

ROSEMARKET COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of July 2023 monthly meeting held in person at the Rosemarket Village Hall,
and online, on Monday 3rd July 2023

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

Apologies : C’llrs Tamsin Turner, Gery Rostan.

Declarations of known interest

None.

Approval of the minutes of the June 2023 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 Stu Gray, seconder C’llr Jill Gibson).

Opportunity for public representation on tabled agenda items

There were no members of the public present.

Matters arising

Community defibrillators. C’llr Jackie Prest confirmed that these had been checked since the June meeting and were in good order.

Retaining wall at entrance of St. Leonard’s Park. Members noted that this had been repaired.

Glass bottle bank, recycling area. Members noted that the bottle bank had been emptied by Pembrokeshire County Council (P.C.C.).

Footpath by old railway bridge. The Clerk reported that he had received an update from P.C.C. The land had been confirmed as being in P.C.C. ownership. It was expected that this would simplify the process of completing the registration of the footpath as a public right of way. However, the P.C.C. officer had repeated previous comments that there would be no obligation on the Authority to carry out maintenance or improvement works to the route. Members noted that Rosemarket Community Council (R.C.C.) would not be able to fund works on the footpath, as it is outside their community area. Agenda item to be tabled for September to discuss how to address the possible need for maintenance of the footpath. In the meantime, Clerk to send a message to Llanstadwell CC to raise the issue with them and inform them of the actions taken to date.

Dog fouling signs. The six dog-fouling signs had been received from P.C.C. C’llr Caroline Haley had prepared a list of possible locations for the signs, at various locations around the village. These were discussed and agreed by Members. C’llr Caroline Haley to pass the list of locations to Clerk, for Clerk to pass on to Infinity Play, with a request for them to arrange for the signs to be put up.

Triangle of land at the top of Front Street. No further progress in the registering by P.C.C. had been achieved. Clerk to chase up P.C.C., and copy C’llr Danny Young into messages sent, for information, and for any input he might be able to offer.

Planning matters

There were no plans for consideration this month.

Correspondence

01) P.C.C. – Proposed alterations to local bus services – Members were concerned about whether or not local bus users had been informed of the proposals by P.C.C. It was agreed that C’llr Caroline Haley would contact the staff at the local care home to check if they and their residents were aware of the proposals.

- 02) P.C.C. – Informal advice concerning permitted development rights for work on land in the village – dealt with in agenda item below.
- 03) Local Places for Nature – Information on funding streams – deferred for inclusion in discussion during the planned agenda item concerning tree-planting, etc., scheduled for discussion in September.
- 04) P.C.C. – Response to query on recalibration of speed-activated signage – noted.
- 05) Valero – Notification of remittance for donation towards proposed basketball hoop project – noted.

Accounts

Payments

Infinity Play (maintenance work at playpark) : £ 16-96

The above payment was approved by Members (proposer C’llr Caroline Haley, seconder C’llr Jackie Prest).

Income

Valero (donation towards basketball hoop project) : £750-00

Charitable donations

Members noted that £400 had already been donated to local community grass-cutting funds during the current financial year. Members agreed to defer further donations for the time being, due to other financial commitments. It was agreed that this decision would be reviewed later in the year.

Consideration of quarterly budget review

A quarterly budget review had been circulated by the Clerk. Members considered the statement of accounts, with particular focus on the projected end of year balance, which was noted as being low. Members further noted however, that there were a number of items included within the budget for the year that needed to be provided for, but in reality were unlikely to materialise. Matter to be re-examined at the next quarterly budget review due in October.

Discussion of / update on initiatives at The Beacon

Grass-cutting, Lower Beacon. Members noted that this had been completed by One Stop Property Development.

Trees. C’llr Jackie Prest had met Grandiflora on site, to look at the condition of the trees supplied and planted by them. Grandiflora expressed the view on site that issues with the Oak trees were probably due to lack of rain/watering. However, the trees were confirmed as being alive. C’llr Jill Gibson disagreed with this assessment, as she said the trees had been watered well during the first year. Clerk to chase up written report / recommendations on further actions needed from Grandiflora. If their report was to suggest a need for more watering, then Members recognised that arrangements would need to be put in place for this. However, C’llr Jill Gibson did not feel this would make any difference. She mentioned container-grown trees planted on the cycle path that had done well despite, presumably, a virtually complete absence of any formal watering regime. She was opposed to further purchases from Grandiflora. C’llr Jackie Prest mentioned that Grandiflora had said they would endeavour to do anything they could to assist with addressing the situation. Further discussion to be incorporated in the agenda item tabled for September to discuss tree-planting in general.

Playground inspection. Members noted that the cable ties and caps had been replaced. C’llrs Stu Gray and Jackie Prest voiced concerns over the condition of the rubber matting around the play equipment, citing lichen as a potential cause of slipperiness, weeds growing between the tiles, and also gaps having opened up. Clerk to ask the playground inspector to look at this and comment.

Memorial bench plinth. C’llr Stu Gray mentioned that concrete had crumbled from one edge of the concrete slab, but was unsure if this constituted a safety risk. Clerk to ask Infinity Play to inspect and offer their advice on this.

New roundabout installation. The Clerk informed Members that he understood informally that the installation was scheduled for the week commencing July 17th but would seek confirmation.

