GOWERTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

**CYNGOR CYMUNEDOL TREGŴYR**

**Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council**

**Held at The Commercial at 7.30pm**

**on Wednesday 3 July 2024**

**PRESENT**:  **Vice Chair –** June Merrells who chaired the meeting in the absence of Matt Palmer.

**Councillors**, Pat Evans, Lyneth Howells, Susan Jones, Gareth Evans, Barbara Small, Wayne Erasmus. Lynne Carey.

**Clerk to the Council:** Allison James

**34 Apologies for absence** –. Peter Morgan, Ros Holt, Amanda Guard, Matt Palmer, Dai Jenkins.

**35** **Disclosures of Personal & Prejudicial Interests**

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

**36** **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 5 June 2024

**37 Announcements of the Chair of Council**

Chair had no announcements to make.

**38 Public Question Time**

No questions.

**39 Record of Payments**

The record of payments for July 2024 and forthcoming payments for August were presented to Council.

Qtr 1 budget report was presented to Council.

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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 budget monitoring report was approved as a true record of expenditure to date.

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

**Correspondence for the month of July 2024**

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

Cllrs A Guard and J Merrells have been booked in to attend courses as requested.

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.

Update – SSE have asked for more information which will be sent on. Ongoing.

Email from One Voice Wales – invite to Area committee meeting. I am unable to attend due to holiday. Confirm if Chair can attend.

Email sent to Paul Rees giving details to contact Joanne Brannigan re his request for land to work on.

Email reply from Freedom Leisure re toilets at the Elba.

Email from Gowerton Primary School asking for school governor information. Cllr L Howells details have been passed on.

Email from Bay Landscapes Ltd giving quote for work at the flag pole as requested.

Instagram – 416 posts and 577 followers.

**41. Planning Matters**

**Application No: 2024/1095/NMA Date Registered: 12.06.2024**

Electoral Division: Gowerton - Area 2 Status: Application Refused Map Ref: 257291 196406 Development Type: NMA Location: 34 Cefn Stylle Road, Gowerton, Swansea, SA4 3QS

Proposal: Alterations to roof, part two storey/part single storey rear extension with first floor balcony, side solar panels and air source heat pump - Non material amendment to planning permission 2023/2513/FUL to replace the glazed privacy screen with stone to match the extension and removal of corner window

Applicant: Mr Antonio Facciuto Agent: Mrs Clare Johnston

**Gowerton CC had no objection.**

**Application No: 2024/1141/TPO Date Registered: 14.06.2024**

Electoral Division: Gowerton - Area 2 Status: Being Considered Map Ref: 258132 196277 Development Type: Tree Preservation Orders Location: 7 Maes Y Deri, Gowerton, Swansea, SA4 3GJ

Proposal: To lop three Oak trees covered by TPO No. 423

Applicant: Mr Stephen Gibbins Agent: Miss Rachel Downs Application No: 2024/0939/FUL Date Registered: 11.06.202

**Gowerton CC had no objection**

**42 Gowerton Ward Councillors Update**

June 2024 Cllr Dai Jenkins Monthly Report

JUNE 2024 Cllr Dai Jenkins Monthly Report

**Save Gowerton from Gridlock** – Extra documentation received online from Persimmon liaised with residents who informed me that they have raised formal objections to planning. Myself, Cllr. Jones and the sub-committee are ready for the meeting which now looks like taking place between September and December 2024 at the earliest.

**Gowerton Park Road Park and ELBA**– I will know beginning of August if my bids for a 70% grant have been successful.

**George Manning Way-** Stop sign hopefully this will be in place before end Summer 2024.

**Fairwood Terrace –** Yellow lines on some road corners chased and should be painted in Summer 2024.

**Path from Fairwood to Station Road** – Despite escalations to the leader of Swansea Council and Cabinet level and a new contractor charged with completion of the work, we are back to square one, with extra red tape. (Full Q & A update in supplemental updates below)

**Mobility access** – Walked parts of Gowerton with resident with disability and liaising with Cabinet Member on aspects of routes. (Ongoing awaiting meeting with Cabinet member)

**116 New Route** – Unfortunately no further forward from March 2024, tried to arrange it before children’s summer holidays, but to no avail. Issues are with funding, staffing and a new extra 5 minutes journey around Gowerton that is proving problematic to overcome. Will chase for quarterly updates. (ongoing)

**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. Liaising with highways, awaiting Welsh Government guidance on process due July or August, on-going campaign.

**Supplemental** **Path from Fairwood to Station Road Q & A Update**

**Question 1 - We hope to be able to report progress shortly- This doesn’t give start time and no guarantee as its merely a hope you can give us progress, my residents have witnessed no progress since the alternative contractors were assigned four months ago. Please can I ask that if you haven’t received contractor competency permission, within the next month (by 27th July 2024) that you please escalate this case to your manager and raise a complaint on the lack of progress within Network Rail please? Will this be possible please?**

**Answer 1 We are unable to provide definitive timescales until all new documentation has been signed and approved.   The approval process requires documentation to be submitted by the new contractor and approved by Network Rail.  National media has widely reported budget restrictions that Network Rail are working to -very similar to the situation in local councils resulting in delays occurring due to increased workload on minimal staff.  We continue to follow up with both parties to ensure progress is being made.**

**Questions 2 – Regards large pile of chippings on the path that have been there for over 18 months, as the progress of that path faltered. So, my questions are, what is stopping the new contractors working on the land that is nowhere near the Station platform (there is a very large aluminium metal fence separating the area from the station platform). If the work is stated in this area, in my view, when access to work on the platform is granted then the work will be at an advanced stage to where it is now. Can this be arranged?**

Answer to Question 2 - The works off railway land through the wooded area has been completed as far as it can and awaits the final upper layer of surfacing to be laid once the final station element has been completed leaving a brand new surface for users to enjoy.  The stone referenced has been stockpiled both ready to form the change in gradient up to the station platform level and for the lower areas of the path construction below the asphalt surfacing.  Upon approvals being granted the first element of permanent works will be the removal of a section of this galvanised steel palisade security fence and installation of gates in its place forming access to the station.

