

## 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 Tuesday 9th January 2024

**Present:** C'llrs Caroline Haley (Chairman), Gery Rostan, James Milne, Stu Gray, Jackie Prest, County Cllr Danny Young; Village Youth Advocate; Peter Horton (Clerk).

**Apologies:** C'lr Jill Gibson.

### Declarations of known interest

None.

### Approval of the minutes of the December 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 Jackie Prest, seconder C'lr Stu Gray).

### Approval of the minutes of the E.G.M. held on Friday 15th December 2023

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 who wished to comment.

### Matters arising

**Defibrillator checks.** These had been completed by C'lr Jackie Prest, with all found to be in order.  
**Flooding issues, Neyland Road.** Members were concerned following recent instances of flooding on the Neyland side of the old railway bridge, due to flooding from the adjacent stream. It was noted that this was in Llanstadwell CC area. However, the problem was considered to be increasing in frequency, and of direct concern to Rosemarket residents. Clerk to write to P.C.C. to raise the issue as a matter of concern. Letter to reference safety concerns for traffic using the road, as well as loss of access for those travelling to and from the village along this route. Letter to be copied over to C'lr Danny Young for information.

**Community Christmas tree.** A donated tree had been sourced in Kilgetty. This had been collected, and put up outside The Huntsman in mid-December. The lighting had been provided by The Huntsman. Regarding possible re-planting of the tree, C'lr Caroline Haley had consulted Richard Staden of P.C.C. to ask if this was a possibility. The advice received was that in the absence of a rootstock, there was no hope of the tree surviving. Future plans for Community Christmas tree(s) to be placed on February agenda for discussion.

**Village Amenity.** Members were informed that the recent 24-hour closure had been completed successfully. During the closure period, clearance around the perimeter of the car park had been carried out. This had been more extensive than had been anticipated. Thanks were offered to C'llrs James Milne, Jackie Prest and Caroline Haley for their efforts to get the work done. Thanks were also noted to James Horton of Infinity Play for collecting the material at short notice, and transporting this to Lawrence Landfill. Questions were raised over responsibility for the grassed areas around the outside of the Village Amenity, adjacent to the highway, and adjacent to the trackway up to The Beacon. Agenda item concerning this to be tabled for discussion in February.

**Grit bin.** Members were informed that this had now been filled by P.C.C.

**St Leonard's Well.** Nothing had been heard from Richard Hayman following the letter sent to him about maintenance of the surrounding area. C'lr Danny Young mentioned that he understood Mr

Hayman to have been busy with his potato harvesting, but undertook to discuss the matter with him once this particularly busy period had passed.

**Potholes.** Members still had some work to do in collating lists of potholes, and forwarding these to the Clerk. It was agreed for this to be done by Sunday 21st January. Some previously-reported potholes in West Street and Watery Lane were reported to remain unaddressed, and to have further deteriorated. Clerk to report these to P.C.C. again.

**Community newsletter.** C'lr Caroline Haley advised that all the draft content for the next newsletter was being collated into one document. C'lr Gery Rostan to contact the Village Hall Committee to ask what information they would like to include in the newsletter.

Draft newsletter content document to be circulated to all members, for comments / additions / amendments ahead of being designed and formatted by Tamsin Turner, who had once again kindly agreed to undertake this task.

### **Planning matters**

There were no plans for consideration this month.

### **Correspondence**

- 1) Rosemarket Village Hall Committee - Response to request for information on the village hall committee financial situation to aid decision-making for financial donation - dealt with in 'Accounts' below.
- 2) P.C.C. - Acknowledgement of request for grit bin refilling - noted.
- 3) Infinity Play - Quotations for re-surfacing of safer surfacing around play units, or alternatively repairing existing safer surfacing mats - dealt with in agenda item concerning The Beacon below.

### **Accounts (to include discussion of budget / precept for 2024/25 and annual discussion of Clerk's salary and conditions)**

#### **Payments**

There were no payments for approval this month.

