

ROSEMARKET COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the monthly meeting held at the Dawn-to-Dusk Golf Club, Bastleford Road, Rosemarket, and also online via the Zoom videoconferencing platform, on Monday 2nd September

Present: C’llrs James Milne, Jackie Prest, Gery Rostan; County Cllr Danny Young; Peter Horton (Clerk).

Apologies: None.

The meeting was chaired by C’llr Jackie Prest

Declarations of known interest

None.

Approval of the minutes of the July 2024 monthly meeting

The minutes were approved as an accurate record and signed by the Chairman (proposer C’llr James Milne, seconder C’llr Jackie Prest).

Approval of the minutes of the E.G.M. held on Wednesday 17th July 2024

The minutes were approved as an accurate record and signed by the Chairman (proposer C’llr James Milne, seconder C’llr Gery Rostan).

Opportunity for public representation on tabled agenda items

There were no members of the public present who wished to comment.

Co-option of new members to the Council

Three applications had been received, from Rob Summons, Steve Davies and Clive Griffith. Members resolved to co-opt Rob Summons with immediate effect (proposer C’llr Gery Rostan, seconder C’llr James Milne).

Members resolved to co-opt Steve Davies with immediate effect (proposer C’llr James Milne, seconder C’llr Gery Rostan).

Members resolved to co-opt Clive Griffith with immediate effect (proposer C’llr James Milne, seconder C’llr Gery Rostan).

Rob Summons and Steve Davies, being present at the meeting, signed the declarations of acceptance of office, and duly joined the meeting for the remainder of its duration. Clerk to make arrangements with Clive Griffith to sign the declaration of office when mutually convenient.

Election of Chairman to the Council

C’llr Jackie Prest proposed C’llr Rob Summons for the Chairmanship.

As the result of a request from a Member, Rob Summons gave a summary of his extensive prior experience in public life, and signalled his willingness to accept the nomination if a resolution for this was passed. He wished it to be known that his willingness to carry out the role of Chairman was nothing to do with any desire for self-promotion, but simply to endeavour to do his best to support the council, and assist in dealing with any repeat of the negativity recently experienced by the council, and which had sadly led to the resignation of the previous Chairman.

The proposal to elect C’llr Rob Summons was seconded by C’llr Gery Rostan, and passed unanimously by those members present.

[NOTE – C’llr Rob Summons took over chairmanship of the meeting at this point]

Matters arising

20mph speed limit. A response had been received from P.C.C., explaining their rationale for the approach being taken with the consultation on 20mph speed limited areas, and explaining that this was largely dictated by Welsh Government guidelines. Matter left in abeyance.

Roundabout. Infinity Play had indicated that the minor works to the safer surfacing around the roundabout should be completed later that week. Clerk to ask him to look at the free-running of the roundabout while in attendance.

Basketball hoop surfacing. C’llr Gery Rostan had sought views from some local young residents, who had indicated that they would like to see some kind of surfacing around the basketball hoop.

E.G.M. minutes. Members discussed the negative comment that had been made by a local resident, and duly recorded in the E.G.M. minute record, to the effect that Caroline Haley should not be allowed back onto the council in the future. Members wished to record that the individual who had made the comment had not been entitled to do so, as Caroline Haley would have the perfect right to stand for re-election at any point in the future, and this would be a process of open local democracy. Members also commented that, in their view, this representation had been nothing less than a pure attempt to bully an outgoing member who had given dedicated and committed service to the council over many years. They wished their support and appreciation for all that Caroline Haley had achieved in her time on the council to be duly noted.

Planning matters

Planning consultations received

24/0303/CL - Commencement of development of outline planning permission ref. 10/0082/PA and subsequent approval of reserved matters ref. 13/0528/PA (Residential Development).

Site Address: 3-ROSEHAVEN, The Beacon, ROSEMARKET, Milford Haven, Pembrokeshire, SA73 1JX – It was noted that a number of local residents had made contact seeking support from the community council to oppose the development. However, it had been pointed out to these residents that the development already had approval, and it was not within the power of the community council to seek to reverse this.