**Question 3 – If the link between Fairwood Terrace and Station Road is not going to be completed before December 24th, 2024, whilst disappointing at least it would give me a chance to escalate and lobby for its conclusion at a higher level. So, I would rather you let me know if you cannot guarantee the path is to be completed by 24th December 2024, please? Can you give me commitment it will be completed by December 24th, 2024, please?**

Answer to Question 3 - As outlined above a confirmed completion date cannot be given until approvals have been signed off.  Only then can a construction programme be confirmed.  However, I can reassure that the works within the station area are minimal and can be completed in a very short space of time.  One of the potential issues with the project is that the interface with Network Rail is so minimal compared to many of the other projects that the small team in Network Rail are managing.  We as a Council and Transport for Wales Rail Services are continually liaising with Network Rail to take the project forward and request your further patience despite the frustration you must have.

**Report from Cllr Susan Jones**

During this month I have been on holiday.  I have attended meetings at the Guildhall for Scrutiny with Child and Family, Education, Community Assets, and the Programme Scrutiny.  Attended an Information Day “Same Resident”. at the Brangwyn Hall on parking process, Local Area Coordinators, Safer Swansea.

 I have submitted my application of a capitol project to have a coffee shop in the Elba Sports Complex and am awaiting outcome.  This is something that I have tried to establish in the Elba for a number of years which would possibly address some of the anti social behaviour which has been experienced.

During June the landscaping project in George Manning Way has started.  Coastal and the local residents were involved in spreading the bark on the area.  New benches and plant boxes were provided by Coastal and hopefully plants will be purchased to enhance the area.  Proceeds by the Summer of Fun have been used to purchase equipment which will benefit all.

On June the 23rd at Capel Seion in Waunarlwydd a Camanfa Ganu was held to raise funds for the Eisteddfod yr Urdd 2025 which is being held in Margam.  Taking part in this event  was Chor Plant Waunarlwydd, Cor Ysgol Gymraeg Y Login Fach, Cor Ysgol Waunarlwydd, Cor Lleisiau Llewelyn, Cor Y Scarlet and Cor Waunarlwydd all guided by Rodri Lewis.  It was a lovely afternoon with many individual items and community singing.  I would advise to look out for further events.

Walk and Talk annual outing to Carmarthen took place during June and again the weather was sunny.  We have been lucky with the weather for the last three years.  We meet on a Wednesday at 10.00 am in the carpark of the Elba and have a walk around the Elba which is flat and allows people with mobility problems to join in.  After we all go to Y Shed for a coffee and a chat.  All welcome to make new friends and have some fresh air.

There have been some delay with the cycle path finishing at the Railway Station which is outside the Councils hands, hopefully this will be resolved soon.

The visit to Belgium commemorating Perry Guy's Heroic Actions by Gowerton Comprehensive was a great success. The pupils were a credit to our community and am sure they have many memories that they will treasure.  Again Summer of Fun gave a donation to this visit.

I have attended Governor Meetings at both the Primary and Comprehensive Schools.  The Primary School Sports Day was a success and it was great to see all the children enjoying.

I have visited Headquarters of South Wales Police observing the control centre and the system that is used to address issues from the public.  It was so impressive how calls are dealt with, how they prioritise, and staff are non judgemental in their interactions with the public.  The huge number of calls dealt with are prioritised according to the urgency and dealt with very efficiently.  The South and Mid Wales fire service calls are also dealt with at this location.

I am dealing with some issues of antisocial behaviour, tree problems, speeding issues and tenancy problems in the village for some individuals, which hopefully will have positive results.

My monthly surgery should be on Saturday the 6th of July but due to the "Songs of Praise" being held at Gowerton Comprehensive will be held on the following Saturday the 13th of July.  My surgery is held between 11.00am and 12 noon in Gowerton Library.

**43 Grounds Maintenance.**

Quote has been received from Bay Landscapes for the work around the flag pole. It was agreed that since the work has now increased it should be put out to tender.

Resolved: Clerk will invite three local businesses to give a quote for the work.

**44 Boundary Changes.**

Concerns were raised about the proposed boundary changes and the reduction of Community Councillors from 13 to 10. It was agreed that Cllr Erasmus would compile a letter and the Clerk would email it to the Boundary Commission by the deadline 10 July 2024.

Action – Clerk has emailed the letter on 9 July 2024.

**45 Lights on Sterry Road junction**

Concerns have been raised again about the lack of filter arrow on the traffic lights at Sterry Road/Gorwydd Road.

Clerk to email Alan Ferris from Highways to ask when monitoring of this area is likely to take place.

**46. Christmas event 2024**

This will be held on Sunday 8 December 2024. We have booked the horse and carriage and will organise a grotto to be held at the Commercial pub (pending permission from the landlord).

**47 Set date of next meeting.**

There is no meeting during the month of August. The next meeting will be on Wednesday 4 September 2024 at the Con Club in Gowerton.

Items for the agenda (September meeting) – Cllr Pat Evans and Cllr June Merrells will give feed back on the conference they attended at Builth Wells on 4 July 2024.

New 116 bus route not in operation. If people from Penclawdd get off there to go to drs where do they catch bus from to go home? No opposite bus stop?

**Meeting closed at 21.00**

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

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

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