

**GOWERTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL  
CYNGOR CYMUNEDOL TREGŴYR**

**Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council**

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

**on Wednesday 4 October 2023**

**PRESENT:** Chair: Matt Palmer

**Councillors** Barbara Small, June Merrells, Amanda Guard, Dai Jenkins, Susan Jones, Peter Morgan, Brian Edy, Ros Holt,

**Clerk to the Council:** Allison James.

**72 Apologies for absence** – Cllrs Gareth Evans, Pat Evans, Lyneth Howells

**73 Disclosures of Personal & Prejudicial Interests**

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

**74 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) 20 September 2023

**75 Announcements of the Chair of Council**

Cllr Matthew Palmer mentioned that a couple of outdated items on the Clerks Contract had been amended, ie. Previously stated that no pension would be offered. Now a legal requirement to offer a pension.

**76 Public Question Time**

There were no questions.

**77 Record of Payments**

	31/08/2023	Swansea Council	Precept received	-11289.67	R
55	04/09/2023	Asda	Paper	4.15	GA
56	07/09/2023	Nest	Pension contribution June	84.68	P
57	07/09/2023	Nest	Pension contribution July	84.68	P
58	07/09/2023	Nest	Pension contribution August	84.68	P
59	08/09/2023	HP Instant Ink	September	16.49	GA
60	15/09/2023	Phone allowance	September	38.99	CE

61	25/09/2023	Staff	September	900.04	S
			Pension contribution		
62	27/09/2023	Nest	September	84.68	P
63	28/09/2023	HMRC	Tax	528.89	

**Total for September 2023** 1827.28

Balance  
28/9/2

Balance as at 28 September 2023 = £31885.68

#### Forthcoming payments for approval

HMRC	243.00	approx
Bay Landscaping Ltd	243.5	Sept
Nest Pension	38.00	October
HP Instant Ink	16.49	October
Clerk Phone allowance	38.99	October
Salary	900.04	October

Quarter 2 Office allowance

Floral displays

#### Quarter 2 Budget report

Detail	Budget to date	Actual to date	Variance to date	Annual Budget	Budget left	22/23 Outturn
<b>Salaries</b>	5600	5481	119	11200	5719	11103
<b>Pension Cont ER/EE</b>	508	338	170	1016	678	0
<b>HMRC</b>	1879	1012	867	3758	2746	3625
<b>Clerk Expenses</b>	700	672	28	1400	728	1312
<b>Chair Allowance</b>	250	0	250	500	500	500
<b>General Admin</b>	350	1232	-882	700	-532	578
<b>Subs and Fees</b>	1600	3312	-1712	3200	-112	2899
<b>Remuneration</b>	975	0	975	1950	1950	124
<b>Grounds Maintenance</b>	1525	974	551	3050	2076	3012
<b>Floral Displays</b>	1500	0	1500	3000	3000	2673
<b>Events</b>	3000		3000	6000	6000	10661
<b>Defibrillators</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Training</b>	390	269	121	780	511	100
<b>Total</b>	<b>18277</b>	<b>13290</b>	<b>4987</b>	<b>36554</b>	<b>23264</b>	<b>36587</b>

Currently showing £4987 underspend. However, awaiting £3k invoice approx for floral displays and two months of invoices HMRC invoice is due up to Sept.

Chair Allowance not yet been spent.

Remuneration to be paid out in March 2024 if claimed.

Prediction is to be overspent at year end due to unexpected bills from Pension Regulatory Fund, costs for Consultation Fees  
Cost of new laptop has been paid from reserves.  
New web design costs will be paid from reserves. **Reserves are currently £13787.55**

**Resolved that:**

- 1) The Payments & Receipts be noted.
- 2) The Clerk be authorised to pay the Payments Raised at the Meeting.

## **78 Financial Reporting**

- i) **Bank Accounts** - Reconciliation The Clerk stated that the Bank Accounts - Reconciliation information had been shared with all Councillors.
- ii) **Quarter 2 budget monitoring report** – prepared as per Audit requirements.

