GOWERTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

**CYNGOR CYMUNEDOL TREGŴYR**

**Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council**

 **Held at The Con Club at 7.30pm**

 **on Wednesday 4 December 2024**

**PRESENT**:

**Councillors**, **Chair** Matt Palmer, Amanda Guard, Dai Jenkins, ,

Pat Evans, Lyneth Howells, Barbara Small, ,

Lynne Carey, June Merrells, Gareth Evans, Ros Holt

**Clerk to the Council:** Allison James

**94 Apologies for absence** – Cllrs Susan Jones, Wayne Erasmus

**95** **Disclosures of Personal & Prejudicial** – None declared.

**96** **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 8 November 2024

**97 Announcements of the Chair of Council**

Chair welcomed the two prospective councillors who came to sit in on the meeting.

Katherine Jennings

Rosemary Lewis

Chair request that Clerk send an email of thanks to Bay Landscapes Ltd for the excellent work carried out at the flagpole in the centre of the village.

**98 Public Question Time**

Two members of the public who are interested in joining Community Council spoke about why they would like to become a Councillor.

**99 Record of Payments**

It was resolved that:

1) The Payments & Receipts be noted.

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

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

**Correspondence for the month of November 2024.**

Emails from OVW giving details of training courses and other information.

Emails from Dean Mason regarding Autumn Fun updates.

Planning applications from Swansea Council have been forwarded on as applicable

Email correspondence from Swansea Council Officer regarding Pelican Crossing. Still awaiting full answer on the question of when it will be in place. Update – Clerk has emailed Cllr Andrew Stevens to ask the same question. No reply to date.

Email from Audit Wales in response to my request for a breakdown of the large bill for 2017-18.

Explanation as follows:

***2017-18***

The audit was originally assigned to BDO. In November 2018, BDO referred the audit to Audit Wales due to a lack of response form the former clerk Ms Thomas.

We did not receive full co-operation from Ms Thomas and therefore undertook additional audit procedures. Ms Thomas failed to attend a meeting she was required to attend under section 52 of the 2004 Act. We identified a series of deficiencies in the Council’s accounts that eventually resulted in a qualified audit opinion being issued.

Clerk to contact Audit Wales to find out what the discrepancies were*.*

Emails from two residents expressing interest in applying for the vacancy of Community Councillor. They have been invited to attend the December meeting.

A phone call from a resident reporting obscene graffiti on the table outside Motleys. Cllr Sue Jones called there the same day to report the issue to the owner, Billy Hawes.

**101. Planning Matters**

**Application No: 2024/2040/NMA**

 Date Registered: 29.10.2024 Electoral Division: Gowerton - Area 2 Status: Being Considered

Map Ref: 258065 196753 Development Type: NMA Location: Plot 3 Lon Y Cob, Gowerton, Swansea, SA4 3QL

 Proposal: Non-Material Amendment to Planning Permission 2021/3004/FUL granted 23rd March 2023 to increase the roof ridge level and insertion of rooflights.

Applicant: Mr and Mrs M. & S. George Agent: Richard Banks

**Application No: 2024/2132/FUL**

 Date Registered: 12.11.2024 Electoral Division: Gowerton - Area 2 Status: Being Considered Map Ref: 259310 195985 Development Type: Minor Dwellings Location: 75 Cecil Road, Gowerton, Swansea, SA4 3DN

Proposal: Annedd arwahân marchnad agored a gwaith cysylltiedig Open market detached dwelling and associated works Applicant: Drs G And H Sams-Jones Agent: Mr Iwan Jones

Objecting on grounds of privacy of surrounding neighbours and out of planning line with existing buildings.

**102 Gowerton Ward Councillors Update**

**Cllr Susan Jones**

This month has seen the activities arranged by Dean Mason and the Team to encourage and support the businesses in Sterry Road.  The grant has been applied for and acquired by Dean through the Council.  The leaflets have been delivered to the majority of houses in Gowerton advertising eight activities from the end of October to the 18th of January 2025.  There have been a variety of events from silk printing, Quiz nights ,Animal experiences and Carol Singing.  These have been put on free of charge and all welcomed.

During the month I have attended many of the activities, Governor Meetings, Cuppa Club, and meetings at the Guildhall e.g. Scrutiny enquiry on Community Assets, Corporate Parenting, Scrutiny Performance Panel, Regeneration and Finance Panel, and Trustee Panel.

The Fire Service were giving a briefing on their future financial needs to ensure that their service is continued to provide safety for our communities in Swansea.

I have been engaged in the voucher system to ensure that people who reach the criteria are given support at this time.

There is an additional grit bin installed in Ffordd Beck during this month.  I received a request from a resident and it was installed by the Authority within the week, and I would like to thank the officer for the quick efficient response.

I have also received a request for a grit bin to be provided in Drovers Point and an enquire regarding the grit bin on Station Rd.  See below the response from an officer is:-

"Unfortunately, the estate which I think you are referring to is not highways adopted, so therefore we would be unable to place a grit-bin on that area circled in blue. It maybe a private estate ?

