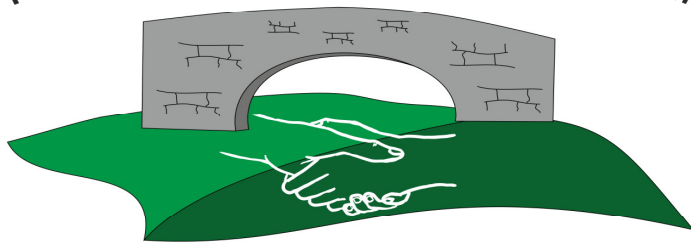


Risca East Community Council



...working with you

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Minutes of the meeting of Risca East Community Council held on 18th December 2014.

207. To sign the register and to receive apologies

207.1. Community Councillors present: Chairman Nigel George, John Blackburn, Mary Coles, Shirley Hobbs and Matthew Farrell

207.2. Apologies were received from Cliff Edwards Darren Hobbs, Maureen Jenkins and Arianna Passmore

208. To receive representations from members of the public.

208.1. There were no members of the public present at the meeting

209. The Chairman welcomed Lisa James of Caerphilly County Borough Council who had been invited to explain the Community Infrastructure Levy (C.I.L.).

209.1. Lisa explained that the Borough Council had decided to introduce the C.I.L. and the Community Council would receive 15% or £100 for each new dwelling built within its area. The Community Council would also receive money from any new commercial development. The 85% retained by Caerphilly County Borough Council could be used anywhere within the Borough.

209.2. John Blackburn asked why the Borough Council had decided to do this. Lisa explained that an independent group of officers would consider all bids against the fund and make recommendations to the Council. Lisa added that Caerphilly is the first authority in Wales to introduce C.I.L. It is not negotiable whereas Section 106 development charges can be negotiated between the developer and Caerphilly County Borough Council. She added that Section 106 money was never allocated directly to the Community Councils to spend on their own projects. Unspent funds must be returned after 5 years.

209.3. The Chairman thanked Lisa for attending the meeting.

210. Land adjacent to Snowden Close, Ty Sign.

210.1. County Councillor Rhiannon Passmore explained that the Local Development Plan was being reviewed so that land at Snowden Close could be released for housing development. She explained her reasons why she was opposed to this proposal.

210.2. John Blackburn said that Risca East had requested information from Caerphilly County Borough Council regarding common land within the area and had never received a satisfactory explanation from Caerphilly.

210.3. Rhiannon promised to chase this up on behalf of the Community Council. She was please to know that the Community Council had in October opposed the release of the

land at Snowden Close. Caerphilly was under pressure to release land for new housing and also had budget problems which needed to be addressed. Shirley Hobbs felt that it was important that the Community Council gets behind the argument for retaining the land.

210.4. It was **agreed** that that Risca East Community Council reaffirms its previous decision to oppose the release of the land at Snowden Close for housing purposes. Councillor Nigel George **abstained** from the vote.

211. The minutes of the previous meeting held on 20th November 2014 were **agreed**.

212. Matters arising:-

212.1. Minute 202.2 – It was noted that there had been some criticism of the Panto venue. Several people felt the Crosskeys College Hall was too big. It was also suggested that “The Cuckoos” be approached to put on the next Panto. It was agreed to take these comments to the next Joint Risca Councils meeting for consideration.

213. To receive the Clerk’s Report

213.1. The Clerk provided an analysis of income and expenditure and confirmed a bank balance of £29,124.22 as at 18th December 2014. The report was **accepted**.

213.2. The Clerk provided a proposed application form to be used with all applications for financial assistance. It was **agreed** that the form should be entitled “Community Projects Fund”. Also applicants must include a copy of their constitution or aims and objectives where appropriate.

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

214.6 – Borough Council 5 man cleansing team – it was agreed that the following areas required attention:- both sets of shops on Elm Drive, Ty Sign; near the playground at Herbert Avenue.

215. To receive a report from Councillor Nigel George

215.1. Councillor George gave a progress report on the skate board park. Caerphilly was taking on the lease. It was estimated to cost about £25k to develop the MUGA. The local Committee now has to put forward a business plan for the skate board park – the costs were unknown at this time.

216. Local Issues

216.1. Ty Sign Ward – it was reported that possible environmental enhancements to the flats at TY Sign Shops were proposed. Also the development of a nature trail for people to enjoy.

216.2. Pontymister Ward – John Blackburn asked about the proposed blue plaque. Councillor George said that he would chase it up. John mentioned the possibility of organising a gardens awards scheme for the area. He also mentioned the possibility of a luncheon club at St. David’s Church and whether the Community Council could get involved in such a project.

216.3. Pontymister Upper Ward – Matthew Farrell commented on the lack of carriages on the Ebbw Vale to Cardiff train service

217. To consider Planning Applications - none

Signed.....Chairman 15th January 2015