

# **GOWERTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

## **CYNGOR CYMUNEDOL TREGŴYR**

### **Minutes of the meeting held at Gowerton Con Club at 7.30pm on Wednesday 4 January 2023**

**PRESENT:** Councillors Ros Holt (Chair), June Merrells Susan Jones, Ann Guard, Matt Palmer, Barbara Small, Cllrs Brian Edy, Kaylie Ridgway., Lyneth Howells, Amanda Guard, Peter Morgan, Gareth Evans, Pat Evans  
Ward Member Cllr Dai Jenkins, Clerk to the Council: Allison James.

77. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** – Cllr Kaylie Ridgway, Peter Morgan, Gareth Evans
78. **DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST FROM MEMBERS:** None
79. **MEETINGS WITH:** None required
80. **TO RECEIVE ANY PUBLIC REPRESENTATION:** Mr Dean Mason from Gowerton Athletic club spoke about events planned for next year and how Community Council could get involved.
81. **COUNCIL MINUTES:** 7 December 2022
- a) The Minutes were accepted as a true record. Proposed by Cllr Barbara Small, seconded by Cllr Susan Jones.
  - b) Matters Arising: The written report of the Clerk regarding matters arising and subsequent actions taken were noted.
82. **TO RECEIVE THE REPORT OF THE WARD MEMBERS:**

#### **REPORT FROM WARD MEMBER, COUNCILLOR SUE JONES**

I hope you have all had a good Christmas and wish you all the best for 2023. During December there have been many celebrations and Christmas parties for the children by The Con. Club, the Mickey Mouse Club, The Commercial Pub and Gowerton RFC and Santa in attendance at all of them. Father Christmas visit with the horse and trap organised by The Community Council which also ended with a visit to The Commercial by the Big Man organised by Dean, Lyneth, Kaylie and Phil. Chocolates were provided for the children by Community Council. (Left over chocolates were given to the residents of Dan yr Alt and Llys Elba).

The residents of Dan y Alt were entertained by the children of the Primary School and thanks to Mr Ashton and Mrs Hughes for their support. I also attended an Elderly Care home during the build up to Christmas and had an enjoyable afternoon joining the carol singing.

The Charity Event organised by Mrs Joan Lewis MBE in the Con Club was a great success and it was announced that she had reached a Million Pounds fund raising for the equipment used in the treatment of Cancer in Swansea, Neath and Port Talbot. Congratulations and well done to her.

It is good to see the new warning signs for height restrictions at the Doctors Surgery side of the Railway bridge which hopefully will prevent some of the accidents in that area.

Gowerton Library is providing a warm place for residents who are finding difficulty in heating their homes. I will give further information when other places have been identified.

Summit Good based between Dunvant, Gowerton and Waunarwydd have been supported by Swansea University to plant approx. 1,000 trees at this location.

I am sorry to see that a glass panel has been vandalised in the Library during the Christmas period and hopefully the CCTV camera will identify the culprit. Such mindless vandalism is so very sad.

During December the Churches and Chapels of Waunarlwydd and Gowerton collected and distributed hampers for many vulnerable families of our area. I would like to thank the people who contributed and the members who put the hampers together. The excess items were given to the Co Op for the food bank collection basket.

I attended the Freedom of the City Ceremonial Service at the Guildhall for Kevin John MBE. It is so well deserved and congratulations to him on this achievement. I also attended various other meetings in the Guildhall.

I attended a meeting with Councillor Jenkins, and a resident who had been flooded during the month of November, and am awaiting an update. I have contacted Welsh Water on the flooding issue on Sterry Road and am waiting for an update, this in conjunction with a resident of Sterry Road who has also been flooded.

The new development at the end of Fairwood Terrace has now been advertised and there is a lot of concern regarding this development. The infrastructure of Gowerton needs upgrading to accommodate any further building in our village. The egress and access into Fairwood Terrace for any additional traffic and the knock-on affect of flooding in the area is a great concern. Perhaps we could call for a public meeting to address some of the concerns regarding this development.

I will be holding my monthly surgery on Saturday the 7th. Of January at Gowerton Library from 11.00 am to 12 noon. No appointments necessary and all welcome.