**Resolved** that the Bank Accounts reconciliation report be noted. The reserve bank account balance will be included in each quarterly report to ensure transparency.  
Quarter 2 budget monitoring report was read and accepted by all present.

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

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

Planning applications which are forwarded on to Councillors.

Emails from Dean Mason giving details of final meeting to discuss Gowerton Summer Fun outcome. 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.

A letter from SSE asking for updated information regarding the xmas lights we intend to use. No further correspondence from Pegasus Group about attending the October meeting so it has not been included in the agenda.

An email from Alison O'Hara in Legal and Democratic services telling us we need to advertise the vacancy for a Councillor for the East Ward and to let her know when the advert has gone out. We shall follow the procedure for the last vacancy.

Instagram – 380 posts and 544 followers.

## **80. Planning Applications**

**Application No: 2023/1782/FUL Date Registered: 21.08.2023 Electoral Division: Gowerton - Area 2**

Status: Being Considered Map Ref: 259162 196263 Development Type: All Other Minor Dev  
Location: 106 Sterry Road, Gowerton, Swansea, SA4 3BW

Proposal: New shopfront, new roller shutter, replace side door with new security door, 2 extract vents and 2 air conditioning condenser units in a security cage

Applicant: Mrs Sara Humphries Agent:

**Application No: 2023/1788/FUL Date Registered: 22.08.2023 Electoral Division: Gowerton - Area 2**

Status: Being Considered Map Ref: 258848 195932 Development Type: Householder

Location: 69A Mount Pleasant, Gowerton, Swansea, SA4 3EW

Proposal: Single storey rear extension Applicant: Mr Mark Rigby Agent: Mr Gary Michael

**Application No: 2023/1783/ADV Date Registered: 29.08.2023 Electoral Division: Gowerton - Area 2**

Status: Being Considered Map Ref: 259162 196263 Development Type: Advertisements

Location: 106 Sterry Road, Gowerton, Swansea, SA4 3BW

Proposal: Three internally illuminated fascia signs mounted on grey panels Applicant: Mrs Sara Humphries

**Application No: 2023/1867/FUL Date Registered: 05.09.2023 Electoral Division: Gowerton - Area 2**

Status: Being Considered Map Ref: 259566 195833 Development Type: Householder

Location: 108 Gorwydd Road, Gowerton, Swansea, SA4 3AW

Proposal: Single storey rear extension with attached garage, extension of existing side dormer, replacement front porch, external material alterations and fenestration alterations

Applicant: Mr & Mrs Carys & Tyrone Wright Agent: Mrs Caroline Grey

**Application No: Electoral Division: Map Ref: 2023/1967/FUL Gowerton - Area 2**

Development Type: Householder Location: Date Registered: Status: 34 Cefn Style Road, Gowerton, Swansea, SA4 3QS

Proposal: 19.09.2023 Being Considered Alterations to roof, part two storey/part single storey rear extension with first floor balcony, side solar panels and air source heat pump

Applicant: Mr and Miss Antonio and Rhiannon Facciuto and Howells Agent: Mrs Clare Johnston

**Resolved** – No objections to any of these apart from the three illuminated fascia signs on Application No 2023/1783/ADV might impact adjacent properties.

## **81 Gowerton Ward Councillors Update**

**Cllr Susan Jones gave the following report:**

Two months of activities has been busy:-

1. Installation of the barriers on Elba to make the area safe for the School children. There has been a knock on effect with the additional parking by parents on Porth y Waun. I have reported to our local PCSO and the traffic wardens to monitor this situation. Porth y Waun is a narrow road and the accessing and egressing of traffic is more dangerous.
2. Meetings are taking place to hi-light the issues for Gowerton with the planning application for another 230 houses off Fairwood Terrace. The additional approx. 350 cars at an already busy junction is both unacceptable and dangerous with the visual complications at this place. There is to be arranged a special planning meeting of the planning committee and a site visit to discuss.
3. The activities of The Summer of Fun have been completed and we are awaiting the feedback from the events. I think it was a successful project with many people in the village enjoying. I would like to thank Dean Mason for his organisation and lead for making this

happen. Hopefully some of the local businesses have gained from these events, local charities have benefitted and community spirit has been improved.

