



Minutes of Meeting
Tuesday 7 April 2026
Rhossili Village Hall and via Zoom

1 Welcome and Introductions and meeting guidelines

Present: Colin Everett (Chair), Councillors: Maggie Kirk (Vice Chair), Ian Button, Lesley-Anne Nolan, Francis Morgan (RFO), Judy Chappell (Clerk)

2 Apologies for absence: Jo Scott

3 Declarations of interests: None

4 Minutes of the last meeting

4.1 The minutes of the RCC meeting of Tuesday 3 February 2026 were approved as a correct record.

5 Strategic Priorities and Current Issues

5.1.1 South Gower Flooding and Council Works – the verbal report on the local engagement meetings run by City and County of Swansea (CCS) on highway flood control options was noted. Awaiting summary of feedback from CCS.

5.1.2 Special Outdoor Events and City and County of Swansea Strategy – currently no reporting or alerts being issued. An update is awaited from CCS.

5.1.3 Emergency Planning – the verbal report on plan development, and next steps, was noted. Volunteers are coming forward with willingness to work on the themes of assets, communications, skills, vulnerability and rest centre. The risk register for emergencies was under development. Neighbouring councils are interested in engaging also and this plan will be ready for adoption and expansion by the new South Gower Community Council in 2027.

5.1.4 Community Wellbeing – the verbal report on the completion of the first First Aid Awareness session, and the plans for the remaining 3 sessions, was noted. 18 attendees at first event. Next events: 22/4/26 - AED/Defibrillator - 13



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attendees booked so far; 20/5/26 - Child/Paediatric - 14 attendees booked so far; 18/6/26 -Outdoor – 12 attendees booked so far. The events would be promoted to the Port Eynon, Penrice and Reynoldston communities. It was noted that an additional event with Age Cymru was being explored for September (topics include LPA/Falls/Scams/Physical and Mental Wellbeing).

5.1.5 Recycling Workshop – it was noted that confirmation on possible dates, and an outline of the event, was awaited from the CCS Waste Management Team. .

5.1.6 Local Tourism Investment – following meeting with CCS, agreement for RCC scope out project to replace the terminus bus shelter with a designed and non-standard bus shelter/welcome/orientation point in Rhossili was reported. RCC would aim to secure some additional funds with help from CCS, as well as allocate some budget from reserves for this and identify suitable architectural input for design, and manage any consultations. Area of verge either side of bus shelter to be adopted for maintenance by CCS through a statutory notice and procedure.

5.1.7 Road Safety – no update available. It was noted that RCC was pressing CCS to complete all pothole repairs in the wider South Gower area.

Current Issues:

5.2.1 Grazing on Rhossili Cliffs and Management Plan – the verbal report on ongoing informal discussions between key parties was noted. RCC to coordinate a meeting with stakeholders

5.2.2 Illegal Hunting Activity – the engagement of local residents to report concerns to the police, and the prompt and visible police response to reports was noted. Residents were encouraged to join the South Wales Police Alert System to keep up to date with issues and to facilitate reporting of incidents.

5.2.3 Controlled and uncontrolled burnings on open land – the verbal report on recent incidents was noted. Residents should always report any fires using 999. RCC would liaise with the emergency services to assist them in managing the ongoing problem given the level of local concern.



6 Biodiversity

6.1 Biodiversity Action Plan – the action plan for 2026-2028 was approved. In summary the action plan is intended to “Protect what makes Rhossili special, meet new legal duties, and make sure biodiversity stays central during and after the 2027 merger.”

The current status of biodiversity health on the cliffs and downs is unfavourable. The pressure of huge visitor numbers to the area underlies the deterioration of the SSSI. We should aim for Rhossili/Gower to become a marine conservation area, contact various bodies for assistance in enacting statutory duties. It was noted that the Dartmoor Protection Trust provides a useful model of protection to inform approach of this AONB.

The report is recommended as the basis for good practice to the newly formed South Gower Community Council.

6.2 New Event: Surveys and Monitoring in Gower – the SEWBRc event was scheduled for May 2026 at Rhossili Village Hall and the update to July was noted. The event aims to train and assist residents in capturing details of species found in the area via an App. This will ensure information is added to the record for this area by which conservation efforts can be more accurately assessed in future. A maximum of 20 places is available which will be offered initially to residents, with invitations extended more widely if places remain vacant. The event has been partly funded by sponsorship from the Bowens Richard Trust. Additional equipment has been supplied through a Citizen Science Award from One Voice Wales and Welsh Government’s Local Places for Nature Programme. The equipment includes £50.00 worth of hand lenses and identification guides (stored at RVH).

RCC recorded its thanks to these organisations for their support.

