

Minutes of Rhossili Community Council

Fferm Llong and via Zoom

7:15pm Tuesday, 11th February 2025

Present:

Chair: Ian Button (IB)

Members: Helen Beynon (HB), Maggie Kirk (MK), Lesley-Anne Nolan (LAN)

Clerk: Charlotte Nolan (Acting) (Zoom)

RFO: Francis Morgan (FM) (Zoom)

Apologies: Gill Boulding (GB)

Public Attendees: None

Chair's remarks

Cllr Ian Button noted that Sue Muddeman had stepped down from the Community Council at the end of January. He thanked Sue for her contribution to the Council's work and welcomed her offer to help with any individual tasks in the future.

Cllr Ian Button thanked Cllr Helen Beynon for hosting the meeting in Fferm Llong cottage as the village hall was unavailable.

1. Apologies for absence

Gill Boulding (GB) – Vice Chair

2. Disclosures of Personal and Prejudicial Interests

Maggie Kirk declared a personal interest to agenda item 6.3 & 6.8.

Lesley-Anne Nolan declared a personal interest to agenda item 6.7.

3. Public Questions

None

4. Minutes

- 4.1. **Resolved** to approve & sign the Minutes of the RCC meeting of 14th January 2025 as a correct record.

5. Administration

- 5.1. A discussion ensued regarding the priorities and ways of working for the community council. The councillors agreed that the two years before the potential merger should be focused on getting tangible outcomes for the community, rather than on meetings, policies and procedures.

The council discussed shifting some of the priorities to helping solve issues that are frequently discussed on the Rhossili WhatsApp chat, such as road safety, internet coverage within the village and the flooding between Rhossili and Knelston. The approach to these issues would be through empowering working groups involving members of the community, with only financial or key decisions coming back to the council for approval.

The council agreed this would mean improved communication between the council members, and also between the RCC and the community.

5.1.1. **Agreed** to move to a bi-monthly meeting structure from March 2025 on a trial basis, with meetings taking place in January, March, May, July, September and November each year. If meetings are required in the interim an extraordinary meeting will be called.

5.1.2. **Action** – Clerk to produce a yearly plan of meetings and the statutory requirements throughout the year to be published on the RCC website.

5.1.3. **Action** – Clerk to commence draft of the annual report to be approved before the ACM in May 2025.

5.2. **Action** – Publicise the change of approach to RCC meetings and priorities to the community, then include this in the adverts for the new councillors.

5.3. There have been no applications for the Clerk permanent role.

5.4. After some discussion the council agreed to put forward three submissions to the 2025 One Voice Wales Awards: “Community Engagement Initiative” for the D-Day Commemorations, “Best Environmental Project” for the Bird Box Workshop and “Best Use of Digital Resources” for the Hwb and RCC Website.

5.4.1. **Action** – MK to review draft of the “Best Use of Digital Resources” and “Best Environmental Project” for submission.

5.4.2. **Action** – LAN to draft “Community Engagement Initiative” submission.

6. Finance

6.1. **Received and noted** the finance report for February 2025

6.2. **Approved** updated forecast for 2024/2025 given anticipated invoices before the end of the financial year.

6.3. **Approved** the following reimbursements for the bird box workshops:

6.3.1. Paul Kirk – Swift box wood - £75.47

6.3.2. Paul Kirk - Swift box paint - £14.99

6.3.3. Sam Muddeman – Other Nest box wood - £59.34

6.3.4. Sue Muddeman – Refreshments - £8.17

6.4. **Acknowledged** the income collected and received for bird box workshops:

6.4.1. Francis Morgan £130

6.4.2. Steve Wamsley £20

6.5. **Approved** reimbursement to Sam Muddeman for collection of wood from Drim Wood, Gelli - £20.

6.6. The RFO acknowledged the previous RFO – Steve Walmsley for his care in the previous audits, which have been returned with minimal comments. The council discussed the possibility of claiming back VAT, however, decided not to proceed for 2024-2025 but to put on the agenda in May July for the next financial year.

