

GOWERTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

CYNGOR CYMUNEDOL TREGŴYR

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held at Gowerton Con Club at 7.30pm on Wednesday 6 December 2023

PRESENT: Chair: Matt Palmer

Councillors Barbara Small, June Merrells, Amanda Guard, Susan Jones, Ros Holt, Lyneth Howells Peter Morgan.

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

104 Apologies for absence – Cllrs Susan Jones, Gareth Evans, Pat Evans, Brian Edy, Dai Jenkins,

105 Disclosures of Personal & Prejudicial Interests

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

106 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 1 November 2023

107 Announcements of the Chair of Council

Cllr Matt Palmer announced that he wishes to donate the Chair allowance for 23/24 to St Johns Musical Players.

Cllr Palmer thanked the Clerk for sorting out the query we had with Swansea Council regarding the Xmas event on 17 December 2023.

108 Public Question Time

No questions.

## 109 Record of Payments

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

Resolved that:

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

## 110 Financial Reporting

Bank Accounts - Reconciliation The Clerk stated that the Bank Accounts - Reconciliation information had been shared with all Councillors.

Resolved that the Bank Accounts reconciliation report be noted and accepted as an accurate record of accounts.

111. 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.

Update – information on unmetered supplies was received from Bowen Hopkins which was passed on to SSE. Awaiting a reply.

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. Update – the resident was unable to attend the last meeting but will hopefully join us at the December meeting.

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

An email from Swansea Council asking us to provide details on the xmas event we are putting on, after someone had contacted them to express concerns regarding traffic control and health and safety. I have responded to the email and await a response.

An email from OVW confirming the NALC approved national cost of living rise.

Instagram – 398 posts and 556 followers.

#### 112. Planning Applications

Application No: 2023/2161/FUL Date Registered: 23.10.2023 Electoral Division: Gowerton - Area 2

Status: Being Considered Map Ref: 256985 195780 Development Type: All Other Minor Dev

Location: Cefn Golau Park Farm , Cefn Style Road, Gowerton, Swansea, SA4 3QX

Proposal: Internal and external alterations to change of use of the tack room and two stable blocks to 5 one bedroom holiday lets with associated parking, bin store and alterations to access

Applicant: Mr Victor Johnson Agent: Mr Thomas Gronow

Application No: 2023/2180/FUL Date Registered: 27.10.2023 Electoral Division: Gowerton - Area 2

Status: Being Considered Map Ref: 257262 196392 Development Type: Householder

Location: 38 Cefn Style Road, Gowerton, Swansea, SA4 3QS

Proposal: Single storey side extension and front canopy

Applicant: Mrs Judy McKimm Agent: Mr Huw Griffiths

Application No: 2023/1783/ADV Date Registered: 07.11.2023 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 Agent:

No objections were raised for any of the planning applications.

#### 113 Gowerton Ward Councillors Update

Cllr Susan Jones gave the following report:

The build up for the Festive Season has begun.

During this month the Governing Body of the Primary School has interviewed and appointed a new Caretaker and I would like to congratulate Mr. Jenkins on his appointment and welcome him to the School Community as a member of a great team. I have attended several Governor meetings at both the Comprehensive School and the Primary School during this month. I have also had a meeting

with the Junior School Parliament and listened to suggestions from the children on how to improve many aspects of both the building and the children's development, which was amazing.

I have visited Dan y Allt and enjoyed a coffee afternoon with the playing of records from the sixties by one of their visitors. Everyone enjoyed remembering the words and old memories.

The Remembrance Services were well supported in Gowerton Comprehensive School, St. John's Church and the ceremony on the green. The remembrance flag was raised by Terry Nicholls again, and my thanks to him and to Rev. Pye for their contribution. This has become an important Annual Event for the village.

I had a meeting with some residents and an Officer to discuss the flooding issues in Parkwood. There is an investigation ongoing to track the drainage issues at this location.

I checked in on the workshop discussion on the cycle track between Gowerton and Penclawdd. This track has been such a long process, the discussions started before I was elected in 2008. It would be an asset if it was completed.

