

GOWERTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

CYNGOR CYMUNEDOL TREGŴYR

Minutes of the meeting held at Gowerton Con Club at 7.30pm on Wednesday 1 February 2023

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

87. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** – Cllr Gareth Evans, Brian Edy, Lyneth Howells
88. **DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST FROM MEMBERS:** None
89. **MEETINGS WITH:** None required
90. **TO RECEIVE ANY PUBLIC REPRESENTATION:** Mr Archie Roberts from Pegasus Group. An additional presentation regarding the proposals for Parc Solar Caenewydd.

Overview of the presentation.

NRW not asking to change anything in design or layout.

Changes – improvements to footpaths – SCC wanted to upgrade right of way to make it accessible to mobility scooters and bicycles. Advice from Council right of way team is they don't want to see that so will be retained as it is now. Cable run from Carmarthen Road for about half a mile. Location has been changed as far as greyhound track. All cable work will now avoid the road. Less of an impact on the surrounds.

Power supplied could possibly go directly to businesses rather than the grid.

Cllr Peter Morgan raised concerns regarding ecological impact also, the power supply was supposed to be of benefit to local people in the community. An element of it will go to the grid, but mostly to local businesses at a lower cost which will be the indirect benefit to the community.

What will be done to the ground to make it grazing land? Whole site will be reseeded. Why was this not included in the original schedule?

Last year was just a rough design – feedback from NRW and SCC – able to progress the scheme. Consultation in March. Biodiversity plan will be developed.

Would we see the final plan? How has the tenant farmer been compensated? He has been offered alternative land.

Cllr Morgan said it will be an eyesore for the gateway to the Gower and fails to see how planning will be granted.

Cllr Pat Evans brought up points from presentation last year that now seem to have changed? Power supplied to over 11,000 local homes? Can they guarantee that 50% of energy would be available to local residents? That will be the applicants decision.

Exhibition in March – documentation should be available then. Possibly 6th March? Venue to be confirmed.

Flooding – if houses are flooded as a result, will residents be able to claim costs?

Low carbon alliance is the developer.

Information is on the WG Website.

91. **COUNCIL MINUTES:** 4 January 2023

- a) The Minutes were accepted as a true record. Proposed by Cllr Susan Jones. Seconded by Cllr Barbara Small
- b) Matters Arising: The written report of the Clerk regarding matters arising and subsequent actions taken were noted.

92. **TO RECEIVE THE REPORT OF THE WARD MEMBERS:**

REPORT FROM WARD MEMBER, COUNCILLOR SUE JONES

Welcome to the new year and am wondering what 2023 will bring? Every month is becoming so busy with the current living costs and the various strikes around the country. The world is not in a good place.

There have been many individuals that have contacted me with a variety of issues eg gritting problems, lighting problems, mould and damp in their houses among a few. The Council are reacting to the mould and damp issues with a new more efficient process which we as Councillors have had a presentation on. Hopefully, this will help with the situation.

Councillor Jenkins and I meet with Gowerton Ladies Hockey Team to look at improving the facilities for hockey etc. at the Elba. All interested parties were in discussion at the meeting attended by Tonia Antoniazzi M.P, Rebecca Evans A.M, Freedom Leisure, Swansea Council, Hockey Wales rep. Gareth Evans. Hopefully, we will be able to have some funding for this project as the Hockey Teams at Gowerton are doing a great job of encouraging the young and not so young people into this growing sport.

It was good to see that the bus shelter at the bottom of the Bishwell has been replaced. This was requested some time ago and it's great to see the improved shelter at this location.

The ongoing issue of parking on the double yellow lines in the sports complex is a health and safety issue and again I have been involved with Iain Ashton (Acting Head of the Primary School) a representative from Education, Freedom Leisure, City and County Leisure Services and Highways to look for a solution. The parking is endangering the children at this location and there is great concern.

Councillor Jenkins and I are still awaiting answers to questions put to the developer on the proposed building at the end of Fairwood Terrace and will keep you informed when we have more information. We asked that a public meeting be arranged to allow residents to ask questions. We are also awaiting information on the flooding issues in the village.

