GOWERTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

**CYNGOR CYMUNEDOL TREGŴYR**

**Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council**

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

 **on Wednesday 6 March 2024**

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

**Councillors** Amanda Guard, Barbara Small, June Merrells, Ros Holt, Pat Evans,

Peter Morgan, Lyneth Howells, Lynne Carey

**Clerk to the Council:** Allison James

**155 Apologies for absence** – Gareth Evans. Dai Jenkins, Susan Jones,

**156** **Disclosures of Personal & Prejudicial Interests**

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

**157**  **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 7 February 2024

**158 Announcements of the Chair of Council**

Cllr Brian Edy has given his resignation due to ill health. Cllr Palmer would like to thank Mr Edy on behalf of Community Council, for Mr Edy’s service over the last couple of years. Mr Edy is passionate about environmental issues and was a great asset to Community Council. We wish him well.

Lynne Carey was co opted on to Community Council.

**159 Public Question Time**

No questions.

**160 Record of Payments**

The record of payments for February 2024 and forthcoming payments for January were presented to Council.

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| 103 |  | 02/02/2024 | HP Instant Ink | February |  | 16.49 |   | GA |  |  |
| 104 |  | 12/02/2024 | HMRC | December tax |  | 290.12 |  | HMRC |  |  |
| 105 |  | 13/02/2024 | McAfee | Subscription renewal |  | 89.99 |  | GA |  |  |
| 106 |  | 15/02/2024 | Clerk | Phone Allowance |  | 38.99 |  | CE |  |  |
| 107 |  | 23/02/2024 | Clerk | Salary |  | GDPR |  | S |  |  |
| 108 |  | 27/02/2024 | Vision ICT | Email hosting |  | 21.6 |  | SAF |  |  |
| 109 |  | 27/02/2024 | Vision ICT | Balance of web design |  | 150 |  | SAF |  |  |
| 110 |  | 28/02/2024 | Nest | Pension - January |  | GDPR |  | P |  |  |
| 111 |  | 28/02/2024 | Nest | Penion - February  |  | GDPR |  | P |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  | Total for February  |   | 1761.41 |  |  | Balance as at 29/2/24 | 29388.93 |

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Balance of current account as at 29/2/24 £29388.93Balance of reserve account as at 29/2/24 £12,959.55Forthcoming payments for authorisation during the month of March 24Bay Landscapes Ltd Grounds Maintenance £243.50HMRC Tax £261.00 approxNEST Pension (approx. £ 103.66HP Instank Ink Monthly Charge £ 16.49Clerk Phone Allowance £ 38.99Staff Salary £GDPRRemuneration Cllr Gareth Evans £156.00Remuneration Cllr Par Evans £156.00Remuneration Cllr Lyneth Howells £156.00Remuneration Cllr June Merrells £156.00Clerk Office Allowance Qtr 4 £200.00Audit Fees 20-21 £645.00 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

**Resolved that**:

1) The Payments & Receipts be noted.

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

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

**Correspondence for the month of February 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.

An email from Jeremy Parkhouse about attending a forum for Town and Community Councils on Monday 4 March 2024 at 5pm. Clerk attened the meeting at the Guildhall and will forward on the notes to Councillors when received.

An email from Audit office with an invoice attached for £645 – fees for 20-21 audit. I queried the cost and the reply was as attached to the agenda pack. Three queries were made by audit which they have charged for. The figures were following on from the previous years audit which were prepared by the previous clerk. Since then, audits have been passed without query. We are still awaiting the outcome of 22/23 audit which has taken longer due to it being a full audit this year.

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

Instagram – 407 posts and 553 followers.

**161. Planning Matters**

Application No: 2024/0273/FUL

Date Registered: 16.02.2024 Electoral Division: Gowerton - Area 2
Status: Being Considered Map Ref: 259310 195985

 Development Type: Minor Dwellings Location: 75 Cecil Road, Gowerton, Abertawe/Swansea, SA4 3DN

 Proposal: Annedd marchnad agored ar wahân a gwaith cysylltiedig Detached open market dwelling and associated works

Applicant: Drs G And H Sams - Jones Agent: Mr Iwan Jones

**Resolved:** Community Council to object to this application on the grounds of accessibility for emergency vehicles, privacy for neighbouring houses and it is not in keeping with the development line.

**162 Gowerton Ward Councillors Update**

**Cllr Dai Jenkins Monthly Report**

FEBRUARY 2024 Cllr Dai Jenkins Monthly Report

**Save Gowerton from Gridlock** – The latest on the Persimmon proposed development off Fairwood Terrace is that planning officers are asking for highways officers and Persimmon to update them with additional information, the meeting has been suggested to take place before August 2024 so watch this space.

**Gorwydd Road** – Another promise honoured, like Cecil Road, a brand-new road surface has been installed. I share the views of residents that hopefully no utilities will be” digging it up anytime soon!” The most important lesson here is that the community was listened to, and pledges delivered by myself and Cllr Andrew Stevens Cabinet member and Rob Steward leader of Swansea City Council. It was a great team effort, and they have my thanks.

**Speed Cushions** – These have been removed and unless I am approached by the council that they wish to be replaced, will not be reinstated any time soon.

**Gowerton Park Road Park** – Fresh up to date quotes are now in the pipeline to bid for any additional grants that appear before 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.

**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** – Escalated to leader of Swansea City Council Rob Stewart. Still no reply from lead officer so another email sent to Leader to try and gain a response and update from owner of task and hopefully a complaint escalation reference to Network Rail management to move and commit.