I have been involved in the delivery of food parcels after the donations from the children of Gowerton Primary School. Thank you to them all for their generous donations.

The Summer of Fun at Gowerton during 2023 was a great success thanks to all the volunteers under the leadership of Dean Mason. The funds raised have been allocated to various groups in the village, with the presentations on the 8th of December at Gowerton Rugby Club. Information will follow.

I attended the Temple Christmas Fete. It was well attended, and it was great to meet Revd. Hunyoung Park who has joined the Temple. I hope the new venture of a Preschool Play Group which is starting soon will be a success and look forward to making a visit when it starts.

I have been involved with Brangwyn Hall "Together at Christmas" where a Christmas lunch was provided free to the vulnerable people of Swansea. There were also warm coats, jumpers, trousers, hats, gloves, scarves etc. given away to all. Many of the support services were in attendance for advice and help. There were also free haircuts for those who wanted them. It was well attended and helped many vulnerable families. It was a thought-provoking day where I meet some lovely genuine people.

I have also dealt with individual residents on issue's which involve The Social Services Department.

Can I wish you all Seasons Greetings for Christmas and a Healthy 2024.

Cllr Dai Jenkins gave the following report:

November 2023 Cllr Dai Jenkins Monthly Report

Save Gowerton from Gridlock – There's a further delay with Persimmon's outline- planning application so it's going to be February 2024 now at the earliest. It is taking up many hours of hard work by the sub-committee and I would like to thank the SGFG (Save Gowerton From Gridlock) Team for their hard work and diligence over the last twelve months. As I write this there are leaflets being delivered for a residents meeting in Gowerton RFC at 7pm December 11th, where the team will update the whole community on what's happened thus far.

Gorwydd Road – Awaiting re-surfacing to start between the Launderette and Cedar Close, before 1st April 2024.

Flooding Bryn y Mor Road – Residents have reported issues with flooding from a drain in Shaws Wood and I have asked for a site meeting to investigate this further. No meetings have taken place, so an email was sent asking for one in December. Also highlighted the tar mac uneven surface on by-pass and still hasn't been addressed, also asked if that can be smoothed over as it's a trip hazard before year end 2023. A meeting will hopefully take place in December 2023.

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 also 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.

Highways – Excellent work by our highways team in Gorwydd Road, Grawn Cae, Mount Pleasant and Fairwood Terrace- Big thank you from me sent on to them.

Path from Fairwood to Station Road – Escalated and asked if a complaint can be raised as its dragging on so long.

Dropped Kerbs – Working with Cllr Barbara Small, our head lead councillor on this and have set up a site meeting for early December to discuss with an officer of the council. Thank you Barbara for your hard work!

Meetings.

1.11.23 Gowerton Community Council Meeting.

3.11.23 Site visit Fairwood Terrace.

3.11.23 Llys Elba Friday quiz.

8.11.23 Brookside residents and Welsh water meeting.

9.11.23 – Full Council meeting at Guildhall.

10.11.23 Remembrance morning at Gowerton Comprehensive

10.11.23 Remembrance service St. Johns Gowerton

11.11.23 Laid wreath at flagpole in armistice day remembrance service at the flag in the Gowerton triangle.

13.11.23 Missing link pathways Gowerton to Penclawdd presentation,

14.11.23.– Scrutiny (Service improvements and finance regeneration)

15.11.23 – Morryston Crematorium and Waunarlwydd RFC supporting Allison our community clerk whose dad sadly passed away.

16.11.23 Public rights of way pre-presentation.

16.11.23 – Save Gowerton from gridlock meeting {Gowerton RFC}

22.11.23 Public rights of way presentation.

25.11.23 Llys Nini Christmas Fayre.

25.11.23 Walked from surgery car park to Rake and Riddle with action group “missing Link’.

26.11.23 Attended new group in discussion to form and register with SCVS (Swansea City Volunteer Services)

#### Supplemental

#### Making Gowerton Look Great Again

(Fairwood Terrace)- Storage area (looks like scrap yard. Met with council officer and resident on site 3rd November and waiting for council to come back with some ideas and proposals, whilst the site can be used as a storage area, we are looking at ensuring it is less obtrusive than at present.

