

ROSEMARKET COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the September 2022 monthly meeting held online on
Monday 5th September 2022

Present: Cllrs Jill Gibson, Caroline Haley (vice-Chairman), Jackie Prest; Peter Horton (Clerk).

Apologies : C'llrs Tamsin Turner, Steve Davies, Danny Young.

NOTE – The meeting was held online via the Zoom video-conferencing platform. The meeting was chaired by C'lr Caroline Haley.

Declarations of known interest

None.

Approval of the minutes of the July 2022 monthly meeting

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

Opportunity for public representation on tabled agenda items

There were no members of the public present.

Matters arising

Bus shelter work. Members noted that the work to repaint the bus shelters was complete.

Triangle of land by church gates, The Clerk had confirmed that the land was unregistered, and did not belong to P.C.C. There was a possibility that it was in the ownership of the adjacent Church. C'lr Caroline Haley undertook to inform the enquirers of the outcome of the enquiries made.

Planning matters

There were no plans for discussion this month.

Correspondence

- 1) Save Withybush campaign – Request for support for campaign to save services at Withybush Hospital – Members agreed to send in the model petition, on the basis of concern perceived to exist in the community (proposer C'lr Caroline Haley, seconder C'lr Jill Gibson). Clerk to action.
- 2) Hywel Dda Health Board – Notification of potential closure of Neyland and Johnston GP surgeries – C'llrs Caroline Haley and Jackie Prest had attended an online meeting hosted by the Health Board at which the situation was discussed. This had been an opportunity to pass on views and ask questions more than to obtain detailed information on what was to happen regarding ongoing GP services in the communities affected. The consultation process on the situation was still ongoing. A notification would be issued by the Health Board once a firm decision had been made on how to address the situation. expected within the next month or so.
- 3) P.C.C. – Promotion of community 'warm room' schemes – noted. As R.C.C. did not run the Village Hall, it was considered a matter for the Village Hall Committee.
- 4) David Hancock – Message of resignation from Community Council – dealt with in agenda item below.
- 5) Rosemarket Village Hall Committee – Request for financial support towards insurance costs for Village Hall – Members approved the donation in the sum of £650 (proposer C'lr Jackie Prest, seconder C'lr Caroline Haley). Clerk to forward the donation, with a request for an update on the situation with the Village Hall replacement project. Information also to be sought regarding the current use of the existing Hall. Members felt this information to be important, as it was needed to inform decisions being made by the community council in other matters.

Accounts

Payments

Playground Repairs Ltd (repairs to multi-play unit)	:	£1053-11
Playground Repairs Ltd (Repairs / fixings for benches)	:	£ 194-35
ASJ Construction (painting of bus shelters)	:	£ 680-00
Wales Audit Office (2020/21 audit fee)	:	£ 200-00
Clerk (salary & fixed expenses July – September, including £519 for final locum services payment for The Havens Community Council)	:	As per contract
HMRC (PAYE tax)	:	As per contract
Rosemarket Village Hall Committee (donation towards insurance costs)	:	£ 650-00

The above payments were approved by Members (proposer C’llr Caroline Haley, seconder C’llr Jill Gibson).

Income

The Havens Community Council (for locum clerk services)	:	£ 519-00
P.C.C. (Precept 2 nd instalment)	:	£4000-00

Quarterly budget review

This had been circulated to Members for April – June. Members noted the report.

Discussion of arrangements for commemorative tree planting, including discussion of plaque to accompany tree-planting proposed for Queen’s Platinum Jubilee

C’llr Caroline Haley provided a summary of the current situation for Members. There had been a previous agreement in principle for the planting of seven Cherry trees on the land opposite the old Village Hall. A quotation from Grandiflora had been obtained for this. However, concerns had subsequently been voiced, in connection with watering arrangements, and a couple of the recently-planted trees not having flourished. C’llrs Caroline Haley and Danny Young had visited a number of local garden centres and nurseries. This had shown up a general pattern of problems with supply of suitably-sized trees of this type. Regarding planting of any trees obtained, C’llr Danny Young had offered to arrange for his team to plant the trees if and when obtained.

