

MINUTES, 12th April, 2022

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:** IB, JH, NR, ST and SW - **IB Acting Chair**

Residents: 0

2. **Apologies:** SC-K and TH.

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

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

5. **Matters arising:** SW reported reply from WI about the damaged Filing Cabinet regarding RCC donation of £200.00. SW has priced an identical new replacement. IB proposed replacement be purchased; seconded by JH – **Approved unanimously**

6. **Chairman's Report:** Clerk read out the email received from SC-K

Today is my last meeting as a councillor for Rhossili Community Council, having served as Chair, I think, for about 8 years, and about 5 years before that as an ordinary councillor and Finance Officer.

As you know, also standing down from council with me, is Steve Walmsley and Jeff Higgins.

I have also to report that I have received notice from Rhossili Community Council Clerk that she too wishes to resign her employment with the community council.

Her notice reads:

"Dear Chair,

It is with some regret I tender my resignation from the position of Clerk to Rhossili Community Council, with the required 4 weeks notice as stipulated in my Employment Contract and Conditions of Service.

I have previously spoken about my plans and had said I would be prepared to extend my notice period to allow the new Council to come together and prepare their plans for the future. However, I will remain as The Proper Officer of Rhossili Community Council only until the new Council meets for the first time, and a new Chair is elected and will then leave. I trust this is acceptable to the Community Council.

I consider it a privilege to have served the whole community as Clerk and I wish to thank all the Councillors for their support and trust over the last several years. My best wishes to all who serve in the future.

Jo has served as Clerk for Rhossili Community Council for a number of years and has given dedication to the position. Her help and support to the community has been much appreciated by all as well as by the whole Council. In addition to this appreciation, I also extend my personal thanks to Jo, especially when things became lonesome and trying, not just Clerk as a 'Proper Officer', but particularly as a friend and none more so than these last two pandemic years. I hope Council will join with me to acknowledge and record our grateful thanks to Jo for her service and wish her well in her retirement.

I also wish to thank both Steve and Jeff for their valued service too as councillors. Steve has been on Rhossili Community Council for many years longer than I have been here. He has served the last 6 years or so as the council's Finance Officer and before that was Chair for many years before me. The Finance Officer's work has become increasingly more involved, and he has managed this work professionally and well to meet the ever-increasing demands of the Audit Office. Jeff has also served Council well and has assisted Steve in the returns for tax requirements in connection with the Clerk's employment. Both Steve and Jeff acted as representatives between the Village Hall and Bunk House committees and Rhossili Community Council keeping each abreast and informed of each other's current work.

Jo's, Steve's and Jeff's experience will be missed in the next chapter of Rhossili Community Council. However, we are fortunate that four of this current council wished to stand for the new council and put their names forward once more. Sally, Tom, Nicola and Ian have been selected in a non-contested election, which is being held next month. They will be joined by Maggie Kirk, Gill Boulding and Leslie-Anne Nolan who will form the new council together.

I would like to thank the four remaining councillors, Ian Button, Sally Thomas, Nicola Rees and Tom Higgs for their continued support to me and the council as a whole and I wish all four and the other new councillors' good luck in their work that they will do in continuing the support to and representation of Rhossili Community Council for all.

Thank you all

Steven Campbell-Kelly

Chair for Rhossili Community Council

IB proposed acceptance of Clerk's resignation. SW seconded – **Agreed unanimously**. Council agreed recognition of service by Clerk.

