

MINUTES, 7th June, 2021

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. No member of the public requested access.

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

Residents: 0

Meeting commenced at 7.11pm.

2. **Apologies:** None – all Councillors present
3. **Declaration of Interest:** SC-K, Item 5. IB to Chair first item.
4. **Previous Minutes:**
5. **Chairman's Items:**

- (i) Letter of Complaint: A letter had been received by the Clerk, complaining about the actions and behaviour of a Rhossili Community Councillor. All Councillors had received a copy of the letter, and the written statement made by the RCC Councillor shortly after the incident on Friday, 4th June. The actions and behaviour of the Councillor were considered with reference to RCC's model Code of Conduct. After reading the letter and statement, Councillors deliberated and discussed the incident. They unanimously concluded that the behaviour and actions were those of a diligent councillor carrying out his duty to ascertain what was being done on a site that had Planning Permission refused and was subject to an appeal to the Planning Inspectorate. As such, no apology is warranted. Clerk to reply to letter.

The letter of complaint also asked for all photographs taken to be deleted and asked for a copy of RCC's Photographic Policy for Under 18s. All RCC Councillors are aware of their duties and responsibilities to comply with Child Protection and Data Protection legislation and any photographs taken in the course of Council business have images of identifiable individuals obscured; they are not shared on any public platform. The photograph referred to in the complaint was not shared with anyone and has been irretrievably deleted by the Councillor.

However, the complaint has highlighted a need for RCC to have a clear, written policy on uses of photographic imagery by RCC, as photographs are used in the Newsletters and other publications. Clerk to contact One Voice Wales for advice about a photograph policy template.

SC-K resumed Chairing the meeting.

6. **Highways:** Some of the road repairs are already showing signs of wear and deterioration. Some parts of the road in Rhossili Village have not been repaired.
7. **Footpaths and Rights of Way:** (IB declared an interest and "left the meeting".) SC-K suggested that Rights of Way Officer be contacted to keep the pressure on CCS with regards to the negotiations on the footpath from Pitton Cross to Rams Grove. The safety of people using the road instead the protection of a footpath is of increasing importance with the noticeable increase in road traffic. Lives are at risk.

IB rejoined the meeting.

8. **Support Group Up-date:** A report of the Support Group's recent questionnaire will be given at the next meeting.

9. Planning: **2021/0922/FUL - Riverside** : The latest application has been refused again.

Meadowside: Clerk reported that there had been no reply to the letters sent to Head of Planning or Planning Development. Letter of complaint to be sent to Chief executive of CCS, with copies to Cllr. Richard Lewis, Tonia Antoniazzi MP and Rebecca Evans AM citing concerns over precedence for future housing alterations in Gower.

10. Finance: RFO gave a report of financial position [Balance stands at £3256.12] and then briefed Councillors on the Annual Report for the Year Ended 31 March 2021.

- (i) Internal Auditor has returned the Accounts for 2020 - 2021. All found to be in order. SW had sent out the report and the governance query responses to all Councillors. He stated that they were ready for submission after ratification by the Council. **IB proposed acceptance of Year End Report and Governance Statements; seconded by JH. Approved unanimously.** They will be sent to WAG Auditor by 30th June.
- (ii) SW proposed a change in the RCC Finance Regulations concerning the Internal Auditor's role. **Proposed by SW, seconded by IB; Approved unanimously.**
- (iii) SW **proposed payment of Clerk, £400 + £100 Tax. Seconded by SC-K. Passed unanimously.**
- (iv) SW requested authorisation for payment of ZOOM Licence £43.17. **Proposed SC-K, seconded IB Approved unanimously**

The Virtual Meeting closed at 20.33pm Date of next Virtual Meeting: 13th July, 2021

Zoom Meeting code: 841 8971 9674

Residents who wish to “attend” the virtual meeting via Zoom should contact the Clerk by phone or email and you will be given the password.

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