

MINUTES, 14th December, 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, NR and SW

Residents: 0

Meeting commenced at 7.10pm.

2. **Apologies:** ST

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

4. **Previous Minutes:** accepted as a true record. Proposed SW, seconded TH. Approved unanimously

5. **Matters arising:**

- a. **Item 6.(i):** Clerk reported that she had sent the agreed letter to the resident as reported in the previous Minutes; there had been no response or reply. SW proposed that the matter be considered as closed; seconded by TH. **Approved unanimously.** The matter is closed.
- b. **Item 12:** Defibrillators: JH reported that the defibrillator on the Village Hall has been removed as the case had completely disintegrated. An application had been made for a replacement to NHS Wales, and notification is expected in January, 2022 for news of result. SC-K also reported that The Gallery had applied for a Defibrillator to be placed on the outside of the premises, extending the numbers available in the village. SW proposed that a new one be purchased for the Village Hall, the cost to be shared with RCC and Village Hall; IB seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

6. **Chairman's Items:**

(i) Newsletter. SC-K gave up-date on Newsletter , reporting that Clerk was not happy with standard of printing, especially as photographs that had been submitted were not shown at their best. It had been a difficult few days, deciding what, if anything, should be done. In ten years, Print Partnership had always given excellent service, with a good standard of print and a very fast turn-round. The Clerk met the representative of PP and he agreed to reprint the run for the cost of £447, an increase of £79. SW proposed payment; seconded by IB. **Approved unanimously.** Clerk to distribute copies to Councillors for delivery to residents.

(ii) Self-Assessment Toolkit: Clerk gave a brief introduction to the use of the Toolkit in RCCC. Clerk and Chair had participated in One Voice Wales briefing on its use, as RCC had volunteered to be included in the pilot study. Clerk asked for Councillors to volunteer to work with her on certain aspects of the toolkit, reminding Council that there would be a feedback session in 6 – 8 weeks' time with OVW. SW, IB and TH volunteered and Clerk will be in touch to arrange times and places.

(iii) Footpath Map: IB said that the map needs re-printing as supplies had run out. He had contacted businesses that sponsored it previously, and all had said they would contribute again. IB said that this would cover printing costs. Details had been added to the back of the map so that it became more of a guide for walkers and there had been some other simple changes made. A draft would be presented to RCC for approval before printing. New Map proposed by IB, seconded by SW. **Approved unanimously.**

(iv) Dark Skies: Clerk reported receipt of correspondence regarding a perception of excessive exterior lighting across the village. The letter posed several questions regarding the lighting necessity and legal requirements of lights, such as the three street lights provided to light up junctions. Discussion revealed that many lights are left on at night by visitors in rented accommodation, and owners of let properties may not know that there are more appropriate lights available for use in Dark Sky areas. RCC Councillors unsure whether the issue is part of the remit for Community Council, but have taken a previous vote to support the application for Gower to achieve Dark Sky Status. Clerk to write to resident.

(v) Community Health Questionnaire: SC-K said that this was intended to individuals to respond to. No response required from RCC.

(vi) The Vile: A letter had been received from a resident, expressing concerns about possible future plans for the commercial use of fields on The Vile, during Summer 2022. Discussion shows that the publicity surrounding this venture probably referred to land in Three Crosses, and not on The Vile. Clerk to reply to Resident.

(vii) Platinum Jubilee: TH said that he was prepared to offer a section of his land for the siting of a Jubilee Beacon. However, he suggested that it would be better if it was at The Beacon, on the top of Rhossili Down. Previous requests to National Trust have been denied, but Councillors unanimously agreed that a new request be made. Clerk to contact the Director of National Trust Wales, Mr. Justin Albert.

7. Highways: Noted the use of a Speed camera trap outside the school in Knelston.

8. Rights of Way & Footpaths: Nothing to report.

9. Finance:

(i) RFO gave a report of financial position [Balance stands at £2351.11] He gave details of each entry – all Councillors had copies of the financial position. He reported that 2/3 of Precept had been received, and ¾ of Clerk's Salary had been paid.

(ii) SW requested permission to pay "Zoom" licence. Proposed SC-K, seconded IB. **Approved unanimously.**

(iii) SW went through a possible budget proposal for 2022-23. He made Councillors aware that RCC should consider the possibility that payment for a new and qualified Clerk would increase expenditure, as a professional Clerk has to be paid according to an agreed pay-scale. SW also said that a decision should be made on the level of Precept for the next Financial Year and he would distribute details for discussion and a decision to be made in January's meeting of RCC. A comparison of other Community Councils' precepts may be useful, if people can enquire what they are locally.

The Virtual Meeting closed at 20.34 Date of next Meeting: 11th January, 2022

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.