7. Chairman's Items:

- (i) Annual Report: A meeting to be convened on 27th April to pull together the first Annual Report, as required by legislation. This meeting could be in the Village Hall and via Zoom, provided that a full risk assessment has been carried out. If not, it will be via Zoom, using the usual codes. A written Report will be produced and then delivered to all residences. SW will present the End of Year Financial Report via Zoom. Proposed by IB; seconded by SW - **Agreed Unanimously**.
- (ii) Platinum Jubilee Beacon Celebration: Clerk gave summary of progress so far in arrangements for the lighting of a beacon on The Beacon on Thursday, 2nd June. The businesses in Rhossili – The Lookout, The Causeway (Worms Head Hotel) and The Bistro have been approached. Beacon Pies will be available at The Causeway, and the informal gathering will be on the apron in front of The Causeway. NT have agreed that the grassed area at the top of the Car Park can also be used. The Phoenix Choir of Wales have agreed to entertain people attending from 7.30pm, including a rendition of the specially composed Jubilee Anthem and a medley of songs from its catalogue. NCI Worms Head members will also be joining and it is proposed that the celebration will be informal beginning at 7.00pm and closing at 9.00pm. Then parties will depart to the lighting of the two beacons – NCI Worms Head down at the Old Coastguard Lookout and RCC to The Beacon on Rhossili Down. Both gas beacons will be lit as per instructions from Buckingham Palace at 9.45pm. Clerk intends to have further meetings with the businesses to finalise details and hopes to be allowed to continue after the changeover to the new Community Council after 9th May.
- (iii) National Trust Activities: ST reported that she had been contacted by NT about some organised activities in Rhossili in the summer – NT will be hosting 2 Outdoor Theatre productions in July, a Beatrix Potter presentation and A Midsummer Night's Dream. Posters will be put in various places around the village, and there will also be an organised MacMillan Walk, with the lunch stop and end of the half marathon being in Rhossili.

8. **Highways:** Noted proliferation of new 30mph signs that included Speed Camera notices. No information has been received regarding this.

9. **Footpaths and Rights of Way:** NTR

10. **Planning: (i) 2022/2022/0631 – Longways, Middleton:** Removal of chimney, new roof lights, fenestration changes, car parking, decking, solar panels on roof, air-source heat pump. After studying plans and elevations the discussion ended with RCC agreeing to take a “Neutral Stance”. However, IB proposed that a comment be added, “It is preferable if the new flue be as unobtrusive as possible.” Seconded by JH – **Approved unanimously.**

(ii) **2022/0448/FUL - Ashtree Farm:** Conversion of existing garage etc. There was discussion and studying of detailed plans. Appreciate that the proposed front elevation is similar to the present but there are concerns about the huge amounts of glass that are proposed for the rear of the building. Neutral stance proposed by IB, seconded by SW – **Approved unanimously.**

(iii) **2022/0665/FUL – Ashtree Hall:** 2 storey side extension, single storey rear extension + balcony. Noted that this application has previously been approved by CCS. It is felt that the re-instatement of the two chimneys would be more in keeping with being on the Rhossili Conservation Area and add to the design of the building – losing the two chimneys removes the appearance of a typical Rhossili Farmhouse, the last surviving one in the village core. It was noted that a neighbouring building is also the subject of a planning application (see above) but requires a WSI Report. Clerk to query if this application needs one, too.

(iv) **2013/1783 – Lower Pitton Farm, The Granary.** No comment.

11. **Finance:**

(i) RFO gave a report of financial position [Balance stands at £1948.24] He gave details of each entry – all Councillors had copies of the financial position.

(ii) Assets have been increased as Noticeboard has been installed in Middleton bus-shelter.

(iii) An internal Auditor has to approve the accounts before the End of Year is closed. Clerk to confirm PM.

(iv) New Council will have to make a decision regarding the continuation (or not) of Zoom licence.

(v) IB proposed expenditure to cover share agreed with Village Hall for a new defibrillator cabinet. Seconded by JH – **Approved unanimously.**

(vi) RFO said that he had some concerns about RCC holding bank accounts at HSBC in the future because it was so difficult and time-consuming to change signatories, often taking six months. SW will offer to bridge the gap in the services of RFO for RCC until a replacement is appointed; he will not want the period to be excessive and will negotiate with the new Council when it convenes after 9th May.

The Virtual Meeting closed at 20.52pm Date of next Meeting: 10th May, 2022