

RHOSSILI COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Council: **Chair** – Ian Button (IB), **Vice-Chair** – Gill Boulding (GB),
Council Members: Tom Higgs (TH), Maggie Kirk (MK), Lesley-Anne
Nolan (LAN), Nicola Rees (NR), Sally Thomas (ST)

Acting Clerk/notetaker: Nicola Rees

Acting Responsible Finance Officer: Steve Walmsley (SW)

Minutes

Rhossili Village Hall and via Zoom

Tuesday, 10th January 2023

Meeting commenced 7.18pm

1. Attendance: Councillors – GB (Acting Chair) ST, NR, LA-N, TH, MK
 Acting RFO - SW
 Residents – 2 (1 via Zoom)

2. Apologies: Ian Button

3. Declaration of Interests: ST (Item 14)

4. Minutes of last Meeting: 13/12/22

Previous minute proposed as accurate (MK) seconded (LAN).

5. Matters arising

There was discussion around planning and the importance of the community being well represented, whether applying for, or affected by, planning. Members expressed some frustration with the planning process and the need to understand this, and how best to respond to planning developments, based on effective communication with Swansea City Council Planning Department.

Actions:

- LA-N to approach recently retired Planning Officer about understanding the planning process.
- LA-N to investigate planning courses.
- IB/GB to make contact with SCC Planning Dept.

6. Action List

The Action list was reviewed and updated.

7. Hwb update

MK demonstrated key features of Hwb and outlined further ideas for development. The Launch on 16th December was well attended with an audience of over 50, including Rebecca Evans MS. The response of attendees was positive. There has been a fair response to IT survey (37 responses). The first IT Training session well attended (30 people) and very well evaluated. Further sessions are to follow.

The new Vocaleyes site was demonstrated, showing how key 'Topics' could be posted on the site in the form of questions to the community. People can then respond directly by posting their ideas and comments in response to this, before voting on the ideas to provide insights to the priorities of the community.

The design idea for the RCC website refresh was demonstrated.

Decision: Members were unanimous re continuing site development along the lines illustrated.

8. A plan for Rhossili 2023 onwards

There was some discussion around RCC's priorities for 2023/24. A statement from the Chair was read setting out his thoughts. Members had mixed views with some concerns expressed about potential workload, particularly in the absence of a Clerk. The importance of RCC working together effectively with the community was noted and the value of engagement in promoting this.

Action: For further discussion and development of engagement/communication plan (MK)

9. Items

I. *Clerk/RFO appointment and interim Clerk arrangements: January-June 2023*

MK reminded members of statutory requirements re publication of agenda (3 clear days ahead of meeting), key notes (unratified) being posted online within 7 working days) and minutes to be made available online.

Rota agreed: Jan-Feb: GB; Feb-Mar: TH; Mar-Apr ST; Apr-May MK

All agreed on the need to appoint a replacement Clerk as a priority. It was noted that the Clerk, as the 'Proper Officer' makes an essential contribution to the effective running of the council that goes far beyond managing agendas and minutes.

Action: MK to draft re-advertisement highlighting possibility of flexibility re virtual attendance via Zoom. Disseminate via networks & One Voice Wales.

II. *Councillor training plan*

Common topics identified for training are Finance & IT. Members noted the availability of free online training for core topics.

Action: All to notify GB of training requirements (Module, Session date & time) by Tuesday 17th to be able to apply for bursary by January 23rd 2023.

III. Swansea Public Services Board Wellbeing plan and Rhossili's response

GB led discussion. RCC has not previously commented on the PSBW plan. The consultation runs to March 18th 2023. GB questioned of RCC should consider responding. It was noted that details are available on the Hwb at <https://www.rhossilihwb.wales/promoting-wellbeing/wellbeing-policy/>

IV. Rota for representing RCC

1.IV.1. Swansea Area committee 16th January at 7.00pm (GB)

1.IV.2. Swansea Area committee. 17th April 2023 at 7.00pm LAN

1.IV.3. Community and Town Council Forum (date TBC)

10. Finance

Written report from Responsible Finance Officer. He expects the 2022/23 year end to have in-year budget savings of £2,489. This will give an overall year end account balance of approximately £5,000.

There was discussion around spending priorities for 2023/24 and setting of the precept. The RFO advised a focus on clerk salary (and tax), RCC training, grants and community engagement. Those seeking grants for the current year need to submit a request.

Action:

- The precept budget to be a substantive item at February meeting.
- ST to remind church & chapel re requesting donation.

11. Correspondence

- I. 03/01/23. Gareth Richards- Sea-Changers Coastal Fountain Fund 2023: Water fountain grant.

There was discussion on the potential benefits of this £2,550 grant towards installing (but not maintaining) a water fountain at an appropriate beach location. RCC would support an application if National Trust Gower would want to take this forward. The closing date is February 28th.

Ref https://www.sea-changers.org.uk/coastal-fountain-fund?utm_campaign=df9a8b4c-b850-4732-affe-cfeaa7156d6a&utm_source=so&utm_medium=mail&cid=3e046cfe-5e4e-4d83-9672-27c0bb4d8253

Action: LA-N to follow up with National Trust.

- II. Swansea Council re hanging baskets

There was discussion around the value of the scheme offered by Swansea Council Parks Dept. for local residents to purchase hanging baskets for £44.

Ref <https://www.swansea.gov.uk/article/6079/Hanging-baskets-for-residents>

Action: Information to be forwarded to residents by mailchimp, reminding them also that local suppliers are also available.

12. Highways

Nil to report.

13. Footpaths & Rights of Way

Members noted correspondence from Chris Dale Countryside Access Team Leader re Local Access Forum membership.

Action: Email to be forwarded to residents via Mailchimp.

14. Planning

2022/2957/FUL, Longways, Rhossili, Swansea, SA3 1PL.

There was discussion on the impact of the proposal on neighbouring properties and road view.

Decision: Object (unanimous).

15. Questions or comments from Members of the Public (Invited by Chair)

Comment made by resident on value of understanding criteria and terms of reference of Swansea CC Planning Dept when assessing planning applications.

16. Provisional date of next meeting: 14th February 2023

Meeting ended 9.25pm.