

ROSEMARKET COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held online on
Monday 7th February 2022

Present: Cllrs Caroline Haley, Steve Davies, John O'Boyle, David Hancock (Chairman), Jill Gibson; Peter Horton (Clerk);

Apologies : C'lr Tamsin Moore

NOTE – The meeting was held online via the Zoom video-conferencing platform, and chaired by C'lr David Hancock.

Declarations of known interests

None.

Approval of the minutes of the January 2022 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 David Hancock, seconder C'lr Caroline Haley).

Public Forum

No members of the public were present.

Matters arising

None this month.

Planning matters

There were no plans for consideration this month

Correspondence

- 1) Local resident – Matters connected with potential liability for tree damage to boundary wall – dealt with in agenda item below.
- 2) United Reform Church Property Trust – Further information regarding possible land transfer of chapel cemetery – dealt with in agenda item below.
- 3) P.C.C. – Consultation on proposed supplementary planning guidance – noted.
- 4) Zurich Municipal – Notification of insurance claim - dealt with in agenda item below.
- 5) P.C.C. – Playground inspection documentation – dealt with in agenda item below.
- 6) Playground Repairs Ltd. – Playground inspection quotation – dealt with in agenda item below.

Accounts

Payments

DeFib World (defibrillator parts) : £208-80

The above payment was approved by Members (proposer C'lr Steve Davies, seconder C'lr Jill Gibson).

Discussion of arrangements for Community tree-planting scheme

Members were informed that Grandiflora were unable to offer Plum trees, as these were unavailable now. They were offering fruiting Cherry trees instead, which Members were content to accept. In addition, Grandiflora had offered to provide and plant an additional three fruit trees within the indicative £1000 budget. Members decided to accept this offer, on the understanding that the

species provided would be of similar size to those already ordered, and preferably native varieties. Clerk to inform Grandiflora of the above, and provide them with a contact number for C'Ilr Jill Gibson, who had offered to meet them on site. In addition, Clerk to ask Grandiflora to ensure that a complete listing of all species planted was included on the invoice.

Discussion of arrangements for memorial to Barbara Summons' contribution to Community affairs

Members were informed that a further quotation of £875 had been received from J.R.J. Garden Services for laying a concrete slab. Members approved this quotation (proposer C'Ilr Steve Davies, seconder C'Ilr Jill Gibson). Members considered the possibility of siting the bench on one of the areas where there was currently redundant rubber matting. However, it was felt that the location already identified was better, as it respected the desire to have the bench looking out over the view across the Lower Beacon and beyond. It was, though, felt that these areas could well be suitable for siting other benches in the future, and this matter was kept open for future consideration.

In respect of a plaque to be placed on the bench, Clerk to consult Rob Summons on the family's views on the wording to go on any plaque placed on the bench.

Clerk to inform J.R.J. Garden Services of the contract to provide the concrete slab, and also ask them for a separate price for staining of the bench when received.

[NOTE – C'Ilr John O'Boyle entered the meeting at this point]

Discussion of insurance claim for wall damage adjacent to The Beacon

Members were informed that an insurance claim for damage to the boundary wall had been received by Zurich, and a number of questions and requests for additional information received from them. Members discussed the questions sent by Zurich Municipal in some detail. Clerk to respond to these, and provide the information requested. In addition, Clerk to ask Zurich if a formal risk assessment of the trees is a condition of insurance, if there would be liability in a situation where a wall was built in close proximity to a tree long after it had been planted, and whether there was liability for problems that had developed over a long period of time as a result of this.

In addition to the above, Clerk to obtain quotations for tree risk assessment surveys from suitable qualified companies for consideration by Members.

Discussion of approach from United Reform Church regarding care of chapel graveyard

Advice had been obtained from O.V.W. and from P.C.C. regarding the possibility of assuming responsibility for the graveyard. Both had counselled extreme caution, due to the potential legal liabilities and costs associated with this. In addition, further information had been sought and obtained from the U.R.C. Property Trust. They had confirmed that the proposal would involve a legal ownership transfer. They had also confirmed that, in the event that no local group could be found to take on ownership, the arrangement would continue as at present.

Based on all the information received, Members were not convinced that it would be a good idea to take on ownership for the graveyard, as this could potentially lead to considerable costs and legal liabilities for the Community Council. However, they were content to continue supporting the maintenance of the area financially, as had been done in previous years, though without any legal commitment to do so, and subject to possible competing demands for Community Council funds.

This could be done via any formal or informal group of individuals formed in the Village with an interest in organising and caring for the graveyard maintenance. This could possibly involve individuals or families in the Village with a particular interest in the area, such as those with a family connection. It was also noted that, if any such group should come forward, R.C.C. could put them in touch with the relevant parties in the U.R.C. Property Trust.

Clerk to inform U.R.C. Property Trust of the decision not to accept ownership of the graveyard.

Discussion of how to approach requirements of Local Government & Elections (Wales) 2021 Act due to come into force in April 2022, including consideration of initial draft annual report

Annual report. Members had been circulated with copies of the draft document prepared by C’lir Caroline Haley and the Clerk. They were content with the format and content of the report, and expressed thanks to C’lir Haley and the Clerk for the work undertaken in its preparation. Agenda item to be tabled for April to approve the report prior to publication, taking into account any changes that may be required to its content as a result of developments / actions carried out in the interim.

Public representation. Members approved an arrangement whereby public representation on tabled agenda items would be facilitated via a re-named version of the current Public Forum item, to be tabled early in each meeting agenda, and with a five-minute limit on length of representations made (proposer C’lir David Hancock, seconder C’lir Jill Gibson). Details of the arrangement to be kept under review in case any minor amendments to the format should be needed.

Clerk to arrange to amend the standing orders to refer to the new arrangement, for approval in the March meeting.

Training plan. To be tabled for discussion after the forthcoming election, once the makeup of the new council, and any associated training needs, could be identified.

Discussion of arrangements for community council risk assessment renewal

C’lir Steve Davies undertook to carry out the annual asset risk assessment. Clerk to carry out the annual financial risk assessment. Members noted that both of these would need to be completed by the end of March 2022.

Discussion of arrangements for playground inspections for 2022/23

Members expressed disappointment with the service provided by P.C.C. It was not known whether or not inspections had been carried out, as no reports had been submitted to the Council apart from one carried out in late November 2021, which had been provided on request, but not pro-actively. Members were concerned about this, as they were aware of their legal liability to deal with any defects identified, and could not do this if they were unaware of them.

Members agreed to offer the playground inspection contract for 2022/23 to Playground Repairs Ltd. P.C.C. to be asked to carry out the grass-cutting according to their Service Level Agreement offer of £120 for 12 cuts during the 2022 season. (proposer C’lir Caroline Haley, seconder C’lir Steve Davies). Clerk to inform Playground Repairs Ltd. and P.C.C. of this, and arrange to complete the necessary paperwork.

Any other business

Queen’s Platinum Jubilee. To be tabled as an agenda item for discussion in March.

New Village Hall project. C’lir Steve Davies informed Members that there had been no progress since the previous August. Matter to be tabled as an agenda item for discussion in March. The Clerk undertook to seek an update from the Rosemarket Village Hall Committee in the meantime.

Local History Group. C’lir Caroline Haley informed Members that much of the initial groundwork was being successfully undertaken. A bank account had been opened, a committee of ten members had been formed, the first formal meeting had been held, and a number of grants submitted for resources to assist with the functioning of the group.

Date of next meeting

Monday 7th March 2022, to be held online using the Zoom videoconferencing platform.

The meeting concluded at 8-40pm.