## **REPORT FROM WARD MEMBER, COUNCILLOR DAI JENKINS**

### **Cllr Dai Jenkins Monthly Report 5<sup>th</sup> December 2022 to 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2023**

Liaising with Apple Trees Fruit Trees Nursery arranging collection of fruit trees to plant in January 2023. Give Way Sign George Manning Way, quoted a cost, Cllr Sue Jones informed me that cost may be able to come off Highways budget not ours so have emailed Highways Officers querying that prospect. Two email sent to Swansea City Council highlighting concerns of Bryn Y Mor Road and Sterry Road flooding, many issues, so it's on going. Asked cleansing team to clear lane by Dan Yr Allt.

New proposed developments at end of Fairwood Terrace, constructed email to be sent before 12.1.23, shared initially with Community Council and Cllr Sue Jones as we are working together on many questions and issues regarding the new development. Missing link on B4295 where Bryn Y Mor Road becomes Penclawdd Road, liaising and working with Active Travel; and Cllrs Sue Jones and Cllrs Andrew Williams(Penclawdd Ward) to try and complete the missing link. Ongoing. Speed Cushions in Gowerton ascertained information on when and where the original works order plan were posted in Gowerton and on line, dispatched to some residents who had specifically asked for that information and to Community Council, still awaiting a report from Highways Safety Officers on suggestions for improvements, however; I have been advised that due to new 20mph legislation due September 2023 their workload has substantially increased and that is the delay, so still on going.

### **Meetings**

- 6.12.22 Service Improvement & Finance Scrutiny Performance Panel at Guild Hall.
- 7.12.22 Road Safety Security Working Group at Guild Hall.
- 8.12.22 Ceremonial Council meeting (Kev Johns Honorary Freedom of the County and City of Swansea).
- 12.12.22 Meeting Community Councillor Barbara Small and Neighbours Glanmorfa regards very high street over hanging dangerous branches.
- 15.12.22 Lord Mayors Carol Concert St Marys Church.
- 16.12.22 Meeting took place between residents of Bryn Y Mor Road (one from Sterry Road) regards flooding issues.
- 17.12.22 Meeting Guildhall forum on budget setting proposals.
- 21.12.22 – Meeting with Road Safety Manager at Elba to discuss parking at certain times in Elba, and highlighting if an event co-insides when parents/guardian collect children. Discussed proposals for some yellow lines on corner of some cul- de- sacs off Fairwood Terrace.
- 21.12.22 Meeting in Conservative Club Chaired by Dean Mason I am a member of committee for Gowerton Summer of Fun.
- 22.12.22 Helped Gower MP Tonia Antoniazzi with charity distribution of food Sharing Christmas Event
- 26.12.22- 2.1.23 – Leave – Short break to Tenerife

### **Supplementary**

New Bus stop and shelter outside Launderette Gorwydd Rd, spoke with owner of Launderette and email advice given. Liaised with resident on Cecil Road regards flooding issues, email advice given. Cycling UK Advocate contacted me regards lighting on pathway running through Gowerton towards Blackpill, query asked and answered, not available due to funding, wildlife & maintenance. Speeding of cyclists between Gowerton and Dunvant, survey found little evidence of any bikes going faster than 18 mph, so no further action required., Two new bins George Manning Way and Gorwydd Rd (next

to Bishwell Rd) – Before I became a Councillor reported unsafe tree behind a house in Bishwell Rd, followed up and chased successfully when I became elected that's now been felled, much to the delight of resident concerned.

**Coming Up ....**

**Bench (Number 1)** – I have ordered a new bench for Park Road Park, awaiting delivery.

**Bench (Number 2)** Cllr Sue Jones and myself (along with Cllr Roberts, Adams & Smith) “Gorseinon Ward) ordered bench for shared cycle track that starts in Alder Way, awaiting delivery.

**Green Benches Park Rd Park** – monitoring for fresh paint job in spring.

**Smart Bench** – Long term project on identifying smart bench for teenagers to meet in Gowerton – Will have small shelter attached & bench will have charging points.

**Extra Play Equipment** – Looking to enhance play equipment in Park Road Park –long term project.

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

**Ward Surgery** =Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> January 2023 10.00am Rechabite Hall = All Welcome.

## 83. REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN

I supported Santa's ride through Gowerton on Sterry Road and visited Santa in his grotto in the Commercial Pub. I also went to see the craft stalls along with Cllr Sue Jones. I assisted in making up hampers for distribution to needy families in the communities of Gowerton and Waunarlwydd. I was overwhelmed with the generosity of the church and chapel members and friends who donated food, toiletries and gifts.

