

MINUTES 22nd September, 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, TH and SW

Residents: 4

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

2. **Apologies:** ST and NR

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

4. **Minutes of last Meeting:** 14/07/2020 and 18/08/2020. Minutes a true record.
Proposed SC-K, 2nd SW. Approved.

5. **Matters Arising:**

6. **Chairman's Items:**

- i) Building work at Meadowside, Rhossili. SC-K gave a brief outline of the background to this case, following a complaint received from a resident living adjacent to the house in question. The resident had sent several letters to RCC detailing the concerns, especially that RCC had made no objections when the planning application was made. All communications had been copied and passed to Councillors. SC-K ran through a time-line of the case, from the date of the first application (July 23, 2020), submission of first plans (October 14, 2019), amended plans (November 21, 2019), Ecological Reports etc to the final decision on January 16, 2020. SC-K said that neither he nor the Clerk had been able to find in RCC records any notification from CCS about the application, prior to the decision date. RCC were informed of the approval decision on 16th January, 2020. SC-K then invited the resident to speak about her concerns. She thanked SC-K and said she hoped that Councillors had seen all the communications from her. She stated that they had never been given access to the plans. The main complaint was that "the development seems to be in complete variance with the requirements of the AONB Design Guide" but there were also other factors that were considered to be detrimental to the welfare of the village. Areas mentioned were ecology and wild-life habitats being destroyed, hedges and trees cut down or up-rooted and damaged, drainage proposals and the possibility of increased water flow onto the road from concreted parking areas and the driveway, the likelihood of sun glare reflecting from glass used as a modesty screen on the rear balcony. The resident concluded her presentation by informing RCC that no work had been done on the house for two days and workmen had been seen boarding up windows and doorways. Community Councillors were invited to visit and see for themselves.

Councillors were able to see the plans that had been submitted and comments were made. SC-K said that he thought the drawings were of poor quality, and were schematic. He agreed that they had failed to meet many of the recommendations for building development in Gower, as presented in the current Gower AONB Design Guide, especially on the subject of extensions. He was also concerned that the plans showed no details of materials to be used and that scale was difficult to determine. He asked about the distance between the houses as on the drawings it appeared to suggest a distance of 1.5m; the resident said the reality was more like 1.2m. SC-K said he would like a formal site meeting and this was agreed. It was hoped that as many Councillors as possible would be able to attend, and a meeting was arranged for 6.00pm on Wednesday, 23rd September.

The resident concerned thanked the meeting for allowing her to speak and left the meeting.

- ii) Litter Problems around the Village: SC-K reported that he had received a complaint from a resident about the general increase in litter being dropped and inappropriately disposed of it. It had been noted that some of the litter in the NT Car Park has been identified as coming from the refreshment outlets in the

village when customers take away their food and beverages to eat elsewhere. The lack of bins in the carpark does not help. Informal contacts with the commercial outlets may be the way forward, encouraging their customers to do the right thing. However, it was felt that the NT could do more in providing sufficient rubbish disposal points (as the previous owners of the car park had done). This to be added to a letter on a variety of local issues to the NT. Clerk to write.

- iii) Barking dogs: Clerk gave a brief summary of an email received from a concerned resident. More information was required on the number of dogs Where are they housed? What times are they barking? And the conditions in which the dogs were being kept? Clerk and IB to investigate.
- iv) Church Park and Churchyard Wall: SC-K asked if there was any further information available. Resident confirmed that the matter was still being handled by the lawyers for both parties.
- v) Article 4 and The Seafood Shack: SC-K reported that there has been little progress on this from the last meeting, when a joint proposal was mooted. The Gower Society are trying to exert pressure on AONB officers and NT as equal partners to try and protect the Vile from major, similar damage. SC-K stated that the position of RCC is unaltered. The site has not been returned to its original state and there are serious concerns that more will be done next year. JH remarked that if all land-holders on The Vile applied to do the same thing, it would result in chaos across the village, with fatal damage done to the unique landscape. Clerk to include in letter to NT requesting visitors take their litter home, although RCC is aware that there is a policy of the NT not to provide bins, and there is a dislike of too many notices.

7. **Planning:** 2020/1799/NMA Elmsbrook. Amended plans were studied, with regard to the patio with steps replacing approved decking area to the front. All agreed that the proposal was less imposing and therefore acceptable. Clerk to make reference.
8. **Finance:** RFO gave a brief report of financial position. Balance stands at £3,732.32. SW asked to pay Clerk the quarterly payment of £300. Seconded by JH Approved. JH said that appropriate Income Tax be paid. SW spoke about the Enhanced Licence for Zoom Connection which RCC uses for its meetings and SW uses for his meetings with the Support Group. The Enhanced Licence costs £14.39 per month. SC-K proposed that the monthly Enhanced Licence be purchased. 2nd IB. Approved unanimously. JH proposed that monthly payment of £14.39 be made to SW as the Enhanced Licence Holder. 2nd IB. Approved unanimously.
9. **Any Other Business:** Resident MB told SC-K that he had contacted Highways to clear verges on road between Pitton Chapel and Lower Pitton, as pedestrians were having to walk into the road because of the overgrown edges. SC-K contacted Highways and referred them also to the verges from Ship Farm to The Green as there are several trees growing out of the wall, making pedestrians do the same thing, putting their lives at risk. Clerk reported that highways will be sending a team to carry out as much of that work as they can, as well as flushing out blocked gullies, draining surface water from the roads.

The Virtual Meeting closed at 8.50pm

Date of next Virtual Meeting 13th October 2020 at 7.00pm.

Residents will be invited to participate and times will revert to monthly meetings on the second Tuesday of each month, beginning at 7.00pm