

**Rosemarket Community Council**  
**Annual Report 2023-24**

Rosemarket Community Council incorporates the areas surrounding the villages of Rosemarket and Sardis. Meetings are held on the first Monday of each month (except August).

Rosemarket Community Council currently has six councillors. These are :

Caroline Haley (Chairman)  
Jackie Prest (vice-Chairman)  
Jill Gibson (Church representative)  
Stu Gray  
James Milne  
Gery Rostan

Peter Horton is Clerk to Rosemarket Community Council and the initial point of contact.  
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Rosemarket Community Council controls, either solely or jointly, the following areas of publicly-accessible land:

- **The Beacon;** an area of approximately 1.1Ha of public access land designated as a Village Green, situated on the northern edge of Rosemarket. It has two distinct areas – the Upper Beacon, a grassed recreational area with a children’s play area, and the Lower Beacon, a largely undeveloped area of land.
- **Westaway Park;** an area of 0.25Ha of levelled, grassed recreational land, situated within a built-up area of Rosemarket, and used by the public as general amenity land.

**Financial Information**

**Income** The Community Council’s income is from precept collected via local Council tax. This was £12000 for the 2023/24 financial year.

**Expenditure** The Community Council’s budget for the 2023/24 financial year was £25200. The following end of year financial statement was prepared to summarise the standing of accounts at the end of the 2023/24 financial year, and projected expenditure for 2024/25 :

**Rosemarket Community Council accounts statement 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024 (interim)**

|                                                       |   |           |
|-------------------------------------------------------|---|-----------|
| Balance brought forward to April 1 <sup>st</sup> 2023 | : | £11262-55 |
| Income received during year to March 2024             | : | £28808-48 |
| Therefore total funds available for expenditure       | : | £40071-03 |

Expenditure during year to March 2024 :

|                             |   |           |
|-----------------------------|---|-----------|
| Westaway Park rental        | : | £ 15-00   |
| Internal audit              | : | £ 70-00   |
| External audit              | : | £ -       |
| Clerk’s incidental expenses | : | £ 261-59  |
| Member allowances           | : | £ 156-00  |
| Donations                   | : | £ 1150-00 |
| RVHC grant                  | : | £ 200-00  |

|                                                |   |           |
|------------------------------------------------|---|-----------|
| Insurance                                      | : | £ 511-72  |
| Clerk salary                                   | : | £ 5412-63 |
| One Voice Wales                                | : | £ -       |
| Open spaces (playpark, benches, grass cutting) | : | £21922-59 |
| Miscellaneous / admin                          | : | £ 428-94  |
|                                                |   | <hr/>     |
| Total expenditure                              | : | £30128-47 |

Therefore, balance in all accounts carried forward to April 2024 : £ 9942-56  
Therefore, funds on hand at end of 2023/24 financial year : £ 9942-56

**Income anticipated during 2024/25 year**

|                        |   |           |           |
|------------------------|---|-----------|-----------|
| Precept                | : | £16800-00 |           |
| VAT return             | : | £ 130-25  |           |
|                        |   | <hr/>     |           |
| Total income projected | : | £16930-25 | £16930-25 |

Total projected available funds for 2024/25 £26872-81

**Expenditure anticipated during 2024/25 year**

|                                       |   |           |           |
|---------------------------------------|---|-----------|-----------|
| Budgeted expenditure for 2024/25      | : | £25355-00 |           |
| Ring fenced funds from previous years | : | £ 600-00  |           |
|                                       |   | <hr/>     |           |
| Total committed funds for 2024/25     | : | £25955-00 | £25955-00 |

Therefore, projected available disposable funds in excess of budget £ 917-81

**Audit**

**Audit of 2021/22 accounts.** These accounts represent the most recently externally audited accounts, and were given unqualified approval by the Wales Audit Office auditors.

**Relationship with the principal council**

The Community Council has no ongoing formal charters with Pembrokeshire County Council (the Principal Authority). However, the Community Council does hold a lease from Pembrokeshire County Council for the land at Westaway Park. It is anticipated that this lease will be surrendered in favour of the Rosemarket Village Hall Committee sometime in 2023/24 (please see 'Priorities for coming year' below).

**Achievements during the past year**

- **Tree-planting** : Thirty trees were planted on The Beacon, which will hopefully grow into an attractive copse in the fullness of time. In addition, a Korean Fir was planted on the triangle of land outside the Village Hall.
- **Playground installations, safety and maintenance**: The carrying out of inspections, repairs and maintenance to the play equipment was carried out as necessary, to ensure it being in a safe condition for use. In addition, two new items of equipment were installed, including a wheelchair-accessible roundabout, and basketball hoop.

- **Community Newsletters / information leaflets:** One Community newsletter was published and distributed, and an information leaflet about the community Coronation events was circulated throughout the Village.
- **Dog fouling and littering:** The Community Council has vigorously continued its support of local voluntary litter-picking initiatives, and also efforts to reduce dog-fouling in the community, including procuring and siting six signs specifically designed to alert dog owners to their responsibilities. Liaison with the Principal Authority over enforcement has also continued on a regular basis.
- **Community defibrillators.** Maintenance, inspections and upkeep of the two publicly-accessible defibrillators has been continued throughout the year.
- **Social media presence.** The community council has established a Facebook page, to provide an alternative means of disseminating information to residents.
- **Donations.** A total of £1350 was donated by the community council to local causes, including events to celebrate the coronation of King Charles III, the local village hall, and grass-cutting in community graveyards.
- **Bus shelters.** Two community owned bus shelters have been cared for and maintained, and a Pembrokeshire Coast Discovery Point map was erected in the lower Middle Street bus shelter for residents' use and enjoyment.
- **Planning applications.** All planning applications in the community council area were considered by the council.
- **Village Amenity.** Maintenance and upkeep of the Village Amenity continued, with clearance work being undertaken of overgrowth and undergrowth, to keep the area in good condition.
- **Litter picking.** The community council has continued its support of voluntary litter-picking in the village, including procuring litter picking kits and making these available to those wishing to help with this activity.

### Priorities for the coming year

- **Biodiversity enhancement:** Further work to encourage biodiversity is prioritised, including possible further tree planting, ongoing reviews of grass-cutting regimes, etc.
- **Playground:** Ongoing maintenance and improvements to the play equipment are anticipated, including possible consideration to outdoor gym equipment, hard surfacing around the base of the basketball hoop, etc., as funds permit.
- **Community Newsletter:** Following positive feedback received from residents, further newsletters are planned this year.
- **Lease of land at Westaway Park:** The Community Councils is hoping that arrangements will be finalised in 2024/25 to transfer their lease for the land at Westaway Park to the Rosemarket Village Hall Committee, to facilitate the construction of a new Village Hall.
- **Dog fouling and littering:** The Community Council intends to continue its support of local voluntary litter-picking initiatives, and also efforts to reduce dog-fouling in the community.
- **Pedestrian shelter:** Consideration is being given to the possible construction of a pedestrian shelter on the triangle of land at the top of Front Street, to provide shelter for children awaiting school bus transport, and serve as a location for the community noticeboard and defibrillator currently sited on the old village hall.

PETER HORTON

**CLERK TO ROSEMARKET COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

APRIL 2024