

ROSEMARKET COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held online on
Monday 6th July 2020

Present: Cllrs Jill Gibson (Chairman), David Hancock, Caroline Haley; Peter Horton (Clerk);
Apologies : C’llrs Barbara Summons, Rhys Jones, Steve Davies.

NOTE – The minutes to record that this meeting was held online via the Zoom video-conferencing platform due to the current Coronavirus pandemic restrictions. The meeting was only focussed on key business, and members of the public were not invited to attend. This was as per the Welsh Government emergency Covid-19 regulations governing Community Council meetings.

Declarations of known interests

None.

Approval of the June 2020 monthly meeting

The minutes were approved as written, and held by the Clerk for signature by the Chairman following the meeting (proposer C’lr Caroline Haley, seconder C’lr David Hancock).

Matters arising

Draft minutes. It was agreed that draft minutes would not be published on the webpage, but rather following formal approval at the following meeting.

Tree on boundary of The Beacon. C’llrs Jill Gibson and Caroline Haley had met Mr. Philip Walker to examine the tree on his rear boundary. Following this meeting, C’lr Jill Gibson had asked Mr. John Colnet to look at the tree to provide an opinion on its condition. This had not yet been done, but was not felt to be an urgent issue. C’lr Jill Gibson to speak again to John Colnet regarding the matter, and also ask him to look at an overhanging branch on the adjacent tree.

C’lr David Hancock asked if there would be benefit in also looking at the Ash tree on the boundary of C’lr Steve Davies’ parents’ property. However, C’lr Jill Gibson pointed out that, as this tree was on their land, there would be nothing the Community Council could do about it in any case.

Mr. Dougie Davies. C’lr Jill Gibson reported that a number of people had been working on his house, getting ready for him to return home. If anyone had household items that were surplus to requirements, they might be welcome. C’lr Gibson undertook to try and find out who was acting as a point of contact for this. In the meantime she was willing to accept items for Mr. Davies.

Footpath to Woodhouse Barn. Members reviewed the message that had been received from the Public Rights of Way Officer. C’lr Jill Gibson mentioned that she would be prepared to carry out some clearance of the pathway, to facilitate better access. However, she was uncertain as to whether or not this was permissible. Clerk to enquire about this, as well as reiterating concerns over the missing signage, which looked as though it might have been removed.

Bernie Beavan. Members were informed that he was recovering, but likely to face a lengthy recuperation. The Clerk confirmed that a letter of appreciation for Mr. Beavan’s work as local postman had gone in to the Sorting Office Manager in Merlin’s Bridge.

Planning

There were no plans for discussion this month.

Urgent correspondence

1) Common Land Officer, P.C.C. – Information regarding status of The Beacon in relation to questions over exact line of boundary – Members felt on balance that the tree at the back of Mr.

Walker's property almost certainly came within land belonging to The Beacon. Members were disinclined to pursue the matter of the boundary of the adjacent property, Llanterna. Members discussed the possibility of obtaining a Land Registry search on The Beacon, to establish all boundaries accurately. However, on checking, it was confirmed to be unregistered. Members decided not to pursue Land Registry searches at this time. Clerk to obtain any available information from publicly available Planning files.

2) Mr. Philip Walker – Comments over grass-cutting policies in relation to bio-diversity enhancement – Clerk to respond to explain to Mr. Walker about the system in place for less cutting of the Lower Beacon, to encourage biodiversity. Message to explain that cutting the Upper Beacon was necessary, as this was a relatively heavily used recreational area. Regular cutting also helped with identifying and avoiding dog faeces. It was also pointed out that most of the Village areas cut (i.e. verges, etc.) were not the responsibility of the Community Council, but rather Pembrokeshire County Council.

3) Mr. Owen James – Comments about proposed purchase of outdoor gym equipment, and suggestion for Community social media presence – Discussed in agenda item below regarding the Community survey. It was noted that there was already a Village Hall Facebook page, and Community Council webpage.

4) Public Rights of Way Officer – comments regarding public footpath at Woodhouse Barn – covered in Matters Arising.

5) Planning Enforcement Officer – comments regarding planning issues at Woodhouse Barn – Matter on hold pending further progress on the Planning Enforcement investigation.

Accounts

Payments

No payments for approval this month.

