

RHOSSILI COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Council: Chair – Ian Button (IB), **Vice-Chair** – Gill Boulding (GB), Tom Higgs (TH), Maggie Kirk (MK),

Lesley-Anne Nolan (L-AN), Nicola Rees (NR) and Sally Thomas (ST)

Acting Clerk/notetaker: Maggie Kirk

Acting Responsible Finance Officer: Steve Walmsley

MINUTES

Tuesday 13th September 2022

Rhossili Village Hall

Meeting commenced at 7.19pm

- 1. Attendance:** Councillors IB, NR, ST, TH, L-AN, MK
Residents 5 (1 via Zoom)

- 2. Apologies:** GB (work commitment away); SW (personal)

- 3. Declaration of Interests:**

IB declared potential interest (Planning 10i) but noted this is for a pre-application.

No other interests declared.

IB commenced the meeting with a tribute to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth following her death: On behalf of the community, Rhossili Community Council wishes to express our sadness on the death of HM Queen and to acknowledge her long and faithful service. We offer condolences to the Royal Family and we reflect on Her Majesty's life and contribution to the country and commonwealth.

- 4. Minutes of last Meeting: 12.7.22**

Previous minutes proposed as accurate by TH, seconded NR.

- 5. Matters arising**

Correspondence during the summer recess raised concerns about the clarity of the two information boards by St Mary's Church. IB offered to look at these over the winter and refurbish to improve visibility.

Action

- IB to examine the boards with a view to refurbishing them.

Item 5 (Councillor Training): deferred to next meeting.

Item 6iii (Amendment to Standing Orders): deferred to next meeting

Item 6iv (Purchase of equipment): Purchase of microphone and camera completed and in use at meeting (NB Zoom user subsequently reported clear sound and picture).

Other items on Agenda.

6. Hwb news

Formal approval of funding from Swansea Council Rural Development Programme was noted, with invitation to apply for further top-up funding. MK requested agreement to apply for additional funding for further enhancement of Hwb and RCC websites, in particular to install the Vocaleyes voting platform currently used by Pennard Community Council. **Councillors agreed.**

1st progress report submitted on 5th August to Swansea Rural Development Programme project team. Two Rhossili Community Hwb events to be held towards the end of September: 26th September Workshop for community residents; 27th September Workshop for other community stakeholders. All present were encouraged to attend.

7. Chair's Items

- I. There have been no enquiries or applications for the role of Clerk and RFO. Councillors are covering the Clerk role as an interim arrangement pending revision and resubmission of advert and further particulars. The revised advert had been circulated via RCC WhatsApp for comment. The value of attracting a qualified clerk or one willing to undergo training was noted. Swansea County Council and Welsh Government are keen to professionalise local government service via trained clerks. Having a trained clerk can provide a gatekeeper to further opportunities. There was discussion on the possibility of increasing the precept.

Actions

- Interim arrangements to be agreed.
- Revised advert to be recirculated.
- Discussion on increasing precept to be on agenda in coming months.

II. Communication:

RCC internal email is no longer blind copied and it was agreed that this was a positive move. Two WhatsApp accounts have been established: RCC for councillors only and RCC Information for the community. Currently 19 participants have signed up for the latter. Some concern was expressed about over-use of the councillors' RCC account and it was agreed that this would be reviewed at the next meeting.

Action

- Use of WhatsApp to be monitored prior to review.

III. Refuse and recycling

The problem of refuse is felt to have been worse this year. IB invited Public to comment. There have been issues where the wrong rubbish bags have been left out with consequent littering of the area or left in the wrong place and then other bags placed with them in error. The rubbish has been very unsightly at times and the burden of clearing the area has fallen to

residents. This is highly unsatisfactory particularly given hygiene concerns about the nature of some of the waste. The issue has been exacerbated by some holiday lets having changeover days that do not coincide with standard refuse collection days.

Actions

- GB has spoken to owners and to monitor situation.
- Consider including information on Hwb.
- Review next meeting; send letter to appropriate agencies/owners if problem persists.
- The Chair thanked Gill Wales in particular for her commitment to keeping the green rubbish-free.

IV. Supporting Rhossili farmers and Gower Commoners –

There was discussion around the value of providing advice and information for residents and visitors and the need for education. Suggestions included highlighting the Countryside code and providing a Flow chart of who to call in urgent/emergency situations. Numerous contacts were suggested.

Action

- Advice and information to be compiled for publication on Hwb.

8. Highways:

Updates on the Welsh Government proposal to introduce a 20mph speed limit on restricted roads across Wales were discussed. Correspondence has been received from Councillor Richard Lewis. Data are being gathered from areas where the speed limit has been introduced to provide more information on the impact of the speed limit before wider public consultation. Restricted roads include street lights placed no more than 200 yards apart. They are usually located in residential and built-up areas with high pedestrian activity.

It was agreed that RCC would continue to pursue information to remain abreast of developments. It was also agreed that use of a community speed camera would be explored. LA-N offered to do this. Offer accepted.

Actions

- Pursue further information about the 20mph restriction
- Explore use of community speed camera

9. Footpaths, Rights of Way:

It was noted that hedges had now been cut back. However, the verges need to be cleared on Pitton Cross Hill.

Action

- IB to contact Highways about clearing verges.

10. Planning:

- (i) **2022/2049/PRE | (Pre-application) Conversion of two redundant agricultural buildings into six holiday lets and use of land for the siting of six glamping lodges for tourism let | Pitton Cross Farm Rhossili Swansea SA3 1PH**

There was agreement that the conversion of the two agricultural buildings to holiday lets should be supported and seen as a positive use of the buildings. However, there were objections around the erection of the lodges in a field surrounded by open countryside and of removing land from agricultural use.

Action

- Comments to be submitted via the planning portal.

11. Question or comments from Members of Public. Invited by Chair

A temporary resident voiced concerns about bins not being emptied by council, where solid bins are being used.

12. Finance: (i)

A written report was submitted by the RFO:

- We have £4271.07 in the bank
- We have been paid the 2nd precept
- We are saving £500 per quarter in salary (last payment XXX)
- Grant is self-financing but we will have to bridge the spend from RCC accounts
 - So far matched funding claim: £1,040.49
 - Expenditure: £43.43
 - Amount claimed: £696.58

13. Provisional Date of next Meeting: 11.10.22

Meeting ended at 20.53pm