

**Draft copy of minutes until approved by Council at December meeting.**

GOWERTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

CYNGOR CYMUNEDOL TREGŴYR

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held at Gowerton Con Club at 7.30pm on Wednesday 1 November 2023

PRESENT: Chair: Matt Palmer

Councillors Barbara Small, June Merrells, Amanda Guard, Dai Jenkins, Susan Jones, Ros Holt, Lyneth Howells

Clerk to the Council: No clerk was present. Minutes taken by Cllr Amanda Guard.

89 Apologies for absence – Cllrs Gareth Evans, Pat Evans, Brian Edy, Peter Morgan. Clerk – Allison James

90 Disclosures of Personal & Prejudicial Interests

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

91 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) 4 October 2023

92 Announcements of the Chair of Council

93 Public Question Time

Pegasus Group attended to discuss the Solar farm.

Joe Muldoon attended to discuss the missing link between Gowerton and Penclawdd.

#### Public Questions - Pegasus Group

Pegasus Group have changed the plans slightly for the solar farm. Two fields by the river will now have no intrusive works. There will also be no panels by the flood plain area. This will reduce the solar panels by approximately 10%. He confirmed that the farmer will be able to farm the land to the south and the farm shop will remain open.

There is a slight change to the battery housing compound. There will be two connection points to National Grid. The preferred option is on Carmarthen Road and the second option is Ystrad Road. The supply will be going underground and will connect to existing pylons.

They are looking into opening the footpaths and make them more accessible. Cllr Dai Jenkins asked what the life span of the panels would be. The reply was about 20 - 25 years, then then will get de-commissioned and recycled. The life span of the project is 40 years.

Cllr Susan Jones asked is there a benefit to the local community. The reply - one of the advisors is in discussion with Gower Power Renewable Energy and they are interested in buying 10% for local community ownership. They will manage the share offer and work with community projects.

Cllr Jenkins asked if it would be a possibility if this could help with the Christmas lights in the community. This would be a possibility if it could be tied in.

They are going to forward 2 PDF documents to the clerk with the new amended plans.

#### Public Questions - Joe Muldoon

Joe came to talk about the North Gower Access Path and is working with a group to 'Support the Missing Link' cycle path / footpath between Gowerton and Penclawdd. Wants Swansea Council to improve the footpath. The road is dangerous for cyclists and the pavement is narrow at parts. Not suitable for mobility scooters, or if people need to pass. The group have managed to get a petition with over 11000 signatures so far. On the 25th of November 2023, an event to highlight the poor footpath is being arranged, leaving from Gowerton RFC and walking or cycling to Penclawdd RFC along this route. Cllr Jenkins confirmed that Swansea Active Travel team are involved and aware.

Cllr Sue Jones left the meeting at 8.20pm

The record of payments for October and forthcoming payments for November were presented to Council.

Resolved that:

1) The payments & receipts be noted but any discussions or questions will be deferred to the December meeting due to the Clerks absence.

## 95 Financial Reporting

Resolved that the Bank Accounts reconciliation report be noted but any questions will be deferred to the December meeting.

96. 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.

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.

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. Update – Alison O’Hara has emailed to let us know no election was called and we can go ahead and co opt.

An email from a local resident expressing interest in applying for the vacancy of Community Councillor. Clerk has invited the resident to attend the meeting.

An email from Viv Davies offering to tidy up the patch near the notice board in the square and asking if we would like her to put plastic poppies around the village.

Numerous emails from ICT vision who are designing the new website, giving updates.

Email from Clint from Bay Landscapes Ltd giving a quote of £40 for including the patch of land by the notice board in their monthly schedule.

I attended the OVW quarterly meeting during the month of October where I gave an update on the news and activities of Gowerton Community Council.

Instagram – 387 posts and 545 followers.