George Manning Way – Pink graffiti has been removed, another great job by our cleansing team.

#### Coming Up.

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

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- paintings are being worked and Lyneth has identified two boxes as a start to paint.

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. I'll have meetings with teenagers of Gowerton in January 2024 to discuss this. (On- going)

Pelican Crossing - On site visit with Cllr Sue Jones and Alan Ferris to discuss Victoria Road, ongoing with ballpark figure of 60K. – Still no update from Alan – ongoing- 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. Working with fellow Gowerton Councillor Susan Jones and Penclawdd Councillor Andrew Williams plus missing link action group- In fact attended a walk to highlight the dangers of not having this path on 25th November - {On Going}

Missing walk/cycle link Alder Way to Station Road Unfortunately this is still dragging its feet, so I have emailed asking will it become a reality before year end 2023 or if not can we open a complaint and escalate it, unless there is a firm date to finish?

Ward Surgery – No surgery in December - I wish you and your families the best of health over the festive season, I hope it's a safe caring and happy time for you all. If there are any issues, please feel free to reach me via text or email.

Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Dai

114 Persimmon Development – Transport assessment funds request – Cllr D Jenkins

It was agreed previously that no more money to be given following the payment of reports. It was noted that the plans by Persimmon keep changing, including the 20mph speed limit and the entrance to the site. Persimmon came up with additional proposals. Reduced houses to 216. Put in more drainage. Trying to use Fairwood Terrace as entrance to site rather than the proposed relief road. No sign of development on the other site.

Going to give 2 weeks notice for the planning meeting with Swansea Council. It is thought it won't happen until at least February 2024.

SGFGL Group has asked if CC is going to pay up for a critique, knowing that there might be another one? Has been discussions about it. Public meeting on 11/12/23.

Cllr Edy has asked for the amount to be capped at £1500.

What is Highways perceptive on whether a 20 min delay on residents coming out of Fairwood Terrace is acceptable? No report has been completed as yet.

Chair suggested to wait until after the public meeting on 11/12/23 and suggest there that they fundraise to help raise the amount needed rather than rely on CC for the full amount.

Resolved : We need an actual quote. We cannot agree a suggested figure. Further decision on whether this will be funded by CC will be taken at the January meeting if quote has been received by then.

115 Bus service cuts/shelters

Rerouting of bus route around village/new bus stops being put in place. No further updates.

Letter to Transport minister in the Welsh Government Transport.

Cllr P Morgan to compile a letter. Ongoing

116 Post office update

Applications have been delayed. Ongoing

117 Christmas event – one of the mothers in the RFC asked if we could make the parade bigger. Due to Health and Safety regulations, closure of roads etc that would be required, sadly this is not an option.

Meetings have been taking place re market etc. Funding coming from community pot. Volunteers for the Sunday to put the decs up. The xmas sub committee have worked very hard to get everything together for the event. Ongoing

118 Update on new website

Due to go live on 15 December. However, no training date has been issued as yet. Clerk has emailed VisionICT to suggest delaying until after Xmas.

119 Grounds maintenance/floral displays.

Bay landscaping Ltd to maintain grass near notice board. Quotation received from Swansea Council for next years flowers. Hanging baskets. Cost increase. Still outstanding payments from the summer. Should we continue with the scheme?

Resolved: Agree to the usual floral displays in the village. However, it was suggested that we stop the hanging basket scheme as it is a pressure on the budget that could be used for other things.

Proposed by Cllr P Morgan and seconded by Cllr B Small.

120 Set date of next meeting.

The date of the next Community Council meeting is 7.30pm Wednesday 3 January 2024

at Gowerton Conservative Club.

Meeting closed at 9.09 pm

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

Date \_\_\_\_\_