6.4 Update on Tree and Scrub removal in area of high conservation value at Upper Pitton – the verbal report was noted. Little concern had been expressed by NRW about the number of trees lost. The CCS hedgerow officer did come and inspect. Rural Payments Wales has yet to respond to the RCC enquiry. An FOI request has been submitted and has revealed no screening application was



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made prior to removal. Permission to remove was not made or issued. A complaint will be made by RCC concerning an unresolved failure to safeguard regulations.

7 Footpaths and Rights of Way

7.1 Updates

7.1.1 Pothole repairs – RCC to request information from CCS about remaining repairs. CE/JC

7.1.2 Style RH46/Ladder – no update to report.

7.1.3 Newly installed concrete block at the Middleton Bus Shelter – RCC to continue to enquire over purpose and responsible authority for the installation.

8 Planning

8.1 Current Planning Applications – no current planning activity requiring RCC input to report

8.2 Retrospective Approval of Comments Submitted to the Planning Authority -

The Old Rectory – comments from RCC submitted via CCS Planning Portal – Neutral Stance. 2026/0297/FUL.

The comments below reflect the views of Rhossili Community Council about the potential light pollution impacts of this development. The Community Council neither supports nor **objects** to this application but asks that, if Swansea City Council is minded to approve the application, it includes the stipulations requested below as a condition of approval.

The application requests consent for two additional rooflights in the front facing roof elevation which have the potential to allow further spillage of light into the night sky. The original application (2025/1313/FUL), which has been approved, included extensive additional glazed elements within the design – i.e. new rooflights in the north facing roof, large glazed doors in the new ground floor extension and large windows in the first floor extension, and new windows and large glazed doors in the replacement garage/outbuildings. The original

Commented [RC1]: This is cut and paste from the document I submitted to the planning portal on behalf of Francis.



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application also included significant new external lighting, including lighting at first floor level.

Whilst it is acknowledged that the submitted Planning Statement for the original application stated that 'automated blinds' and curtains would be fitted to some of the glazed elements it is not clear that these measures will extend to the rooflights (in either the original or the amended application) and indeed there is no mention of mitigation in the Planning Statement for application 2026/0297/FUL.

It is noted that the approval granted for the initial application ignored the advice of the Council's Ecology Officer that the following stipulations be applied to any approval:

- *'A sensitive lighting strategy for the site shall be submitted to the LPA for approval prior to the commencement of development on site. It should aim to protect bats and other nocturnal species, as per recommendations contained within section 5.1.3 of the Bat Survey Report.'*
- *'A plan showing location, light spill and specification for any proposed lights on the site (during construction & operation) must be submitted for approval. The lighting plan should reflect the Bat Conservation Trust and Institute of Lighting Professional's 'Bats and Artificial Lighting at Night' (2023) guidance'*

It is also noted that, whilst the Planning Statement submitted for application 2025/1313/FUL includes some mitigation for potential light pollution, this document is not referenced specifically in Paragraph 2 of the consent, which lists those documents which must be complied with for the development to be in accordance with the approval granted (i.e. 'to ensure compliance with the approved plan'). In the absence of this explicit inclusion it seems possible that the proposed mitigation would not be enforceable.

The Rectory is within the Rhossili Conservation area and within the Gower National Landscape which has won International Dark Sky Community Designation. The Bat Survey confirms that, whilst bats weren't present in the property when surveyed, they are in the vicinity of the house.

The Community Council has concerns that the original approved development has the potential to impact biodiversity due to light pollution and that the revised



application will exacerbate this. We therefore request that the Council impose the stipulations in relation to lighting/light spill, previously specified by the Council's Ecology Officer, on this new application. In addition, we would request that light spill mitigation for the new rooflights is specified and made a condition of any approval. As the Planning Statement for the original application was not made a part of the approval, it may be too late to do so now, but, if it were possible, that document should become a condition of approval of the new application.

9 Governance and Finance

9.1 Governance

9.1.1 Community Boundary Review – the verbal report that the statutory order to bring into effect the new arrangements was now published by Welsh Government, with the four community councils affected jointly planning for the change, was noted. The 4 affected councils to be dissolved and the new South Gower Community Council to be formed in May 2027. Elections to take place in May 2027 with the Rhossili community area to have two councillors, The current four clerks would have the options to TUPE transfer to the new body or be made redundant. It would be important to preserve legacy of knowledge across each council, and the strategic priorities of each are to be mapped out and taken forward. Careful planning of precepts will be required to ensure that the new Council is properly funded. An informal meeting has taken place with representatives from all 4 councils. The meetings will continue bi-monthly and then monthly as the merger date comes into view. The clerks are collating lists of assets, liabilities, policies, and documentation. .

9.1.2 Charter for Joint Working between the City and County of Swansea and Town and Community Councils – it was noted that the charter has been reviewed and the final version will be recommended to all town and community councils for adoption.

