

ROSEMARKET COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the monthly meeting held at the Dawn-to-Dusk Golf Club, Bastleford Road, Rosemarket, and also online via the Zoom videoconferencing platform, on Monday 7th October 2024

Present: C’llrs Rob Summons (Chairman), James Milne, Steve Davies, Jackie Prest; County Cllr Danny Young; Peter Horton (Clerk).

Apologies: C’llr Clive Griffith.

Declarations of known interest

None.

Approval of the minutes of the September 2024 monthly meeting

The minutes were approved as an accurate record and signed by the Chairman (proposer C’lr Rob Summons, 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

Remembrance Day arrangements. C’lr Jackie Prest had spoken to Alan Chadwick, and had arranged for the community council to join in with the normal Church service. The Clerk confirmed that arrangements were in hand for the ordering of the wreath. C’lr Jackie Prest undertook to represent the community council in the service.

Rubbish bin, Lower Beacon. C’lr Rob Summons had tried unsuccessfully to get agreement for a litter bin to be sited and emptied without cost to the community council. It had been confirmed that supply and installation of a litter bin would cost around £400, with ongoing costs of around £10/week for emptying. Members agreed to leave a decision on hold, pending decisions on potential dog control measures on The Beacon.

Planning matters

Planning consents notified

24/0303/CL - Legal determination that a material start was made in respect of residential development approved under outline planning permission ref. 10/0082/PA and subsequent approval of reserved matters ref. 13/0528/PA; Site Address: 3-ROSEHAVEN, The Beacon, ROSEMARKET, Milford Haven, Pembrokeshire, SA73 1JX.

Correspondence

- 1) Local resident – formal complaint about community council – dealt with in agenda item below.
- 2) P.C.C. – Advice on potential introduction of dog control measures on The Beacon – dealt with in agenda item below.
- 3) Local resident – Request for donation towards grass-cutting costs at St Ismael’s Church graveyard – £200 was agreed by Members. Formal approval handled in ‘Accounts’ below.
- 4) P.C.C. – Request for any available information on land ownership around old Village Hall – the Clerk confirmed that he had forwarded information on the extent of village hall land ownership to the P.C.C. officer involved.
- 5) Common Land Officer – Confirmation of status of The Beacon as a Village Green, and comments on possible introduction of dog control measures – dealt with in agenda item below.

6) Jill Gibson – Message of support for community council – Members wished the text of the message to be incorporated in the minute record, as follows :

“Dear Peter

I am writing (with apologies for this being later than intended due to personal issues) to express my gratitude to the members of Rosemarket Community Council for their recent statements and decisions regarding and following the appalling behaviour of a few village residents. I do hope that those people may make time to reflect, put aside pride and apologise.

When I retired due to my husband’s worsening health in July, as I then expressed I was glad to be leaving the Council in good hands. That included those of Caroline Haley, one of the best chairmen this committee has ever had. She has gone above and beyond normal duties committing much time and many extra miles (mostly on foot with Ingrid of course and often Anthony) getting to know the residents of Rosemarket, truly caring for them, ensuring that they know their representatives and that the Council is always open to hearing the concerns or comments of all. She has had the full support of the Council and I am glad that the recent minutes show clearly that she would of course be eligible on a vote to be a future member.

There is of course by legal right the opportunity for anyone to bring their concerns through the proper channels of polite letters, emails, completion of questionnaires, or properly conducted personal attendance at meetings. Yet some who should know better resorted to the use of Facebook to air those feelings in a most despicable, inflammatory and disrespectful way, causing such distress and personal hurt that it resulted in Councillor Haley’s completely unnecessary resignation. It appears they then proceeded to attempt to take over the extraordinary meeting held as a result with bullying tactics the like of which have never been experienced here.

May I take this opportunity to commend all the members of the Community Council for giving their time and efforts voluntarily and where possible, freely for the good of our community. One of the most obvious achievements has been the improvements to the playground holding them in tension with the desire to minimise cost to residents and ensure the enjoyment and safety of all who want to use this space with which we are so blessed. I would ask that Councillors be properly respected by residents for the decisions they need to take to ensure that this enjoyment continues.

I would also like to make a suggestion - albeit possibly outside of Council remit - that an approach might be made, (perhaps by any individual user), to the administrators of Rosemarket Facebook group. This was set up during Covid with the laudable aim to ensure those isolated in need of help might receive it. It has I understand (not using FB myself) like so many FB groups been abused by becoming a channel for airing unwise and critical views and gossip under the guise of public interest. Administrators of FB pages have the right, and I would say DUTY, to create the group rules, boundaries or guidelines and to enforce them; if transgressed they can and should remove those posts. Anything critical or potentially hurtful or damaging to any individual in my view should especially be avoided. It would seem to me that now would be a good time to close this particular group and if wished launch a new one with better ideals, or at the very minimum clean it up and make new rules.

