

MINUTES 30th 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, JH, ST and SW.

Meeting commenced at 7.10pm, hosted by SW

- 1. Apologies:** NR and TH
- 2. Declaration of Interests:** None notified
- 3. Minutes of last Meeting:** Minutes of 23rd June meeting approved; to be signed by Chair after quarantine period.
- 4. Matters arising:** None notified
- 5. Chairman's Items:**

- (i) Relaxation of Regulations - Reports SC-K began by giving a summary of his canvass of local businesses and how they will react to changes in the regulations. He has had no reply to date from WH Hotel but will try to get in touch with Adrian. He was pleased with the extensive reply from The Bay, who expressed the wish that "things would pick up soon." They have partitioned the shop from the bistro to meet social distancing requirements etc. **They intend to continue with the fruit and veg for the foreseeable future and plan to give a discount card to village residents; the card can be picked up from The Bay.** The Gallery is intending to open on 11th July, with trading by appointment only at first. All businesses commented that they are hoping for the relaxation of the 5-mile travel limit.

Bookings for the smaller holiday lets are going well but it seems more difficult for the larger houses. This could be because there are still stringent regulations regarding multiple households coming together. IB spoke about the tourism aspects whereby Caravans and motorhomes will be allowed onto sites, providing they have their own toilet and washing facilities. There are recommendations for distancing pitches and cleansing water taps. All are keen to open. As far as self-catering houses are concerned most if not all are aiming for a start on July 13th. However, some of the recommendations, like leaving properties empty for 72 hours between groups was thought unrealistic. Some properties are being let on alternate weeks, giving a whole week between visitors. The minimum amount of time between bookings is likely to be recommended at 4 or 5 hours, and some properties may be let for 6 rather than 7 days. Each property has to be "deep cleaned" at every changeover, sanitising everything possible (eg coat hangers etc). A lot of information is still needed before final decisions are made.

There was no information about the opening of NT shop.

Clerk has contacted CCS for information regarding the opening up of the toilet facilities and any precautions being taken. Clerk reported on two conversations with the Manager at CCS concerning the Public Conveniences in Rhossili. Some CCS-owned toilets at Llangland and Caswell are reportedly already opened. Clerk explained that the reason for this was the numbers of people closer than 5 miles to these beaches numbered the thousands, as opposed to Rhossili, Port Eynon and Horton being in the hundreds. CCS are trying out methods and practices at the first ones and will inform RCC of when Rhossili will be open. Clerk said she had reported the anti-social behaviour of some visitors and the apparent conflicts that have arisen as a result.

The Trustees of The Village Hall and Bunkhouse are holding a virtual meeting later this week to discuss the trading position of the VH. At the moment any relaxation of the regulations involve people from only one family being

allowed to be in the building as shared facilities are not allowed; the small income achieved makes this scenario uneconomical.

It was thought likely that a lot of activities will result from the next WAG announcement expected on 9th July.

IB posed the question, "Is there a reduced bus timetable at the moment?" **Clerk to contact Bus depot to find out about changes to the bus timetable, particularly about the Sunday Service and whether it will restart.**

- (ii) Local Report: SC-K reported that he had received a complaint from a member of the public about some notices that had appeared stuck to concrete posts outside the Church. The complaint was about the wording on some of the notices. Clerk referred to an email received from the person who had put the notices up. SC-K then went on to inform all Councillors of what had happened concerning the Church car park. A letter had been received by a Churchwarden regarding the use of the Car Park and this was referred to the Trustees for the Bowen Richards Trust, which is responsible for the said car park. SC-K understood that the Community Council had not been notified because it was seen by the complainant to 'not be sufficiently supportive'. This was felt to be an unjustified criticism as much of the work we are doing is unseen.

Letters were then received by all Trustees individually, and included a graphic photograph, both of which upset a number of recipients. Some Councillors have seen the actual letters and images and gave details to the meeting. Dismay and disgust were expressed about the sending of obnoxious images to Trustees by all the Councillors present. The Trustees have now said categorically that the car park will remain open and only they will be authorised to open and close its gates after a member of the local community's car had been locked in as they hadn't been recognised by the person who had locked the car park gate without authorisation. As the situation has been brought to the attention of the Community Council it was felt that the matter ought to be referred back to the Trustees, with the advice that the sending of the images should be raised with the Police. Councillors also reported the other incidents of vandalism that have caused damage to a resident's family car and the tyres of another. SC-K to talk to Chair of Trustees and TH.

ST told the meeting about two incidents involving dirt bike riders on Rhossili Down and in the village. There had been three motor bikes being ridden in a totally unacceptable way on several occasions and the consequences for serious injury cannot be overstated. A resident riding a young horse on Rhossili Down was nearly unseated and a family escaped serious injury by luck when the bikes careered down the track from the Reservoir as the family had walked up unseen by the speeding motorbike riders. ST said that it was lucky her daughter had chosen not to ride her pony with them that day, or they could both have been seriously or possibly fatally injured. The incidents have been reported to the Police and CCTV pictures from a shop, shown to ST, confirmed they were the same people and bikes so these have also been shared with the Police and NT. SC-K read the email he had received from the Police Inspector for our area in response to the information. RCC will monitor the situation and want any further sightings of the bikers reported immediately.

- (iii) Next steps: During the last week Councillors had been looking at draft letters to be given to visitors when they arrive after the lockdown is relaxed. There is also a larger version to be used as a poster in the RCC noticeboards, and other prominent places, reminding everyone to keep each other safe. Clerk to pass copies by email to owners of holiday lets to place in the houses so that they can print them out and include in their "Welcome Packs". Clerk to request technical assistance from the local school on producing A3 posters for display in noticeboards and other places. Pitton Cross may have a laminator available to weatherproof the notices and posters.

6. **Public Access for Meetings:** Clerk to Mailchimp residents that the meeting on 14th July will be available for them to listen to the Minutes of previous meetings and to ask questions or raise any issues. The session will run from 7pm. Residents will have to contact Clerk to receive Code and password.

7. **Beach Clean:** ST reported that a resident had organised a very successful beach clean on Rhossili Beach on 20th June. The Lookout provided all volunteers with a free hot drink. The next one will be on 19th July. Contact ST for details of time etc.

8. **Finance:**

SC-K proposed that Clerk be paid for the quarter. Seconded by IB; **Approved unanimously.** JH said Tax had also been paid for the quarter.

The Virtual Meeting closed at 8.32pm

Date of next Virtual Meeting: 7th July, 2020 at 7.00pm.