9.1.3 Review of RCC Policies – Risk Register – it was noted that a risk register was in drafting for recommendation for future adoption.

9.2 Finance



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2025/26

9.2.1 Receive the Financial Report for April 2026 – Accounts at end of Financial Year 31 March 2026 – the report was approved with the balance of £2964.00 to be carried forward to 2026/27.

9.2.2 Confirmation was given to the following payments:

9.2.2a £10.00 RVH for First Aid Training – paid 18/3/26

9.2.2b £87.49 Serata Software (Microsoft 365 Licence) - paid 16/3/26

9.2.2c £145 Jamie King – web hosting services 2026-27 RCC website - paid 31/3/26

9.2.2d £295 - Fall Bay Gardening – paid 16/3/26.

2026/27

The following payments were approved:

9.2.2e Rhossili Grass Cutting/Fall Bay Gardening – £295.00 for the maintenance of the village green. Add this service contract to the list for the new council.

9.2.2f One Voice Wales Membership Fees 2026/27 - £60 - due 30/6/26.

9.2.2g Zoom Licence £139.90 + 20% VAT (£167.88) - due 16/5/26.

9.2.3 Science Project 2026/27: purchase of course from SEWBReC at £130.00 – approved with £60.00 for RVH hire and refreshments. The generous grant of £200 donation from the Bowen Richards Trust to subsidise the event was noted with thanks. There would be an ongoing annual maintenance cost of £25.00 to 2030/31 and this will be added to the list of service agreements as a liability for the new South Gower Community Council.

Village Bus Shelter Project: it was agreed to set aside £250 towards this project.

9.2.4 Revisions of 2026/27 Budget: a number of variations to the in-year budget were approved. New items added: £38.00 additional magazine income; bus



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shelter project design fees contribution; audit fees; reduction in website maintenance charges expected; addition of £85.00 for the renewal of defibrillator pads.

9.2.5 Audits: the verbal report was noted and Jeff Higgins was appointed as Internal Auditor. Notice of audit for 2025/26 had been received and a basic audit requested. The terms of reference for the appointment of the Internal Auditor were to be set. The display of the electors' rights of inspection, and the availability of an inspectable copy was to be resolved.

9.2.6 Donations: the notes of thanks from recipients St Mary's Church, Pitton Methodist Chapel and Knelston School were noted.

9.2.7 Revisions to RCC Financial Regulations – the proposed revisions were approved and the financial regulations were readopted.

10 Administration

10.1 Annual Community Magazine – the verbal update on planning the 2026 edition was noted. The production schedule would be lengthened to allow more time, start date in May 2026. Printing will take place in last week of November and distribution to commence 1 December 2026. A special theme of the RCC Parish Council through the years was adopted.

10.2 Ongoing IT support – no update required.

10.3 Quarterly Meetings with Police Community Support Officers – the arrangements for meetings with local community councils as a group were noted.

11 Local Correspondence

All local correspondence was noted.

12 Updates from RCC Representatives:

12.1 Gower Community Council Forum - no update as no meeting held.

12.2 One Voice Wales – Nature Hub – no update as no meeting held



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12.3 One Voice Wales – Swansea Area Committee – verbal report noted.

12.4 One Voice Wales AGM – report as per the last meeting.

12.5 Gower Forum – no report.

12.6 Rhossili Community Hwb Steering Group – no meetings held pending further details from the merger of the South Gower community councils.

12.7 Swansea Local Nature Partnership – minutes circulated for information to RCC members.

12.8 Rhossili Bunkhouse & Village Hall Trustees – no report.

12.9 Knelston School – verbal report noted.

12.10 National Trust – The verbal report was noted. Key points were: the seasonal staff team are in place; the shop is now open daily (10am – 4pm); from the beginning of May the National Trust has taken over the cleaning and ongoing upkeep of the newly renovated toilet block; CCS is not providing any local

recycling bins (as they have found they are not used properly when provided), so the National Trust will be encouraging visitors to take their rubbish and recycling home with them; Dark Skies Wales have approached the National Trust to hold an event in the village (in the car park) to raise awareness about Dark Sky with the new lights on the toilet block being compliant with dark sky guidelines, and the NT exterior lights are being updated to comply also; The National Trust will be posting notices asking the public to keep their dogs on the lead in the flower meadows due to ground nesting birds. Signage has been erected requesting visitors to keep their distance from livestock.

f RCC members noted the forthcoming retirement of Geraldine Ferguson and wished to note their thanks for her support of RCC and best wishes for the future.

12.11 Gower Commoners Association – no report.

12.12 The Gower Society – no report.

Commented [RC2]: This is a very dense paragraph and difficult to follow. Suggest that separate points are given separate lines.



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