

Rosemarket Community Council
Annual Report 2022-23

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 five councillors. These are :

Caroline Haley (Chairman)
Jill Gibson (Vice Chairman and Church representative)
Tamsin Turner
Jackie Prest
Stu Gray

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 is £12000 for the 2022/23 financial year.

Expenditure

The Community Council’s budget for the 2022/23 financial year was £22463. The following report on anticipated expenditure for the year, and projected expenditure for the 2023/24 financial year, was presented to the January 2023 monthly meeting :

Rosemarket Community Council - Notes for determining 2023/24 precept

	2022/23 Precepted amount	Actual / projected	2023/24 Projected expenditure
Clerk salary / expenses	£ 4383	£ 4660	£ 4660(1)
Insurance	£ 425	£ 400	£ 450
Village Hall grant	£ 750	£ 650	£ 750
Grass cutting (Upper Beacon)	£ 800	£ 120	£ 200
Hedge & grass cutting / Lower Beacon	£ 500	£ 270	£ 500(2)
Village / bus shelter maintenance	£ 1000	£ 680	£ 1000
Donations	£ 500	£ 500	£ 500
Remembrance Day wreath	£ -	£ 25	£ 30

Administration / I.T.	£ 500	£ 165	£ 500
Westaway Park	£ 15	£ 15	£ 15
Work to Village Amenity	£ 500	£ -	£ 500
Election potential cost	£ 600	£ 225	£ 600(3)
Members' allowances	£ 900	£ 138	£ 900(4)
External audit fee	£ 275	£ 475	£ 275
Internal audit fee	£ 65	£ 60	£ 70
Play equipment purchase	£ 5000	£ -	£ 5000
Playground inspections	£ 750	£ 650	£ 750
Playground maintenance/improvements	£ 1500	£ 5381	£ 5000
Memorial bench installation	£ 1500	£ 1451	£ 750
Tree-planting / memorial plaque	£ 1000	£ 1085	£ 1000(5)
Tree report	£ -	£ 357	£ 200
Contribution towards C.W. grant	£ 1000	£ 1100	£ 1000(6)
Training	£ 500	£ 18	£ 250(7)
Newsletter	£ -	£ -	£ 300
Total	£22463	£18425	£25200

Balance brought forward in bank to April 2022	:	£17837
Add income received during year (precept)	:	£12000
Add further income received (VAT refund)	:	£ 251
Deduct actual / projected expenditure for year	:	(£18425)
Actual projected cash balance on hand in bank on 31/03/2023	:	£11663
Deduct ring-fenced sums / outstanding payments from previous years :		
- Elections / grass-cutting (2018 season)	:	-
Total ring-fenced / set aside sums for outstanding matters	:	-
Add VAT on projected expenditure for 2022/23 to be reclaimed	:	£ 1200
Therefore, projected available funds on hand for 2023/24 year	:	£12863
Add precept set for 2023/24 (AS SET IN COUNCIL)	:	£12000
TOTAL BUDGET FOR 2023/24	:	£24863

NOTES

- 1) Subject to any agreed increase in hours and N.J.C. pay award for 2023/24, and including £230 annual estimate for incidental expenses based on 2022/23
- 2) Assuming 2 cuts of grass and hedges @ £250/cut.
- 3) Based on 20% of estimated election cost. Election due in May 2027.
- 4) Based on £150/Member for six Members.
- 5) Provisional sum in case further planting schemes should go ahead.
- 6) Assuming further follow-up application for community works grant.
- 7) Provisional sum.

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).

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.

Achievements during the past year

- **Tree-planting scheme:** Phase 2, planting of additional trees on The Beacon, as well as other community areas. This included the purchase and planting of a Rowan Tree on land opposite the Village Hall to commemorate the life of the late Queen Elizabeth II, as well as the commissioning of a commemorative plaque.
- **New benches:** The purchase and installation of an additional bench adjacent to the children's playground on The Beacon, dedicated to the memory of Barbara Summons MBE, long-serving member of Rosemarket Community Council. In addition, the installation of a 'Happy-to-Chat bench on the Beacon, and the purchase and installation of a new recycled plastic picnic bench.
- **Playground safety and maintenance:** The carrying out of repairs and maintenance to the multi-play slide equipment, to allow its continued use. The removal of redundant safety matting and underlying concrete, and the grassing over of these areas. In addition, the painting of the goalposts and fitting of nets to them.
- **Road safety and maintenance:** The purchase and installation of two driver-activated feedback signs in the village, with contributory funding from the Community Works grant.
- **Bus shelter and bench maintenance:** Repairs and re-painting of the two bus shelters, along with the benches in the village.
- **Recycling area:** Clearing of overgrown bushes and painting of the fence.
- **Community Newsletters / information leaflets:** A Community newsletter and several community information leaflets were published and distributed.
- **Training Plan:** The Community Council has published a training plan to meet the emerging needs of both Members and Clerk.
- **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 the use of environmentally friendly paint to highlight incidences, signage, and liaison with the Principal Authority over enforcement.
- **Biodiversity Enhancement:** The Community Council published its three-yearly Biodiversity Enhancement Report in late 2022.
- **Memorial bench scheme:** The Community Council formulated and published a Memorial Bench Sponsorship scheme, providing the opportunity for memorial benches to loved ones of community residents to be placed on land in community council ownership.

Priorities for the coming year

- **Tree-planting:** Further tree planting is planned for The Beacon, involving a possible copse of suitable species to be planted during the winter of 2023/24.
- **Playground:** The installation of new play equipment, including an all-inclusive roundabout and basketball hoop, is being planned for the summer of 2023.
- **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 2023/24 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.

PETER HORTON

CLERK TO ROSEMARKET COMMUNITY COUNCIL

APRIL 2023