I think the problem with the grit-bin on Station Road which you refer to . Unfortunately, Cllr Jones, the problem we face throughout Swansea is that the grit-bins are being used by people to put rubbish in them, and lazy dog owners who also put dog poo bags in them, this then makes the grit-bin unusable when winter arrives. To try and limit this we have to cable tie certain grit-bins which have been identified as previously having this problem, hence them being cable-tied. The cable-tie can simply then be cut by anyone to use the grit when needed".

The Remembrance Services at St. John' Church and the raising of the Flag at the village triangle were both well supported.  I always find the service very emotional because there are relatives from both sides of my family are mentioned in both services.  It was great to see local resident Dawn Brown in her uniform attending both Flag raising and the School.  I also attended a service at Gowerton Comprehensive School where local heroes who lost their lives were commemorated, again a very moving ceremony.

The work being carried out at the bottom of the Woodlands is the foundations for the new Art Work being installed by Active Travel.  It is to commemorate the Gowerton South Station that was at this location. (I have included a photo of the installation.)

I am holding my monthly surgery at Gowerton Library on Saturday the 7 th of December at 11.00 am to 12pm.

  NOVEMBER REPORT 2024 Cllr Dai Jenkins Monthly Report

**Save Gowerton from Gridlock** – Outline planning is refused by Swansea City Council. Persimmon could “amend” their application and try again, or appeal on original outline planning to Welsh Government inspectorate. It’s a waiting game now.

**Gowerton Park Road Park and ELBA uplifts** – Site meetings took place in both areas. More news when full details are available probably now spring 2025 onwards due to weather for Park Rd Park apparatus and implementation of Skate Park down Elba.

**Path from Fairwood to Station Road** – Escalated to leader Rob Steward who has escalated to his heads of department and senior officers at Network Rail. Latest update is awaiting specialist engineers and will update me in due course- have asked for an update by or before 30th January 2025. My apologies that it is taking so long.

**Mobility access** – Adjustments will take place in areas where it is possible to do so over next few months.

**116 New Route** – No further forward regrettably.

**PUP** – Pick up Poop campaign launched in Gowerton for residents to report to me any dog poo now picked up so I can report and keep a record, posters placed around the village to support campaign, on-going campaign.

**BACK TO 20** – Campaign launched asking Gowerton Residents which streets they wish to remain at 20MPH or which, in their opinion, need to revert to 30mph. Following publication of revised guidance by the Welsh Government, a further review of roads in Swansea is underway which focuses on roads which are potentially affected by the new guidance,

The WG published the new guidance at the end of July and since then traffic officers in the city have looked at the potential for returning further roads or sections of roads back to 30mph.Residents can now get in touch with Swansea Council's traffic team and put forward suggestions for roads they feel could be included, in line with the newly published guidance - [https://www.gov.wales/new-framework-support-councils-20mph#content](https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.gov.wales%2Fnew-framework-support-councils-20mph%23content&data=05%7C02%7CJason.Rogers%40swansea.gov.uk%7Cbcdf7093671242b7d32508dcc0222c1a%7C4c2e0b76d4524d358392187fac002efe%7C1%7C0%7C638596500204428790%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=jB1e3vgiLpkhf6w%2BGUFF5e%2B9xY6tthWgW8OR5n065%2FQ%3D&reserved=0)

If you want to put forward suggestions for inclusion in the ongoing review, please email traffic@swansea.gov.uk

Making Gowerton Look Great & Safe Again

**Fairwood Terrace –** Issues with land being used for number of years as storage site. Met with officers on site visit. As the area has historically been used for storage no action can be taken. However, the officers have secured removal of the unsightly metal gates that were erected, and next door have placed a new fence between them so the view is now of their fence and not the plot of land.

**Penclawdd Rd –** Just before the sign to Mrs Moyes’ Gower horse carriage school on right hand side footpath it’s collapsed, and highways have done a great job safely “dolling” off the area with bright yellow safety barriers.

**Fairwood Terrace & Lliw Valley Close-Parking issues –**

Over 20 tickets have been issued since my last report and there is now a high presence of traffic officers in this area both on Saturday afternoons and Sunday morning. They may also visit on training nights, so please respect the residents and do not risk a fine by parking on yellow lines.

**Missing Yellow Line**

Investigations are taking place as to why there’s a missing yellow line by new site off Gorwydd Road

 **Alder Way – Overgrowing trees opposite number 8 10 –**

 These trees have been cut back and problem resolved.

**Cleansing Team** – More great work in the ward awaiting work on Ravensfield and Park Road Lane.

**Gowerton Glitterati** –Successful Halloween competition, I was asked to deliver the first prize.

**Gowerton Summerfun –**. Helped in events at Con;Club and attended quiz at Nomads.

**Daffodils** –Should see the benefit of these throughout the village come the spring.

**Trespassing on Railway** – Working towards a talk in local schools, awaiting availability of all stakeholders. Unfortunately, no emails have been received yet from schools to have a talk about this, awaiting replies.

