GOWERTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

**CYNGOR CYMUNEDOL TREGŴYR**

**Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council**

 **Held at Gowerton Con Club at 7.30pm**

 **on Wednesday 3 April 2024**

**PRESENT**:  **Chair**: Matt Palmer

**Councillors**, June Merrells, Ros Holt, Pat Evans,

, Lyneth Howells, Lynne Carey. Gareth Evans, Susan Jones

**Clerk to the Council:** Allison James

**165 Apologies for absence** –. Dai Jenkins, Amanda Guard, Barbara Small, Peter Morgan, Ros Holt

**166** **Disclosures of Personal & Prejudicial Interests**

In accordance with the Code of Conduct adopted by Gowerton Community Council, no interests were declared.

**167**  **Minutes of Council**

**Resolved** that the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on the following date be approved and signed as a correct record.

(i) Wednesday 3 April 2024

**168 Announcements of the Chair of Council**

Following the advertisement of the vacancy for a community councillor for the West Ward, notification was received from Swansea Council that 10 registered electors in that Ward have called for an election. Councillors agreed that polling cards should be sent out. Clerk to notify Democratic Services in Swansea Council. Swansea Council will arrange an election. Date to be confirmed.

**169 Public Question Time**

No questions.

**170 Record of Payments**

The record of payments for March 2024 and forthcoming payments for April were presented to Council.

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| 112 |  | 04/03/2024 | HP instant ink | March |  | 18.49 |  | GA |  |  |
| 113 |  | 08/03/2024 | Remuneration | Cllr G Evans |  | 156 |  | RE |  |  |
| 114 |  | 08/03/2024 | Remuneration | Cllr P Evans |  | 156 |  | RE |  |  |
| 115 |  | 08/03/2024 | Remuneration | Cllr L Howells |  | 156 |  | RE |  |  |
| 116 |  | 08/03/2024 | Remuneration | Cllr J Merrells |  | 156 |  | RE |  |  |
| 117 |  | 13/03/2024 | Mr Sivs Services | Temple shed clearance |  | 100 |  | E |  |  |
| 118 |  | 15/03/2024 | Clerk | Phone allowance |  | 38.99 |  | CE |  |  |
| 119 |  | 16/03/2024 | Cllr R Holt | Reimbursement for plants |  | 28.48 |  | GM |  |  |
| 120 |  | 22/03/2024 | Bay Landscapes Ltd | Feb Invoice |  | 243.5 |  | GM |  |  |
| 121 |  | 22/03/2024 | Bay Landscapes Ltd | March Invoice |  | 243.5 |  | GM |  |  |
| 122 |  | 22/03/2024 | Audit Wales | Inv 010278 |  | 645 |  | SAF |  |  |
| 123 |  | 25/03/2024 | Nest  | Pension Contributions |  | GDPR |  | P |  |  |
| 124 |  | 25/03/2024 | Clerk | Office allowance Qtr 4 |  | GDPR |  | CE |  |  |
| 125 |  | 25/03/2024 | HMRC | Tax January |  | GDPR |  | HMRC |  |  |
| 126 |  | 25/03/2024 | HMRC | Tax February |  | GDPR |  | HMRC |  |  |
| 127 |  | 25/03/2024 | Staff | March salary |  | GDPR |  | S  |  |  |
| 128 |  | 28/03/2024 | Bowen Hopkins | Xmas lights invoice  |  | 5250 |  | E |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  | Total for March 2024 |  | **9010.54** |  |  | Balance as at 28/3/24 | 20378.39 |
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Balance of current account as at 29/2/24 £20378.39

Balance of reserve account as at 29/2/24 £12,959.55

**Forthcoming payments for authorisation during the month of April 24**

Bay Landscapes Ltd Grounds Maintenance £243.50 + £40 extra going forward for maintenance of the patch by the notice board as agreed.

HMRC Tax £261.00 approx

NEST Pension (approx. £ 103.66

HP Instank Ink Monthly Charge £ 16.49

Clerk Phone Allowance £ 38.99

Staff Salary £946.90

Temple Church Rent for xmas decs £ 50.00

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**Resolved that**:

1) The Payments & Receipts be noted.

2) The Clerk be authorised to pay the Payments Raised at the Meeting.

3) The Qtr 4 budget monitoring document was presented and agreed by all present.

**171. Correspondence The actions / comments made as in relation to the correspondence reported:**

**Correspondence for the month of March 2024**

Usual emails from OVW giving details of training courses and other information.

Planning applications which are forwarded on to Councillors.

