

ROSEMARKET COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the monthly meeting held online via the Zoom videoconferencing platform, on Monday 1st July 2024

Present: C’lrs Caroline Haley (Chairman), Gery Rostan, Jill Gibson, Stu Gray, Jackie Prest, County Cllr Danny Young; Peter Horton (Clerk).

Apologies: C’lr. James Milne

Declarations of known interest

None.

Approval of the minutes of the June 2024 monthly meeting, and E.G.M. held on 11th June 2024

The minutes were approved as an accurate record and held by the Clerk for signature by the Chairman following the meeting (proposer C’lr Stu Gray, seconder C’lr Jackie Prest).

Opportunity for public representation on tabled agenda items

There were no members of the public present who wished to comment.

Matters arising

Community defibrillators. C’lr Jackie Prest had checked these during June, and found all to be in order.

D-Day 80th anniversary commemoration. C’lrs Caroline Haley and Jackie Prest had attended this event in Saundersfoot on behalf of the community council, and commented that it had been a very successful occasion. C’lr Caroline Haley had sent thanks to the organisers following the event.

Planning matters

Planning consultations received

24/0200/PA - Outline Planning Application for Residential Development; Site Address: Land off West Street, Rosemarket, Milford Haven, SA73 1JH - Clerk to send in a response to the application consultation, commenting on the need for an access wide enough for two vehicles to pass one another, to avoid an unacceptable impact on West Street, and also raising concerns about overdevelopment of the site, and the potential impact of the development on the mains sewerage disposal network in the village (proposer C’lr Jill Gibson, seconder C’lr Caroline Haley).

Planning consents notified

23/1128/PA - Demolish side porch and replace with single storey lobby/W.C. extension
Site Address: 15, St Leonards Park, ROSEMARKET, Milford Haven, Pembrokeshire, SA73 1JS

Planning refusals notified

24/0006/PA - Three dwellings, Site Address: Cheriton, Front Street, ROSEMARKET, Milford Haven, Pembrokeshire, SA73 1JT

Correspondence

- 1) Infinity Play and RoSPA - Recent Playground inspection reports - dealt with in agenda item below.
- 2) P.C.C. - Information regarding review of 20mph speed limits around County - Members noted that the response had indicated that P.C.C. were only prepared to accept comments from people living close to the roads in question. It was felt that this was an unacceptable approach, as many residents could hold legitimate concerns over the speed limit on roads away from their places of residence, but that they used on a regular basis. Clerk to write to P.C.C. raising this as a concern

(proposer C'lr Caroline Haley, seconder C'lr Jackie Prest).

- 3) Welsh Government - Notification of proposed review of 20mph speed limits in Wales - noted.
- 4) St. Dogmael's C.C. - Response to query about use of rubber mulch around basketball hoop - dealt with in agenda item below.
- 5) Treeworks - Tree report on trees at The Beacon - dealt with in agenda item below.
- 6) Local resident - Request for donation towards Chapel Graveyard grass-cutting - discussed in 'Accounts' below.
- 7) Infinity Play - message relating to recent work around play equipment - dealt with in agenda item below.
- 8) Jill Gibson - Message confirming retirement from community council - dealt with in agenda item below.

Accounts

Chapel grass-cutting donation request.

Members agreed a donation of £200, with a clear condition that this was specifically a donation towards grass-cutting costs, and not a donation to help grow their grass-cutting fund. Formal agreement to the donation handled in 'Payments' below.

Payments

Treeworks (tree report)	:	£ 374-88
Infinity Play (Invoice SI-223)	:	£ 174-25
Chapel graveyard grass-cutting donation	:	£ 200-00

The above payments were approved by Members (proposer C'lr Jackie Prest, seconder C'lr Stu Gray).

Discussion of possible arrangements for pedestrian shelter provision at top end of Village

A quotation for construction of a pedestrian shelter at the top of the village had been received from Tom Greenwood of Greenwood Carpentry & Building. Members noted that three quotations would be needed due to the size of the project. For direct comparison, a specification / drawing would be needed, to form the basis of quotations sought. Clerk to request measurements, dimensions, and specifications from Tom Greenwood.

[NOTE - C'lr Gery Rostan joined the meeting at this point].

Clerk to ask the Men's Shed if they might be interested in providing a quotation, and also Clerk to identify and contact the company that had constructed a similar shelter in Pembrokeshire. Clerk to liaise with C'lr Caroline Haley over formulating a brief for use by companies for providing a quotation. Matter of seeking grant assistance to be placed on hold until a process of obtaining quotations had been completed.

