

ROSEMARKET COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of November 2023 monthly meeting held online via the Zoom videoconferencing platform, on Monday 6th November 2023

Present: C’lrs Caroline Haley (Chairman), Jill Gibson, Stu Gray, Jackie Prest, County Cllr Danny Young, Peter Horton (Clerk).

Apologies: C’lr Gery Rostan.

Declarations of known interest

None.

Approval of the minutes of the October 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’lr Stu Gray, seconder C’lr Jackie Prest).

Opportunity for public representation on tabled agenda items

There were no members of the public present.

Matters arising

National Park discovery map. This had been installed into the lower bus shelter in Middle Street. Some positive comments had already been received from local residents.

Police event, Milford Haven. C’lr Danny Young had attended the event in Milford Haven Police Station on 17th October. He reported that it was informative and useful, focusing primarily on strategies around county lines drug gangs and the impact across Pembrokeshire. Concerns around children being targeted by drugs gangs were highlighted. There was no evidence to suggest that there was currently a problem in Rosemarket, however.

Planning matters

There were no plans for consideration this month.

Correspondence

- 1) P.C.C. – Feedback on situation at Watery Lane – noted.
- 2) Local resident – Complaint about mud on roads – the Clerk had recommended that the resident contact P.C.C. directly, and it was understood that this had been done.
- 3) Woodland Trust – Notification of imminent delivery of tree pack – noted.
- 4) Boundary Commission – Information on forthcoming boundary review – the Clerk had attended the recent meeting in County Hall regarding a planned review of boundaries by P.C.C. and the potential impact of any changes. He reported to Members on the main points from the meeting. Members agreed that this was an important subject and that a consultation response should be made in detail. Draft consultation response to be prepared by the Clerk, and circulated to all Members prior to the December meeting for any comments. Agenda item to be placed on the December meeting for discussion and agreement of the final consultation response.
- 5) P.C.C. – Notification that no request for election had been received in connection with the open councillor vacancy – dealt with in agenda item below.
- 6) Infinity Play – Routine inspection report for The Beacon playpark – dealt with in agenda item below.
- 7) Rosemarket Village Hall Committee – Request for financial assistance – dealt with in ‘Accounts’ below.

8) P.C.C. Landscape Officer – advice on tree-planting at The Beacon – dealt with in agenda item below.

Accounts

Budget review

This had been circulated to all members in advance of the meeting. Members discussed the various items on the report, and considered if amendments were needed to the annual budget. None were specifically agreed, though all relevant items were noted for further consideration as and when needed.

Members considered the request from Rosemarket Village Hall Committee for a donation of £650. A brief update on the village hall had been received from C’lr Gery Rostan prior to the meeting, which indicated that the Village Hall Committee’s plans remained the same, with the site up for sale although it was understood that no interest had been received to date. Pending progress on that, matters remained the same. Members felt that whilst being in support in principle of making a donation as in previous years, more information on the current financial situation of the Village Hall was needed to help inform a decision around a donation this year. The community council’s own financial situation needed also to be borne in mind. Clerk to respond to the Village Hall Committee to express continued support, draw attention to the community council’s own current financial situation, and request more detail of their current financial situation to inform a decision.

Clerk to process an interim VAT reclaim for the year to date as soon as practicable, rather than wait until the end of the financial year to claim everything for the entire year.

Clerk to prepare a further budget review for consideration at the December monthly meeting.

Payments

Greenwood Carpentry and Building (National Park display; frame supply and installation)

: £ 150-00

Infinity Play Ltd. (Roundabout installation, The Beacon)

: £15098-44

The above payments were approved by Members (proposer C’lr Caroline Haley, seconder C’lr Jackie Prest).

Discussion of The Beacon, including update on play equipment installation, and any necessary discussion of needed maintenance work at playpark

Roundabout. The roundabout installation was now complete. Positive feedback had been received from several residents. In addition, the Youth Advocate had mentioned that the roundabout was very popular and well received amongst younger members of the community.

Matting around multi-play unit. C’lr Stu Gray mentioned the matting that had been flagged up in previous inspection reports. He felt that the equipment in that area was looking somewhat faded and maybe in need of a facelift, with some sanding and re-staining of the woodwork helping to prolong its life. The Enhancing Pembrokeshire fund was discussed as a possible source of funding for this, with it being noted that Amroth Council had been granted £30,000 for enhancement of their playpark. It was discussed that this could possibly be considered for Rosemarket. After discussion, the Clerk was asked to request a quotation from Infinity Play Ltd. for repair of the matting, and also for an alternative quotation for its replacement. In connection with the latter option, however, it was noted that any future replacement of play equipment would likely require replacement of the safety surfacing as well. For this reason, in the absence of any serious safety concerns, it was felt that replacing matting on equipment that could be up for replacement within the next few years may not be a sensible option. It was agreed that the situation was to be monitored.

Playpark Fencing. In view of continued dog fouling issues on The Beacon generally and around the play equipment specifically, members considered whether installing fencing around the play equipment would help the situation. After some discussion, Members were not in favour of fencing,

and left the matter in abeyance for the time being.

Inspection report. It was noted that no new items of concern had been raised in the most recent inspection report.