The installation of the bench on the Cycle Path between Gowerton and Gorseinon is imminent. This is a joint project with Gowerton, Loughor and Gorseinon Ward Councillors. The leaves and rubbish have been cleared on the path by City and County of Swansea to ensure that it is safer to walk along the Cycle Path.

I held a meeting with a resident of Gorwydd Road who was unhappy with the location of the new bus shelter at the start of Gorwydd Road. Allison James (Clerk to Gowerton Community Council) was also in the meeting. We advised that there had been an alteration of the original plan and that the Active Travel Project was originally given funding from the Welsh Government. The couple were advised to contact Rob Stewart (Leader of the Council) and the Complaints Department if they were still unhappy with the situation and the lack of consultation for this project.

Both Councillor Jenkins and I were involved with a discussion with the Active Travel and the Gowerton Transport Hub consultation process on a Team Meeting. Discussion regarding the inadequate bus service, narrow pavements which prevent access for wheelchairs and mobility scooters, parking facilities at the train station to highlight a few issues.

I made a visit to the Adult Training Centre alongside some residents from Gowerton who were considering different options for their daily routine. We were warmly welcomed and shown around the Day Service.

Yesterday both Councillor Jenkins and I received information on the resurfacing of Cecil Road and the temporary removal of the cushions. We are trying to arrange a meeting to discuss this issue.

Can I remind you all that there is a meeting arranged for the 7th of February at 7.00 pm at the Con Club for the "Gowerton Summer of Fun". Again, all welcome to get involved.

I am holding my monthly surgery at the Gowerton Library on Saturday the 4th of February from 11.00 am to 12 noon. All welcome.

REPORT FROM WARD MEMBER, COUNCILLOR DAI JENKINS

Cllr Dai Jenkins Monthly Report 4th January 2023 to 31st January 2023

The first Gowerton Mini Orchard has been planted diagonal to the Tesco's stores off Ffordd Beck and I am awaiting guards to go around the trees and an extra two apple trees planted there too. I have, disappointingly, not received any replies to my two emails sent to Swansea City Council highlighting concerns of Bryn Y Mor Road and Sterry Road flooding (many issues) I haven't chased in February due to the extra work gritting and potholes, but will be chasing up asking for updates now we are in February 2023. The cleansing team have been busy in Gowerton helping in Brookside and Woodland Terrace. If any resident reading this has weeds or growth near their streets that you wish to be highlighted and placed on Page | 2

a list, email or text me. I will come down take photographs and report for you. Potholes have been reported, but the teams that do potholes are also engaged in gritting so there will be a small back log, will chase all reported Potholes mid-February if still outstanding by then.

Delivered a letter to all residents around Fairwood Terrace explaining why yellow lines are required around certain areas as you approach cul de sacs, to try and avoid motorists parking illegally on entrances to streets, which could inhibit rescue services and cause injury. In that letter I have explained about the actions I have taken, in consultation and together with Gowerton Community Council and Cllr Susan Jones clarifying that we are against the development and that anyone can have a copy of the letter I have sent outlining our opposition. Additionally, I was going to set up a WhatsApp Group for information, but a resident kindly had already set a group up, and made me an admin, so successfully have been adding residents in the area to that WhatsApp group. If anyone wants to join that group, please send me a text and I will send you a link so you may add your name and phone number.

In regard to the new proposed developments at the end of Fairwood Terrace, a five page email has been sent asking numerous questions and I asked for a reply by 1st February 2023, so that we can discuss this at the community council's next meeting on 1.2.23. If a reply is forthcoming tomorrow, I will print it off, email, circulate and discuss in the meeting on Wednesday night, but to-date there's no sign of a reply. Incidentally, in that email, we have asked if they would submit to a "public meeting" to discuss their plans, and indeed their answers to our questions.

Still awaiting a report from Highways Safety Officers on suggestions for improvements, on Gorwydd Road. 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. In regard to Cecil Road I am 'lobbying' hard for a new road service, naturally if that did happen, the cushions would have to be lifted, and there would then be more say and discussions between all councillor(s) on your behalf, before they go back down....

