

ROSEMARKET COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held at the Village Hall, Rosemarket on Monday 08/01/07

Apologies : C’lrr June Crook

Present : C’llrs Barbara Summons M.B.E., David Barraah, David Wildman, Evelyn Poar, Rhys Jones, Tony Young (Chairman), Alan Taylor (Vice-chairman), Peter Horton (Clerk).

Minutes of the December monthly meeting

The minutes were agreed as a true record, and signed by the Chairman (Proposer C’lrr Alan Taylor, seconder C’lrr Evelyn Poar).

Matters arising

Builder’s merchant account. C’lrr Alan Taylor had passed the information to the odd job man, who was due to start the work on the bus helter when the weather improves.

Planned Workshop, 23/01/07. C’lrr David Wildman asked if Members intended to attend the meeting. It was agreed that as many as possible should attend and support the meeting, due to start around 6-30pm.

Ho Ho House competition. C’lrr David Wildman mentioned that the competition had been poorly supported. It was thought that this may have been partly due to the bad weather on the night, but it was also commented that some lights were not illuminated on the evening of the competition. Members thanked C’lrr Alan Taylor for his contribution on the night. It was also mentioned that the children’s choir had been very well received. C’lrr Barbara Summons thought it would be good to include an item in the In Touch about the event, so as to increase the profile.

Discussion of proposed review of community council boundaries

C’lrr Tony Young informed Members that he had shown the consultation document to a professional colleague, who had commented that the Community Council should do a ‘strength and weakness’ exercise to assess the community councils abilities to run its affairs as it currently stood. He had also suggested that amalgamation of community councils could lead to a dilution of local influence. C’lrr David Wildman mentioned that the status quo could not be sustained, and felt that an amalgamation with Burton was the most likely outcome. He felt it likely that the figure of households would be increased to around 1,500 electors, and that the Community Council would have little choice in the matter. He felt that Members would do well to be realistic in dealing with the situation rather than try to be too idealistic. He also mentioned the 80 spare seats in the new Welsh Assembly building, which he said was a clear indication that there was an intention to increase the numbers of Assembly Members. C’lrr Tony Young felt that the bill, if introduced as written, should result in more power to the community councils. He mentioned that the only sphere in which the community council currently exercises influence is in planning consultations, and then not much. However, C’lrr David Wildman felt that some comments made by the Community Council on planning applications are not soundly based. C’lrr David Barraah mentioned that the system previously used where budgets were split between areas too much resulted in more problems than solutions, and that more centralisation could be a good thing in some respects. C’lrr Alan Taylor felt that, if the Community Council aspired to have more influence than at present, it would need to be much more professional in its approach. He

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also mentioned that the timescale given for comments on the document, with a response deadline of 31st Jan, was inadequate. However, C’lr David Wildman mentioned that at present the Authority is only seeking a very general overall view rather than detailed comments.

C’lr Alan Taylor mentioned that some benefits could come from amalgamations in terms of joint contracting for grass cutting and similar items. However C’lr Tony Young said that he would wish to see more real power being vested in the Community Council in terms of how the local community is actually run.

C’lr Barbara Summons felt that the Authority had in all probability already made up its mind about the matter, and the consultation was only being done to fulfil legal obligations. The matter of a possible public meeting to discuss the matter was also mentioned. C’lr David Barrah could see that discrepancies exist in the current system in terms of representation ratios, but also wanted to see more real power vested in Members. It was pointed out that in the current document there were no proposals for devolution of powers, but only to amalgamate communities.

C’lr David Wildman felt that the communities at present do not function as such, but merely as a grouping of villages. Therefore he felt that amalgamation would be a good thing, giving the community a greater sense of identity. It was also mentioned that current problems of financing exist largely due to the small size of the community in Rosemarket, and that therefore amalgamation should be a good thing, as long as it was accompanied by additional influence.

C’lr David Wildman dismissed the notion of any hidden agenda on the part of the Authority, and felt that the proposals were genuinely motivated, and were sensible insofar as they were likely to affect Rosemarket and Burton communities.