Regarding the suitability of the types of trees being considered, the Clerk had obtained guidance from the P.C.C. Landscape Officer, and some helpful advice had been provided.

It was put to Members that there were three main options open for consideration, as follows :

Option 1 – to plant seven mature trees, but not necessarily Cherry trees;

Option 2 – to plant one mature tree;

Option 3 – to do nothing, and abandon the initiative.

C’llr Jackie Prest expressed a preference for the single tree option.

C’llr Jill Gibson raised the possibility of planting one mature tree, and six less mature ones around it. Her thinking was that they would be simpler to plant, need less initial care, and establish themselves more readily.

Following a decision on types of tree that might be suitable, Members agreed that Rowan trees would be chosen rather than Cherry trees. A decision between the different planting options would be considered by Members in advance of the October meeting. C’llr Caroline Haley undertook to look into supply and costings for Rowan trees, and liaise with the Clerk over any necessary matters.

It was noted that the trees could be planted anytime up to March 2024 and still qualify for registration under the Queen’s Canopy scheme. It was agreed that the advice obtained from the P.C.C. Landscape Officer would be factored into the final planting scheme arrangements. It was also noted that arrangements for a suitable plinth and plaque would need to be finalised.

Discussion of request by local resident for memorial bench installation

Members noted the issues with allowing consent for benches at Westaway Park, due to the landowner, P.C.C., not being in favour, and no recent update to the ongoing Village Hall replacement project, as this was the factor affecting P.C.C. recommendations. Members agreed therefore this site could not be pursued. However, mindful of people's genuine desire to remember their loved ones in this way, Members were committed to working towards the development of a policy to enable this on Community Council-owned land. Clerk to inform the enquirers of the decisions made.

Discussion of possible outdoor gym equipment installation

It was noted that the previous community survey had produced a mixed response on this subject. Given the capital cost and ongoing commitment involved in providing such equipment, Members did not feel that a project could proceed based solely on that information. However, it was noted that circumstances had changed radically since that time, especially due to the pandemic. Members felt that this could potentially be something for provision in 2023/24. In the meantime, it would be necessary to carry out a feasibility / viability study, including consideration of possible equipment layouts, etc. C'llrs Caroline Haley and Jackie Prest undertook to initiate the first stages of an investigation into the matter.

Discussion of work at The Beacon, to include approval of work to remove redundant matting and install concrete plinth for 'happy to chat' bench

Lower Beacon grounds maintenance. It was agreed for One Stop Property Services Ltd to carry out grass-cutting and hedge-trimming on the Lower Beacon in the sum of £225-00 + VAT (proposer C'lr Caroline Haley, seconder C'lr Jill Gibson). Clerk to make arrangements accordingly.

Upper Beacon grass-cutting. It was noted that the P.C.C. grass-cutting contractors had begun to include the area around the memorial bench, and this was satisfactory to Members.

New trees. C'lr Jill Gibson had observed some new leaf growth on the trees. Although they had been somewhat stressed during the current year, she felt it likely that they would be ok in time. This would only be possible to assess after more time had elapsed. As the trees were planted in March, they could potentially be registered as a Community Jubilee Tree Walk if desired. Members noted this for possible future reference.

Work on Upper Beacon. It was agreed for the removal of redundant rubber matting and underlying concrete, disposal of same, topsoiling, levelling and re-turfing, and provision of a concrete plinth for the happy to chat bench, to be carried out by Playground Repairs Ltd., as per their recent quotation provided (proposer C'lr Caroline Haley, seconder C'lr Jackie Prest). The choice was made on the basis that their previous work was of a high standard, they were a local company, and the recent work carried out on the bus shelters by others was considered to be no more than average. The Clerk informed Members that Playground Repairs would be able to schedule the work in during late October / early November, but if a slot should present itself prior to that, then they would proceed with the work earlier. Clerk to ask them to make contact prior to the commencement of work to agree the exact location for the happy to chat bench plinth.

