

MINUTES, 10th May, 2022

RHOSSILI COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Council: Gill Boulding (GB), Ian Button (IB), Tom Higgs (TH), Maggie Kirk (MK), Lesley-Anne Nolan (L-AN)
Nicola Rees (NR) and Sally Thomas (ST)

1. Attendance: IB, GB, TH, MK, NR and ST. Also Steve Walmsley, as Acting Responsible Finance Officer (RFO)

Meeting of 2022 Council commenced at 7.15pm. On this one occasion, the meeting was not held in the public domain as it was intended to be an opportunity for Councillors to meet each other for the first time.

2. Apologies: Lesley-Anne Nolan

3. Declaration of Interest: None notified.

4. Previous Minutes: Not applicable, as this was the first meeting.

5. Acting Chair: Ian Button

6. Chairman's Items:

(i) Declarations of Acceptance: Clerk distributed copies of Declaration of Acceptance to all Councillors present. L-A Nolan unable to take her place as she was not present and had not signed the necessary Declaration, witnessed by the Proper Officer.

Each Councillor present gave a brief introduction about themselves and what they wanted to achieve while serving the community of Rhossili.

(ii) Finance: SW, retiring RFO had asked to speak about financial matters before the usual point in the Agenda as he was attending via "Zoom".

(a) SW said RCC Liability insurance is due on 01/06. IB proposed acceptance of the recommended quotation to be sent electronically to all Councillors. All Councillors requested to send back answers to relevant sections on their qualification to be Councillors (bankruptcy etc.) by return.

(b) IB proposed accepting SW offer to stay in post as RFO until a replacement is found. NR seconded. Approved unanimously.

(c) Jeff Higgins has also volunteered to train a member of RCC to carry out Tax procedures for new Clerk, when appointed.

(d) SW went through Financial Reports. He pointed out the Zoom Licence Annual Fee and that items had to be added to the agreed budget, such as contribution towards Defibrillator Case and the WI replacement Filing Cabinet. RCC Accounts had been audited by the Internal Auditor, to whom thanks were given and the signed papers will now be sent to Welsh Audit Office. SW and RCC Councillors expressed thanks to Steve Campbell-Kelly of The Rhossili Gallery, to hold the Accounts for public observation. IB proposed payment for extended 1year Zoom Licence, seconded by ST. Approved unanimously.

(iii) AGM: Clerk stated requirement for AGM to be held within the statutory time limit. Tuesday, 24th May agreed, subject to approval from Village Hall Manager. (This later moved to Monday, 23rd May, due to VH not being available on the date suggested.) Clerk to put out Mail Chimp and also asking recipients to re-post onto any other communication networks.

(iv) Clerk Appointment: There was discussion on the need for a Clerk to serve RCC. Councillors volunteered to investigate job adverts, speak to One Voice Wales and to contact other Councils and Clerks. Council unanimously agreed that the first preference was to appoint a Clerk who could also be RFO, and the second preference would be to have 2 separate posts. Clerk said that a Councillor can be the RFO, but cannot be paid to carry out the task. Councillors to investigate job descriptions for the two roles.

(v) Jubilee Beacon: Clerk requested permission to carry on with the organisation of the Beacon celebration. A licence to carry out the Beacon had been received by the Clerk from Natural Resources, Wales, via the National Trust as owners of the land. GB said that L-A Nolan had said she would help. Clerk responded that she was grateful for the offer and for the continued support from the Community Council.

7. Highways: NTR

8. Rights of Way & Footpaths: Footpath RH30 has 3 new Kissing Gates installed, courtesy of Steve Parry and the Rights of Way Department.

9. Planning: **Pitton Common Land** – development work carried out on a small piece of Common Land in Lower Pitton Valley by the owners of Gower Cottage. CCS Enforcement team now involved.

2022/0665/FUL – Lower Pitton Farm, The Granary: Replacement Barn. After discussion it was proposed that a Neutral Stance be stated, with an additional comment that the proposed design would be enhanced if wood panels were used to soften the sides, thought to be more “in keeping” with the location and surrounding buildings.

10. Finance:

See item 6(ii) above.

The Virtual Meeting closed at 20.34 Date of next Meeting: 14th June, 2022

Clerk:

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