Meetings

4.1.23 Community Council .

7.1.23 Planted Pear, Apple and Plumb trees in Gowerton 1st Mini Orchard. Special thanks to Jamie (Dunvant Hill Gardening) for his help and inspiration plus his mate Jake and mum Cindy for helping to dig and plant the trees. Plus Ark Fencing for their donation of wooden poles.

11.1.23 Attended Gowerton Summer of Fun committee meeting.

12.1.23 Gowerton Transport Hub meeting discussing ways to encourage walking cycling and public transport.

13.1.23 Meeting at Elba to discuss Gowerton Hockey clubs bold ambitions for improvements to the Elba.

17.1.23 Service Improvements and Finance Security Performance Panel.

18.1.23 Twinning Meeting to discuss on-going links with French town La Gacilly.

20.1.23 Meeting with Community Councillor Barbara Small and Councillor Officer Martin Bignall at end of Glanmorfa regards very high street over hanging dangerous branches. It was a great meeting and the trees were promised to be felled by summer 2023. However, I have since received an email saying that the work load has been passed from Highways to Parks, so I am chasing up for additional and further clarity on what that means for the felling that was promised.

23.1.23 Scrutiny Performance Panel – Development and regeneration. Meeting cancelled due to technical difficulties to 30.1.23 (Apologies given as clashed with meetings in Newport and Merthyr.)

23.1.23 – Members briefing on Crime Stoppers.

26.1.23 Members briefing on Damp and Mould.

27.1.23 Lord Mayors Reception – Holocaust Memorial Day – Proud to watch Gowertons fine contributions by Ysgol Gyfn Gwyr and Gowerton Comprehensive.

28.1.23 Monthly surgery in Rechabite Hall Gowerton

Supplementary

Reported Rubbish dropped opposite Dr Surgery Car Park, and reported to food waste in Surgery car park that was subsequently removed by surgery staff. Asked for right turn green filter Mill Street into Gorwydd Road and when the new bus service and shelter will be in place? (Right turn filter not available at this stage, but maybe available in future if buses experience issues turning in the present time allowed- Update for new shelter and bus route – No update available, but will be actioned in 'due course'. Liaising with Parks and Cllr Susan Jones to have wildflowers all over Gowerton planted. In touch with Countryside Access Officer regards a right of way that's become uneven. Assistance given to a new resident in Pen Y Dre with a housing issue. Updated Gowerton Residents with important news and events all month via my on line Facebook page Gowerton Guardians. A vacancy has become available on the Gowerton Community Council and I have asked to be co-opted onto that position if there is no opposition.

Coming Up

Bench (Number 1) – I have ordered a new bench for Park Road park, awaiting delivery. Name plates to be ordered shortly.

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. Name plates to be ordered shortly.

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. (On- going)

Extra Play Equipment – Looking to enhance play equipment in Park Road Park –long term project. (On going)
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. Long term project on going.
Stop sign George Manning Way – Query on costings – Awaiting email replies.
New Bus stop and shelter - Outside Launderette Gorwydd Rd. Awaiting implementation.
Missing walk/cycle link on B4295 –No update from active travel.
Missing walk/cycle link Alder Way to Station Road - No update from active travel.
Ward Surgery =Saturday 25th February 2023 10.00am Rechabite Hall = All Welcome.

93. **REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN**

I attended a meeting organized by Dean Mason for the Summer of Fun events in Gowerton. It was encouraging to see more residents attend. Decisions and suggestions made in the meeting have been forwarded and will be printed in SA4 magazine.

I attended the Transport for Wales Station Adopters conference in Carmarthen along with former Community Councillor Ann Guard. They have lots of plans for the future, including more trains stopping at Gowerton on the Heart of Wales line to Shrewsbury.

There will be a two hourly service starting at Fishguard which will be useful for catching the ferry to Ireland. The Swanline service is restarting in May and will stop at all stations between Swansea and Cardiff.

Llanelli and Tenby stations are getting a total revamp with a new bridge, lifts and lights. The Heart of Wales trains will soon be made up of two carriages, on all seating, the second being converted to accommodate bike racks and back pack racks with space to stand or lean.. Conversion work is being done in Swansea which is good news for jobs.

Network Rail are in talks with Swansea Council regarding connecting the entrance to the station from Victoria Road end of the village.

