

# GOWERTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

## CYNGOR CYMUNEDOL TREGŴYR

### Minutes of the meeting held at Gowerton Con Club at 7.30pm on Wednesday 7 October 2022

**PRESENT:** Councillors Ros Holt, Susan Jones, Ann Guard, Matt Palmer, Barbara Small, Cllrs Brian Edy, Kaylie Ridgway, June Merrells, Lyneth Howells Clerk to the Council: Allison James.

47. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** – Gareth Evans, Pat Evans, Amanda Guard, Peter Morgan, Ward Member Cllr Dai Jenkins
48. **DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST FROM MEMBERS:** Cllr Lyneth Howells declared an interest in 55.2
49. **MEETINGS WITH:** None required
50. **TO RECEIVE ANY PUBLIC REPRESENTATION:** Phil Cookson from Low Carbon Alliance Ltd gave a short talk regarding the conceptual proposals to provide habitats more suitable for more species throughout the valley and providing community spaces to enjoy the Afon Llan corridor.
51. **COUNCIL MINUTES:** 7 September 2022
- 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.
52. **TO RECEIVE THE REPORT OF THE WARD MEMBERS:**

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

I say again this month that It has been a busy month. The Death of Queen Elizabeth II was a shock when she met with the new Prime Minister, she looked frail but was smiling well. I attended both the Proclamation of King Charles III at the Guildhall and the Church Service in St.Mary's Church. Both these events were memorable, and I felt quite emotional in both. The funeral of our late Queen was again an emotional day and the spectacular organisation of the day was seen across the world and I felt proud to be British.

I attended the funeral of Alderman June Stanton at St. Paul's Church in Sketty. When I was first elected to the Council she was always there to offer advice and support. Ieuan knew her as the nurse when he attended Swansea Training College. We both considered her as a friend.

The Boules Pitch which I have had requests for has been delayed until next Spring. The installation and the maintenance of the pitch will be finalised in the next few weeks. Many of the residents have sent me their support with this additional facility at the Elba.

The extension of the storage area at the Elba was discussed in a meeting of an Officer, Councillor Jenkins and myself, our suggestions to extend the area has resulted in a revised plan to accommodate the need of extra parking for the cleansing services. We have been assured that there are no lorries being included in the vehicle parking.

It is good to see the diagonal crossing near CK's has now become operational after some months of waiting.

The Project from the Primary School asking for people to "Pick up their Dog Poo" has resulted in the children designing Posters for the Elba Sports Area. These have been installed around the School fence and around the Storage Facility. The Posters are great and to the point - well done to all the children who contributed, hopefully dog walkers will take note.

The Gowerton History group has started to meet again since the Pandemic- and thanks to the Primary School for allowing them to meet in the School Community Room. They meet on the second Monday of the Month - all welcome.

The Art Group that is held in St. John's Church Hall is going from strength to strength with new members. This group is on a Tuesday from 10.30 am to 12.30 pm. Again, All Welcome.

Gowerton Comprehensive School has presented a tiled plaque of poppies to the village. This is to be displayed to commemorate Remembrance Day. Thank you to Miss Kath Lawlor for organising this project, and the children who participated.

There has been some concern about the removal of the Dog Bin at the bottom of the Bishwell, can I assure you that this is temporary due to Highway work to be carried out.

During this month there has been some flooding again. Sterry Road was a problem with one house and a few shops flooded, I visited a number of these premises. I meet with Highway Officers to discuss the issues of both Sterry Road and Mount Street. Welsh Water were also contacted and carried out an assessment of the area. Gowerton has a number of areas which are in the flood plain (map is available on the Dwyer Cymru Web). The weather we are now experiencing is getting more regular and this is very worrying.

I organized a Coffee Morning for some of the Ukrainian Families that now live in the area to get together for some self-help. Unfortunately, this was unsuccessful, but I would like to thank the Co Op and the Con Club and the volunteers for their help with this project.

During the high winds over the last few days, it caused a split in one of the Oak trees opposite the entrance to the School on Park Rd. It was reported to me by one of my neighbours on Saturday and the tree surgeon for the Authority inspected and removed the branches on Monday. Thank you for the quick response which could have caused a problem for anyone standing below the tree.

The Gowerton Dog Show seems to have been well supported and very successful, this perhaps will become an Annual Event.

The Library Garden has been planted up with heathers and bulbs by a volunteer from the Woodland and Open Spaces Group. This will enhance the area for the future.

