

## ROSEMARKET COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of January 2023 monthly meeting held online, on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2023

**Present:** Cllrs Caroline Haley (Chairman), Jill Gibson, Stu Gray, Jackie Prest, Danny Young (County Councillor); Peter Horton (Clerk).

**Apologies :** C’llr Tamsin Turner.

### **Declarations of known interest**

None.

### **Approval of the minutes of the December 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’llr Jackie Prest, seconder C’llr Jill Gibson).

### **Opportunity for public representation on tabled agenda items**

There were no members of the public present.

### **Matters arising**

**Community newsletter.** Following successful completion and delivery by mid-December, C’llr Caroline Haley advised that there had been some excellent feedback and positive comments received from local residents on the content and design.

**Commemorative tree.** The Clerk had not received any response to the request for an update on the timetable for delivery of the plinth. Clerk to chase this up again.

**Community Works grant.** Members were informed by the Clerk that in a recent conversation with P.C.C., it had been suggested informally that the grant was unlikely to be released in 2023 due to budgetary constraints.

**Dog fouling.** C’llr Jackie Prest expressed concerns about this ongoing problem, due to further incidents of dog-fouling that had been observed on The Beacon. Deferred for further consideration in agenda item below concerning The Beacon.

### **Planning matters**

#### **Planning consents notified**

**22/0601/PA** - Removal of condition 3 (Occupancy) of planning permission HR/8180/73/1158 (Erection of a bungalow and garage on site); Site Address: Westbury House, JOHNSTON, Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire, SA62 3HG

### **Correspondence**

- 01) P.C.C. – Request for confirmation of precept for 2023/24 – dealt with in ‘Accounts’ below.
- 02) Playground Repairs Ltd. – Quotation for works on The Beacon – dealt with in agenda item below.
- 03) P.C.C. – Information regarding ‘warm packs’ available through the *Keep Warm, Keep Well in Pembrokeshire* scheme – C’llr Caroline Haley felt that as there could be people in the Village who might benefit from this initiative, further action was required than just putting details of it in the notice boards as it could be missed. After discussion, it was decided that a leaflet drop would be the best way to communicate information on the scheme. C’llr Caroline Haley undertook to draft a leaflet and circulate this for comment.
- 04) P.A.V.S. – Information on Outdoor Connections Fund grant initiative for minor capital works to improve opportunities for people to meet and connect outdoors. It was decided to use the opportunity to apply for a picnic bench to be sited on The Beacon. Members felt that a concrete

base was not necessarily the favoured option, though it was recognised that the bench would need to be fixed down. Clerk to ask Playground Repairs Ltd. to supply a quotation for the work, with the aim of using this to form the basis of the grant application. Clerk to also ask them for their suggestions on possible alternatives to a concrete base. Clerk to liaise with C’lir Caroline Haley over the matter as necessary.

## **Accounts**

### **Payments**

P.C.C. (Community Works grant contribution for speed-activated signage) : £1100-00

P.C.C. (Election recharge) : £ 225-00

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

The Clerk referred to ongoing problems with P.C.C. invoices being sent through multiple times by P.C.C., with consequent cost implications for council tax payers. C’lir Danny Young undertook to raise this as a concern in P.C.C.

### **Discussion of 2023/24 precept**

Members resolved to maintain the precept for 2023/24 at the same level as the current year, i.e. £12000 (proposer C’lir Jackie Prest, seconder C’lir Caroline Haley).

### **Discussion of Clerk’s hours of work**

Members approved an increase in the Clerk’s nominal hours of work from 4.5 to 5 hours per week, in recognition of the increases in workload due to added Welsh Government requirements and increased Council activity linked to the increases in precept over recent years (proposer C’lir Caroline Haley, seconder C’lir Stu Gray). Members suggested that a routine annual review of this should be carried out each January.

### **Discussion of arrangements for internal audit**

It was approved for arrangements to be made with the internal auditor for the previous year’s accounts to be re-appointed for the current year (proposer C’lir Jill Gibson, seconder C’lir Jackie Prest). Clerk to make the arrangements accordingly.

### **Discussion of traffic speeding concerns, as follow up to concerns raised by local resident**

The Clerk reported that he had been in conversation with P.C.C. about this matter, and discussed it in detail. Their response to enquiries about possible additional measures to combat the concerns raised about the bend opposite The Huntsman had been negative. They had referred to the existing warning signage in place, the recently-installed speed-activated signage, and the impending reduction of speed limits to 20mph due to be implemented in the autumn of 2023. These existing measures meant that, in their view, no other measures could feasibly be introduced that would improve the situation. Members accepted this feedback. Clerk to respond to the local resident who had raised the matter initially, to pass on this information, but encourage them to make contact again if they continued to have serious concerns. Clerk to also contact P.C.C. to chase up driver feedback data from the speed activated signs in the Village.

