



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), Sue
Muddeman (SM)
Clerk: Lauren Walters (LW)
Responsible Finance Officer: Steve Walmsley (SW)

Minutes

Rhossili Village Hall and via Zoom

Tuesday, 13th February 2024

Meeting commenced 7:22pm

- 1. Attendance:** Councillors – IB, TH, MK, SM, LAN (via Zoom) &NR
RFO - SW
Notetaker – SM
Residents: 1
1 member of Gower National Trust
Chair, Gower Commoner's Association
- 2. Apologies:** GB & LW
Item 14 was brought forward to accommodate visitors.
- 3. Declaration of Interests**
None
- 4. Minutes of last Meeting:** 09/01/2024
Minutes were approved by IB and seconded by MK.
- 5. Representation from the Public**
None
- 6. Action list**
The Action list was reviewed in part. For full review next meeting.
- 7. Finance**
 - 7.1. Receive reports from Finance Officer. Current and expected spend reports were discussed and agreed with RCC members.
 - 7.1.1. Vocaleyes subscription – to be removed from 2023-24 budget as VocalEyes is ceasing to trade.

- 7.1.2. The current level of reserves stands at £4,791.
- 7.1.3. The expected remaining spend in 2023-24 is £1,289.
- 7.2. To receive and agree on budget spending proposals.
 - 7.2.1. Clerk travel expenses of £71.10p were voted on and agreed by RCC
 - 7.2.2. Printing costs of 2023 Newsletter from Print Partnership of £496.00 were voted on and agreed by RCC.
 - 7.2.3. Rhossili Village Hall meeting room costs for 14 meeting held in 2023-24 of £140.00 were voted on and agreed by RCC.
 - 7.2.4. ICLA Clerk training course costs of £144.00p were voted on and agreed by RCC
 - 7.2.5. Microsoft software annual licence of £49.95 was voted on and agreed by RCC. The RFO was given permission to pay these expenses when the licence had been acquired.
- 7.3. Other Financial Matters - None

8. Hwb Update

- 8.1 MK reported that the VocalEyes platform was being discontinued for business reasons and so would no longer be available to RCC.
Action: MK to check if any data needs to be downloaded ahead of closure.
Action: SW to amend budget accordingly
- 8.2 The Hwb Twitter (X) feed to the Hwb home page has been replaced by the Hwb Facebook account feed. This updates much more rapidly than Twitter (every 30 minutes compared with 12-24 hourly). Facebook has proved to be more popular and has over 250 followers.

9. Forward Planning – discussion of what we are planning in the village. Events etc.

- 9.1 RCC Communications Strategy
MK summarised the nature of responses received to date by the pilot survey sent to Higher Pitton residents. 7 responses have been received so far, in a mix of face-to-face discussions, telephone, email and via WhatsApp. Views on speeding in the village are mixed. Responses have been enlightening and the exercise is felt to be of value. Further responses are anticipated.
- 9.2 D Day Commemoration Update
This will be updated at the next meeting due to time constraints.
- 9.3.1 Grievance Policy
Voted on by RCC. IB forwarded and seconded by LAN
- 9.3.2 Maternity Policy
Voted on by RCC. IB forwarded and seconded by LAN
- 9.3.3 Safeguarding Policy
Voted on by RCC IB forwarded and seconded by TH
- 9.4 Recycling was discussed within the meeting and as of April 6th 2024 there will be no mixed bins collection – everything has to be recycled.

10. Attendance and Feedback from Outreach Meetings

10.1 Community Town Council Forum 5pm Monday 4th March – hybrid meeting and Teams – IB will be attending.

10.2 Gower Forum Meeting feedback – IB & TH

An issue on recycling was discussed within the forum. First aid training was discussed.

The next meeting is on 10th April 2024.

10.3 OneVoice Wales meeting feedback – IB

Issues with paying for church and chapel – but these were addressed and clarified by the RFO.

11. Planning Applications – review and produce comments

11.1 Pitton Cross Farm Rhossili – Approved by Swansea CC- Noted by RCC

11.2 Carrissima Cottage – Negative by Swansea CC - Noted by RCC

12. Footpaths and Rights of Way – review comment and action

12.1 None to discuss

13. Roads and Pavements - review comments and action

13.1 Ditch cleaning required between Pitton Cross Hill and Kimley Moor Farm reported by LW.

13.2 School Lane issues – LW chased up with Swansea CC, awaiting feedback.

14. National Trust

14.1 Equine Welfare – the deaths of grazing horses and foals was discussed with the Gower Commoners Association (GCA) and with the National Trust (NT).

There was a discussion with the Gower Commoners Association and the National Trust about the deaths of grazing horses and foals from cliff falls at Rhossili. It was stated that there is no member of the GCA with horses grazing Rhossili cliffs. The regulatory framework was outlined within which members hold rights as graziers to allow livestock to graze on commons land (1 horse, 1 cow or 5 sheep per acre). Rights to graze go with land ownership but can also be obtained through an agricultural tenancy. The lease must also be registered with the Commons Registry. Horses must be registered and microchipped and he explained the concept of ‘fly-grazing’, as a form of trespassing. Feral ponies must be chipped on first roundup. Supplemental feeding is also regulated, to protect the land, and landowner consent is also needed. IB reminded those present of the need to be mindful that those new to the area, or unaccustomed to rural areas may be unaware of the risks associated with grazing livestock and that there was a need for education around this.

NT commented on the importance of common land and the vital part it plays in our local environment and that grazing was important to keep the land in good condition. There is a fine balance between preserving the land and tourism.

It was also acknowledged that the cliffs do present an objective danger and falls by other livestock and people. Two issues were noted: falling off the cliff and the right for livestock to be there grazing. Dogs chasing livestock were a national issue and not specific to the local area.

Both the GCA and the NT gave assurances that they were actively working with the relevant authorities (including Natural Resources Wales) to resolve the issue. There is a need to demonstrate that all avenues have been pursued before taking the issue to Welsh Government level. Both agreed to keep RCC informed of progress.

The resident present commented that it was encouraging to hear that actions are being taken over this distressing issue.

15. Chair's Items

15.1 Ambulance response times and first responders for Rhossili

Currently being investigated by RCC.

15.2 Sewage discharge in Rhossili

IB has been investigating this – the sewage discharge is in Llangennith but there is a discharge from Rhossili further along the beach on the Rhossili side but not currently on the map.

16. Representation from the public

None to report.

17. Date of next RCC meeting

17.1 12/03/2024 at 7:15pm

Meeting ended at 9:12pm