There have been many individuals that have contacted me regarding different issues which are ongoing, the cost of living problems are now being presented. I am still having many complaints regarding the speed bumps and the residents that have had failed MOT tests for their cars, and those with health conditions who have pain because of the speed bumps. I have received complaints regarding cars and buses mounting the pavements of Park Road at the end of the school day - this has been reported to the School Transport Service and the Police. I held my monthly surgery last Saturday the 1st. Of October.

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

### **Cllr Dai Jenkins – Monthly Report 8 September to 4<sup>th</sup> October 2022**

I am dealing with the '*speed cushions*', and am unfortunately still awaiting reports from Road Safety Officer so on September 30<sup>th</sup> I chased for an update? Three emails have been dispatched i) regard my questions and answers report on details of original advertisements of the speed cushions in Gowerton (asking permission to place in public domain ) I have requested and update by 14.10.22 – ii) Also sent an email chasing Speed cushions information highlighting my request from June 8<sup>th</sup> and asking for improvements to cushions that we discussed inviting that a report be sent to me by 4<sup>th</sup> October so I can update on my monthly report . At the time of writing this report, regrettably, no update had been received iii) I received a number of complaints in regards to the speed cushions and these have been dispatched to the Officer, for comment, requesting for an update by end of business 14.10.22) I have helped some business and residents with issues that are private. I reported overflowing bins and dog bins and late and missed rubbish collection.

Cllr Sue Jones and I attended scrutiny meetings at Swansea Guild Hall, met at the Elba with an Officer and successfully discussed and agreed a site extension in the opposite direction of what was proposed thus saving a tree and grass area. Attended a one to one with a resident about my proposal for no right turn out of new Gorwydd Road Colliery Estate. Viewed Parc Solar Caenewydd - initial consultation meeting of the proposals at Rechabite Hall Gowerton. Liaised with Cllrs Sue Jones, Cllr Adam Davies, Cllr Rob Smith & Cllr Kelly Roberts for joint ward funding of a bench between Gowerton and Gorseinon wards on the new walk and cycle shared track (Subject to survey of council ownership)- Actioned some litter picking by railway tunnel and helped Shaws Wood trust fell some overhanging branches and attended a monthly meeting of Shaws Wood Trust. Met with officers at Gowerton Park (Park Road) discussed Gowerton Park which will have an upgrade of swings, and possible extra equipment out of my community budget, including a bench. Also discussed a possible Zip Wire in future, but only if children / teenagers believe it's a good idea, and residents overlooking the park have no objections. (Will contact and speak to all parties, this is a long way off and only in its infant stage)

Met with local Area Coordinator Donna at the Elba and discussed possibility of possible equipment for teenagers where the wooden bars used to be. Also identified a possible site for my election promised smart bench – At top of the bank in a grassy area overlooking the all-weather football courts – Again this is a long-term project subject to change and consultation. The idea behind this, is that teenagers have somewhere official to meet with their friends, rather than unofficial areas.

Liaised with Dean Commercial about forthcoming Dog Show - and thanked him putting up my very large sign advertising the event. Then on 25<sup>th</sup> September organised Gowertons first and certainly not last Dog Show. Entrants were literally queuing around the block to enter, and I promise to improve on that experience next year. I have received many positive remarks and posts for organising the Dog Show and some worthwhile suggestions for improvements – So its definitely on next year (pencil in Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> September) – My thanks go to Dean for allowing use of the grassy area behind the Commercial and for putting up my very large advertising sign, Debbie and her crew from Llys Nini, who lent me their speakers and dog rink, judge Jill Trick from missing dogs Wales and Linda Shadrach for taking excellent pictures on the day. Couldn't have done it without my wife Michelle who was flat out signing in everyone, and writing certificates, Laura my daughter for her first aid and poster support and Rohalt for the video and Beth for advertising posters. I believe that it was a great community event, even the weather was kind.

Met with Cecil Road resident I cut back some overhanging branches that were forcing walkers to step onto the road - kindly assisted with the lady sweeping the branches up afterwards- It was nice mornings exercise, plus I identified some fly tipping and a trip hazard at the same time, which I duly reported.

It was a sad month with our Queen passing along with Clive Gilchrist and June Cull, both of whom funerals I attended. I received an invitation from HM Lord-Lieutenant of West Glamorgan, the High Sherriff of West Glamorgan and the Right Worshipful Lord Mayor of the City and County of Swansea to the Proclamation of his majesty King Charles 111's accession to the Throne on the steps of the Guildhall on 11<sup>th</sup> September and subsequently six days later to St Marys Church Swansea for a service of thanksgiving for the life of our majesty Queen Elizabeth 11 together with a service marking the ascension of his majesty King Charles 111 to the throne.