Any necessary discussion of The Beacon

Maintenance work on The play equipment. Cleaning, multi-play repairs, sanding and re-staining of multi-play unit, and replacement of goalnets, were all reported as having been completed. The crack-filling that had been carried out was unsuccessful, and had been removed. Members noted that the original reason for doing the crack-filling work was for visual reasons, and for removing a low-risk hazard identified on playground inspection reports. Infinity Play had said they could not guarantee any further crack-filling on the tiles, due to movement between tiles, the difficulty of achieving a satisfactory bond with the tiles, and the associated risk of failure. They had already expressed uncertainty as to the likelihood of it working in advance of the work being undertaken. However, since they had undertaken the work on normal terms, they had undertaken not to invoice the community council for the element of work involving the crack-filling, or its subsequent removal. Infinity Play had provided suggestions on possible alternative ways in which the work

could be undertaken, but with no guarantee that these would be any more successful than the wetpour used the first time around. Members considered all the factors, including the likelihood of the surfacing needing replacement at some future time in conjunction with the replacement of play equipment, the high likelihood of failure of any further work undertaken to fill the cracks, and the low risk factor involved. After considering this, Members decided to leave the situation as it was at present, and not seek to replace the crack-filling material. Message to be posted on the community council Facebook page to inform residents accordingly. Clerk to inform Infinity Play of the decision.

Annual and routine inspection reports. Members noted that the annual inspection had been received, having been carried out by RoSPA on behalf of Infinity Play. One recommendation on the report was for a Health and Safety notice to be placed on the basketball hoop. Clerk to look to source a suitable sign, and circulate the text of this to all Members for comment. A second recommendation noted on the report was for the infilling of a few millimetres of safer surfacing around the roundabout, to counteract natural shrinkage, and reduce the gap between the roundabout and safer surfacing to less than 8mm. It was noted that Infinity Play had undertaken to carry out this work without charge. Clerk to ask them for an indication of when the work was scheduled to be carried out. It was noted that everything else on the report indicated full compliance with relevant standards.

Separately, the subsequent routine inspection report had noted the partial detachment of the recently-replaced goal net. The inspector had commented that this could have been caused by a dog off the lead that was seen jumping up at the net, but could not be sure of this.

Potential surfacing around basketball hoop. St. Dogmael's Community Council had responded to the enquiry sent by the Clerk regarding the use of rubber mulch around their basketball hoop. They had commented that it was good for reducing wear on grass surfaces, but had a limited lifespan. There were also continual requests for the area surfaced to be increased, which could only ever be resolved by the provision of a completely surfaced multi-use games area (M.U.G.A.). Members agreed to consider the points made, for possible future further consideration. Considering the current level of usage of the basketball hoop, C'lr Gery Rostan undertook to consult with the Youth Representative, to get their view on this, particularly whether or not the lack of surfacing was a factor in the level of usage, and whether or not providing a surface would be likely to make a significant difference.

Grass-cutting on Lower Beacon. This had been completed.

Trees. The most recent biennial tree inspection survey had been completed, and the report received. This had revealed no issues requiring action. The dead trees previously reported had all been removed and disposed of by C'lr Danny Young and his family, which members appreciated. C'llrs Caroline Haley and James Milne had also cleared the overgrowth vegetation from the pedestrian access at the top of Front Street.

Beacon representative. The idea of appointing a member to carry out regular visual checks on The Beacon, and to report any issues of concern to the council as necessary was discussed. C'lr Gery Rostan undertook to do this. C'llrs Caroline Haley and Gery Rostan to draft a checklist for this purpose.

Members also agreed that when possible, and to be arranged on a case-by-case basis, a member of the council should view works being undertaken whilst the contractors are onsite and that contractors be strongly encouraged to advise of any issues encountered during works, rather than doing so afterwards, as tended to be the case currently.

Dog litter bin by bottom gate on Lower Beacon. It was noted that this facility had been requested by several residents, including as part of the recent community consultation. Members noted this for consideration as part of the wider review of feedback to the questionnaire recently distributed to residents.

Discussion of results of public consultation on The Beacon playpark

C'lr Caroline Haley reported to Members on the community consultation exercise carried out around the village. To date, 65 responses had been received from 202 questionnaires delivered - a response rate of 32%, which all agreed was very good. The results of this had been collated. C'lr Caroline Haley was currently preparing a full detailed report on the responses and encouraged that feedback should be carefully considered before any decisions on actions are taken. She also suggested that findings should be made public and accessible (format of that to be agreed).

To give a sense of the responses received, the initial findings were reported as follows:

(1) Support for a rule for dogs on leads at the Upper Beacon (which includes the play equipment and football pitch)?

YES = 53 (82%)

NO = 11 (17%)

Left blank = 1

Of the YES responses, 3 said "only if children are present".

(2) Support fencing surrounding the play equipment?

YES = 50 (77%)

NO = 15 (23%)

(Note that one household gave 2 answers, noting that husband and wife had different opinions on this. Therefore, counted in both).

Left blank = 1

Quite a few comments around answers given to this question. Such as:

- A dogs on leads rule should be tried first with fencing only being considered at a later stage if felt required.*
- Several people suggested fencing off the Upper Beacon from the Lower Beacon (with a gate through).*
- Concerns about the type of fencing (height, fit in with natural surroundings)*
- Of those who responded 'no', generally it was felt that fencing would ruin the 'open space' and natural (village green) feel. And that fencing shouldn't be necessary if dogs are properly controlled.*

(3) If play equipment fenced-off, should dogs be excluded from fenced-off area?