Members agreed to respond to the consultation, stating that it is preferred that the community should remain as at present. However, if an amalgamation has to take place, the preferred amalgamation would be with Burton community alone, and with the proviso that more power is devolved to the community, and that a system of more proportional representation should be arranged to reflect the nature of the community makeup, i.e. a large number of small villages and hamlets, each of which should be adequately represented on any future community council.

Correspondence

- 1) P.C.C. – Notification of decision not to restore power to the street light on the Beacon – noted.
- 2) P.C.C. – Request for precept figures – deferred to Accounts.
- 3) Pembrokeshire Youthbank – Request for financial assistance – deferred to May 2007.
- 4) P.C.C. – Periodic electoral review consultation – covered under separate agenda item.
- 5) P.A.L.C. – Newsletter – passed to C’lr Barbara Summons for noticeboard.
- 6) Tamsin Dunwoody A.M. – Christmas card – noted.
- 7) Local Health Board – Disability Equality consultation – noted.
- 8) Clerks & Councils Direct – Magazine – circulated to Members.
- 9) Dyfed Powys Police Authority – Invitation to Community Consultative Forum meetings – passed to C’lr Alan Taylor for noticeboard.

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- 10) Stephen Thomas Solicitor – Information on Rosemarket School playground / Farriers – noted.
- 11) Stephen Thomas Solicitor – Copy of caution registered on land adjacent the Farriers – noted.
- 12) Stephen Thomas Solicitor – Provisional transfer map of playground for approval – Members confirmed that the plan was accurate. Clerk to reply accordingly.
- 13) C’lr David Wildman – Agenda for forthcoming meeting of South West Area Liaison Forum meeting to be held on 27/02/07 – noted.

Accounts

Payments

C’lr David Wildman, for mulled wine : £34-08

Clerk’s salary. Members discussed the matter, and agreed to increase by the national guidelines from April 1st 2007.

Odd job mans wages. Members agreed to leave wages as at present. Job specification to be placed on February agenda for discussion.

Receipts

Cornhill Insurance premium repayment : £251-96

Precept

Members agreed a precept of £5,000, based on the following breakdown of expected expenditure:

Clerk’s salary / expenses	:	£1550
Insurance	:	£ 300
Village Hall	:	£ 700
Grass cutting	:	£ 425
Hedge cutting	:	£ 150
Odd job man	:	£ 390
Donations	:	£ 80
Administration	:	£ 350
Westaway Park	:	£ 15
In Touch	:	£ 300
Contingencies	:	£ 500
Subscriptions	:	£ 45
Not allocated	:	£ 195

Funds on hand

These were £2331-95 prior to the above payments, including £169-27 in the Children’s fund.

All the above items were approved by Members (Proposer C’lr Alan Taylor, seconder C’lr David Barra).)

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Plans

Applications received.

06/1091/PA (Plot at the Beacon, dwelling and garage, applicants Mr & Mrs Bailey) – Approve, but comment on the fact that the access is via a bridleway, not a vehicular right of way.

Any other business

Wood in the hedge at the Beacon. C’lir Barbara Summons mentioned that no action had been taken to remove the wood, and a reminder should be sent.

Bottom of Front Street. C’lir Barbara Summons had received complaints about the number of cars there, which had prevented people getting out of their driveways.

Village Hall. C’lir David Wildman asked for the matter to be placed on the agenda for discussion in February.

Dredgemans Hill. Bollards on the hill are not all internally illuminated. C’lir Alan Taylor had enquired with the local authority about this, and they had informed him that the bollards were reflective, and due to their location they did not need to be internally illuminated.

Refreshments. Members thanked C’lir Barbara Summons for the refreshments provided for after the meeting.

C’lir David Barraah. Members expressed condolences to C’lir Barraah at the recent loss of his father.

Mr. Jack Bryant. Members were sorry to hear of the recent death of Mr. Bryant’s wife.

Public Forum

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

The meeting concluded at 8-55pm. Next meeting, Monday February 5th 2007, 7-15pm.