Correspondence

- 1) Local resident – Message of support for community council, and expressing regret at the departure of the previous council Chairman Caroline Haley – noted, and supported by all those present. The incoming Chairman C’llr Rob Summons expressed his thanks to all Members who had resisted recent negative comments and attacks on the community council from a small number of local residents, and for having stayed on as council members in the interest of the local community despite this.
- 2) Local resident – Message of support for community council, and expressing regret at the departure of the previous council Chairman Caroline Haley – noted, and supported by Members as for (1) above.
- 3) Alan Chadwick – Request for support for forthcoming Remembrance Day commemorations – dealt with in agenda item below.
- 4) Clive Griffith – Application to join community council by co-option – dealt with in agenda item above.
- 5) Rob Summons – Application to join community council by co-option – dealt with in agenda item above.
- 6) Steve Davies – Application to join community council by co-option – dealt with in agenda item above.
- 7) The Circuit – Notification of expiry of defibrillator pads – Clerk to order new pads (proposer C’llr Rob Summons, seconder C’llr Steve Davies). C’llr Jackie Prest confirmed that she had carried out defibrillator checks for September, with no issues to report.

Accounts

Payments

Lisa Townley (ratification of donation approved towards Fun Day) : £100-00

The above payment was ratified by Members (proposer C’lir James Milne, seconder C’lir Jackie Prest).

C’lir Rob Summons wished it to be recorded that, as the community council had decided in the E.G.M. not to donate to the Fun Day, he did not feel that the change of stance and subsequent donation had been appropriate. He understood the reason for the eventual approval of the donation, but had not been in agreement with this, given recent negativity towards the community council by some residents, and in view of other local support that had already been committed to the event, although this had been unknown to the community council at the time the donation was agreed.

Approval of amended Standing Orders for Community Council

Members resolved to abandon the plans for a move to bi-monthly meetings, and retain the monthly meeting frequency (apart from August) (proposer C’lir Rob Summons, seconder C’lir Jackie Prest). No change was therefore made to the Standing Orders.

Approval of scheme of delegation for Clerk

This was approved by Members (proposer C’lir Jackie Prest, seconder C’lir Steve Davies), and signed by the Chairman.

Discussion of possible arrangements for pedestrian shelter provision at top end of Village

Members decided to leave this matter in abeyance for time being, as there was uncertainty over the Village Hall project, and over the real need for such a provision.

Discussion of results of public consultation on The Beacon playpark

The report commenced by Caroline Haley had been completed by the Clerk, and was discussed by Members. It was noted that there had been a high level of participation in the local community. It was also noted, however, that the whole issue had been set in motion following the setting of the budget for 2024/25, which made it potentially difficult to arrange significant additional expenditure at present. The report had indicated overwhelming support for all measures on which questions had been asked, including based on a weighted analysis of the responses, which gave additional significance to responses submitted by more regular users of The Beacon.

Comments were noted from the responses received, along the lines that :

- a requirement for dogs on leads could make a difference to levels of uncollected dog faeces;
- dogs running free in the Upper Beacon, and particularly around play equipment, had moved some residents to stop using the Beacon due to their feeling unsettled;
- anecdotal evidence had been presented of at least one resident being knocked over by a dog on The Beacon;
- signage and monitoring / enforcement protocols would need to be considered as part of any measures introduced;
- animals should be excluded from play equipment.

Members asked the Clerk and C’lir Danny Young to seek advice from P.C.C. on issues of how measures could best be legally introduced and enforced. Matter to be placed on agenda for further discussion in October.

Rubbish bin, Lower Beacon. The Clerk confirmed that P.C.C. had rejected a request to provide a bin at The Lower Beacon. It was also likely that any service agreement for P.C.C. to empty any bin provided directly by R.C.C. would be likely to cost around £10/week. C’lir Rob Summons undertook to look into this matter.

Discussion of maintenance issues on community council-owned assets in village

Public benches opposite The Huntsman. Members reported these as still awaiting the work needed. Clerk to chase this up.

Discussion of arrangements for Remembrance Sunday

Members agreed for C'lr Jackie Prest to liaise with Alan Chadwick over the detailed arrangements. Clerk to provide Alan Chadwick with contact details for C'lr Jackie Prest for this purpose.

Update on position with replacement Village Hall project

No further update available at present. Matter to be placed on the agenda for a further update in October.

Discussion of tree maintenance issues around Village

Tree on corner of Middle Street / The Beacon. The Clerk confirmed that this had been reported to P.C.C. Streetcare, but no response received. C'lr Danny Young / Clerk to chase up a response / action as possible.

Any other business

Christmas trees. C'lr Danny Young thought it likely that he might be able to obtain a community Christmas tree locally, and undertook to investigate this. Agenda item to be tabled for October, to discuss this and any related matters regarding community Christmas tree provision.

The meeting concluded at 8-25pm.