YES = 53 (82%)

NO = 10 (15%)

Left blank = 2

Of those that answered No, some had noted dogs on leads.

Members noted that not all responses had necessarily been received (some were received the day before the meeting). Matter to be placed on agenda for further substantive discussion in September, with Members considering the responses received to date, and any further ones that might be received in the interim period. C'lr Caroline Haley suggested that an important consideration when reviewing responses should be the frequency at which responders use The Beacon, as this could identify patterns in answers – i.e., of those that use The Beacon regularly, do the answers generally differ from those that don't currently use The Beacon? She further suggested that part of this would be consideration of any reasons given as to why some responders didn't currently use The Beacon (for example, because of the amount of uncollected dog fouling).

Discussion of maintenance issues on community council-owned assets in village

Benches opposite The Huntsman. Members reported that the work had not yet been done. Clerk to chase up the contractor accordingly.

Bus shelter, Lower Middle Street. C'llrs Caroline Haley, James Milne, and Jackie Prest, had recently volunteered to undertake work on the cleaning and painting of the bus shelter to save the community council from having to pay a contractor to do so. Members accepted this offer with thanks and agreed with the idea of painting the shelter in a lightish green colour. C'llr Stu Gray also offered to assist if available.

Discussion of road safety issues around old railway bridge on Honeyborough Road

It was noted that, though the bridge was outside the Rosemarket C.C. area, the highway safety issues were a concern to many Rosemarket residents who use the road regularly. However, there was no consensus between Members on what, if anything, should be done to try and address the issue. Some Members were in favour of contacting either P.C.C. or Llanstadwell C.C. to try and get the matter looked at in more detail, while other members felt that the location was no different to that at many other rural locations, and it was simply a matter of exercising normal due care and attention when driving. The matter was finally left in abeyance, while noting that any individual could contact P.C.C. or the neighbouring community council if they wished to do so, to directly report concerns to them.

Discussion of Government 'Get Prepared for Emergency' website recommendations

Members noted that the Government website gave advice on how to handle a range of possible scenarios. However, it was observed that many elderly residents may not be online, or have ready access to such advice. This raised questions about whether or not the community council should be taking proactive steps to raise awareness. It was commented that, in a situation of community emergency, it was assumed that P.C.C. would take a leading role in co-ordinating actions and responses. C'llr Danny Young undertook to make enquiries in P.C.C. about this. Matter to be tabled for further discussion in September, in the light of information to be obtained by C'llr Danny Young.

Any necessary discussion of Boundary Commission for Wales draft recommendations on community council boundary changes

The draft proposals had not yet been released by the Boundary Commission for Wales, but were expected within the next two weeks or so. Clerk to circulate these once received.

Discussion of dispensation for Jill Gibson to miss meetings for personal reasons

The discussion on renewing the dispensation for C'llr Jill Gibson was superseded by the email received from her, in which she stated her intention to retire from the council with immediate effect, due to pressure of other ongoing personal responsibilities. Members were sorry to hear this, but understanding of her decision. The Chairman expressed sincere thanks to C'llr Jill Gibson for her many years of committed service to the community council, and the wealth of experience she had brought to the council, which would be greatly missed. The other members present, and the Clerk, all shared this view.

C'llr Jill Gibson made a brief statement to the council, in which she spoke of the privilege it had been to serve the Rosemarket community in this way, and the enjoyment she had received from working along with the other council members. She felt that the community council was in very good hands for the future.

Clerk to commence the administrative process for filling the resultant vacancy.

Any other business

St. Ismael's Church. C'llr Caroline Haley informed Members that she had recently spoken with Rev. Alan Chadwick in her role as Church representative for the community council. They had discussed various ways in which the community council could engage with the church for the benefit of the wider community. A number of specific ideas had been discussed, including arrangements for Remembrance Sunday. This to be placed on the agenda for discussion in September.

Community Book exchange. Members were informed that the book exchange was now up and running, and located in the covered area to the rear of The Huntsman.

Rosemarket Village Hall. C'llr Gery Rostan (village hall representative) advised that a meeting of the village hall committee was planned soon and that he had been invited. An update on the situation with the planned replacement of the village hall to be placed on the September agenda, when it was hoped that C'llr Gery Rostan would be in a position to provide an update.

Tree on corner of Middle Street opposite junction with Bastleford Road. C'llr Jackie Prest asked if there had been any substantive response from P.C.C. regarding the situation with / condition of the tree that had previously been reported to them. The Clerk confirmed that there had not been and undertook to chase up P.C.C. for a response. Matter to be tabled for discussion in September, along with any other ongoing tree/branch overgrowth issues identified around the village.

Next meeting. Monday September 2nd, 2024 at 7pm,

The meeting concluded at 9-10pm.