Bottom access gate. C’Ilr Jackie Prest mentioned that the gate at the bottom of The Beacon had been left open on more than one occasion. It was thought this might be because the gate hinges needed adjusting, thus making closing the gate more difficult. C’Ilr Danny Young offered to look at the gate and make any necessary adjustments as soon as possible.

Discussion of tree-planting initiatives in Village, including any necessary discussion of possible Places for Nature grant funding, and seeking of advice from P.C.C. on all related issues

C’Ilr Caroline Haley had spoken to the P.C.C. Landscape Officer following several weeks of investigations with members, including some helpful inputs from residents, and a patch cut of an area identified on the Lower Beacon by C’Ilr Danny Young. Some detailed advice had been received from the P.C.C. Landscape Officer regarding planting locations and configurations for developing a copse on the Lower Beacon. This had been circulated to Members prior to the meeting and was well received. Members felt that possibly the copse might need moving down the hill somewhat compared with the sketch plan provided, to preserve distant views from the Upper Beacon in years to come.

Members discussed details such as seating, flower planting, etc., but decided to leave those elements until later on, and concentrate on the main tree planting for the present.

The Clerk undertook to carry out a theodolite survey later in the week, to enable a more detailed assessment of the possible impact of the trees on views from the Upper Beacon in years to come, in response to a suggestion made by C’Ilr Jill Gibson.

Discussion of community council vacancy

P.C.C. had confirmed that no election had been called. A co-option notice had subsequently been published on 25th October. Some informal interest had already been shown in the vacancy, though no applications received to date. Matter to be kept open.

Discussion of possible locations for village hall defibrillator and noticeboard, and further discussion of maintenance requirements for both defibrillators

The Clerk had sent a photograph of the provisional temporary location for the defibrillator currently situated at the Village Hall to P.C.C. for comments, but no response had been received. As the proposed location was in the entrance splay, it was felt unlikely that it would be of any relevance to P.C.C. in any case.

Advice had been received from a local paramedic and the defibrillator manufacturers that the use of adult pads on children was generally considered as a backup option and that ideally, infant pads should be provided on community defibrillators. Clerk to remove the expired infant pads from the defibrillators and adjust the information on ‘The Circuit’ database to reflect this (as not all community defibrillators have separate infant pads). Matter of renewing the infant pads to be kept under review.

Discussion of possible need for regular maintenance of Village Amenity, including discussion of scheduling of annual 24-hour closure, and future uses for the land

C’Ilr Stu Gray had visited the area on a number of occasions. His view was that there was not a major issue with maintenance, and that no immediate maintenance was required. Members were in agreement with this, and left the matter in abeyance for the time being.

The proposed 24-hour closure of the Village Amenity was agreed for Wednesday 13th December, with the area to be closed at 7pm on that day, and re-opened after 7pm on the following day. It was noted that guidance states that this measure is needed to protect the legal status of the land, and the

community council's rights as landowners on behalf of the community. It was also noted that this practice had previously been carried out, although not for several years. C'llr Danny Young undertook to provide a suitable chain and padlock. Clerk to prepare notices for placement on the gate and fence to be put up two weeks in advance, and circulate these in draft form to Members for comment. Agenda item to be tabled for any necessary discussion in the December meeting. All agreed the importance of liaising with affected residents in advance to avoid any misunderstanding of the reason for this action. In relation to this, Clerk to circulate statement over reason for closure to all Members, for use in conversation with any local residents who might enquire as to the specific reason for the closure.

Members briefly considered potential liability issues connected with the camper van charging cable across the area, and also any possible use of the camper van for overnight accommodation. However, these matters were not discussed in detail and no decisions made in relation to them.

[NOTE – C'llr Jill Gibson left the meeting at this point with apologies]

Discussion of arrangements for next community newsletter

Members agreed that a newsletter would be prepared for publication in January. It was left for Members to prepare drafts in the interim.

Discussion of arrangements for community Christmas tree

C'llr Caroline Haley had been in contact with the local resident who had kindly provided a tree for community display outside of The Huntsman pub in 2022 as he had thought he might possibly have a tree for use again this year. However, he subsequently advised that he was unlikely to have a tree large enough this year, although this was yet to be confirmed. Members decided that, if a donated tree was unavailable, it would not be viable to provide one, due to the purchase cost. C'llr Caroline Haley undertook to approach a local landowner and also to approach the team at The Huntsman to discuss the matter.

Any other business

Dead badger on Bastleford Road. The Clerk undertook to report this again to P.C.C. as it had been there for several weeks.

National Lottery grant. It was confirmed that the Clerk would be making arrangements for necessary feedback to be provided to the National Lottery following completion of the roundabout project, as required under the terms of their grant.

Remembrance Sunday. C'llr Caroline Haley had collected the wreath from the Royal British Legion in Milford Haven. Arrangements for payment were in hand with the Clerk. A traditional Church service was scheduled for 9am, followed at 10am by a short service of remembrance in the Church grounds for people and animals.

St Leonard's Well. The Clerk had sent a letter to Mr Richard Hayman regarding the overhanging trees. No response had yet been received.

December meeting. Members were delighted to accept an invitation from C'llr Danny Young for the December monthly meeting to be hosted at Rosemarket Golf Club. It was confirmed, therefore, that the meeting would be held there, but be accessible online for those unable to attend in person.

The meeting concluded at 9-10pm.

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