3 days. However there is a limit of 3 vouchers per family. Access to other professional services and advice is also available to people.
- Risca Primary School Council whereby the Mayor spoke about similarities and differences between School and Community Councils. Children are given a sum of money and have to decide on projects and budget their finances accordingly.
- Ty Isaf Infant School Council. The children discussed projects and how they consult with children throughout the school for new initiatives.

- Risca Town has been approached by Risca West Community Council to undertake a joint event to commemorate the Great War. This can be discussed at our next joint meeting.

169 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 10/12/2013 were confirmed and signed as a correct record.

170 Matters Arising

In relation to Minute No.154 Cllr Hazel Dupre insisted that she had not said that she would be conducting weekly surgeries but was certainly interested in being more proactive and possibly holding surgeries.

Cllr Dave Rees explained that he and Cllr Phyllis Griffiths drop off 200 leaflets at local peoples homes on a Sunday. People have the option to display the leaflet in the window indicating that thy wish to speak with their local ward member. From experience this was a more effective way of speaking with the public and also in reaching some of the most vulnerable in our society. Cllr Dave Rees suggested that Town Councillors maybe want to consider accompanying the Ward Members.

It was noted that Pact meetings are not working as well as they should. It was felt that this was due to the lack of qualified Police Officers attendance. The Crime Commissioner is looking to make them more engaging and meaningful.

Cont'd Matters Arising

In relation to Minute No. 164 Cllr Stephen Tom indicated that he had not received a response from the Inspector in relation to traffic calming measures at the bottom of Pontymister. The Clerk requested Cllr Tom forward the report/email to herself and she in turn would write to the Commissioner.

171 Current Financial Situation

Details of the current financial situation of the council as at 08/01/2014

172 Financial Assistance

There were no applications received

173 Precept for 2014/2015

The Clerks report was received and discussed

The council tax base for Risca Town Council, calculated by Caerphilly County Borough Council is 1,771.71 per Band D equivalent dwellings.

Due to the current economic climate it was resolved that the precept remain the same at £15.00 per Band D equivalent dwellings. Thus giving the Town Council a total precept of £26,576 to spend on worthwhile projects.

174 Internal Auditor for Accounts Year Ended 31st March 2014

The Clerks report was received and discussed.

It was resolved that Mr Mike Fisher, a CIPFA qualified Accountant, be appointed as Internal Auditor.

175 Website

Photographs had previously been taken for the website.

Historical page – Dr Osbourne has been approached and would be delighted to write the historical page for the site

Logo Competition – an email has gone to our 3-primary/infant schools requesting their assistance in designing a logo.

Closing date: 3rd February 2014.

Members will agree on a convenient date for judging at our next meeting.

176 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 |

177 County Member Update

- County Member to give a brief verbal update

Cllr Dave Rees stated that the winter fayre had been very successful despite atrocious weather and had thanked the volunteers for their hard work.

The tree that the Town Council and Risca East had jointly funded looked amazing lit up.

This years winter event will take place earlier than last year, on the 6th December 2014.

This summer's fayre will be country & western themed event on Saturday 12th July 2014.

Park Road – pavement is going to be resurfaced

Danygraig Road – the road is going to be resurfaced

Dr Wades site – continues to be an eyesore. Cllr Rees has approached CCBC's Chief Executive and Pauline Elliott regarding a compulsory purchase order of the site for the building of much needed housing.

Cllr Dave Rees also spoke about a drug awareness film that he has been working on with Blaenau Gwent Council, children, the Police, CCBC and other bodies. They have produced a hard-hitting film, which will be shown to youths at school, aged 14+, throughout the borough. The learning pack consists of a DVD and topics for discussion following the film. The purpose is to engage and educate our youths, to warn them. They in turn will hopefully be better equipped and informed in making the right choices.

Cllr Louise Stephens & Cllr Dave Rees declared an interest in the next item and subsequently left the meeting

178 Planning Applications

There were no objections to planning applications

- 14/0018/COU
- 13/0861/FULL (Cllr B Hancock abstained from voting)

The meeting was closed at 8.45pm

Signed: _____ Chairman