 **Miscellaneous** – Parking, boundary fence issues, lane disputes, one to one meetings, Culvert issues, active travel enquiries, tree pruning requests, cleansing requests. Blocked drains, flooding. Health & Safety issues x 3, ‘Here for you’ vouchers, incomplete yellow line complaint, Sharing Table Hampers, parking issues Gorwydd Rd and Fairwood Terrace, accessibility issues, Housing issues, dog wardens query, flooding Cae Mansel Road, Police complaints

**MEETINGS**

 2.11.24 – Bryn Y Mor Road winner Glitterati Halloween Competition.

5.11.24 – Scrutiny meeting Guildhall.

6.11.24 – Gowerton Community Council con: Club.

10.11.24 - Joint Consultative Committee Guildhall.

11.11.24 – Remembrance service at the flag in Gowerton triangle.

11.11.24 – 500 Houses edge of Gowerton Ward Titanium Road

13.11.24 – Online meeting with officer to discuss park upgrades.

20.11.24 – Anti Social Behaviour meeting Penlan.

20.11.24 – Meeting with Drs and residents committee Gowerton Surgery.

23.11.24 – Helping Summer/Autum Fun Committee at Con: Club.

27.11.24 – Entered Summer/Autum Fun quiz at Nomads with my team The 3 Amigos’.

29.11.24 – Site visit with officer and resident Bryn Y Mor Rd.

29.11.24 – Site visit with officer Fairwood Terrace.

30.11.24 – Rechabite Hall Surgery.

**Coming Up.**

**New Road Surface Gorwydd Road opposite Pobl Development** – An inspection of the new Road surface will take place after the Pobl developments ends and any damage rectified.

**Enhancing Safety in Gorwydd Road**– Planters are in place.

**Motley Mount** – Cllr Jones and I are working with active travel to enhance the green area outside Motley Pies, with sculptures, picnic bench, and bike stands, plus a reference sign highlighting that Gowerton South Railway station was in that vicinity. Work has started, the concrete to hold the sculpture is in place, and it will be erected soon. However, the rest of the project equipment is alas yet to be ordered so looking like spring or summer 2025 for the rest,

**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, I want this in the Elba, will liaise with Freedom to Leisure as area highlighted now for larger Skate Park. Asked for a meeting with parks to investigate this, still awaiting a reply.

**Large Skate Park** – Now in the pipeline, but it’s going to take at least 18 months to sort this, as Swansea wants to be the skateboard capital of Wales, with many areas throughout Swansea seeing new and upgraded skate parks for our youngsters (and seniors!) to enjoy.

**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. (Persimmon have lost outline planning, but awaiting result if/when they appeal to Welsh Government)

**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. This process is going to take a good two years to implement, but we will appraise you all whenever there is an update. (ongoing)

**Walking and cycle path - new** walking path behind Pobl development Gorwydd Road{on-going}

**Glanmorfa tree cutting-** Some trees have been cut but then the tree cutters haven’t been back, working with Community Councillor Mrs Small on this- ongoing

**Ward Surgery** – Rechabite Hall January 25th 2025 !10am to 11am all welcome. Alternatively, please email cllr.dai.jenkins@swansea.gov.uk for any issues or drop me a direct message on Gowerton Guardians on Facebook

**103. Pedestrian Crossing – Gorwydd Road.**

Resolved: Chase up the council again. Road has been done.

Clarification from Council when this will be done and what type of crossing it will be?

Sign needed either side to warn of crossing. Email Highways (Alan Ferris).

Update – Alan Ferris has confirmed that it will be a parallel zebra crossing but has not confirmed a timescale of when this will be put in place.

Pathway at Cefn Gorywdd – concern about electric scooters/bikes. Please can we have a risk assessment.

Clerk to escalate this to Cllr Andrew Stevens.

Update – no response from Cllr Stevens. Clerk to chase up.

**104 Planning application on the former LN building, Sterry Road**

Object on grounds of parking is not adequate. Try to contact owner to ask what it will be used for?

Update – Parc Mawr Estates are responsible for this property. No email address. Clerk to write letter.

**105** **Xmas Event - Cancelled**

Unfortunately, the Xmas event had to be cancelled due to various issues beyond our control. To be

 reviewed for Xmas 2025.

**105. Budget Proposal for 25/26**

Cllr Erasmus joined via telephone at 20.23pm.

Lowest precept in the Swansea area. Needs to be raised to accommodate inflation and pay award.

Proposal to raise to £39350 which is a 13.3% increase. Precept has not been raised in a number of years.

Vote taken – 7 in favor of raising precept. 3 against raising precept.

Second vote taken on accepting budget proposal. 10 in favour.

Review cost of lights.

**106 Grants**

Cllr Erasmus requested this to be an item on the agenda at the last meeting. Cllr Erasmus has given his apologies for December meeting. Suggest this is delayed until January meeting.

**107 Set date of next meeting.**

The next meeting will be on Wednesday 8 January 2025 at the Con Club in Gowerton.

**Meeting closed at 21:05**

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

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

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