4. The installation of the Boules Pitch in the Elba has been disappointing because the Council have not removed the unused Cricket nets which surround the pitch. I am trying to address this situation without much success.
5. The 20 mile restriction has caused many residents to email me with much criticism of the situation. Many are disappointed that the petition which they have signed has been ignored by Welsh Government. There are concerns about pollution as cars now in low gears and are asking why aren't the speed bumps being removed?
6. I have been approached regarding the request for allotments to be established in the field behind the houses in Mount Pleasant. I have contacted the Housing Department to see whether this was a possibility and the residents support is being sought? I have no update on this situation because I have been away.
7. The Post Office relocation is being progressed and I have been informed that the process could be as long as 6 months. So there is no further update at the moment.
8. I welcome the new business in Sterry Rd (Picture This) Food by Sean and wish them success for the future. There seem to be rumours regarding the occupation of the former C.K,s and the planning application that has been submitted. I hope this empty property will be filled in the near future.
9. The Art Class in The St. John's Church Hall has restarted and new members would be welcomed. It meets on a Tuesday morning from 10.30am to 12.30pm.
10. The Local History Group has it's AGM on Monday the 9th of October at Gowerton Primary School from 10.30 am to 12.30pm. Again the welcome any new members.
11. During the Summer Break the new Panel on the entrance of the Library was vandalised and the Police have been involved. It is sad that the gift from the Primary School was damaged.
12. The installation of the new bus shelter outside the Laundrette is causing much frustration. This is to link up the train station with the bus service and give information on the train and bus timetables. This is funded by Active Travel in Wales.
13. There are plans to improve the smaller culvert in Brynymor Road to further help with the flooding of this area. Work has also been carried out in Sterry Road by the Water Board with an installation of a non return valve to again help with the flooding in this area.
14. I am holding my Monthly Surgery at Gowerton Library on Saturday the 7th of October from 11.00 am to 12 noon. All welcome no appointment necessary.

### **Cllr Dai Jenkins gave the following report:**

September'23 Monthly Report Councillor Dai Jenkins Gowerton Ward

Save Gowerton from Gridlock -The 230 new homes promised by Persimmon continues and all our objections have been dispatched to Swansea City Planning Department. We as a sub-committee continue to meet fortnightly at Gowerton RFC and with the onset of the new 20mph in Victoria Road, we may have to fund another specialist survey on a Wednesday in November (date to be confirmed). We will announce a date when all the village can come to Gowerton RFC for an update and it will be a fundraiser- consisting of a quiz, buffet, and live band, so watch our social media accounts for more information.

Gorwydd Road, stages 1 of 3 of a new road surface has been completed, you will notice how smooth the carriage way is as you approach the traffic lights by the carpet shop just before it crosses Mill Street. Bus shelter number one is being constructed by the Laundrette. I know the temporary lights have caused frustration- I did ask for the sequencing of the lights to be double checked but was assured that they are correct, and any hold ups will sometimes be inevitable with temporary lights, so apologies for that inconvenience. Upon commencement of stages 2 and 3 of Gorwydd Road's resurfacing you will see the cushions removed. Whether all cushions or some cushions are replaced will depend entirely on how fast motorists drive on the new surface. If cushions are to be replaced Swansea Council's Road traffic officers have promised to liaise with myself and Cllr. Susan Jones so the cushions are positioned in the right place to avoid any back pain injury where motorists cannot

drive over them as they are intended. Plus, to address the “gaps” that motorists accelerate through. Hopefully a bonus of the new 20mph zones will see no need for the cushions to go back down, time will tell of course.

