

MINUTES 2nd June, 2020

RHOSSILI COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Council: Chair - Steve Campbell-Kelly (SCK), Vice-Chair - Ian Button (IB), Tom Higgs (TH), Jeff Higgins (JH), Nicola Rees (NR), Sally Thomas (ST) and Steve Walmsley (SW)

Remote Council Meeting, carried out by video conferencing on the internet due to Restrictions on meetings caused by Coronavirus Lockdown.

Attendance: Council: SC-K, IB, ST and SW.

Meeting commenced at 7.00pm

1. Apologies: JH, TH and NR

2. Declaration of Interests: None notified

3. Minutes of last Meeting: Minutes of 12th May meeting approved; signed by Chair

4. Matters arising: None

5. Chairman's Items:

(i) Disability Access Letter: Clerk referred councillors to a letter received from a member of the public about the difficulties that disabled people had in trying to access Rhossili Beach. After discussion it was decided that the Clerk should reply to the letter, referring the complainant to the owners of the land and footpath, The National Trust, and the Rights of Way Officer of the City and County of Swansea. The Clerk was also asked to inform the person that there was disabled access at two other South Gower Beaches, at Port Eynon and Oxwich.

(ii) Covid-19 Regulations: SC-K told Councillors that he had had a brief communication from Alan Kearsley-Evans about the NT Car Park. There is no intention to open the Car Park (and possibly the Public Conveniences that the NT now maintain) until the Welsh Assembly government has relaxed distancing regulations, allowing people to visit from further than 5 miles. This is not likely to be until at least the third week of June. The NT Shop and Coffee Van will probably be later.

The owner of another Car Park within the village has opened a field for parking cars, despite regulations. This was discussed, but no action to be taken if users live within 5 miles, as per the latest regulations from WAG.

Local Report: SC-K reported that many local residents are fed up with the number of visitors arriving in the village, breaking the regulations. Police patrols have been seen, but many of the visitors have managed to avoid the police checks carried out in Scurlage and elsewhere in Gower. During the last week there have been many vehicles and people travelling from the midlands of England, where restrictions have been lifted – from Nottingham, Birmingham and Leicester. It is felt that Residents, Visitors and The Police would benefit from clearer, accurate and good guidance on exactly what is allowed and what, if any sanctions can be applied. Vehicles have been photographed and copies passed to the Police for information as the parked cars are making life miserable for residents, as well as a hazard for Coastguard and farm vehicles. The

lack of toilet facilities for visitors has meant that there has been evidence of inappropriate use of vacant land in the villages. Chalked Rainbow signs have appeared on the road, with the word “WELCOME” and -2m, but no-one knows who painted them.

- (iii) Litter: SC-K reported that some residents had broached the subject of litter and dog-fouling – were CCS still collecting rubbish from Litter Bins and Dog Poo? There followed a discussion on whether notices directing people to the location of bins might be appropriate, or a beach cleaning centre, disguised by driftwood or something similar, where visitors could source pickers and bags. It has been noticeable that Rhossili Beach has been virtually clear of all litter for the duration of the present crisis. Several Councillors said they were concerned about the possibility of more litter when the PYO Corn and Sunflowers store and Seafood Shack opens up on The Vile. Even during the Lock-down, the dropping of litter from vehicles has not diminished, now with blue or white plastic gloves added to the plastic bottles and wrappers. It was decided to keep a watching brief on the matter.

6. Finance:

- i) The latest Accounts are with the Internal Auditor but there has been no report to date.
- ii) SW informed the meeting that now is the time to renew RCC's Insurance. He had been approached by Zurich Insurance, who were willing to give a quote. However, SW considered that the present Insurers, BHIB, had given excellent service and value for money over insuring the Support Group. They had also given a quotation specific to RCC's circumstances and excluded Buildings and Contents insurance. SW informed the meeting that there had been a timing issue, and to make sure that cover was continuous and that the quotation was valid, he paid the fee from his own resources. **SC-K proposed that the Insurance be covered by BHIB, seconded by ST. Approved unanimously. ST then proposed that SW be reimbursed the outlay of £195.42; IB seconded and it was Approved Unanimously.**
- iii) SW went on to report that the Support Group had had a virtual meeting earlier this week, in which he participated. There had been discussion on what role, if any, the CoRSG would have when and if regulations were relaxed, and whether it would continue under the aegis of RCC. SW reported that the befriending scheme had started well and had been positively received from the residents concerned. SC-K commented that he was glad that things had worked out and there was a hope that the good work would continue even when the risks had gone. This was echoed by Councillors.

The Virtual Meeting closed at 7.56pm

Date of next Virtual Meeting: 9th June, 2020 at 7.00pm. There is an informal arrangement that RCC Councillors will be available to hold an on-line meeting each Tuesday, at 7.00pm, should one be necessary.