**Village Hall donation request.** Members noted the responses provided by the Rosemarket Village Hall Committee to date. The situation remained that the request stood at £650. Various options were considered, factoring in the standing of the community council's own accounts, precedent set by other donations made during the year and the lack of certainty over the future of the existing village hall. Following this discussion, members agreed to provide a £200 donation towards their overall costs (proposer C'lr Jackie Prest, seconder C'lr Gery Rostan). Clerk to inform the Village Hall Committee and reinforce the commitment of the community council to ongoing support of the village hall.

#### **Budget / precept for 2024/25**

Members discussed the budget and precept based on the draft document prepared and circulated by the Clerk. After discussion, it was resolved to set the precept at £16,800 (proposer C'lr Caroline Haley, seconder C'lr Jackie Prest). Clerk to inform P.C.C. accordingly. In reaching the decision, it was noted that the precept had not been increased for two years, during a time of increased running costs. Matter of provision of a pedestrian shelter to be placed on February agenda for discussion. The Village Youth Advocate commented that the suggestion of providing a pedestrian shelter on the triangle of land adjacent to the village hall was a very good idea and would be particularly well received by school children waiting for buses in that area.

[NOTE - C'lr Gery Rostan and the Village Youth Advocate left the meeting at this point with apologies].

### **Annual discussion of Clerk's salary and conditions**

Members were content with the current arrangements, as was the Clerk. As such, no changes were recommended.

### **Any necessary discussion of The Beacon (to include discussion on possible installation of outdoor gym equipment)**

**Pathways and access points.** Issues had been raised over muddy conditions around the entranceways to the Upper Beacon. It was noted, however, that the weather had been exceptionally wet, and conditions were expected to improve with better weather. As such, no decision to provide surfacing at the entranceways was felt to be appropriate at that time, especially given the field-like nature of the area.

**Surfacing around play equipment.** Members considered the merits or otherwise of repairing or replacing the safer surfacing matting around the multi-play unit and seesaw. The quotations from Infinity Play were discussed. Replacement of the safer surfacing matting was not considered advisable at the current time, but would better be done if and when the play equipment itself needed renewal. As such, Members favoured the option of repairing and cleaning the matting, and filling in the gaps in between the mats. C'llr Stu Gray felt that re-varnishing / painting the multi-play unit and seesaw afterwards would also be worthwhile, and could extend the lifespan of the equipment.

Clerk to ask Infinity Play for an updated combined quotation to do the safer surfacing repairs, and also re-varnish / repaint the multiplay unit and see-saw.

**Outdoor gym equipment.** Discussion deferred for consideration in February.

### **Discussion of formal dispensation for C'llr Jill Gibson not to attend meetings**

This was agreed by Members, to apply for an initial six-month period, due to personal reasons affecting C'llr Jill Gibson at the time (proposer C'llr Caroline Haley, seconder C'llr Stu Gray).

### **Discussion of social media as an additional communication channel for RCC**

Members discussed the possibility of opening a community council social media account, probably on Facebook. Possible benefits to having a community council social media presence included being an additional way of keeping village residents informed of developments.

Members were agreed that Facebook was a widely used platform, with direct messaging functionality allowing people an alternative to email or telephone as a means of contacting the community council. Settings could enable the 'comments' facility to be disabled if felt necessary, with the page effectively used as an electronic noticeboard. Members resolved that a Facebook page would be opened and trialled for R.C.C, with C'llr Caroline Haley and the Clerk making arrangements for this (proposer C'llr Stu Gray, seconder C'llr James Milne).

### **Discussion of possible formation of a community book exchange**

C'llr Caroline Haley had been approached informally by some local residents interested in having a book exchange in the village. She had also spoken with the management of The Huntsman, who had indicated their support for such an initiative, and expressed a willingness in principle to have the facility housed in the pub. However, questions about formal responsibility for the facility were uncertain. It was left for C'llr Caroline Haley to discuss the matter further with the management of The Huntsman in more detail. It was also agreed that a mention of the idea would be included in the forthcoming newsletter, to help gauge wider support. Matter to be placed on February agenda for further discussion.

### **Any other business**

There was no other business to report.

The meeting concluded at 9-15pm.