Flooding Bryn y Mor Road – Spoke with Bob Fenwick who advised “*To update you that we have plans to improve access improvements on the smaller lower culvert and I understand that clearance works of the vegetation/bricks will be done at the same time ...we are currently discussing the works with our construction team who will confirm the timing of the works once the scope has been agreed. ...Hopefully this will be addressed shortly.*

*I am not aware of any specific grants for property protection, generally house owners install their own measures to make their property more resilient against the impacts of flooding. Further information is provided on the Authority’s flood advice leaflet where various links to flood protection products can be found. To confirm as well that the maintenance of this culvert is now on the Authority’s Red List for inspections, which is the highest priority. During the winter months the culvert will be inspected weekly and additional inspections will be undertaken should we receive severe weather warnings.*

*Regarding the upper culvert, I understand we have looked at the option to divert and it’s one we don’t think we would get funding for, especially as we had funding for the main culvert improvements recently. I will discuss again with my managers just to confirm. The uneven pavement does need doing although had been made safe obviously not referred for follow up work we will look and sort some remedial action asap.*

Gowerton Park Road Park –Quotes have been sent to Swansea Council to ask if there are any grants available to help? I have sent two emails to chase but regrettably I have received no replies. I will raise the issue with Swansea Council Leader in my one- to- one meeting early October 2023.

Gowerton’s Dog show was postponed 24<sup>th</sup> due to inclement weather. “If” we have a dry Saturday or Sunday morning between now and Christmas I will advertise giving a week’s notice of the event as no point using a fixed date to have it rain on our parade again. The Treasure Hunt for Gowerton’s Summer of Fun did take place at the Commercial with five teams taking part, very hot morning but all teams enjoyed.

George Manning Way and Fairwood Terrace Road markings, chased highways for them to promise they will do them this year, also reported speeding in George Manning and asked for a speed survey.

### Meetings.

5<sup>th</sup> September Service Improvements Regeneration Scrutiny

26<sup>th</sup> September Service Improvements Regeneration Scrutiny

28<sup>th</sup> September Save Gowerton from Gridlock subcommittee meeting.

30<sup>th</sup> September Rechabite Hall monthly surgery.

30<sup>th</sup> September Llys Elba

### Supplemental

Making Gowerton Look Great Again

Litter – Reported on lane that cuts past Park Road Park.

Pop up Scrapyard – (Fairwood Terrace)-Chased been promised a call with officers before 7<sup>th</sup> October end of business.

### Coming Up.

Enhancing Safety in Gorwydd Road– Looking for smarter way to enhance safer parking whilst looking attractive. (on-going)

Openreach Opportunities – Working with Community Councillor Lyneth and Openreach on painting project. (on-going)

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 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. (On going meeting with leader to discuss early October).

Teenager/ Adult Exercise Equipment –Equipment in both Park Road Park and the Elba ordered. (on-going Elba is going to be done first in next few weeks.)

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 – Costing to be delivered out of joint or single community budgets – awaiting task to take place. Chased action on this via email and requested speed check by road traffic officers at new part of George Manning Way. {on-going}

New bus stop and shelter - Outside launderette Gorwydd Rd. Awaiting implementation but could be installed very shortly in September 2023. This is due to be finished in October 2023.

Missing walk/cycle link on B4295 –This project is being developed using Welsh Government ‘Active Travel Fund’ funding to complete the ‘missing link’ in the off-road infrastructure between Gowerton and Penclawdd. The Highways Improvements team in Swansea Council is beginning to investigate options in this area and there will be engagement with residents and other stakeholders later this year once they have developed some proposals.

There is also an active travel scheme being developed to link Loughor to Gowerton via a new dedicated walking and cycling path which will run along Culfor Road / Marsh Road and down Pont-Y-Cob Road over an upgraded bridge, before turning east and passing Gowerton Primary School and connecting with the existing network. {On Going}

Missing walk/cycle link Alder Way to Station Road Email seen that it’s due to open end of Summer 2023. Chased this and asked for an alternative plan if goal posts are moved again, and asked if path can be laid up to the station as soon as possible. (ongoing)

Ward Surgery -Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> October 2023 10.00am Rechabite Hall - all are welcome!

New Signs – Chased new signs, some didn’t get to the team to order others are awaiting fitting

Gowerton Dog Show – Will take place on a frosty Saturday or Sunday morning before Christmas, watch this space.

