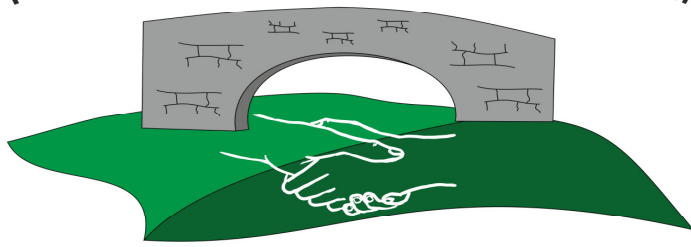


Risca East Community Council



...working with you

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Minutes of the meeting of Risca East Community Council held on 15th May 2014.

153. To sign the register and to receive apologies

153.1. Community Councillors present: Chairman Nigel George, John Blackburn, Mary Coles, Cliff Edwards, Darren Hobbs, Shirley Hobbs, Maureen Jenkins and Arianna Passmore

153.2. Apologies were received from Matthew Farrell

154. The Chairman welcomed Inspector Ian Muirhead to the meeting.

154.1. Inspector Muirhead thanked the Community Council for inviting him to speak to the meeting. He outlined the activities of the Police based at Risca Police Station. The officers covered an area from the border with Newport in the south to Trinant and Ynysddu in the north. He explained that Risca Police Station had always been manned and the front desk was also open to the public again. He added that if the public did not use the front desk then the facility would have to be reviewed.

John Blackburn said that he would include information in the Parish Magazine. He also suggested that the next Community Council newsletter include information relating to the Police Station desk.

John Blackburn referred to the roundabout at Lower Wyndham Terrace and explained his concerns relating to the use of it.

Inspector Muirhead said that traffic management has monitored the situation. He has personally observed bad driver behavior at the roundabout. The public need to report incidents to the Police so that they can be properly logged. Action will be taken where appropriate. He added that the design of the roundabout was a problem for the Borough Council to resolve.

John Blackburn suggested that the Clerk invite a representative from Caerphilly County Borough Council to a future meeting to discuss the design of the roundabout.

The Chairman referred to the problems of 4x4s and off-road bikes on land to the rear of Cotswold Way and on the land leading to Twmbarlem.

Inspector Muirhead said that the Police had appointed a special officer to help counteract the problem. Vehicles owned by offenders have been seized and destroyed.

Cliff Edwards observed that Risca Town appears to be quieter on weekends. He felt that this may be because several pubs have closed.

Inspector Muirhead said that officers based in Risca were often called to Blackwood and elsewhere when there was trouble over the weekends.

He added that in 2010 there were 2,446 crimes reported and this had dropped to 1,601 in 2013. He attributed this partly to more crime prevention activities. He said that petty

criminal damage was the biggest crime in the Risca area – mainly caused by youths. Shirley Hobbs said that the youth club in St. David's church was helping to keep trouble off the streets. Inspector Muirhead promised to get Community Police Officers to attend occasionally.

Inspector Muirhead finished by saying that he was moving to another area and Inspector Lisha Thompson will be taking over from him.

The Chairman thanked Inspector Muirhead for attending the meeting and wished him well with his new posting.

155. The minutes of the previous meeting held on 15th April 2014 were **agreed**.

156. Matters arising:-

156.1. Minute 138 – The Chairman confirmed that the Risca Town Centre Plan is going through Cabinet.

156.2. Minute 140.2 (135.4) – blue plaque in memory of Sir Charles Edwards – agreed that the Chairman and the Clerk contact Caerphilly County Borough Council.

156.3. Minute 143.1 – Moriah Hill – discussions are taking place with the contractors to finish the road. The Chairman reported that the committee of the Skate Board Park is now up and running. The lease for the land is now being arranged.

157. To receive the Clerk's Report

157.1. The Clerk provided an analysis of income and expenditure and confirmed a bank balance of £23,492.21 as at 15th May 2014. The report was **accepted**.

158. The Clerk's schedule of correspondence was received and actions **agreed**.

159. To receive a report from County Borough Councillor Nigel George

159.1. The Chairman reported on tenancy issues with Caerphilly County Borough Council. The notice board had now been erected in the grounds of St. David's Church. The design of the sign to be fitted was agreed by the Community Council. Plaques are to be fitted to the Xbox, Coffee machine and the football table.

160. To consider Planning Applications – none received

161. Any other business

161.1. John Blackburn confirmed that he was still sorting out the arrangements for the Band concert.

161.2. John Blackburn noted that 6 Borough Councils in England are scrapping the Cabinet system. He asked whether Caerphilly County Borough Council had considered whether it should continue with the Cabinet system. The Chairman said that the Welsh Government wanted Councils to continue with the Cabinet system but it was putting more money into the scrutiny process which was not working properly.

Signed.....Chairman 19th June 2014