## 97. Planning Applications

Application No: 2023/1496/FUL Date Registered: 26.09.2023 Electoral Division: Gowerton - Area 2

Status: Being Considered Map Ref: 259067 196017 Development Type: All Other Minor Dev

Location: Former Gowerton Primary School , Talbot Street, Gowerton, Swansea, SA4 3DB

Proposal: Installation of a front canopy

Applicant: Mr Ben Roberts Agent: Mr Ben Roberts

No objections were raised.

## 98 Gowerton Ward Councillors Update

Cllr Susan Jones gave the following report:

October has been so very wet, rain, rain and more rain. The culvert at the end of Brynymor Road was reported with twigs and branches blocking the grid and the response from Highways was immediate and this was a great relief to residents who had flooding issues, a big thank you to residents for being vigilant and Highways.

During October I have been nominated to being Chair of Governors at Gowerton Primary School and I take this opportunity to thank Mr. Lyndon Mabley for his long service as Chairperson over the past 22 years. His support to the Governing body has been exceptional. There have been many meetings with Mr. Iain Ashton and the Challenge Advisor for the Primary School. I attended the Harvest Festival along with Rev. Alex Pye where we were educated by the children on the joy of giving to those less fortunate than ourselves. The gifts of food from the children were amazing and these will be distributed by Donna Kendall our Local Area Co-Ordinator in our community. I also accompanied a gentleman who had given a gift to the Primary School, on a visit around the school. Mr. Thomas was very impressed with the interesting conversation he had with the children. I would like to again thank Mr. Thomas for his gift and his kindness. I am part of the Education Scrutiny Panel who visited Gorseinon Primary School to have discussions with the Headteacher on the running of the school. Gorseinon Primary School is a new School which is a credit.

I attended a Harvest Lunch at St. Barnabas which was well attended and most enjoyable. I also attended the Harvest Evening Meal at Zion alongside visitors from America to celebrate 150 years of worship at the Chapel.

I would like to thank Freedom Leisure for the removal of the Cricket nets around the new Boules Pitch making the area more attractive for the public to use. Hopefully, this facility will be used when the weather permits.

I collected two sacks of daffodils from Brian Davies in Country Stores who donated them to Gowerton Primary School. The children will enjoy planting them around the school grounds. Thank you, Brian.

There seems to be a small group of young people going around the village knocking doors and banging windows which is frightening for many of residents both young and old.

There was an incident at the Elba which resulted in damage to a conservatory window of one of the houses that back onto the Elba. To report anything to the Police is very important and our PCSO is John Breslin tel: 07469907703

There is a great deal of confusion regarding the new bus stops that have appeared in the village. Both Councillor Jenkins and myself were informed that Active Travel were installing one near the Railway Station (outside the Launderette) for easy access to the station and to display times of trains and buses. The bus stop on the inner link Road was for rerouting the 116 which comes from Penclawdd to turn left at the Vets into Mill St, and then right into the inner link Road, this is to allow people to alight for the Doctors Surgery. The 116 will then turn right into Sterry Road towards the Coop turn left into Cecil Rd, right at the library, right again into Hill St.

Gowerton Rugby Club Hive on a Friday morning is going from strength to strength, well done June. Everyone welcome.

Thank you Terry for again installing the Remembrance Flag in the village. Just a reminder that there is a service in St. John's Church on Friday the 10th of November and the raising of the flag at the flagpole on Saturday the 11th at 10.45 am lead by Rev. Alex Pye.

I am holding my monthly surgery on Saturday the 4th from 11.00am to 12 noon no appointment needed.

Cllr Dai Jenkins gave the following report:

Save Gowerton from Gridlock – Persimmon homes sent hundreds of extra pages of amendments, which the sub-committee have split between the team to diligently scrutinise. I asked if there was a date before Christmas to discuss the outline planning and was advised there's a 50% chance of that happening.

Gorwydd Road - The two brand new bus shelters are now in situ and just waiting on weather and materials now for re-surfacing to start between the Launderette and Cedar Close.

Flooding Bryn y Mor Road – Residents have reported issues with flooding from a drain in Shaws Woods and I have asked for a site meeting to investigate this further.