### **Discussion of possible registration application for triangle of land opposite the Village Hall**

The Clerk had been in contact with the Land Registry regarding the matter. From their advice, it was clear that an application to register the land in the name of the Community Council would be unlikely to succeed. Members felt it more likely that P.C.C. might be able to make a registration, as they had effectively controlled the land for many years. Clerk to speak to P.C.C. about this, citing C’lir Danny Young’s support for this approach, in his role as County Councillor.

### **Discussion of / update on initiatives at The Beacon**

**Goalposts.** Members were informed that these were in the process of being painted, with the nets to be added afterwards.

**Playpark sign.** Members were informed that the sign was now in situ.

**Iroko benches.** Members noted that problems with deterioration of the benches had been noted in the most recent playground inspection report. Clerk to contact Norman Industries about this, and ask for their comments / input.

**Dog fouling.** Members noted that there had been a recent spate of problems at The Beacon, as well as other locations around the Village. Members briefly discussed the merits of introducing more signage, but felt this wouldn't make any significant difference, as there was already signage in place which was being ignored by the offending parties. C'lr Jill Gibson suggested once again using the red spray to address the matter. It was considered that this could help people to avoid treading in the dog mess and also help highlight locations when reporting instances of uncollected dog excrement to P.C.C. Members agreed to purchase 5 cans of red spray suitable for the purpose (proposer C'lr Jill Gibson, seconder C'lr Jackie Prest). Clerk to obtain this.

**Possible new play equipment.** Quotations had been received from Playground Repairs Ltd. for supply and installation of an inclusive roundabout, and for a basketball hoop, along with guidance on siting of these. The Clerk had made enquiries regarding possible grant funding streams for these. The two possibilities in principle were the National Lottery, and the Enhancing Pembrokeshire grant scheme. The Clerk had spoken briefly to staff in the Enhancing Pembrokeshire team. They had advised that there was only £650 in the fund for Rosemarket at present, and any amount applied for in excess of this amount would depend on active support from surrounding communities willing for their funds to be used in addition.

In general, Members were favourably disposed towards the idea of installing both items, and to do so as soon as practicable, subject to funding being obtained, and if possible by the summer of 2023. C'lr Caroline Haley to seek the views of the Youth Advocate on the proposals, and invite their comments on the matter. She also undertook to make contact with the local care home, to invite their views, and discuss possible sponsorship from them for the scheme.

Clerk to discuss forthcoming deadlines for applications with the Enhancing Pembrokeshire and National Lottery grant teams. Also, Clerk to collect existing quotations from C'lr Jackie Prest for the roundabout and seek further quotations as necessary.

Members once again discussed the importance of having an overall vision for the Upper Beacon area, to ensure that future plans and aspirations were included in current decisions. It was noted that the plan prepared by C'lr Tamsin Turner had been produced for this purpose.

Agenda for next month to continue and make decisions as possible. In the meantime, Clerk to complete a pre-application form for the Enhancing Pembrokeshire grant, and also contact other councils locally in respect of possibly tapping into their funds.

**Nettles.** C'lr Jill Gibson mentioned problems with nettles coming up around the memorial bench. The idea of using selective weed-killer was discussed. However, C'lr Danny Young commented that it would not be suitable for use in and around a playground. A possible nettle-picking session was suggested for later in the year if the problem should recur.

### **Discussion of draft memorial bench scheme**

A draft memorial bench scheme had been prepared and circulated by the Clerk for review ahead of the meeting. All were supportive, with discussions being focused on refinement of details. C'lr Jill Gibson also wondered if other options for bases should be investigated in place of concrete, for cost / environmental reasons. Clerk to investigate possible alternatives.

Clerk to prepare a formatted draft ahead of the February meeting, Matter to be placed on February agenda for further discussion. In the meantime, Clerk to provide a progress report to the enquirer.

### **Discussion of need for maintenance / repairs to Middle Street noticeboard**

Members noted that the noticeboard supporting posts were very wobbly. It was suggested that one solution would be to remove the noticeboard from the posts and affix it to the inside of the adjacent bus shelter. This would have the added benefit of preventing water ingress into the noticeboard. Members were in favour of this option and asked the Clerk to seek quotations for this. C'llrs Caroline Haley and Jackie Prest to pass details of local contacts who may be suitable for this work to the Clerk.

### **Update regarding open vacancy on Community Council**

No further applications had been received to date. Item to be placed on February agenda for discussion / update.

### **Any other business**

**Defibrillators.** C'lr Caroline Haley raised concerns about accessibility to open the cabinet doors and it was confirmed that Members were not aware of any access codes, whether they were needed or whether details were logged centrally with '999' operations. Members to investigate this to confirm if a code is needed to access the cabinets. C'lr Haley also undertook to enquire with David Hancock, who had been involved with the last round of maintenance on the defibrillators. Agenda item for discussion of defibrillators to be placed on February agenda, and a reminder for monthly checks to be carried out on the defibrillators to be included on each subsequent meeting agenda. C'lr Jackie Prest undertook to check the defibrillators in January.

The meeting concluded at 9-05pm.

Next scheduled meeting to be held on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> February 2023.