I have been contacted by residents and I am dealing or have dealt with the following

1.The dip between Gorwydd Road and Woodland –Officer has advised may take a few more months to complete and supplied me with link to what council will and will not cut back – discharged, advised me to tell resident the tree cannot be cut back – Resident considering Swansea Councils escalation process next, unfortunately nothing further I can do at my level.

2.Woodland Terrace itself, residents can't park their cars properly due to overhanging branches – reported those. Officer advised not part of scheduling as parking spaces are unofficial- Unable to cut.

3.Overhanging branches on footpath B4295 opposite Tescos- reported same, branches causing issues on the other side of the fence into Llys Baldwin. – attended site 5.9.22 as officer advised been actioned, its wasn't, photographs taken and sent to officer accordingly. There are two houses on the side of Llys Baldwin, one doesn't want any of the branches cut back – The other resident does. Made sure that when the branches are cut (they are on a long list) only the one side will be cut- Both residents happy with that outcome- discharged.

4.On site visit with Cllr Sue Jones and Alan Ferris to discuss Pelican Crossing over Victoria Road, ongoing with ballpark figure of 60K. Alan to get back to us. No update off Alan due to a spell of annual leave. No update – ongoing.

5.Request for a roundabout at junction of Bishwell Road, working on a fuller solution, which will incorporate a left turn only out of new Gorwydd Colliery estate – again in consultation with residents who are involved the most. Awaiting approval of my letter to residence. No update still ongoing.

6.Waunarlwydd resident who uses Gowerton thoroughfare reported left turn filter lights by carpet shop not working (fixed now) and asked for yellow no entry box at lights as you approach Mill Street as cars are misjudging and then blocking motorist from their journey via Gorwydd Road into Ffordd Beck. Latest update is that Officer to co-ordinate the green lights by the Vets to coincide with green lights by carpet shop- Officer confident this will alleviate the issue, if not, he will place a yellow box at this junction.

7.Near Glamorfa large trees on main road – ongoing. No update received.

8.Trip Hazard opposite Doctors Surgery tree roots pushing up pavement and its uneven. Reported no response to date. Escalate and awaiting action, advised original email to deal went to wrong email address by a temporary member of staff at the time. Advised that to put the pavement right would cause tree roots damage, which is unacceptable, so they have advised area will be signposted of the warning to avoid any slips and trips. (will monitor until its put in place)

9. Near miss- branch fell off a tree opposite doctors' surgery – asked for risk assessment and to cut back branches – ongoing. I have escalated.
10. Cycle track issues along Oakwood Drive – can't see the paint in road- asked for a re- paint. Dismissed – been painted.
11. Speeding Cyclist – on track – ongoing and have escalated. - Evidence gathered was corrupted by data from motorbikes using the track in the evening- Officers looking at alternative ways to collect data – Ongoing .
12. Safer entrance to Oakwood Road shared cycle track / ongoing will take months to sort this one – officers have been on leave, ongoing- Acknowledged from officer in charge and still ongoing.
13. Report of speeding and illegal parking by lollipop lady Rhian in Ffordd Beck, attended site twice and no evidence of this. Discharged.
14. Surgery liaising for if anyone can't ring in morning for appointment and have no access to report online. Person who brought the issue up, has sadly passed away -discharged, surgery will deal on a case-by-case basis. Discharged.
15. Gowerton park in Park Road, been approached by residents on and offline asking for improvements- trying to get external funding, but will be using my community budget if not to upgrade. -Met with Officers at the park, Gowerton will be receiving new swings, also discussed possibility of extra equipment upgraded of swings, and possible extra equipment out of my community budget, including a bench.
16. Apple Trees requested by resident – If possible, will be planting some apple trees if area is suitable. It's now apples pears and plums, (a mini orchard) and trees will be ready in December, they are being paid for this week. – Ongoing.
17. Weeds in Church Street reported. ongoing

### 53. REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN

None received.

### 54. REPORT OF THE CLERK

#### 54a MISCELLANEOUS

- The day after our last meeting, we heard the news that Her Majesty, The Queen passed away. The protocol was that all official meetings and functions would be cancelled during the period of mourning. Community Council did not have any official functions or meetings during this period. The flag in the centre of the village flew at half mast, thanks to Mr Terry Nicholls who kindly changes the flags for us.
- I have spoken to Rev Alex Pye who confirmed that a service will be taking place on Remembrance Day as last year. Details to be confirmed in the next few weeks and we will help with publicity for this.
- Further plans for the Xmas parade to be discussed. Same route as last year? Organise a sub meeting.
- Should we be offering payment for use of the Con Club facilities with the rising costs of energy?
- Christmas meal – last years do for Community Council was a success. To be repeated this year and if so, what date? Wednesday 7pm 14 December.