**Dropped Kerbs** – Dropped kerbs have now appeared by Yummy Bears and Conservative Club (Sterry Road and Church Street) – If anyone feels the requirements for more in the village please send name of street, post code and what-three-word reference to me and I will report. However, this was actioned on a Welsh budget for dropped kerbs that was allocated to Swansea Council, so we may have to wait for future fund allocation, but as least we can be proactive and get anywhere on a “waiting list”

**Gowerton and Gwyr –** Teenagers “voice and visions” emailed both Welsh and English Comprehensive Schools’ point of contact with action points and updates. I intend to meet up either April or May depending on my own and the schools’ workloads.

Meetings.

1.2.24 – Meeting to discuss missing link shared cycles track between Gowerton and Penclawdd.

7.2.24 – Community Council meeting at Conservative Club Gowerton.

9.2.24 – Meeting with officers Park Road Park.

9.2.24 – One to one meeting with resident.

13.2.24 – Scrutiny meeting improvement and finance.

19.2.24 – Funeral service for Steve Holmes.

20.2.24 – Customer contact scrutiny working group.

20.2.24 - Rechabite Hall 7.45pm Presentation to the community by BT Group (EE)

21.2.24 – Counter terrorism training.

23.3.24 – Customer contact working scrutiny forum.

24.2.24 – Surgery held at Rechabite Hall.

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 dangerous open pipes in dig area at top of the land just before Mount Pleasant used by waterboard and arranged large trees in stream by Brookside to be taken away and chopped up.

**Cleansing Team -** Reported Brookside, mud on land behind Gwyr School and massive amount of litter in the lanes adjacent to Park Road Park.

**Old Signs –** Several street signs have passed their sell by date and I have reported them over six months ago, so I have emailed and chased asking for an update as to when they can be painted or replaced. I am guessing it maybe from next financial year though now but will update you all next month.

**Coming Up.**

**New Road Surface Gorwydd Road opposite Poble Development** – to reiterate 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.

**Enhancing Safety in Gorwydd Road**– Looking for smarter way to enhance safer parking whilst looking aesthetically pleasing. I have chased via email but as of today 29.2.24 no update, will chase again in new financial year if haven’t had a reply by then. (on-going)

**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, (on-going.)

**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.

**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.

**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. {On going}

**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.

**Missing walk/cycle link Alder Way to Station Road** Unfortunately this is still dragging its feet, emailed again to escalate, and highlighted to my superior officers. It’s now with Council leader Rob Stewart to try and move the project along. Further email sent this month.

**Ward Surgery** – Due at Rechabite Hall Saturday 30th March, which this year is Easter weekend so there will be no surgery in March. Please reach out via FB message direct or email or text or phone call with any issues.

**Cllr Susan Jones Monthly Report**

It has been a very wet month with so many rain filled days.  I am thankful that we seem to have avoided flooding during this month.

"As an update on the Gowerton railway station link, I’m pleased to report that the delay from Network Rail has been resolved and the awaited information has been received and passed back to our Contractor.  They are now repricing and reprogramming the works and I hope to be able to advise within the month when works will restart.

I share your frustration in the delays that this project has received but hope that now we will be able to complete within a short period."

I just wanted to let you now that the work for the replacement of the Astro Turf will start on Monday 4 March, and all being well will complete on the 15 April 2024.

The hours of work will usually be Monday to Friday 7.00am - 6.00pm, weather/light dependant.

There are going to be approx. 4-6 parking spaces taken out for a welfare unit, and occasionally additional spaces to house materials before being moved to the pitch.  They will try and keep this to a minimum to avoid disruption.

They've been advised of school drop off and pick up, so there shouldn't be any deliveries during this time.

We have just started meeting for this years "Summer of Fun" trying to encourage volunteers, organise markets and organise activities for the young people of the village.  Thanks again to Dean Mason for his inspiration and guidance.

Walk and Talk has been affected by the weather over the month of February, but we have all enjoyed the coffee and a chat at Y Shed.  Hopefully the weather will improve over the next few weeks and can welcome new and old members. Every Wednesday at 10.00am we meet in the Elba Sports Complex.

Can I also remind people to report issues on the Council "Report It" e.g potholes, litter, fly tipping etc.

The Planning application for additional houses in Fairwood Terrace seems to be awaiting more information from the Highway Department.  There is still great concern about this application from many people in the village.

The wall near Ysgol Gyfun Gwyr and Mansel Court which has been knocked down and I have made enquiries to address this issue.

During the last few weeks, the process of the appointment of the Headteacher of Gowerton Primary School has taken place with candidates involved in presentations, meeting the children of the School Council and a formal interview.  The new Headteacher has been appointed.

I attended Gowerton Library for my monthly surgery on Saturday the 2nd of March.  I also celebrated St.David's Day with the ladies of St.John's who served Cawl, cheese with bread and Welshcakes.  Also attended Gowerton Primary Schools Eisteddfod where the children entered many competitions for their school houses.

**162 Adopt updated Health and Safety Policy**

**Resolved:** All present agreed that the updated policy should be adopted. Accident form to be kept on file. Public liability insurance certificate to be posted on the website.

**163 Lack of bins – Cllr B Small**

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?

**164 Set date of next meeting.**

 The date of the next Community Council meeting is 7.30pm Wednesday 3 April 2024

at Gowerton Conservative Club.

**Meeting closed at 20.28pm**

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

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

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