I took part in the carol concert organized by Joan Lewis to raise funds for Myeloma cancer and stem cell research. The total raised was £750. Well done to all involved.

The Cancer Challend Charity founded by Joan Lewis 30 years ago, has now collected £1m and has provided equipment for all local hospitals. This is a wonderful achievement and as a council, we should congratulate Joan who is 89 years of age and still keen to raise money.

I chose the best illuminated house for Christmas and Carol and Phil Evans of Glanmorfa were the well deserving winners. However, I was so very sorry to hear that one of their decorations was stolen.

I have also reported potholes within the village.

## 84. REPORT OF THE CLERK

### 84a MISCELLANEOUS REPORT

1. Discuss Santa Parade 2022. Anything to alter for 2023? Possibly make the route smaller so you get a bigger crowd in a more condensed area.
2. Thanks to Mr Terry Nicholls for photos of houses with illuminations. Congratulations to Mr and Mrs Evans of Glanmorfa for their outstanding display.
3. Mr Dean Masons events for next year – how can we contribute? See Questions for Business.
4. Thanks to all who came to the Community Council Christmas Dinner. Thank you to Peter Carey and Naomi for doing such a fantastic job.
5. Set Precept for 23/24.Action – it was agreed to not increase the current precept amount but for it to remain at £33869. Clerk to notify Mr Ben Smith, Section 151 Officer, Swansea Council.

### 84b FINANCIAL MATTERS

The accounts and expenditure for the month of December were approved by Council.

### 84C CORRESPONDENCE

During the month of December we received approx. 150 emails.

These consisted of emails from Councillors, One Voice Wales, marketing emails etc which need no action.

Emails containing the weekly planning lists were all sent on to Councillors for information before the monthly meeting.

I have been copied into emails from Cllr Susan Jones regarding issues in the village she has received as Ward Member which she has reported.

Cllr Jenkins sent an email with a list of questions to put to Swansea Council regarding the Fairwood Terrace Development.

Mr Dean Mason sent the minutes from the meeting he held on 21 December 2022 to discuss events for next summer.

Our instagram account has 339 posts and 501 followers.

## 8D. Budget Commitment 2022/2023 – update

The following table indicates spending to date during this financial year:

### Budget monitoring report as at 31 December 2022

Description	Code	Actual spend to date	Est'd spend by year end
Salary	S	8304	11103
Tax/NI	HMRC	2718	4518
Clerk Expenses	CE	995	1312
Chair Allowance	CA	500	500
General Admin	GA	310	665
Subs/Audits/Fees	SAF	1770	3150
Remuneration	R	0	450
Grounds Maintenance	GM	2281	3012
Floral Displays	FD	2654	2654
Events	E	554	5554
S137 payments?		0	
Training	T	60	780
<b>Total to 31/12/22</b>		<b>20146</b>	<b>33698</b>

## B. Financial Transactions

Tables C.1 and C.2 indicate the “estimated” expenditure for the present financial year. Together with the actual out-turn for the last financial year.

The “actual” columns are taken from accounts for audit, whilst the “estimated” columns arise from decisions regarding precept requirements.

I have assumed that Council will wish to maintain the current level of expenditure and have included provisional sums reflecting decisions taken at past meetings.

“Subs/Audits/Fees” Inc. One Voice Wales, Zurich, Internal and external audit fees and other Fees.

“General Admin”	Inc, Office Provision, Telephone charges, Car Allowances, Stationery, Office Equipment purchases, Elections.
“Grounds Maintenance”	Inc, Annual Ground Maintenance Contract,
“Floral Displays”	Provision of Summer Displays, Landscape Projects.  Public seat provision, Footpath maintenance, and Litter Control.