## 82 Air Quality Survey

Air Quality Survey designed by Cllr B Edy. All Councillors agreed that these should be distributed to various streets around Gowerton. The surveys to be printed free of charge hopefully in the next week.

Delivering surveys – Councillors to deliver to allocated streets.

Collection points – it was debated whether to collect the surveys or whether to have designated collection points.

**Resolved** – To deliver the surveys to each address and to collect them from the houses at an allocated date. It was decided to deliver to a smaller area initially to gauge the reaction then deliver to a wider area if response is good.

### 83. General maintenance and repairs

Bay Landscapes to give us a quote to include tidying up the bit in the middle of the square in their monthly schedule. **Resolved** – Clerk has contacted Clint Morgan from Bay Landscapes.

Bin on inner link road has not been replaced – Ward members have contacted Swansea Council who said due to distance from other bins, it does not need to be replaced. **No further action.**

Bus stops – outside Gowerton RFC. Timetable notice board is open. Cllr Sue Jones to report this.  
Bus stop sign on Cecil Road outside number 95. The actual sign has disappeared. Has been reported previously. **Action** - Clerk to report again.

### 84. Drop Curbs

Peter Carey from The Gowerton Con Club has had complaints that there are no drop curbs near the entrance to the club to allow wheelchair users and other people with mobility problems to access the club. After a short discussion it was deemed that there is a shortage of drop curbs within the village.

**Action** – Councillors to make a note of where drop curbs are within the village and to report back at the next meeting.

### 85. Post Office Closure – no further news on the allocation of another venue for the post office.

### 86. Christmas Event

Cllr Matt Palmer requested that a date be set for the Xmas event 2023.

**Resolved** – Proposed date of 17 December 2023. Clerk to contact Rowena Moyse. Budget of approx. £500 agreed for horse and carriage. Cover smaller area this year. Xmas tree in the Temple Church grounds. Lights to be put on the Commercial this year.

Cllr Howells to cost new equipment for grotto at the Commercial and present at September meeting.

Choir to be arranged.

**Resolved** – if horse and carriage is not available on 17 December, alternative date is 10 December 2023. Update – Rowena Moyse has confirmed that the horse and carriage will be available on 17 December 2023.

**Ongoing** - 17 December is confirmed date. Yummy bears will make cones for £1 each. Make up 100 of these? Could marshmallows and bigger sweets be used to fill cones and maybe make more for same price?

Phil to be santa in grotto and on carriage as last year? June to ask.

Confirm route – smaller route. Bryn y Mor Road, Mount Street, Mount Pleasant, Park Road, Cecil Road, Square then along Sterry Road to the Commercial Pub.

Print leaflets for school – 4 on A4 sheet. 500 sheets. Cllr Guard to arrange.

Clerk to check with Rowena whether the horses could stop at the Commercial for children to see. Health and safety?

Work out what we need re decorations. Rough draft of leaflets. 3pm in Commercial.  
Penclawdd brass band to attend?



Xmas sub committee was suggested and agreed - Cllrs Lyneth, June, Pat, Amanda, Barbara.

### **Update 4/10/23**

We need an infantry of what decorations Community Council has already. Cllr June Merrells to contact Judith, Phil etc. Phil and Kayleigh have confirmed they are happy to help out with Santa duties etc.

Cllr Merrells has messaged Penclawdd brass band – no response to date. If any Councillors have contacts for bands, Cllrs to contact them. Cllr Amanda Guard has confirmed printing of leaflets.

Rowena Moyse has confirmed that the horses can stop at the Commercial Pub.

### **Ongoing**

#### **87. Remembrance Day 2023**

Rev Alex Pye has confirmed that there will be a short service on the green in the centre of the village at 10.45am on Saturday 11 November 2023. It would be lovely to see as many people as possible there. **No action needs to be taken.**

#### **88. Set date of next meeting.**

The date of the next Community Council meeting is 7.30pm Wednesday 1 November 2023 at Gowerton Conservative Club.

**Meeting closed at 9.09 pm**

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

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

