

MINUTES, 14th September, 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, JH, TH, ST and SW

Residents: 0 Clerk said no-one had asked for password or link connection

Meeting commenced at 7.08pm.

2. **Apologies:** NR

3. **Declaration of Interest:** None.

4. **Previous Minutes:** accepted as a true record.

5. **Matters arising:** Item 6(ii) NT Car Park and Campervans. Clerk reported reply from NT - aware of problem and have been doing their best to make sure it doesn't happen. IB commented that signage around the car park, informing people that overnight camping is not allowed, are much in evidence. Efforts appreciated.

Item 7(b) Widening of gateways. Clerk reported conversation with Planning department who advised that an Enforcement Form be sent in so that Officers could examine what had happened and whether Planning Permission was needed. Clerk reported there had been no feedback to date, apart from an acknowledgement of the Enforcement Form.

6. **Chairman's Items:**

(i) Extraordinary Meeting 10th September. A meeting was called to discuss RCC support for a grant Application from The Prince's Countryside Foundation. Full minutes and explanation to be presented at the RCC AGM on Wednesday, 29th September.

(ii) AGM Arrangements: Responsible Finance Officer cannot attend on the chosen date, so it was altered to Wednesday, 29th September at 7.00pm in the Village Hall, or via Zoom, if residents wish to participate remotely. The Village Hall can be organised to serve 30 residents, with full Covid-19 precautions. The Village Hall AGM will immediately follow the RCC AGM, as on previous occasions. Clerk to make sure new date is advertised.

(iii) Correspondence: (a) Meadowside: Copy of letter written by resident to Planning Officer enquiring about the Enforcement Notice that was expected to be served on the owners of the property Meadowside, for non-conformity to agreed plans. It was noted that the house appears to have been sold, "subject to contract". After discussion, Clerk to write to Planning Officer, copy to Cllr Lewis, requesting urgent reply to question, "Why was Enforcement Order not served?" Clerk to reply to resident, advising that next step should be referring her case to the Public Service Ombudsman.

(b) Request for copies of Minutes: Councillors considered the request from an individual resident. It was unanimously thought that the Draft Minutes are usually available to be read on each of the three noticeboards within a few days of each meeting; copies of formally signed and ratified Minutes are placed on the website once they have been agreed, usually a month in arrears. Copies may be downloaded from the website. It was also noted that all residents are

able to participate in RCC meetings via Zoom, if it is a virtual meeting, or in person in the Village Hall. Clerk reported that the resident has not indicated a wish to receive the password and link. Copies of Minutes for recent meetings were sent as a matter of courtesy to the resident, because those ratified ones had not been placed on the RCC website.

- (iv) Newsletter 2021: Clerk enquired what was proposed about a Rhossili Community Council Newsletter for this year. After discussion, Clerk directed to advertise within the usual communication means asking if there is anyone interested in helping to do it this year. Clerk will undertake to produce one, if there are no other offers. Information and articles need to be sent in by the middle of November, if possible, so that editing and printing can be carried out in time for the beginning of the Christmas period, such as another Community Advent Calendar.
- (v) Ragwort and Spear Thistles: Councillors commented on the widespread growth of the noxious weeds, Ragwort and spear thistles, especially on the Cliffs and in meadows across the area. Council aware that one resident had brought the subject up with NT as owners of the Common Land. After discussion it was decided that the Clerk should approach NT to see if there was a role for the community to help control the weeds, as has happened with previous NT Rangers.
- (vi) Alun Michael Meeting: Clerk reported from earlier "Zoom" meeting with Alun Michael, SW Police and Crime Commissioner, who wanted to hear of community concerns within the Swansea Area. Clerk asked about delays and response times. Gower policing has been changed and 5 Officers will now be based in Mumbles, able to respond more quickly to issues within Gower. SW Police has 1.3m people to serve in 7 local authorities and has had to manage, as all public services have, with a reduced budget. However, funding will be available for the appointment of 41 PCSOs throughout the SW Police area, and the joint strategy of the PCC and The Chief Constable is to improve neighbourhood policing and community safety. It was useful to have difficulties illustrated by serving officers – over 1000 incidents requiring Police interventions on 11th September alone. Alun Michael informed us that there will be information distributed about alternative ways to communicate with Police in the near future, over and above 99 and 101. A lot of work has been done in the community recently, based around the serious incidents in Mayhill, facets of which were not reported by the media but referred to by the Honorary Consul of Romania, who lives in Swansea.

7. Highways:

- a. **Re-surfacing of road** - Why the re-surfacing work of the road stopped half-way through the village was questioned. Clerk reported that she had not had a response to the question, to date.

8. Footpaths and Rights of Way:

- a. Stile across from Footpath RH30 is very rickety. Clerk to inform Steve Parry. Also to request update on any progress in making a previous Permissive Path, now blocked, into a properly constituted Right of Way.
- b. Path from Village Hall to Fall Bay and the path from Lower Shop to Mewslade– these are very overgrown and need clearing. Trackway hedges cut within days!

9. Support Group Up-date: Meeting took place. Update to be presented to all residents at AGM

10. Planning:

- a. **2021/1522/FUL – Creek House**: noted that permission had been refused
- b. **2021/1986/FUL – South Pilton – Extension to Barn** : No comment
- c. Noted Rose Cottage 2021/2064/PRE a Pre-planning application, but no discussion or comment at this stage, until a full application is made.

11. Finance:

- (i) RFO gave a report of financial position [Balance stands at £2676.95] He gave details of each entry – all Councillors had copies of the financial position.
- (ii) Second precept payment has been received. Noted.
- (iii) Invoice for a 3 month extension to “Zoom” Licence - **Approved**
- (iv) SW reported that request for financial assistance had been received from Pitton Chapel. Proposed payment. **Approved.**
- (v) SW reported that WAG Auditors had requested a copy of the Clerk’s contract of employment. Research revealed that appointments in the past had been made each time after advertising against a job-description. Clerk has agreed the new contract, based on a specimen provided by OVW, and signed it. However, when the time comes to consider the appointment of the new Clerk, RCC will need to consider the post, hours worked, rates of pay, professional Clerk qualifications etc in the light of possible changes in the future, if plans come to fruition.

The Virtual Meeting closed at 20.37pm

Date of next Meeting: 12th October 2021

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.

Clerk: Jo Scott
Ivy Dene, SA3 1PJ (01792 391385)

website: www.rhossili.org.uk

Email: rhossilicc@gmail.com