## C. Income & Expenditure

### C.1 Predicted Expenditure 23/24

#### Estimated Budget 23/24

		£
Salary	S	11200
Tax/NI	HMRC	3758
Clerk Expenses	CE	1400
Chair Allowance	CA	500
General Admin	GA	700
Subs/Audits/Fees	SAF	3200
Remuneration	R	450
Grounds Maintenance	GM	3050
Floral Displays	FD	3000
Events	E	6000
Defibrillators	D	0
Training	T	780
<b>Total</b>		<b>34038</b>
<b>Plus 3%</b>		<b>1021</b>

**Budget required 35059**

### C.2 Income

	2021/22 Actual	2022//23 to Dec 22	2023/24 Estimated
Precept	33869	33869	33869
Bank interest	4.59	0	5
VAT	4715.68	3091	2500
Other	665.73	355	355
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>39255</b>	<b>37315</b>	<b>36729</b>

**Reserves at 1 January 2023 £33115**

## D Council Tax Base/Precept Requirement for next financial year

Members are aware that properties are to be banded from “A” to “I” and that any precept raised by Council has a direct bearing on the Council Tax borne by residents. The current Council Tax Base for Gowerton has been calculated by the City and County of Swansea Finance Department at 1966 which is a decrease of 26 Band D dwellings since last year. The method of calculating Council Tax per property is by formula.

Last year’s precept remained the same as the previous years due to the tight financial restraints on City and County of Swansea’s budgets.

Year	Band D Dwellings	Council Precept	Average Band D	Precept Claimed
2019/20	1951	£33,869	£17.36	£33,869
2020/21	1972	£33,869	£17.17	£33,869
2021/22	1992	£33869	£17.00	£33,869
2022/23	2008	£33869	£16.86	£33,869
2023/24	1966	£35059	£17.83	£33,869

## E Summary and Recommendation

To repeat the existing precept for the next financial year is a viable option and in the current financial climate, it would need to be seriously considered. We have reserves to cover any shortfall that might occur by not increasing the precept amount.

I do not recommend cutting the precept at this time.

**It is necessary to inform the Director of Finance of the precept requirement by 31 January 2021.**

### 85. QUESTIONS RELATIVE TO COUNCIL BUSINESS

1. We were sad to receive the resignation of Cllr Ann Guard. Ann has been a long serving member of Community Council and has been very pro active during her service. We would like to send Ann our very best wishes and she will be very much missed, though we hope she will still send in any news or information as she is very active around the village.
2. Cllr Brian Edy said the footpaths between Bryn y Mor Road and Ballard Estate are full of leaves. This is the responsibility of Compton Estate.
3. Cllr Edy mentioned the Solar farm developments – screening report sent around. Welsh Government can see very little environmental impact and no reason for it not to go ahead. Cllr Edy will contact Gorseinon Council to ask about a public meeting.
4. Cllr Pat Evans organized a litter pick with the staff and pupils of Ysgol Gyfyn Gwyr which was very successful. The next one will be organised due to where the most littered places are. Maybe litter pick in the woods in the summer?
5. Cllr Amanda Guard brought up the number of dogs off lead in the Elba. Unfortunately, there is not much we can do about this. Freedom leisure do not allow anyone to put up signs or posters about dogs being on leads or picking up after dogs. Also, there would not be any one to monitor this. We can only appeal to the better nature of dog owners to be mindful that children play sport on the pitches and to use the areas around the pitches to exercise their dogs.
6. Cllr Barbara Small mentioned the subject of the large bill pending from Audit Wales from the audit carried out in 2018/19 when the previous Clerk was in post. Clerk to contact Lyn Llewellyn to ask why it was not picked up during internal audit?
7. Cllr Small asked where the wooden signs by the doctors etc have gone? Cllr Jones said they are in her garage drying out. Possibly get plastic signs. Maybe pay for these from Sues community budget.

8. Discussed the events of the summer planned by Mr Dean Mason. It was suggested that Community Council go to the meeting on 11 January 2023 and get more information. Possible fund Coronation mugs for the children of Gowerton Primary School? Contact Acting Head, Iain Ashton to find out numbers for mugs.

86. **PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

**Application No: 2022/2816/NMA Date Registered: 06.12.2022 Electoral Division: Gowerton - Area 2**

Status: Being Considered Map Ref: 259543 196004 Development Type: NMA

Location: Former Cefn Gorwydd Colliery, Gorwydd Road, Gowerton, Swansea, SA4 3AN

Proposal: Non- Material Amendment to Planning Permission 2018/1894/RES granted 9th January 2019 to allow proposed alteration on the depth of the side elevation and a new ground floor window in relation to Plots 37- 42

Applicant: Pobl Group Agent: Mr Glenn Lee

Community Council do not have any objections.

Date of next meeting 1 February 2023

Meeting closed 21.25.

**Chairperson**

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