Discussion of possible initiatives at The Beacon, including facilities for older children.

It was confirmed that this initiative was being aimed primarily at the 10-13 age bracket. Possible items of equipment were being considered which would complement the existing equipment in the playpark, and be suitable for the target age bracket. One possibility under consideration was a net rope pyramid, obtainable from Creative Play.

Members were in agreement in principle that an item of equipment for this age group should be pursued. C'lr Caroline Haley undertook to take the matter forward, and carry out initial investigations. She had already investigated the Planed scheme. However, she had discovered that

this was not relevant, as it was aimed at an older age group, and was also only in its formative stages.

In connection with the above initiative, and also other future projects aimed at the younger generation of Village residents, Members recognised the importance of ensuring that expenditure was carried out on projects that would have genuine appeal to the target age bracket. To assist with this, Members considered the possible benefits of engaging with a young person in the Village who might be able to act as an informal go-between for younger residents and the community council. C'lr Jill Gibson mentioned that she had spoken informally with a young person in the Village regarding this. It was agreed that any such arrangement should initially be kept informal, with the possibility of gradually building on the arrangement in a mutually acceptable way. C'lr Caroline Haley undertook to put down in writing a draft document setting out how the arrangement might work, and circulate for comment.

Agenda item for consideration of raising the threshold beyond which multiple quotations were required for purchases to be tabled for October. Clerk to investigate if there is any published guidance on this matter.

Discussion of signage for The Beacon Playpark

Members agreed to get the sign made up as per the design provided by David Hancock, and as per the quotation provided by P.C.C., in A1 size. Members to decide on an exact location for the sign in conjunction with the bench slab, etc., once work was ready to commence (proposer C'lr Jackie Prest, seconder C'lr Jill Gibson). Clerk to make arrangements accordingly.

Discussion of renewal of Biodiversity Enhancement report

Members noted that this document would need to be updated during the current year.

Clerk to draft up new report for October. New report to mention that the biodiversity principles are factored into every decision made, and to mention the approach taken regarding grass-cutting on the Lower Beacon. Report to alter the reference to the triangle of land opposite the old Village Hall to simply mention that land will be utilised for tree-planting. Matter to be tabled for discussion in October. Clerk to send round a draft document for comment.

Discussion of formulation of Community Council Training Policy

It was noted that a training policy must be adopted by November 2022.

It was agreed for C'lr Caroline Haley to draft a simple document for circulation, comment, with the aim of adopting this in the October meeting.

Discussion of request for football posts at Westaway Park

Members did not feel able to address this matter in the absence of definite information from the Village Hall Committee regarding the Village Hall project. Matter to be re-visited once that information was available.

Discussion of maintenance regime for community well, Barn Lane

Members discussed possible approaches to dealing with the maintenance of the well, but without any resolution. Matter to be tabled for further discussion in an agenda item for October.

Update on situation with new Village Hall project

An update was still awaited. Clerk to request this to be provided prior to next meeting. Agenda item to be tabled for October to discuss the matter further.

Discussion of vacancy following resignation of David Hancock

Members wished to put on record their sincere thanks to David Hancock for all his hard work, valuable input and leadership during his time as a community councillor.

Members voted to appoint C'lr Caroline Haley as Chairman (proposer C'lr Jackie Prest, seconder C'lr Jill Gibson). C'lr Caroline Haley wished to place on record that she was very happy to accept the role to provide stability for the community council until the 2023 A.G.M. in May 2023.

A decision on appointing a new vice-Chairman was deferred.

Clerk to place standard notices for co-option vacancy on the webpage and noticeboards.

Any other business

Footpath up to cycle path alongside old railway bridge. Nothing had been heard regarding the application for registration of the footpath. Clerk to chase up.

In-person meetings. Agenda item to be table for October to consider a possible resumption of in-person meetings in some form and on some occasions. Clerk to ask the R.V.H.C. about wi-fi provision in the Hall, and seek their advice on how the matter could be taken forward.

The meeting concluded at 9-25pm.

Next scheduled meeting to be held on Monday 3rd October 2022.