Basketball Hoop. Valero had generously donated £750 towards the cost of the installation. Members voted to accept the quotation from Infinity Play for the supply and installation of the basketball hoop (proposer C’lIr Jackie Prest, seconder C’lIr Caroline Haley). The alternative quotation by Sovereign Play was not selected, on the basis of specification and confusion over quotation conditions / added items. Clerk to make arrangements with Infinity Play accordingly. Members to consult with the Youth Advocate over the exact location of the hoop, and finalise this in a site meeting, and arrange to advise Infinity Play accordingly prior to installation. All agreed that potential noise issues from the ball hitting the hoop backboard should be borne in mind when choosing the final location.

Memorial bench. Members noted that a vase had been cable-tied to one leg of the bench. Members felt that if this was intended to be there long-term, then it should be removed, as it contravened the protocol established in the recently adopted memorial bench scheme. It was felt that this should be mentioned to the family as an initial step. C’lIr Caroline Haley undertook to do this.

On a general note, Members reported that positive feedback had been received from multiple residents in recent weeks, pleased with how the Beacon was looking, as well as the reduction of incidences of dog-fouling as a result of actions taken.

Discussion of tree / branch cutting over roadways and footpaths in Village

Following approaches from various residents, a number of areas around the village were noted by Members as being of concern due to encroachment of growth onto the adjacent roads and pavements. These included :

- Junction of Lucy Walters Close and Front Street, to right hand side as emerging from Lucy Walters Close, affecting visibility. Members noted that the owner had been informally spoken to and made aware of concerns. He had said he planned to cut it back in September, after the bird nesting season. Due to road safety concerns, Members had offered to assist the owner in dealing with the worst of the branches straightaway, but this offer had not been taken up.
- Area to the right of The Lane junction with Front Street, on right hand side when turning out of The Lane.
- Large Ash tree at top of Middle Street on right hand side when going up, and immediately before the right hand bend before the Village Hall.
- Tree standing on land opposite 6a Front Street.

It was confirmed by the Clerk that the area at the top of Middle Street and the area opposite 6a Front Street had been confirmed by P.C.C. as falling outside the highway limits, and therefore outside their area of control and responsibility.

Clerk to contact P.C.C. Streetcare department to mention these locations, which had been raised as concerns on highway / pedestrian safety grounds by residents, with a request for these to be assessed and actioned as required. C’lIr Danny Young to be copied in on messages for information.

Discussion of signage removal around community

Members noted the removal of the Rosemarket directional sign at the Johnston end of Church Road. However, the Clerk informed Members that this had already been reported to P.C.C. by Johnston C.C. As the remaining issues had all either been resolved, or remained unverified, the matter was left in abeyance, as no further actions were needed.

Discussion of possible locations for defibrillator and noticeboard following removal of old Village Hall, and possible consideration to new pedestrian shelter or similar

Advice had been received from P.C.C. on the possibility of planning consent being needed for a pedestrian shelter or similar structure in the vicinity of the layby on the perimeter of the triangle of land at the top of Front Street. This had not been clear cut, due to questions over the degree of control exercised over the land by R.C.C., which was a determining factor. Members discussed the possibility of carrying out feasibility studies on costings / designs for a shelter similar to the one currently on land at Bowling's Corner, in the Burton CC area. Clerk to make enquiries about likely costings. C'llr Jill Gibson noted that there had been no request from any local residents for a shelter to be provided at this location that she was aware of. However, C'llr Jackie Prest mentioned that people did currently use the village hall porchway for shelter, and if the hall was to be sold, this would no longer be available. Members recognised the need for a backup plan for accommodating the defibrillator and noticeboard, in case the matter should move quickly. One suggestion made for the defibrillator in particular, was for it to possibly be affixed to the exterior wall of the chapel graveyard (near the entrance gates). C'llr Caroline Haley undertook to speak to the graveyard custodian about that possibility.

Discussion of possible provision of dog-mess bags in community, and possible arrangement for litter-picking groups

Litter-picking groups. Members were aware that currently there were a number of volunteers in the village who carried out litter-picking on an ad hoc basis. Members considered whether or not this should be co-ordinated in terms of areas covered. C'llr Caroline Haley had discussed this with some local residents who were currently active in volunteer litter-picking around the village, and they were supportive of the idea. C'llr Caroline Haley suggested dealing with it on an individual basis when requests are received for new supplies of green litter bags / grabbers. Members agreed with this approach as being a reasonable one, and one that helps coordinate efforts, but would not interfere unduly with residents' proactive volunteer activities.

Dog-mess bags. After discussion, Members decided that, though a good idea in theory, it would be unlikely to be successful in practice. It was open to abuse and would create cost and maintenance burdens. It was felt that such an initiative might help people who normally pick up after their dogs and had maybe forgotten to bring bags out, but make little or no difference to people who didn't use them already. There were also some concerns expressed about the negative effect of proliferating plastic bag usage, as the bags were understood not to be compostable. Matter left in abeyance. As new dog-fouling signage was due to be put up around the village, and there was already the 'red paint' initiative to highlight the problem, it was decided to leave the matter as it stood and continue to monitor progress.

[NOTE – C'llr Jill Gibson needed to leave the meeting at this point, with apologies].

Any other business

Pembrokeshire Coast path poster. C'llr Jackie Prest had identified a poster supplied by P.C.N.P.A. that she felt might be good to obtain and put up inside the bus shelter at the bottom of Middle Street. She undertook to look into this prior to the September meeting.

The meeting concluded at 8-55pm.

Next scheduled meeting to be held on Monday 4th September 2023, 7pm.