

ROSEMARKET COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held online on
Monday 5th October 2020

Present: Cllrs Jill Gibson (Chairman), David Hancock, Caroline Haley; Peter Horton (Clerk);
Apologies : C’llrs Barbara Summons, Rhys Jones, Steve Davies.

NOTE – The minutes to record that this meeting was held online via the Zoom video-conferencing platform due to the current Coronavirus pandemic restrictions, and members of the public were not invited to attend. This was as per the Welsh Government emergency Covid-19 regulations governing Community Council meetings.

Declarations of known interests

None.

Approval of the September 2020 monthly meeting

The minutes were approved as written, and held by the Clerk for signature by the Chairman following the meeting (proposer C’lr Caroline Haley, seconder C’lr David Hancock).

Approval of the E.G.M. held on Wednesday 23rd September 2020

The minutes were approved as written, and held by the Clerk for signature by the Chairman following the meeting (proposer C’lr David Hancock, seconder C’lr Caroline Haley).

Matters arising

Trees on The Beacon. C’lr Jill Gibson had met John Colnet again on The Beacon. It had been confirmed that he would cut down the tree as previously arranged. It had also been arranged that he would remove the dead tree next to it, and remove an overhanging low branch from the nearby Elm tree. It had been arranged that the trees would not be removed right down to the ground, so their position could be determined if necessary in the future. Also going to have a look at hedge as well.

Dog-fouling signage. C’lr David Hancock had looked at the signage. Members were agreed that the dog-fouling problem appeared to have worsened again on The Beacon. It was agreed that C’lr David Hancock would obtain some more signage similar to that previously obtained, and arrange for this to be placed at strategic locations, including at the bottom of the pathway up to The Beacon.

Footpath no. PP81/8/1, Barn Lane – Thurston Lane. The Clerk had received a telephone call from Sean Tilling of P.C.C. Mr. Tilling had arranged for a local contractor to survey the footpath, and make arrangements for any needed works to be carried out. He had expressed the hope that this would be completed within the next month or so, subject to other competing priorities.

Footpath to The Beacon.

The Clerk reported to Members that he had been contacted further by Mr. Sean Tilling of P.C.C. regarding the footpath. P.C.C. were now discouraging surfacing or widening work on the footpath, as it was felt this could result in the loss of its ‘rural’ ambience. Regarding the need for staggered barriers at the bottom end of the path, Mr. Tilling had said that P.C.C. would not fund these on a footpath in a rural area. He had also expressed the view that metal railing-type barriers would look incongruous in this location. He had suggested that a pair of staggered gates set back some distance from the end of the path might be a better option. He had said this would cost in the region of £450, and that P.C.C. would be willing to carry out the work, but on a rechargeable basis. Members agreed with the comments on the adverse visual impact of metal railings. However, they felt that a simple staggered pair of short post and rail fences would be more appropriate and cheaper. It was agreed for the Clerk to put this suggestion to P.C.C., ask them to arrange the necessary work, and agree for

R.C.C. to meet the cost up to a maximum of £500 (proposer C’lr Jill Gibson, seconder C’lr Caroline Haley).

Planning

Applications

20/0467/PA - Variation of condition 4 of planning permission 15/1013/PA (Variation of condition 5 of planning app. 14/1101/PA to extend the number of events from 11 to 30).

Site Address: Woodhouse Barn, Barn Lane, Rosemarket, Milford Haven, Pembrokeshire, SA73 1LH.

In assessing the application, Members also considered the message and objection letter from Mr. Simon Docherty copied to the Community Council.

Members were unconvinced of the merits of citing the Coronavirus pandemic as a reason for seeking to extend the months of operation at the site. They also drew attention to inadequacies in the existing development, such as the passing places, which had never been viewed as adequate by Members, and one of which was possibly unstable.

Members resolved to oppose the application. This to be based on failure to meet the requirements of L.D.P. policy GN1, adverse effect on amenity of neighbouring residents, inadequate highway access, anti-social behaviour and noise problems associated with use of the site. Response to also reiterate the request previously made for the number of events to be altered to limit the number of days on which events may be held. (proposer C’lr Jill Gibson, seconder C’lr David Hancock).

Clerk to respond to consultation accordingly, and also inform Simon Docherty of the nature of the response being made.

Correspondence

- 1) P.C.C. – Notification of decision to remove 6th form provision from Milford Haven School – noted.
- 2) Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Authority – Consultation on 2021-26 draft corporate plan – noted.
- 3) Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales – Draft 2021 report – noted.
- 4) P.C.C. – Reminder of need to observe Coronavirus Regulations in connection with Remembrance Day commemorative events – noted.
- 5) Mr. Simon Docherty – letter regarding planning application ref. 20/0467/PA – dealt with in ‘Planning’ above.

Accounts

Payments

Wales Audit Office (2017/18 external audit)	:	£ 204-25
Creative Play (50% deposit on new play equipment)	:	£2314-20
Pembrokeshire County Council (Westaway Park rental)	:	£ 7-50
David Hancock (building supplies)	:	£ 84-00

Members asked the Clerk to seek clarification on the situation with the lease on Westaway Park before paying this invoice. With this caveat, the above payments were approved by Members (proposer C’lr David Hancock, seconder C’lr Caroline Haley).

Quarterly budget review.

The Clerk had circulated a budget review to Members effective 30th September 2020. Members noted its contents.

Discussion / update on arrangements for replacement play equipment for The Beacon

Members were informed that the play equipment was now on order, and a provisional start date for the installation had been set of week commencing 2nd November 2020. .

It was noted that P.C.C. had offered very limited assistance. They were prepared to remove the existing play equipment, but not the old rubber matting, and would not be able to arrange any reinstatement.

It was decided to leave the entire project with Creative Play as per their quotation.

Clerk to prepare generic letters to the residents living in the immediate vicinity of the playpark, informing them of the proposed works. These to be delivered to C'lr Jill Gibson for distribution.

Members also noted the need to check the upper gate access to the Beacon field, to ensure that it can be opened to facilitate access for the work.

Discussion of possible tree-planting schemes for Village

The meeting with P.C.C. Landscape Officer Richard Staden had taken place, and been very useful. Mr. Staden had made a number of helpful suggestions, including suggesting the possibility of using more mature trees rather than young whips. Following the meeting, it had been arranged that Mr. Staden would prepare some sketches of his recommendations for the areas concerned, and email these to the Clerk for consideration by Members. The Clerk confirmed that no email had yet been received. Clerk to chase up Richard Staden for a response, in case planting could be arranged for the forthcoming planting season.

Review of Clerk's salary, and job evaluation

Members had considered this matter in advance of the meeting. They expressed their satisfaction with the job being done by the Clerk, and the Clerk thanked them for their kind comments. It was agreed that the Clerk's salary should be altered from scale point 22 of the N.J.C. payscale for part-time clerks to 10% above scale point 20. This change to be implemented effective from October 1st 2020 (proposer C'lr Jill Gibson, seconder C'lr Caroline Haley). It was agreed that a further review of the Clerk's role should be conducted in twelve month's time.

Any other business

2020 AGM. Members agreed that the 2020 A.G.M. would be held on Monday 2nd November 2020, immediately prior to the November monthly meeting. This was in recognition of the requirements of the relevant legislation, which required the A.G.M. to be held sometime in 2020.

Date of next meeting

Monday 2nd November 2020

The meeting concluded at 9-10pm.