

ROSEMARKET COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held at the Village Hall, Rosemarket on
Monday 2nd December 2019

Present: Cllrs Jill Gibson, David Hancock, Steve Davies, Caroline Haley, Barbara Summons M.B.E., Rhys Jones; Peter Horton (Clerk);

Apologies : None.

The Chair welcomed C’llr Caroline Haley as a new Member, attending her first meeting.

Approval of the November 2019 monthly meeting

The minutes were approved as written, and signed by the Chairman (proposer C’llr Barbara Summons, seconder C’llr Rhys Jones).

Matters arising

Melrose House. C’llr Jill Gibson said that the situation seemed to be working reasonably well, with signage and fencing erected by the landowner, and at no expense to the Community. C’llr David Hancock noted that the owner had mentioned putting up a concave mirror, but it was thought that this had not yet been done.

Recycling area. C’llr Jill Gibson had noticed that more rubbish had been dumped at the recycling area. She thought it likely that this will be a recurring problem, at least until the new kerbside collection arrangements had settled down. The glass bottles being left there were apparently coming from the holiday cottages nearby. Members agreed that the situation should continue to be monitored.

Watery Lane / Railway bridge. The Clerk informed Members that the matter had been reported to P.C.C., then chased up after the November meeting. A further message to Highways in advance of this meeting had received an acknowledgement from Darren Thomas, with a promise of a substantive response from Emrys Williams shortly. Any substantive response received to be circulated round to Members.

Planning

There were no plans for consideration this month.

Accounts

Payments

Clerk (mileage, postage and administrative expenses, June – December 2019)	:	£ 81-35
H.M.R.C. (P.A.Y.E. tax)	:	£172-19

The above items were approved by Members (proposer C’llr David Hancock, seconder C’llr Steve Davies).

The Clerk was asked to forward the most recent budget review to C’llr Caroline Haley for perusal.

Correspondence

- 1) Community Health Council – letter seeking local views on NHS – noted.
- 2) O.V.W. – Message outlining duty to report on progress towards producing a plan on encouraging biodiversity – discussed in agenda item below.
- 3) Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Authority – consultation on draft corporate plan for 2020-25 – noted. C’lir David Hancock referred to the savings achieved in recent years, and mentioned some of the key elements of the report. He also commented that the Fire Service was at the point where their ability to make further internal budget savings had become very limited, as a result of which any further cost-cutting would likely involve some loss of services.
- 4) Planed – Invitation to promoters’ meeting, to be held on 16th December, 12-30pm, at Planed offices, Narberth – C’lirs David Hancock / Caroline Haley to attend if possible. C’lir Haley noted that some alternative dates were available in the New Year if it was not possible to attend on the date in December.
- 5) Welsh Government – consultation on making a more equal Wales – Clerk to clarify if the reporting requirements are applicable to R.C.C.
- 6) Wales Audit Office – letter providing details of Sec. 137 grant limits for 2020-21 – noted.
- 7) P.C.C. – Information on responses to Ash dieback – Members noted that land in the control of R.C.C. is limited to The Beacon and Westaway Park. It was noted that there were no trees at Westaway Park. It was not thought that any of the Ash trees at The Beacon belonged to the Community Council. Members agreed to include as an additional line on the annual risk assessment a note to check trees around the perimeter of The Beacon. Clerk to amend form accordingly.
- 8) Paul Davies, A.M. – November newsletter – noted.
- 9) Welsh Government – Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation report and guidance – noted.

Any necessary discussion of Village maintenance

Stream in Llanstadwell community area. C’lir Jill Gibson had noticed that the blockages from branches, etc., appeared to be impeding the flow of the stream quite significantly. C’lir David Hancock mentioned that, if the weather was suitable on the coming weekend, he would endeavour to clear the obstructions from the stream. He commented that, if the problems were to continue even after the clearance had been done, then there would be more leverage to get the matter looked at seriously by P.C.C. It was confirmed that the riparian landowner on the Llanstadwell side of the bridge was the Haymans.

Dog-fouling. C’lir Caroline Haley had been looking into this problem. She had noticed it as a persistent problem in several places, including the public cemetery. She noted that P.C.C. enforcement services were now out-sourced. She mentioned the possibility of obtaining some spray, which had been used in other places to ‘shame’ dog-owners. The spray was not available via P.C.C., but could be obtained online. C’lir Barbara Summons asked if a request could be made to P.C.C. appropriate signage? Members noted, however, that there were already some small dog-fouling signs there.

In an attempt to improve the situation, Members resolved to purchase 4 sprays and two dog-fouling signs (one for each end of the cemetery), at likely total cost of around £55 (proposer C’lir Jill Gibson, seconder C’lir Rhys Jones). C’lir David Hancock undertook to arrange this.

Speeding. Members were concerned about this matter. It was noted by Members that measures to address this were not easy, due to the narrow roads in the Village. However, no substantive discussion was held on the matter, as it was noted that it did not relate to Village maintenance. Matter to be tabled for discussion in January.

Any necessary discussion of Village Amenity land

Signage. It was noted by Members that no specific recommendations or guidance had been available from P.C.C. or the insurers relating to signage. The matter was deferred for the time being.

Discussion of possible purchase of open-air gym equipment for The Beacon

C’lfr David Hancock noted that the potential cost of obtaining such equipment could be in the region of £13,000 -£18,000 plus installation costs. Members were agreed that grant funding would be needed to cover the cost of this, and it could not realistically be funded from R.C.C. finances. Matter to be left in abeyance for the time being. If a suitable grant funding source should become available, then the matter could be looked at afresh.

Discussion of Independent Remuneration Panel recommendations on Members’ allowances for 2020/21

Members made the following decisions on Members’ allowances for the 2020/21 financial year :

Determination 44 (payment for specific responsibilities for up to 5 Members)	– not approved.
Determination 45 (payments for travel expenses for approved duties)	– approved.
Determination 46 (reimbursement of subsistence expenses for approved duties)	– approved.
Determination 47 (financial loss compensation for carrying out approved duties)	– approved.
Determination 49 (payment to Chair of Council)	– not approved.
Determination 50 (payment to vice-Chair of Council)	– not approved.

The above was resolved by Members (proposer C’lfr David Hancock, seconder C’lfr Steve Davies).

Discussion of Environment Wales Act 2016 requirement to prepare a plan on biodiversity

C’lfr Caroline Haley noted that the requirement was to report on what had actually been done to date to promote biodiversity.

It was agreed that the Clerk should prepare a draft report and circulate for comment. This to note the minimal mowing arrangements carried out on the Lower Beacon, the possible future acquisition of further land for possible tree-planting, and the decision to table a regular monthly agenda item to discuss further possible measures.

Matter of how to proceed in respect of the triangle of land opposite the Village Hall to be tabled for discussion in the January meeting.

Discussion of pension arrangements for Clerk

Members discussed the matter in general terms, partly with the Clerk present, and partly with the Clerk absent from the room. It was left that the Chair would discuss the matter with the Chairs of Johnston and Burton Community Councils, to attempt to arrive at a consensus on the best way to approach the matter. Clerk to provide email contacts to C’lfr Jill Gibson for this purpose. Matter to be further discussed in January.

Any other business

There was no other business to discuss.

Public Forum

There were no members of the public present.

The meeting concluded at 9-00pm.

Date of next meeting

Monday January 6th, 2020, 7pm