

ROSEMARKET COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of December 2023 monthly meeting held at the Dawn-to-Dusk Golf Club, Bastleford Road, Rosemarket, and also online via the Zoom videoconferencing platform, on Monday 4th December 2023

Present: C'llrs Caroline Haley (Chairman), Gery Rostan, James Milne, Jill Gibson, Stu Gray, Jackie Prest, County Cllr Danny Young, Peter Horton (Clerk).

Apologies: None.

Declarations of known interest

None.

Approval of the minutes of the November 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'llr Jackie Prest, seconder C'llr Stu Gray).

Opportunity for public representation on tabled agenda items

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

Discussion of community council vacancy

Members asked James Milne some general questions about his background and application. Following this, he was invited to leave the room while the application was discussed.

Members proceeded to discuss the application, and voted to accept it (proposer C'llr Caroline Haley, seconder C'llr Stu Gray). Mr Milne returned to the room and signed the declaration of acceptance of office. He then joined the remainder of the meeting as a co-opted Member and was warmly welcomed by all. Clerk to send relevant information and documentation over to C'llr Milne by email following the meeting.

Matters arising

Defibrillators. C'llr Jackie Prest had checked these since the last meeting, and all was in order.

Potholes. C'llr Stu Gray had observed problems with slippery carriageway surfaces, potholes, leaves, etc. Members reported that the potholes at Upper Crossing had been satisfactorily repaired. However, as the recent spate of repairs by P.C.C. had ceased, Members were asked to send details of remaining potholes to the Clerk for submission to P.C.C. by a week the following Sunday.

Grit Bin. This had not been filled by P.C.C. Clerk to contact P.C.C. again to ask for this to be done.

St Leonard's Well. Nothing had been heard from Richard Hayman in response to the letter sent seeking assistance with getting trees and growth cut back around the well. C'llr Danny Young undertook to speak to Richard Hayman to ask him about the matter. Clerk to forward to C'llr Danny Young a copy of the letter sent.

[NOTE – C'llr Jill Gibson left the meeting at this point with apologies]

Overhanging trees around Village, including opposite Lucy Walters Close. Nothing had been heard back to date concerning the request previously made to P.C.C. seeking action to address the matter of overhanging tree branches, etc. Clerk to contact P.C.C. again to seek progress report.

Dead badger. C'llr Jackie Prest had removed the dead badger on Bastleford Road, as nothing had been done by P.C.C. to address the matter.

Rosemarket Village Hall Committee. Members were informed that nothing had been heard from the Rosemarket Village Hall Committee following requests made to them for more detail on the standing of their accounts (to better inform any decision regarding their previous request for financial assistance).

Planning matters

There were no plans for consideration this month.

Correspondence

- 01) James Milne – Application to join community council – dealt with in agenda item above.
- 02) Welsh Government – Notification of expenditure limits for Sec. 137 expenditure for 2024/25 – noted.
- 03) Police – Invitation to seminar to be held in Withybush Showground on 13th December 2023, to discuss various social / community-related issues – C’llr Caroline Haley confirmed that she had registered to attend the event.

Accounts

Budget review

The budget review effective 30th November 2023 had been circulated to all members in advance of the meeting. The VAT claim had been submitted and funds received up until the end of October 2023, which Members agreed had helped.

Payments

Clerk (salary and fixed expenses for October – December 2023, to include rechargeable amount of £81-11 paid from The Havens Community Council for locum services in October 2023, and also backpay on the agreed N.J.C. pay award for 2023/24) : As per contract
H.M.R.C. (P.A.Y.E. tax on above) : As per contract
Clerk (incidental expenses for June-November 2023) : £ 142-17

The above payments were approved by Members (proposer C’llr Jackie Prest, seconder C’llr Stu Gray).

Any necessary discussion of The Beacon

Tree-planting. The Woodlands Trust saplings had been received and planted, with thanks to County C’llr Danny Young for all his efforts here. The saplings were noted as having been very small, however, and it was uncertain how many of them would become established. Their locations had been marked with temporary marker paint, and it was planned to install tree guards and stakes to protect them when the weather permitted.

Grass-cutting, Upper Beacon. Members reported that the grass was very long. Clerk to enquire with P.C.C. whether it had been suspended for the season.

Playground inspection reports. Vandalism to the picnic bench had been mentioned in a recent report. Clerk to seek more information from the inspectors on exactly what was being referenced and how it could potentially be addressed, although it was anticipated to be the scratching on the top of the table. Muddy conditions in the field gate entranceway was also mentioned. C’llr Stu Gray had looked at this, and didn’t consider it to be of too much concern. Members considered whether or not any actions were necessary to address this. Padlocking the gate temporarily or placing warning signage were discussed. Clerk to seek legal advice on the implications of placing warning signage at the gateway. Clerk to seek recommendations from Infinity Play on possible remedies / actions to address the problem. It was agreed to leave the matter in abeyance until January, when it could be further discussed in the light of advice received.

Fitness circuit / outdoor gym. This was raised for consideration by C’llr Gery Rostan. Matter to be placed on agenda for discussion in January.

Discussion of ongoing Boundary Commission review of town and community council boundaries in Pembrokeshire

Clerk to discuss with Burton C.C. on possible options. Possible inclusion of information concerning the review in the forthcoming newsletter was mentioned as a possibility.

[NOTE – C’llr Gery Rostan left the meeting at this point with apologies]

Discussion of arrangements for forthcoming scheduled 24 hour closure of Village Amenity

Members confirmed that this was in hand for 13th – 14th December. Signs had been put up on the gate and roadside railings at the end of November. Thanks were offered to C’llr Jackie Prest for doing this. Members discussed the legality or otherwise of closing the car park if there were any vehicles left in there. Clerk to seek legal advice from One Voice Wales concerning this. C’llr Caroline Haley to seek advice from the Police. C’llr Danny Young had provided a chain and padlock to facilitate the closure.

C’llrs Jackie Prest, James Milne and Caroline Haley volunteered to undertake the clearing of the undergrowth during the 24hr closure.

Discussion of possible arrangements for community Christmas tree

Exhaustive enquiries locally had not succeeded in sourcing a suitable tree. C’llr Caroline Haley reported that several landowners locally had been approached and all were keen to help, but none of them had a suitable tree this year. Therefore, for reasons previously discussed and minuted, no tree would be provided this year. However, it was agreed that the matter would be placed on the agenda for discussion in September 2024, to consider arrangements for a more ongoing sustainable arrangement.

Any other business

Ty’n y Coed Care Home. A carol concert had been arranged by the care home for Thursday 14th December at 6-30pm, to be held in St. Ismael’s Church.

Community book exchange. Some residents had raised this for consideration. C’llr Caroline Haley had discussed the idea with the management of The Huntsman pub, who were amenable to doing something to progress the idea. Matter to be tabled for discussion in January.

January meeting. To be scheduled for 7pm, Tuesday 9th January, to avoid a clash with the New Year’s Day bank holiday.

The meeting concluded at 9-05pm.