Thanks again to the new Chairman and all members of the Community Council and to you as Clerk, who I am sure will continue to work together for the good of all and welcome for consideration everyone’s points of view properly made.

Kind regards

Jill Gibson”

Members noted the message with appreciation for the support given. Members discussed briefly the possibility of opening a new community council Facebook page. Agenda item to discuss this to be tabled in November.

Accounts

Payments

Defib Store Ltd (ratification of cost of new defibrillator pad purchase)	:	£300-00
P.C.C. (lease of Westaway Park)	:	£ 7-50
St. Ismael's Church (grass-cutting donation)	:	£200-00

The above payments were ratified / approved by Members (proposer C'lr Rob Summons, seconder C'lr James Milne).

Quarterly budget review of community council accounts

Members discussed items listed as 'optional' on the budget statement, and felt in general that raising the level of community council reserves would be preferable to undertaking unnecessary expenditure at the present time.

External audits of 2022/23 and 2023/24 accounts

Members were informed that both external audits had been completed, with Audit Wales issuing an unqualified approval to both sets of accounts. Clerk to arrange for necessary public notices to be posted.

Discussion of possible introduction of dog control measures at The Beacon

It had been confirmed that The Beacon enjoys a special status as a registered Village Green. Advice was currently awaited from P.C.C. departments regarding potential routes to introduce and enforce any dog control measures introduced. Until this advice had been received, and the situation clarified, Members decided to hold the matter in abeyance. Agenda item to be tabled for November for further discussion.

C'lr Jackie Prest raised concerns about the recent formation by local children of unauthorised earth ramps on slopes down to Lower Beacon, using soil brought from the adjacent field. C'lr Danny Young undertook to speak to the neighbouring farmer about this, to try and find a way to discourage this activity. C'lr James Milne undertook to remove the ramp and spread the soil on the surrounding area.

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

Roundabout. Minor work to the safer surfacing and roundabout deck was currently in hand.

Repairs to benches opposite The Huntsman. The contractor had provided further information, and an estimate of around £650 for carrying out the necessary works, which were more extensive than originally anticipated. Members agreed for this to be carried out (proposer C'lr Rob Summons, seconder C'lr Jackie Prest). Clerk to make arrangements accordingly.

Middle Street bus shelter re-painting. This was deferred until Spring / Summer 2025.

Community well, Barn Lane. C'lr Danny Young confirmed his intention to carry out repairs to the pipe on the well as soon as possible.

Update on position with replacement Village Hall project

C'lr Steve Davies confirmed that a meeting of the Rosemarket Village Hall Committee had been held, and arrangements were in hand for the Chairman to speak with the solicitors to confirm the status of the legacy funds held for the project. This information was awaited, and, once confirmed, would inform next steps. Agenda item to be tabled for November for any further updates.

Discussion of community Christmas tree provision for 2024

C'lr Danny Young confirmed that Mr Richard Hayman had kindly offered to donate a Christmas tree for the community, and this would be placed outside The Huntsman sometime in November. C'lr Danny Young undertook to liaise with the proprietors of The Huntsman over arrangements, and confirmed that the pub would be arranging to decorate / light the tree as in previous years.

Discussion of need for replacement website provision

The Clerk had attended a recent online P.C.C.-sponsored training session regarding establishing new Google Sites websites for the community councils wishing to engage with this arrangement. This was to be followed up by further sessions, which the Clerk confirmed he would be attending. Members asked the Clerk to proceed with this arrangement. Regular agenda item to be tabled for any necessary discussion / updates in the coming months.

Consideration of response to complaint received from local resident

Members considered the draft complaint response prepared by the Clerk, and approved this unamended (proposer C'lr Rob Summons, seconder C'lr James Milne). Clerk to arrange for this to be sent out to the complainant.

Any other business

Bastleford Road sign at Bastleford Crossroads. This had once again been interfered with, and subsequently re-fixed by C'lr Danny Young.

'Pedestrians only' signage, bottom gate, The Beacon. C'lr Jackie Prest reported that the sign had gone missing, possibly during recent grass-cutting work. It was noted that this work remained uninvoiced. C'lr Rob Summons to make enquiries with One Stop if necessary regarding this. Any decision on replacement of the sign was left in abeyance.

The meeting concluded at 8-15pm. Next scheduled meeting Monday 4th November, 7pm.