#### 54b FINANCIAL MATTERS

Order Number	Payment type	Date	Creditor	Subject	Total	
87	Bank Transfer	05/09/2022	HP Instant Ink	September Ink	16.49	GA
88	Bank Transfer	12/09/2022	Amazon	Union Jack Flag	20.85	E
89	Bank Transfer	15/09/2022	Clerk Bay Landscapes	Phone Allowance - Sept	38.99	CE
90	Bank Transfer	20/09/2022	Ltd	August Invoice	243.5	GM
91	Bank Transfer	23/09/2022	Clerk	Salary Sept	873.49	S
92	Bank Transfer	30/09/2022	HMRC	HMRC - July	278.55	HMRC
93	Bank Transfer	30/09/2022	HMRC	HMRC - August	278.75	HMRC
94	Bank Transfer	30/09/2022	IONOS	Website	54	GA
<b>Total for September</b>					<b>1804.62</b>	
						Balance as at 31/9/22 £29363.09

## Forthcoming payments in October for authorisation

Bay Landscapes	September	£243.50
Clerk Salary	October	£873.49
Instant Ink	Monthly cost	£16.49
Phone Allowance	October	£38.99

### 54c CORRESPONDENCE

During the month of September 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.

I have spoken to Neil Gyll from Morganstone – he is on holiday for a couple of weeks so will arrange a meeting at Cefn Gorwydd site upon his return.

I have received an email from Dean Mason regarding events for next year. He would like to know if Community Council would like to get involved? Perhaps invite Mr Mason to the November meeting to discuss.

Our instagram account has 322 posts and 481 followers.

### 55. QUESTIONS RELATIVE TO COUNCIL BUSINESS

1. Cllr Brian Edy will compile a list of questions for Tayo regarding the solar farm
2. Cllr Lyneth Howells asked if we will be putting up the Christmas lights this year as the cost of utilities are rising. It was agreed yes we would as they bring a lot of pleasure to the community. All lights are now LED which are more cost effective.
3. Cllr Matthew Palmer has been having conversations with BT about the cabinets being broken into. Some have sellotape around them. Cllr Palmer has complained again and asked that if anyone sees any cabinets that are damaged if they could contact him.
4. Cllr Susan Jones – Plaque is still missing from the new bench near the Commercial. Clerk to chase up.

### 56. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

#### **Application No: 2022/2115/FUL Date Registered: 05.09.2022 Electoral Division: Gowerton - Area 2**

Status: Being Considered Map Ref: 258395 196167 Development Type: Householder Location: 3 Coed Gurnos, Gowerton, Swansea, SA4 3ES Proposal: First floor side (North) extension with first floor balcony and addition of a first floor balcony to the South elevation with first floor side access door Applicant: Mr & Mrs Phelming Agent: Mr Mark Thomas

#### **Application No: 2022/2170/FUL Date Registered: 14.09.2022 Electoral Division: Gowerton - Area 2**

Status: Being Considered Map Ref: 258349 196283 Development Type: Householder Location: 3 Redwood Court, Gowerton, Swansea, SA4 3FB Proposal: Single storey front/side extension to link dwelling to garage, front canopy and conversion of garage to ancillary living accommodation Applicant: Mr & Mrs S Bowen Agent: Adrian Phillips

#### **Application No: 2022/2178/S73 Date Registered: 15.09.2022 Electoral Division: Gowerton - Area 2**

Status: Being Considered Map Ref: 259427 195610 Development Type: Variation of Conditions Location: 131 Cecil Road, Gowerton, Swansea, SA4 3DN Proposal: Variation of condition 3 of Planning Permission 2017/1332/S73 granted 1st November 2022 to allow the commencement of works for a further 5 years Applicant: Mr Rory Saunders Agent: Mr Thomas Gronow

#### **Application No: 2022/2185/FUL Date Registered: 15.09.2022 Electoral Division: Gowerton - Area 2**

Status: Being Considered Map Ref: 259427 195610 Development Type: Householder Location: 131 Cecil Road, Gowerton, Swansea, SA4 3DN Proposal: Detached dormer bungalow Applicant: Mr Rory Saunders Agent: Mr Thomas Gronow Application No: 2022/2244/FUL Date Registered: 23.09.202

**Date of next meeting – Wednesday 2 November 2022.**

**Meeting closed at 21.36pm**

**Chairperson**

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