A letter from a debt collection agency regarding the charge outstanding according to SSE from 2018 for xmas lights. I rang the agency to explain that we have queried what the charges are for with SSE and are still not clear. We have not heard further from them. They said they would ask for copies of invoices and put a hold on the account. – update - invoices have been received. Update – the debt agency have asked if there is any update. I have replied that I have asked for a representative to meet myself and Chris from Bowen Hopkins on site to show us exactly what meter they are referring to.

Update – information on unmetered supplies was received from Bowen Hopkins which was passed on to SSE. Awaiting a reply.

Update – SSE have asked for further information regarding the lights on unmetered supply which I have sent on to Bowen Hopkins in the hope they can give me the information to send back to SSE.

Update – Chris from Bowen Hopkins has given the information and it has been sent on as requested.

Update – An email from the debt collection agency saying SSE have not received any information. I replied saying I find this hard to believe as we have responded to all emails promptly with information as requested. I now have a name to email directly in SSE and I shall forward on all emails that have been sent to the email address I have been given.

Clerk to contact SSE and suggest we go to the Ombudsman.

An email from Mr Dean Mason regarding organising a meeting for Summer Fun 2024 which was forwarded on to all.

An email from Audit Wales giving guidelines for submitting Audit 23-24. The AGAR will be complete and ready to be signed by the chairman by the May meeting.

I contacted a Waste Clearance service who did an excellent job of clearing the shed at the Temple. Decorations are now stored inside the church, which we will pay £50 per year for.

Instagram – 410 posts and 554 followers.

**172. Planning Matters**

No planning applications were received during the month of March.

**173 Gowerton Ward Councillors Update**

MARCH 2024 Cllr Dai Jenkins Monthly Report

**Save Gowerton from Gridlock** – The sub-committee are going to update residents living near and around Fairwood Terrace as soon as officer in charge at planning replies to several questions I have emailed the officer. SGFG are also looking for extra volunteers please if you can help?

**Gorwydd Road and Cefn Stylle** – There are several skimmers on the road surface at the lights by Commercial and carpet shop which are too large for pot-hole replacement tarmac and need a jet patcher, they are on a list to be completed.

**Gowerton Park Road Park** – Fresh up to date quotes are now in the pipeline to bid for any additional grants that appear after April 1st, 2024.

**Gowerton’s Dog show** – Spoke with Debbie at Llys Nini, who will be helping me with the cancelled September 2023 Gowerton Dog which will be taking place Sunday 14th April 2024. Additionally, a fledgling voluntary team called Gowerton Glitterati will be leading the event too, more news on that team when they are fully up and running. The poster has been placed by the Commercial and laminated forms are around the village.

**Sponsorship** – Thank you to Helen from Tidy Tales for sponsoring the supreme champion with a free groom at her salon for your dog.

**George Manning Way-**Stop sign and speed surveyhighlighted slow progression and escalated, asking for a commitment to deal and engage by 1st April 2024. No update from team so escalated to cabinet member.

**Path from Fairwood to Station Road** – I have been advised the work by Network Rail is being costed and have been promised an update by the end of March 2024.

Supplemental

Making Gowerton Look Great Again

**(Fairwood Terrace)-**Storage area (looks like scrap yard), emailed received 29.2.24 council to write to the owner asking to make area look more presentable by end of April 2024.

**Health and Safety** –   Reported fallen trees and slip and trip issues on pavements.

**Cleansing Team** – Fantastic work clearing moss off pavement at Brookside, mud in lane behind Gwyr School and fire debris and trip hazard removed from under tunnel on shared cycle and walk path off Alder way.

**Pot Holes** - Potholes were reported at Gowerton Cross, Williams Terrace and Cefn Stylle , bend by the surgery and down the Elba.

**Old Signs** – No update on these will chase in new financial year.

**Miscellaneous** – Queries with dropped kerb, illegal parking, right turn at Gowerton cross traffic lights, housing issues x 3, number 16 bus complaints x 2. Quiz questions to help LAC team, Elba new playing surface query.

**Coming Up.**

**New Road Surface Gorwydd Road opposite Pobl Development**– Ongoing the section of road from Cedar Close to Bishwell Road, will be smoothed over by the developers as soon as phase two of the housing development is completed. This is a legally binding commitment. Email received from Morganstone confirming.

**Enhancing Safety in Gorwydd Road**– Looking for smarter way to enhance safer parking whilst looking aesthetically pleasing. No update will chase in next financial year.

**Openreach Opportunities** – Working with Community Councillor Lyneth and Openreach on painting project- paintings are being worked and Lyneth has identified two boxes as a start to paint. Apologies for my tardiness in not moving forward here.

