

## 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)

Acting Clerk/notetaker: Gill Boulding    Acting Responsible Finance Officer: Steve Walmsley

### Minutes

***Tuesday, 11<sup>th</sup> October 2022 7.15 start- approx. 9.15 end***

1. **Attendance:** Councillors – IB GB TH MK L-AN NR  
Residents - (Number only) 7- in person and online
2. **Apologies:** Sally Thomas (ST)
3. **Declaration of Interests:** None declared
4. **Minutes of last Meeting:** 13.09.22 – Agreed as accurate (no vote taken)
5. **Matters arising**
  - I. Communication – RCC email circulation and What's app groups review  
Councillors agreed WA is an important tool for keeping ourselves informed between meetings. We need to ensure information which is shared on WA is important. Need to ensure we keep decisions requiring voting to the meetings.  
**Action: All – ensure we all limit what we put on but continue to use it.**
  - II. Refuse and recycling – Those villagers affected have reported an improvement. We have a better understanding of the collection services in place for the various properties in the village. We will keep this monitored. Frustration expressed about limited commercial recycling for plastic. There is no limit on domestic recycling.  
**Action: LA to contact the City and County of Swansea and Biffa to understand their proposals for future commercial recycling for Gower – in particular plastic.**
  - III. Supporting Rhossili farmers and Gower Commoners - advice and information for residents and visitors  
**Action – NR will work with MK on information for the Hwb.**
  - IV. Planning: 2022/2049/PRE  
Comments have been submitted from RCC

V. 20mph speed limit

L-A Nolan has written to Alan Ferris SCC Road Safety Manager, but had no response.

Discussion about how drivers still exceed 30mph. Agreement that it would be better to introduce 30 mph earlier before the village. Discussion included use of various signs and mechanisms that might increase 30 mph adherence and hence increase our safety.

**Action. IB to make contact with Simon Chadwick – Go Safe – arrange for him to attend next RCC meeting.**

6. Action List

This was reviewed – several issues are outstanding from previous meetings. The following were addressed:

- Ragwort – TH approached NT about this and 2022 seems to have been a better year for ragwort and there is less in Mewslade valley than in previous years.

**Action TH to review it in 2023**

- Notice boards/signage –Discussion about access beside the Gallery – some traffic is taking that route to get down to the beach. A community effort has contributed to the reinstatement of both the east and west tracks. Could a private sign be erected for the East track as well as improving the sign for the west track? Ian asked villagers in attendance who are affected by the traffic about their preferred course of action.

**Action –IB asked members of the local community who have worked on reinstating the tracks will contact Penrice estate who own the green, to gain permission to redirect beach traffic with a small unintrusive but legible sign. Report back at next meeting.**

**Action - IB will be renewing the existing signage by the church and making improvements to the notice boards.**

7. Hwb news

MK provided an update on 2 very successful events at RVH regarding the Hwb project and feedback from these. An application for top up funding to the Swansea Rural Development Programme for the Hwb to incorporate the “Vocaleyes” software onto the site has been successful.

Action: RCC to approve that any expenditure against the RDP grant would be made using SCC financial regulations as they are the grant awarding body e.g. tender limits for purchases and procurement of services to develop the Rhossili Hwb. RCC councillors would be kept informed of purchases and how much of the grant was still available.

**Vote: TH proposed SCC regulations be applied to Hwb expenditure, seconded by LA-N.**

## 8. Items

### I. Correspondence:

- a. Chair, Ilston Community Council (09/09)  
Proposal for a local forum of local community councils- **MK to update at next meeting**
- b. Funding applications for a defibrillator (27/09) – not discussed
- c. Swansea RDP invite: Farmer's perspective on Stories of a changing landscape October 26<sup>th</sup> - RCC has been invited to attend this at South Gower Sports Club.  
**Action: TH to reply to invitation**
- d. October 27<sup>th</sup> Online conference: The importance of Community & Town Councils in building resilient spaces for Nature. Representation invited. Not discussed.
- e. Email from our former Clerk (3/10/22).
- f. One Voice Wales/SLCC (04/09) Joint event 09/11-

### II. Clerk/RFO appointment and interim Clerk arrangements

MK reflected on the clerk's role and its challenges and opportunities. MK proposes that the hours are increased, and a revised pay spine point applied if an applicant has the relevant qualifications to warrant this. MK outlined the implications of these increases. The professionalisation of the clerk's role (and the role of councillors) requires relevant training to undertake the role. SW identified the need to increase the precept by @£1000 to achieve the uplift. Adjustment will be needed in January.

**Action :** MK Proposed that the advert is reissued (circulated September 2022) pay spine point will reflect qualifications. – LA -N seconded - 20 hours per month, salary within fixed range of the pay spine for local clerks reflecting qualifications of the successful applicant. **MK to insert the OVW advert**

Interim clerk arrangements:

The roles and responsibilities of the clerk were discussed.

