

MINUTES 18th August, 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 Regulations

1. **Attendance:** SC-K, IB, JH, NR and SW

Meeting commenced at 7.15pm, hosted by SW, Chaired by SC-K

2. **Apologies:** ST and TH

3. **Declaration of Interests:** None notified

4. **Minutes of last Meeting:** Not referred to – delayed to next meeting.

5. **Chairman's Items:**

- i) PYO Sunflowers and Shack and Tourists: SC-K is seeking further information about the 28-day limit referred to in the request for permitted development. Some calculations would suggest it should stop this week, but it is assumed that there are two more 4 day selling periods to go, making up the 7 weeks. It was agreed that the enterprise has, in general, not been a good experience for the village, with traffic problems exacerbated by the two narrow "pinch points" in the road, as last year and jams of cars stretching back to Middleton on fine weekends. Monitoring of traffic flow showed 350 – 400 cars per hour coming into the village from 9.30 am to nearly 4.00pm on Saturdays and Sundays. It was felt that the lack of NT staff working in the Car Park had made things more difficult than last year as parking was not directed and controlled. There was a long discussion about the whole project, with positive elements and negative ones expressed. The feeling of the meeting concluded that there would not be support for an extension of the enterprise or a repeat next year, on the grounds that the rules and restrictions have been bent and stretched to the detriment of the mediaeval landscape of The Vile, and the residents of Rhossili. Discussions seemed to suggest that the extra visitors to Rhossili this year have behaved differently from other years and seem to be less appreciative of the nature of the landscape as there have been instances of anti-social activities not seen here before. The Vile has been subjected to a lot of rubbish, from soiled nappies and sanitary products to cans and bottles and remains of snack foods as well as people damaging internal fences, and more seriously, breaching the ancient (and Listed) Boundary Wall. A picture had been circulated of the rubbish piled up on the path to Rhossili Beach one Saturday. SC-K wished to acknowledge various residents who have gone out of their way to pick up the rubbish. SC-K to contact Highways at CCS, referring to his request last year for plans to be made to improve the road infrastructure approaching Rhossili. Clerk to contact NT and R Morgan to request that, as landowners responsible for the condition of the land, they instigate regular weekly or daily inspections for litter and rubbish within the boundary of The Vile affected, remove it and dispose of it in line with regulations – Clerk to pose the rhetorical question: "When people see the rubbish in fields and paths on The Vile, what impression does this give the people about their care for this unique Welsh landscape?"

The Community Council wishes to register its sincere thanks to everyone in the village who works to keep our beaches, environs and paths clear of litter.

- ii) Article 4: SC-K asked if people had read the information on the proposal about Article 4 Directive. Clerk gave a brief summary: An Article 4 directive could remove the automatic right for Permitted Development to proceed without asking for full Planning Permission. It can apply to a small, specific area such as The Vile or a large one such as the whole AONB but doesn't of itself protect the environment or landscape. It does, however, make the applicants give very clear reasons why the development should be allowed and gives an otherwise denied opportunity for other interested bodies, like RCC to make real and effective objection. The damage to the Listed Wall surrounding The Vile shows that there is a need to protect all parts of this unique landscape. Clerk suggested a joint meeting of RCC, AONB Officers and committee members of The Gower Society and this was agreed. SC-K then read out an email he had received from a

member of The Gower Society suggesting the same. It was agreed that RCC will engage with this meeting and support their aims of protecting The Vile.

- 6. Planning: 2020/1402/FUL** Construction of Public Toilet facility in Mewslade . (Mark Button) There was a general discussion on this application. Concerns had been raised by residents in the area about the possibility of further developments if permission was granted. Questions were raised about the timing of this application as the site and adjacent car park has been in the family ownership for many years and that the site had been subjected to flooding several times in the past. JH proposed that the comment be made” No objection but concern has been raised about the probability of flooding. RCC request that a restriction on further development is placed on the permission, if granted.” SW seconded. Approved

The Virtual Meeting closed at 8.40pm

Date of next Virtual Meeting 25th August, 2020 at 7.00pm.

Residents will be invited to participate