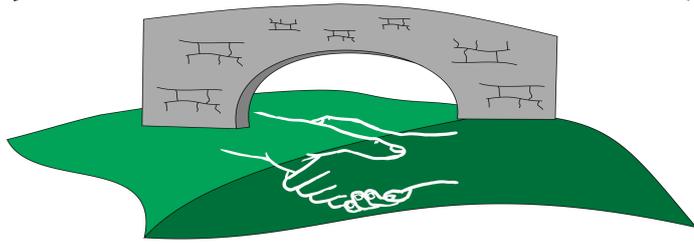


Risca East Community Council



...working with you

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Minutes of the meeting of Risca East Community Council held on 16th March 2017.

472. To sign the register and to receive apologies.

472.1. Community Councillors present: Arianna Leonard, John Blackburn, Rob Derraven, Cliff Edwards, Matthew Farrell, Mary Coles and Nigel George

472.2. Apologies were received from Shirley Hobbs.

473. To receive a report from the Police.

473.1. No Police officer was present.

474. To welcome Mr John Venn from the Risca Industrial History Society.

Mr Venn started by telling the meeting that the current building was acquired by Caerphilly County Borough Council 22 years ago. Members of the history society run the Museum on a voluntary basis. Caerphilly County Borough Council decided about 2 years ago to dispose of the building. Eventually, the Newport Model Railway Group agreed to take over responsibility for the building and the Borough Council agreed in November 2016. Mr Venn said that the report presented to the Council meeting did not include the fact that the Industrial History Society was using the building. The Railway Group were given permission by Caerphilly County Borough Council to move in to the building before Christmas 2016. The group notified the Industrial History Society that they were expecting 50% contribution toward the running costs of the building. The museum was given notice to quit the building. The museum engaged a solicitor and the notice to quit has been subsequently withdrawn. Mr Venn has lodged an official complaint about the process of the disposal of the building. There has been a complete lack of consultation about the process. No Risca Councillors were present at the Caerphilly County Borough Council meeting in November. A "Friends of Risca Museum" group is being considered which encourage people to join for a cost of about £50.

Cllr John Blackburn asked if Caerphilly County Borough Council had notified the Railway Society that the building is a Grade 2 listed building? Mr Venn did not know whether they had been notified. He said that external work has commenced on the roof.

Cllr Matthew Farrell if the History Society had considered other buildings. Mr Venn said that they had not considered alternative venues. He added that the rent they could afford would be in the region of £1,000 per year. The Railway Society wants a lot more! The Museum was seeking a 5 year lease at a reasonable costs.

Mr Venn was asking the Community Council to write a letter of support to Caerphilly County Borough Council expressing its concerns about the whole process of the disposal of the building.

The Chair thanked Mr Venn for attending the meeting. After Mr Venn had left the meeting, Cllr

Nigel George suggested that the letter also include a request that the Borough Council does everything possible to ensure that the Museum can remain in the building.

475. The minutes of the previous meeting held on 16th February 2017 were **agreed**.

476. Matters Arising

476.1. Minute 466.1 – The Clerk informed the meeting that he had spoken to the resident of Elm Drive who had confirmed that she did not want the “No Ball Game” sign to be placed on her property. Cllr Matthew Farrell said that he had spoken to some of the shop owners. It seemed that the shops were leased and if this was the case, then the owner of the land would have to give permission for any signs to be erected.

476.2. Minute 469.2 – Cllr Nigel George suggested that the Clerk contact Mr. Rhodri Lloyd of Caerphilly County Borough Council regarding the Community Council’s contribution toward the cost of the Skate Board Park.

477. To receive the Clerk’s Report

477.1. The Clerk provided the financial statement as at 16th March 2017 which showed a total spend of £26,758.50 with income of £24,742.50. The bank balance was £33,805.29

477.2. The financial statement included budget monitoring information which showed projected variations on the following items:-

- Printing & stationery - £291.84 – final costs lower than estimated
- Postage - £64.96 - final costs lower than estimated
- Mileage - £0.50 - final costs lower than estimated
- Insurance – £339.46 – premium renewal lower than estimated
- Other Costs - £75.00 - final costs lower than estimated
- Office equipment - £54.17 - final costs lower than estimated
- Christmas decorations - £3,150.80 – all invoices now received

477.3. The Council noted the Clerk’s report and **agreed** the variations to the original budget.

478. The Clerk’s schedule of correspondence was received and the actions **agreed**.

Item 478.12 – Village Green application – it was stated that the report presented to the Borough Council had stated that there were no objections. The Clerk confirmed that he had written to the Borough Council supporting the application for a Village Green. It was agreed that Ms. Lisa Lane from the Borough Council be invited to a future Community Council meeting to discuss the Borough Council’s decision.

Item 478.13 - Christmas Decorations – the Clerk reported that he had managed to order 4 new banner type Christmas lights at a cost of £684 plus delivery of about £100. These prices were subject to VAT at 20%. The Clerk’s actions were **agreed**.

479. To receive a report from Councillor Nigel George.

479.1. Cllr George confirmed that WHQS money was available to fund the Skate Board Park.

480. Local Issues

480.1. Ty Sign Ward – Cllr Mary Coles reported that bikes were being ridden across the shops on Elm Drive. Cllr George reported that boulders were to be placed near the garages on Holly Road to prevent traffic access.

480.2. Pontymister Upper Ward – nothing to report

480.3. Treenydd Ward - nothing to report.

480.4. The Clerk informed the meeting that he had invited Mr Richard Owen from the Agape Church to speak to the April meeting.

481. To consider Planning Application - none

Signed.....Chairman 20th April 2017