We agreed to take it in turns to cover clerk's role until we appoint a new clerk.  
The following three meetings will be covered as follows:

November-December LA-N

December – January TH

January-February – not confirmed

February-March – not confirmed

Agreed we all need to work together on this and play to each other's strengths.

### III. Review of Standing Orders

(Motion to review and accept revisions)

MK has reviewed these and added relevant items accordingly. Using relevant templates. These were agreed by all.

### IV. Councillor training needs analysis and Training Plan

This was first raised in November 2021. A training plan must be published on RCC website by 5th November 2022 – worked on by the clerk and chair. MK trialled the process which took approximately 45 minutes to complete. The importance of training for councillors was raised by MK e.g. on diversity and inclusion, GDPR. The training document raises the possibility of combining with other local councils to share training experience. The focus of training is on local government. Some are cost free.

**Action : IB to share information on training courses. All to complete their training needs analysis and send to IB. IB to check who the training plan needs to be submitted to.**

**Training plan to be published by 5<sup>th</sup> November.**

### V. Finance & Governance Toolkit

MK – outlined the need for the RCC to undertake a health check/self-assessment on how the council is performing on behalf the community. This item relates to governance as well as finance. GB suggested we ask the community for feedback. Possibility of using the new Vocaleyes to do this was raised by MK. Need to ensure systems and policies are in place.

**Action : SW to look at the Finance aspects of the toolkit- and ensure we are compliant. MK will look at the governance side of the toolkit. Report back at next meeting. A future meeting will address this in more detail with a view to establishing an annual review system.**

V1 Rota for representing RCC at One Voice Wales & County Council levels

OVW Swansea area meeting – could be helpful for RCC to attend to assist us in our duties. LA-N tried to attend last night's meeting but the software failed.

**Action GB to attend the next meeting and report back. If worthwhile we will continue to attend and take it in turns to do so.**

#### **V11 Annual Newsletter**

The content was discussed and the need to streamline it.

Is a community wide paper version required?

Discussion about the need to provide a paper version for many members of the community. Digital version will be on the website and Hwb. All agreed that it provides a permanent record of RCC life – important for posterity.

#### **Actions:**

**Survey community on future provision of paper version 2023 on WA/email and 2022 newsletter – to be completed as part of the Hwb project.**

**TH will approach previous clerk for guidance on content and take the lead on collecting content from regular contributors.**

### **9. Highways**

IB has emailed CCS and the relevant areas have been managed.

### **10. Footpaths, Rights of Way:**

Keenmoor Lane has been cut back.

### **11. Planning:**

1. 2022/2230/PRE (Pre-application) Toilet block, external cafe bar, rear pergola, entrance canopy, timber screening, timber clad cold store and creation of a rear access with timber gates to Beach Lane. Bay Bistro Ivy Cottage Rhossili Swansea SA3 1PL

This is a preapplication so RCC would not normally comment at this stage.

Aspects of the proposals were shared by the relevant residents present.

2. 2022/2161/RG3 CCS Toilets: RCC welcome the development and the increased accessibility that this will provide. We would also like to see an upgrade of the

current facilities which are unsatisfactory and insufficient for the numbers of visitors to the village

**Action: RCC will make relevant comments to this effect on the planning application.**

3. 2022/0394/FUL Rose Cottage – has gone to appeal to the Welsh Government. It is not possible for RCC to provide further comments.

## **12. Questions or comments from Members of Public (Invited by Chair)**

**Members of public commented on the following items:**

- **Refuse and recycling**
- **Planning item: 2022/2230/PRE**
- **Notice boards and signage**
- **Correspondence received – Dark skies – A villager has noted that a few buildings in the village still have very bright lights which are affecting the dark skies status of the village.**

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## **13. Finance:**

### **Report from Responsible Finance Officer.**

Rhossili Village Hall AGM for next Wednesday (19.10.22) at 7:00pm which will use Zoom in addition to in-person attendance. RCC was invited to put forward a councillor to join the RVH Trustees. The Councillors were also invited to join the Trustee meeting as observers.

The RFO provided the monthly financial update. The bank balance at the end of September was £2048.81. The following expenditure was agreed:

- i) Payment to OVW for training provided to MK (£35.00)
- ii) Repayment for RFO for the speaker/microphone system purchased for use in ZOOM meetings (£42.99)

Details of the spend on the RDP Grant have been added to the monthly budget variances sheet showing the amount spent on the grant, the funds still available and the claims paid to date. So far, one claim has been made and we are awaiting payment from SCC. RFO to chase payments as a matter of urgency.

## **14. Provisional Date of next Meeting: 08.11.22**