**Smart Bench** – Smart Bench is evolving and may well be a covered small seating meeting area, when that’s installed, I will be looking at securing a wi-fi charging station, (ongoing.)

**Pelican Crossing** - On site visit with Cllr Sue Jones and Alan Ferris to discuss Victoria Road, ongoing with ballpark figure of 60K. – Still no update from Alan – ongoing- Complicated by fact new Fairwood Development have offered to deal and pay for a crossing if they gain planning permission for their new development. Long term project on going.

**Stop sign George Manning Way** – Costing to be delivered out of joint or single community budgets – awaiting task to take place. Escalated again to Cabinet member. Still no update will chase next financial year.

**George Manning Way** – Chasing a speed check as I received a report of excessive speed near the new Coastal Houses, Swansea City council haven’t “*adopted”* that area of road yet so that was the delay. I took ownership and gained permission from Coastal in writing, to allow speed check to take place and passed that onwards to officers who have that on their list now for action. No update will chase in next financial year.

**Extra Large Play Equipment –** Looking to spruce up current park with equipment and lobbying for funding to enhance play equipment in Park Road Park –long term project. In process of re-quoting for works in hope of new announced grants before end of financial year April 1st, 2024. {Ongoing}

 **Missing walk/cycle link on B4295.**  Working with fellow Gowerton Councillor Susan Jones and Penclawdd Councillor Andrew Williams plus missing link action group. Meetings on 1st February it has been agreed that the route it will take is alongside the pavement, taking the old railway line route where possible. A survey, costings and report will now be produced and then passed for funding. Thiis process is going to take a good two years to implement, but we will appraise you all whenever there is an update. (ongoing)

**Ward Surgery** –   Rechabite Hall Saturday 27th April – or whilst out and about door knocking in the ward (will advertise a week before). Any issues? Drop me an email cllr.dai.jenkins@swansea.gov.uk

**Report from Cllr Susan Jones**

During the last month I have taken part in Training on Safeguarding and Anti racism which raises awareness of both issues.  Safeguarding is the responsibility of everyone and should be taken seriously.

During the March I have attended Scrutiny Meetings, which included Adult and Children Panels which looks at performance and gives information on the various departments.

 The information regarding the sinkhole at the beginning of Mount Pleasant.  What a surprise:-

THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF SWANSEA

CYNGOR DINAS A SIR ABERTAWE

TEMPORARY EMERGENCY ROAD CLOSURE

MOUNT PLEASANT, GOWERTON, SWANSEA

NOTICE 2024

NOTICE is hereby given by the Council of the City and County of Swansea in pursuance of its

powers as contained in section 14 (2) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 (as amended) that

from 21st March 2024 for a period of 21 days only (or until the works are completed whichever is

sooner – it is anticipated that the work will take 21 days to complete), no person shall cause any

vehicle to be driven as referred to in the schedule below. In the interest of public safety due to a

carriageway collapse at the above location, it has been necessary to temporarily close the above

road in part to vehicular traffic.

SCHEDULE - TEMPORARY EMERGENCY ROAD CLOSURE

MOUNT PLEASANT, GOWERTON SWANSEA

Mount Pleasant from its junction with C157 Mount Street in a south easterly direction for a distance of

approximately 30 metres.

The alternative route for vehicular traffic traveling East will be via C157 Mount Street, Mansel Street,

B4296 Cecil Road, Park Road and the un-affected section of Mount Pleasant a distance of 1.5

kilometres.

Due to a one-way street the alternative route for westbound traffic will be.

The un-affected section of Mount Pleasant, Park Road, B4296 Cecil Road, B4296 Sterry Road and

the C157 Mount Street

Access for emergency vehicles and pedestrians to be maintained at all times.

The applicant will be responsible for the erection and maintenance of all advanced warning, Road

Closed, diversion and alternative route signs in accordance with Chapter 8 of the Traffic Signs

Manual and the Traffic Signs and Regulations and General Directions 2016 for the duration of the

works.

Dated this 27th March 2024

TRACEY MEREDITH

CHIEF LEGAL OFFICER/PRIF SWYDDOG CYFREITHIOL

LEGAL, DEMOCRATIC SERVICES .

It has been good to see that the Temple Tots have started and that the money from

The Summer of Fun has been used to help this group.  The first two weeks were supported by a number of Mothers, Fathers and children.  All seemed to enjoy the group which included craft, singing, story telling , tea, coffee and biscuits. It is important for young Mum's and Dad's to support and connect with each other.