6.7. **Approved** to continue the temporary contract for Charlotte Nolan in the Clerk role.

6.8. **Approved** reimbursement to Maggie Kirk for £28.63 for a printer cartridge for the RCC printer.

Francis Morgan – RFO left the meeting following agenda item 6.

7. Council Merger

No update received.

8. Priorities for 2024/2025

- 8.1. **Received update** on Middleton Bus Shelter. The back of the bus shelter will be painted with masonry paint ahead of Helen Sinclair starting the mural.
- 8.2. **Received update** on litter picking station. The equipment has arrived at the village hall, the box will be assembled shortly. A beach litter pick will be taking place to publicise the opening of the beach clean. A group of local residents have volunteered to be a part of the station's management team.
 - 8.2.1. **Action** – LAN to run beach clean to publicise new litter picking station on Wednesday 18th February.
- 8.3. No further updates from the last meeting
 - 8.3.1. **Action** – Chair Ian Button to source quotes for the bench.
- 8.4. **Received update** on the Wildlife box Workshop. Thirteen people attended the bird box workshop which was very well received, with 20 boxes being completed. The RCC would like to thank Paul Kirk, Steve Walmsley and Sue & Sam Muddeman for all their input, and Francis Morgan for his presentation.

9. Potential Priorities for 2025/2026

- 9.1. MK has been in touch with the Samaritans about Rhossili Cliffs and recent suicides and the frequency of incidents with distressed individuals on top of the cliffs.

The Samaritans were very responsive and would like to put together a multi-agency meeting, with representatives from the RCC, to discuss the situation and if there any potential strategies to help support those who live and work in the local community.

The RCC had been told that the National Trust is looking to schedule training for their staff given the recent suicides in Rhossili and the impact it has had on them.

 - 9.1.1. **Action** – to request a separate initial meeting with the Samaritans and other agencies.
- 9.2. The Council has been registered for information regarding the VE Day 80 commemoration, and the village hall has been booked for the date.
 - 9.2.1. **Action** – LAN to lead in identifying plans for the commemoration on behalf of the RCC.

10. Environment, Land Management & Roads

- 10.1. The **update** on the Speed/Traffic Control Working Group was **received** and **noted**:
 - Very successful meeting of the working group – Tuesday, 21st January 2025 at 7pm, on Zoom.
 - The group are seeking information from residents on their experiences of dangerous driving throughout the village to understand the scale of the problem, and so these incidents can be used to build a case for change.
 - A couple of freedom of information requests have been submitted: one for the full set of data for the speed survey conducted in October 2024, and the other to understand if there are roads in Gower which would normally be 30mph but have an exemption to be 20mph for whatever reasons.
 - The group has also reached out to other community councils to see what concerns they have and any action they have taken to try to solve it.

- The working group will come together again once all the information has been received to discuss next steps.
- Initial members are: Ian Button, Gill Boulding, Helen Beynon, Steve Campbell-Kelly, Rebecca Pogson-Hughes-Emanuel, Lesley-Anne Nolan and Charlotte Nolan.

10.2. An **update** was **received** and **noted** from the National Trust:

- The NT will be planning organised monthly organised walks.
- The “Summer of Play” will be returning this year which was very successful in 2024.
- The NT has requested to place posters on the community notice boards, this is fine with the RCC but asked for them to be A5 in size and give to a member of the RCC to place.

11. Planning

No items for this agenda

12. Communications

No items for this agenda

13. Correspondence

The following correspondence was **discussed and noted**:

- 13.1. Response from Swansea Council regarding missing bus service – investigation is to be opened.
- 13.2. Emails from Gower Society and Swansea Council regarding dry stone wall repair in Rhossili Ward.

14. Public Comments

None received

The meeting ended at 9:45pm.

These minutes were approved as a correct record on Tuesday 6th May 2025