Quarterly budget review

This had been circulated round to Members. Members discussed some aspects, as follows :

Money ring-fenced for work on Village Amenity – Members noted that it may be appropriate to consider re-assigning these funds, as the proposed work on the Village Amenity was not now likely to go ahead.

All Members apart from C'llrs Jill Gibson and Rhys Jones had waived their Member's allowance for the current year. Clerk to check with C'llr Rhys Jones, and send out the allowance to him unless this was waived. C'llr Jill Gibson expressed her intention to waive the allowance.

Consideration of results of Community survey

C'llr Caroline Haley had collated the responses received. There were 22 of these, representing just under 10% of the Village properties.

C'llr Haley had circulated a summary of the survey results to Members prior to the meeting. This was reviewed in the meeting, its substance being as follows :

- Reducing litter in and around the village seemed to be an aspect of village maintenance that needs improvement, with 77% also supporting a community litter-picking group.
- Other suggestions for village improvements were varied and included the area where the recycling bins are, reduction in persistent parking on pavements around the village and improving access to the Beacon field (i.e., for pushchairs and wheelchairs).
- There was support for outdoor gym equipment.
- There was support for the replacement of the children's swings on the Beacon.
- There was strong support for Speeding initiatives – particularly additional signage.
- 100% of respondents supported a tree-planting initiative in Rosemarket.

- 100% of respondents supported the idea of a regular newsletter.
- There was support for a variety of community interest groups with local history and walking groups being most popular.

Members discussed some aspects of the survey results, as follows :

Gym equipment. It was noted that the positive responses in respect of gym equipment provision could possibly be used to support grant applications. However, it was acknowledged that even with a grant, substantial investment would be required by the Community Council for any scheme undertaken. This would be a large sum of money to invest, and would need a good case to support it. It was by no means certain that a consensus would ever be achieved for such a scheme. It was felt appropriate to leave this for further discussion at a future meeting.

Replacement of children's swings. This was regarded as a priority. The Clerk was currently awaiting a further quotation via Neil McCarthy of P.C.C.

Possible fencing of children's play area on The Beacon. C'Ilr Jill Gibson raised this as a potential scheme, with benefits in terms of keeping animals out of the play area. C'Ilr David Hancock commented that, in the past, he had been aware of Prince's Trust volunteers working on fencing schemes around play areas. He also suggested that any such scheme considered could also enclose additional land to cater for possible future gym equipment. It was agreed that a general idea of likely costing would be needed before embarking on detailed consideration of any such scheme. This would also need to consider any ongoing maintenance costs, as well as the initial capital cost. It was arranged that the Clerk would seek guidance from P.C.C. regarding the advisability of installing such fencing, suitable types of fencing, likely costs, etc.

Initiatives to combat excessive traffic speeds. There had been strong support for such initiatives in the survey responses received, including possible signage provision. It was agreed that the Clerk should contact P.C.C. to raise the issues of excessive traffic speeds in the Village (not necessarily in excess of 30mph, but excessive for the road conditions), problems from unrestricted parking on narrow Village lanes, etc. A request to be made for their input in identifying possible measures to combat these problems, with a suggestion of a possible joint working group to progress matters.

Tree planting. There had been 100% support for this from the respondents. It was agreed that this was something to pursue when possible.

Community newsletter. There had been good support for a newsletter. However, given the level of responses received, it was acknowledged that this might be hard to justify.

It was agreed that there was enough feedback in the responses received to justify pressing on with some of the initiatives. C'Ilr Caroline Haley to draft a holding response to those respondents who had provided contact details. This to be circulated for comment / approval prior to being sent out.

The Chairman thanked C'Ilr Caroline Haley on behalf of Members for her work on the Community survey, which was felt to have been a very valuable exercise.

Any other business

Bank mandate change. It was explained that this process could now be put in hand following formal approval of the June monthly meeting minutes.

Potential water leak in Middle Street. C'Ilr David Hancock reported that Welsh Water had been out and inspected a potential leak on their pipework outside Casselles, Middle Street SA73 1JP. However, no follow-up work appeared to have been done. Clerk to contact Welsh Water to enquire what measures to deal with the apparent leak were proposed.

Date of next meeting

Monday 7th September 2020

The meeting concluded at 8-30pm.