

Minutes of Rhossili Community Council

Rhossili Village Hall and via Zoom

7:15pm Tuesday, 11th March 2025

Present:

Chair: Ian Button (IB)

Members: Gill Boulding (GB) – Vice Chair, Maggie Kirk (MK), Lesley-Anne Nolan (LAN) (Zoom)

Clerk: Charlotte Nolan (Acting) (Zoom)

RFO: Francis Morgan (FM) (Zoom)

Apologies: None

Public Attendees: 12 Attendees

1. Apologies for absence

None

2. Disclosures of Personal and Prejudicial Interests

Prejudicial interest declaration for Ian Button: Agenda Item 6.6

3. Public Questions

Due to the topic of the public questions, Vice Chair Gill Boulding chaired this section of the meeting.

- Seven members of the public raised concerns and asked questions relating to Agenda Item 6.6: "Planning for camping next to Green Hayes 2025/0421/FUL Reapplication".

Cllr Gill Boulding and Cllr Maggie Kirk responded by confirming the RCC would consider the concerns raised by the attending members of public when submitting comments to Swansea Council regarding the planning application.

Cllr Gill Boulding added that the RCC was not able to comment on issues which are not considered to be material considerations for planning decisions, such as the motivations or perceived character of the applicant, or a potentially negative impact on property values.

- One member of the public asked about the number of serving councillors on the RCC. Chair Ian Button confirmed there were 4 serving councillors at the time of the meeting.
- Two members of the public raised concerns and asked questions relating to Agenda Item 6.3. "Vanguard Bus Shelter 2025/0269/FUL". Cllr Gill Boulding responded by confirming the RCC would consider the concerns raised by the attending members of public when submitting comments to Swansea Council regarding the planning application.

4. Minutes

- 4.1. The request to approve & sign the Minutes of the RCC meeting of 11th February 2025 as a correct record was deferred.

5. Finance

- 5.1. **Received and noted** the finance report for March 2025
- 5.2. **Approved** updated forecast for 2024/2025 given anticipated invoices before the end of the financial year.
- 5.3. **Approved** the following payments:
- Web charges of £145 for Rhossili CC website (Apr 2025 – March 2026) as per invoice RHOSS-CC-10
 - IT support charges of £150 for period Apr to Jun 25
 - Mowing and land maintenance charges of £295 for the calendar year of 2024
 - Donation to St. Mary's Church, Rhossili of £200
 - Donation to Pitton Chapel of £200
- 5.4. **Resolved** to renegotiate the IT support approach for 2025/2026

Francis Morgan – RFO left the meeting following agenda item 5.

6. Planning

Due to Chair Ian Button having a personal and prejudicial interest in agenda item 6.6 Vice Chair Gill Boulding chaired this section of the meeting. Chair Ian Button did not join the conversation during agenda item 6.6.

- 6.1. Pitton Moor Farm 2025/0285/FUL – **Resolved** to submit comments responding to the application with a “**neutral**” stance, whilst asking it be noted that Barn Owls nest in the Livery Stables adjacent to the proposed construction site.
- 6.2. The Rectory 2025/0290/PRE – **Resolved** to submit comments responding to the application with an “**objective**” stance, siting the following:
- development being unsympathetic to the surrounding conservation area,
 - a substantial increase to the building footprint.
- 6.3. Vanguard Bus Shelter 2025/0269/FUL – **Resolved** to submit comments responding to the application with an “**objective**” stance, siting the following:
- adverse impact on the character and appearance of the surrounding conservation area
 - its proximity to the St. Mary's Church, a listed building
 - neighbours had not been consulted as stated in the application, and
 - the concerns raised with regards to litter and the tidiness of the area have been overstated in the application.
- 6.4. Ty Dawr 2024/2091 NMA – No action to be taken
- 6.5. Carrisma 2025/0403/CAC Demolition of Barn – No action to be taken
- 6.6. Planning for camping next to Green Hayes 2025/0421/FUL Reapplication – **Resolved** to submit comments responding to the application with an “**objective**” stance, siting the following areas of concern:
- welcome the changes in this application in relation to the last application,
 - the location of waste facilities in relation to the Chapel,

- the lack of clarity in the application of what a “unit” consists of: tents, caravans, or motor homes and what this might mean for numbers of individuals using the site,
- the visual impact as people enters the village and the feasibility of planted vegetation screening the site,
- the increase and management of traffic on the main road and Lower Pitton lane,
- the environmental impact of the development on the adjacent SSSI and neighbouring agricultural land,
- the inconsistency in the application with regards to waste management,
- the evidential value of the development,
- and the level of response the council has received in regard to this planning application.