Children under the age of 11 can travel free on TFW trains and ages 11-16 can travel for free on off peak times if accompanied by an adult.

94. **REPORT OF THE CLERK**

94a **MISCELLANEOUS REPORT**

1. I spoke to Darren who designed the Summer of Fun website. I have asked him to look at our website and give us a quote for designing a new one. The current one is very dated and is not secure, Darren informed me. I will bring the quote to the next meeting hopefully to discuss. Quote of £175 was received and approved by Council.
2. I attended the meeting regarding the Summer of Fun which Dean Mason is organizing. Community Council were invited to contribute. Perhaps we could once again offer to pay for the services of David Nicholas for Health and Safety at an approximate cost of £350? Quotes are being sought for advertising banners – depending on cost, could we also offer to fund these? Council agreed to fund up to £500.
3. If Councillors wish to receive the remuneration fee of £150, please forward name, address, DOB, NI number and tax code as payments will need to go through payroll and HMRC.

If any Councillors DO NOT wish to receive the fee, please let the Clerk know via email.
4. I have put an advert out for any registered businesses to contact me if they require hanging baskets this year. Payment will be required with the order, as this will avoid the need to chase payment afterwards.

94b **FINANCIAL MATTERS**

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

94C CORRESPONDENCE

During the month of January 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.

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Mr Dean Mason sent the minutes from the meeting he held In January to discuss events for next summer.

One Voice Wales sent the minutes of the January quarterly meeting,

Elections office informed me that no request for an election as been received so we are able to continue to co – opt for the vacancy of Community Councillor.

Our instagram account has 344 posts and 505 followers.

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95. APPOINTMENT PANEL

An appointment panel will be:

Ros Holt
Peter Morgan
June Merrels
Pat Evans
Sue Jones
Amanda Guard (Reserve)
Barbara Small (Reserve)

The Co-option notice will be advertised for a period of two weeks.

96. QUESTIONS RELATIVE TO COUNCIL BUSINESS

1. Cllr Peter Morgan said there is constant traffic problems with Cefn Gorwydd site. Speed of lorries going over speed bumps is shocking.
2. Cllr Barbara Small mentioned Bryn y mor road – council workers are looking at this road. Measuring, looking at manhole covers, etc.

Road sweeper was out on Bryn Y Mor Road on 1/2/23.

3. Cllr Jenkins and Cllr Barbara Small went to look at trees on Bryn y mor road to be cut down. Cllr Jenkins to chase up parks dept.
4. Cllr Pat Evans reported potholes that need attention. Acknowledgment to say they will be done within 28 days.
5. Cllr Gareth Evans has spoken to Mike Sander ex community council and sends his best wishes.
6. Cllr June Merrell said car parking places outside YG Gywr are a problem. A gentleman has carers going in and they can't park. Could the spaces be limited to an hour? Teachers parking there all day and parking is limited.

Cllr Dai Jenkins has enquired about this – Alan Ferris, Swansea Council Officer advised to ask if carers could use these spaces as a visitor. Cllr Sue Jones is to go visit resident to discuss.

7. Cllr Dai Jenkins - Fairwood terrace – email response received from list of questions. Request a public meeting. In Gowerton RFC? Monday Tuesday or Wednesday?

97. **PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

Application No:	2022/2813/FUL	Date Registered:	12.01.2023
Electoral Division:	Gowerton - Area 2	Status:	Being Considered
Map Ref:	259427 195610		
Development Type:	Minor Dwellings		
Location:	131 Cecil Road, Gowerton, Swansea, SA4 3DN		
Proposal:	Detached bungalow		
Applicant:	Mr Rory Saunders	Agent:	Mr Thomas Gronow

Application No:	2022/2827/FUL	Date Registered:	20.01.2023
Electoral Division:	Gowerton - Area 2	Status:	Being Considered
Map Ref:	259427 195610		
Development Type:	Minor Dwellings		
Location:	131 Cecil Road, Gowerton, Swansea, SA4 3DN		
Proposal:	Detached dwelling		
Applicant:	Mr Rory Saunders	Agent:	Mr Thomas Gronow

Objection as it would not comply with the building line that is already established.

Date of next meeting 1 March 2023

Meeting closed 21.36

Chairperson

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