The Group from George Manning Way that also were awarded money from the Summer of Fun have started to encourage volunteers to help clear the area between the new and older estate.  Anyone can become involved both young and old to improve and landscape  an area of our village. This area will be available to all.

I have visited The Hive in Gowerton Rugby Club which is well supported and thanks to June Merrell for her enthusiasm and hard work.  This group is held on a Friday from 10.00 am to 12.30pm and welcome any new members.  There are activities for young and old with the offer of a cuppa and a chat.

Walk and Talk continues to meet on a Wednesday morning at 10.00 am at the Elba Sorts area (weather permitting) the last few weeks have been difficult because of the weather but again a cuppa and a chat at Y Shed is always an option. Y Shed was on TV on April the 2nd with Alan Carr with the Designers and it looked amazing.

The B.T volunteers which was arranged by Donna Kendall have again been in the village.  They were responsible for tidying the area around the Community Council Notice Board and a big thank you to the team.

The Library seems to be a meeting place for young people at night but unfortunately the anti social behaviour at this location is of concern.  The police have viewed the CCTV and are investigating a theft of a bicycle that occurred during the daytime at the Library.

There have been a few meetings of the new season of Summer of Fun and preparation  has started for a number of Craft Markets to be held in the grounds of The Commercial and an Activity Day at the Athletic Club. All proceeds of these events will be used to improve facilities or assist groups in the village.  The well being of all is so important.  If anyone would like to volunteer they would be welcomed.  Thanks again to the guidance and inspiration of Mr. Dean Mason.

The large pothole at the centre of the lights at the junction of Gorwydd Rd and Sterry Rd. has been reported on many occasions over the last month and the Highway Department stated on the 25th of March 2024

"Good Afternoon Councillor,

Thank you for your reply. I can see that the area in question has been referred to the jet-patcher for repair and is currently on their works list.

Regards,

Swansea Highways".

There have been additional defibrillators established one in the Railway Station and one at the beginning of the cycle path at the junction of Woodlands (across the one which we provided at Swansea Solutions).  I have no idea who has provided these because no communication. The defibrillator at the bottom of the Bishwell is still missing and if anyone has any information could the contact myself.

I am holding my monthly surgery on Saturday the 6th of April from 11.00am to 12noon, all welcome.

**173 Grounds Maintenance.**

BT have cleared the area near notice board. Many thanks to them and to Donna LAC for arranging.

Mrs Viv Davies would like to volunteer to extend wooden area for compost and bedding plants.

All present are happy for Mrs Davies to maintain the land near the notice board. £175 limit agreed for plants etc. Clerk to let Bay Landscapes know we don’t require the extra maintenance for this area.

Cllr Lyneth Howells brought up she would like to see the site of the remembrance garden at St Johns Church to be tided up.

Clerk to contact Rev Alex Pye to broach this and to request he contact the Parish of Wales to rectify the facilities.

Community Council would like to wish Rev Pye well for his retirement and to thank him for all his work in the Parish.

Lack of bins – no update. Co op have contacted Cllr Susan Jones to say they would like to do

litter picks in conjunction with Gowerton Comp.

**174 Lack of bins**

Cllr Small has been approached by residents about the lack of bins near the park and on the lane to the welsh school.

Litter around the schools is a constant problem.

Bin by Country Stores – double bin and one half is blocked off.

**Resolved:**

Write to Swansea Council to request bins.

Write to the 3 schools regarding litter, to raise awareness. Are there any solutions they could suggest?

Write to Swansea Council to ask why double bin blocked off in one half?

Update – Schools replied to say they would speak to pupils to see if they could come up with any ideas. No response from Swansea Council to date.

**175 Highways**

Cllr Howells wanted to discuss the dual carriage way up to traffic lights, no filter to turn right.

**Agreed:** Contact Highways to raise as an issue.

It was suggested that we need a drop curb going across the road from the Con Club on Sterry Road

**Agreed**: Clerk to contact Highways.

Buses coming up Mount St, turning on to Mount Pleasant and going down Park Road (School buses) – Should they be using this route or should they be going up Cecil Road and turning on Park Road.

Clerk to contact Swansea Council – Barrie Gilbert from Transport Dept?

It was agreed by all that the daffodils along the bypass look very pretty and have been admired by many residents – thank you to Ward Members Cllrs Susan Jones and Dai Jenkins for funding these.

**176 Set date of next meeting.**

The date of the next Community Council meeting which will be the AGM is 7.30pm Wednesday 1 May 2024 at Gowerton Conservative Club.

**Meeting closed at 20.53**

**Signed\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (Chairperson)**

**Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

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