7. Appointment of Co-opted Member of Council

- 7.1. **Elected** Jo Scott to join the RCC as a Councillor as per the RCC Casual Vacancy Co-option Process.

8. Administration

- 8.1. **Action** – Clerk to circulate a draft of the Year End Report 2024-2025 for councillors to comment and amend ahead of the ACM on 13th May 2025.
- 8.2. The members of public attending the meeting were encouraged consider applying to become a councillor, especially given the potential merger of the local community councils in 2027 and a decrease in local representation. Multiple notice of vacancies would be posted shortly on the noticeboards and RCC website.
- 8.3. No applications for the Clerk role have been received. The RCC will consider utilising Indeed to help find a wider pool of candidates.

9. Council Merger

No update received.

10. Priorities for 2024/2025

- 10.1. **Received update** on Middleton Bus Shelter. Helen Sinclair has started the mural on the back of the bus shelter.
- 10.2. **Received update** on litter picking station. A beach clean day was organised with Keep Wales Tidy on 18th February. There were a number of visitors in attendance, and a small number of residents. The first booking has been made for later in the month. The RCC would like to thank the team of volunteers of local residents for their help in managing the station.

11. Potential Priorities for 2025/2026

- 11.1. **Received update** on partnering with the Samaritans on organising mental health first aid training for local residents and workers:
- A preliminary meeting will be set up for local organisations, businesses, NHW Wales, Swansea Council and South Wales Police to discuss options in supporting local workers, volunteers and residents to provide support including mental health first aid training and community meetings.
- 11.2. **Received update** with regards to the Road Safety Working Group:
- The working group has now received the response to the freedom of information requests including the full data from the October speed survey in Middleton, and any information regarding roads in Gower where the speed limit was reduced due to the road characteristics and pedestrian safety.

- Another working group meeting will be set up shortly to discuss next steps.
- Interested residents are encouraged to join the working group at any time.

11.3. **Received update** that the RCC has been registered for information regarding the VE Day 80 commemoration. There may be an afternoon tea in the village hall, however there will be no official community events arranged by the RCC.

12. Environment, Land Management & Roads

12.1. The **update** from the National Trust was **received** and **noted**:

- The NT have tenders out for hay and grazing options over 5 “blocks” within the Vile and for SPG. Closing date is 20th March but anyone interested can get a pack by emailing Isobel.Dawson@nationaltrust.org.uk.
- The arable rotation will be starting in the Vile in the coming weeks. This year they will be farming 15 fields, covering over 25Ha of land with a mix of traditional crops. This work seeks to preserve the farming heritage of the Vile whilst protecting the characteristics of the landscape, create engagement opportunities, and provide a valuable winter food source as well as a source for pollinators.
- The NT have been working with the Swansea rights of way team to try and make improvements to the main beach access path which has deteriorates somewhat. Unfortunately, the track is covered under the Rhossili Downs SSI and so SSSI consent is required for this work. The NT have been working with NRW since November to try and get the consent in place, but have been unable to do so. Whilst the NT will continue to work towards securing this permission, physical works will have to wait until October now as they cannot undertake the works whilst the foot traffic is high in the summer months.

Action – Cllr Gill Boulding to contact the Swansea Council rights of way team to see if there is any support the RCC can provide to help get permission for works.

Action – Cllr Lesley-Anne Nolan to ask the NT team about the plans for ragwort control for 2025.

13. Communications

No items for this agenda

14. Correspondence

No items for this agenda

15. Public Comments

One attendee made the observation that they had no seen as many attendees to a RCC meeting before.

Two attendees acknowledged the RCC for dealing with the tricky circumstances which some planning applications can raise, and their consideration of the planning applications.

One attendee acknowledged the RCC working more closely with the local community in the form of working groups.

The RCC wished to thank Gill Boulding for their impactful and genourous contribution to the council since they joined in 2022.

The meeting ended at 8:42pm.

These minutes were approved at the meeting of the RCC on Tuesday 6th May 2025