Gowerton Park Road Park –Quotes have been sent to Swansea Council to ask if there are any grants available to help? Spoke with The Leader who has advised that due to a new budget answer will not be available until February 2024.

Gowerton's Dog show – Had a great meeting with Debbie at Llys Nini and they are flat out between now and Christmas so Dog Show will have to take place early next year.

George Manning Way- still awaiting completion and so too 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. So deferred and will chase in January if not done by Christmas 2023.

The teenager adult exercise equipment –Equipment in both Park Road Park and the Elba have been installed. They are a fixed cycle and a fixed rowing machine, all comments on social media were positive for their instalment.

Two new bus stops and shelters have now been placed in Gorwydd Road, one by the carpet shop and one by the Launderette.

Meetings.

4.10.23 – Meeting one to one with leader Swansea City Council.

5.10.23 – Full Council meeting at Guildhall.

9 to 11.10.23 – Labour Party Conference Liverpool.

17.10.23 – Scrutiny (Service improvements and finance regeneration)

19.10.23 – Save Gowerton from gridlock meeting {Gowerton RFC}

17.10.23 – Gowerton Community Hive meeting {Gowerton RFC}

Supplemental

Making Gowerton Look Great Again

Litter – picked up litter by walkway tunnel opposite Gowerton Rugby Club.

(Fairwood Terrace)- Storage area (looks like scrap yard)- Reports from past suggest this area was always used as a storage area, so it's allowed to be a storage area. However, the area looks terrible and unsightly so meeting with residents and council officials planned for November 3, 2023.

Cedar Close – New sign is now in place and it's looking good.

Cases – lighting issue and litter Park Road Park, Parking Cecil Road, Llys Elba road and pavement issues, new bus stops enquiries; flooding issues (Bryn Y Mor Road and Cae Mansel Lane and Culvert Fairwood Terrace) – Refuse non- collection issues, pink plastic bag distribution investigations.

Coming Up.

New Road Surface Gorwydd Road – Will be in place before April 1st, 2024.

Enhancing Safety n 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- paintings are being worked on and we need to identify which box we will ask permission to paint over.

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)

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}

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 discussed with Leader who asked due to new budget answers will be available February 2024).

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 25th November 2023 10.00am Rechabite Hall - all are welcome!

When should the Ward Councillors submit their reports? How soon prior to the meeting should they be received (Matt Palmer and/or clerk to confirm)

99 Update on Persimmon development including the recently commissioned health survey

Cllr Jenkins stated that Persimmon have put in an amendment of approximately 400 pages, which is in the process of being read in detail by Save Gowerton from Gridlock group.

100. Bus service cuts/shelters

Deferred until next month. Cllr Palmer has contacted the council to get a map of the new bus route. Awaiting a reply.

101 Update on Xmas Event

Phil and Kaylie have agreed to be Mr and Mrs Claus. Penclawdd Brass band have confirmed they can attend. The sub-group would like to arrange a balloon arch and some voile to make the grotto look more festive. This would come at a cost of approx £50. Cllr June Merrells can arrange the balloon arch. Yummy Bears to provide sweets for the children (cost covered by community council).

Date to be arranged to look at the decorations that are in the Rechabite Hall.

Cllr Lyneth Howells has designed posters - slight amendments to be made before going to print. Arrange an art competition with a Christmas theme and prizes for 1st, 2nd and 3rd.

Snowflakes to be reused from last year and may need to purchase more. Speak to Motley Pies to see if they want to stay open and sell pies. Commercial Hotel will sell Mulled wine and have a band playing in the evening. Allison or Cllr Amanda Guard to speak to Nomad to let them know we are having the parade on the 17th of December.

The sub-group will need a meeting prior to the next Community Council meeting.

102. Update on new website



Ongoing – update at next meeting.

103 Set date of next meeting.

The date of the next Community Council meeting is 7.30pm Wednesday 6 December 2023  
at Gowerton Conservative Club.

Meeting closed at 9.00 pm

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

Date \_\_\_\_\_