GOWERTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

**CYNGOR CYMUNEDOL TREGŴYR**

**Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council**

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

**on Wednesday 3 January 2024**

**PRESENT**:  **Chair**: Matt Palmer

**Councillors** Barbara Small, June Merrells, Ros Holt, Lyneth Howells, Pat Evans, Gareth Evans,

Dai Jenkins

**Clerk to the Council:** Allison James

**121** **Apologies for absence** – Cllrs Susan Jones, Brian Edy, Peter Morgan, Amanda Guard

**122** **Disclosures of Personal & Prejudicial Interests**

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

**123**  **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 6 December 2023

**124 Announcements of the Chair of Council**

No announcements.

**125 Public Question Time**

No questions.

**126 Record of Payments**

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

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| 80 |  | 30/11/2023 | | Steves Custom Print | | Xmas printing |  | 26 |
| 81 |  | 04/12/2023 | | HP instant ink | | December |  | 16.49 |
| 82 |  | 04/12/2023 | | Microsoft | | Microsoft annual licence |  | 79.99 |
| 83 |  | 05/12/2023 | | Amazon | | Xmas supplies |  | 187.58 |
| 84 |  | 15/12/2023 | | Nest | | Pension - November |  | 132.7 |
| 85 |  | 15/12/2023 | | Clerk | | Phone allowance Dec 23 |  | 38.99 |
| 86 |  | 18/12/2023 | | Yummy Bears | | Xmas sweets for grotto |  | 100 |
| 87 |  | 27/12/2023 | | Bay Landscapes Ltd | | October invoice |  | 243.5 |
| 88 |  | 27/12/2023 | | Bay Landscapes Ltd | | November and Xmas tree |  | 363.5 |
| 89 |  | 28/12/2023 | | Staff | | Salary |  | \*GDPR |
| 90 |  | 28/12/2023 | | St Johns Church | | Chair allowance - cancer charity |  | 500 |
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Balance of current account as at 28/12/23 £22,470.98

Balance of reserve account as at 28/12/23 £12,959.55

Forthcoming payments for authorisation

Bay Landscapes Ltd Grounds Maintenance £243.50

HMRC Tax \*GDPR

NEST Pension (approx. \*GDPR

HP Instank Ink Monthly Charge £ 16.49

Clerk Phone Allowance £ 38.99

Staff Salary \*GDPR

**Resolved that**:

1) The Payments & Receipts be noted.

2) The Clerk be authorised to pay the Payments Raised at the Meeting.

**127 Financial Reporting**

1. **Bank Accounts** - The Clerk stated that the Bank Accounts and Reconciliation information had been shared with all Councillors.
2. **Quarter 3 report** – the third quarter report was presented to council.

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

The third quarter report be noted as an accurate record and was proposed by Cllr B Small and seconded by Cllr Pat Evans.

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

**Correspondence for the month of December 2023**

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. No update.

Numerous emails from ICT vision who are designing the new website, giving updates. Arranging training for beginning of January 2024. Due to go live in January 2024.

An email from Llwchwr Town Council regarding Gowerton Treatment works.

Emails from Mr Dean Mason following the Xmas events. He has asked if we would like to take the lead on any Summer Fun and Xmas Markets. I replied that Community Council would be happy to support wherever possible but not lead as we do not have the resources. We shall continue with our usual arrangements ie. Santa carriage.

An email from Gorseinon Fire Station asking if anyone would like to attend an event on 10 January 2024.

Instagram – 402 posts and 558 followers.

**129. Planning Applications**

**Planning Applications for the month of December**

**Application No: 2023/2341/FUL**

Date Registered: 27.11.2023 Electoral Division: Gowerton - Area 2 Status: Being Considered Map Ref: 259558 195848 Development Type: Householder

Location: 106 Gorwydd Road, Gowerton, Swansea, SA4 3AW Proposal: Single storey rear extension, single storey side extension and front porch

Applicant: Mr Andrew Selby Agent:

**Application No: 2023/2513/FUL**

Date Registered: 06.12.2023 Electoral Division: Gowerton - Area 2 Status: Being Considered Map Ref: 257267 196418 Development Type: Householder

Location: 34 Cefn Stylle Road, Gowerton, Swansea, SA4 3QS Proposal: Rear two storey extension, with first floor rear balcony and side solar panels and installation Air Source Heat Pump to rear of detached outbuilding

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

**Application No: 2023/2588/PLD**

Date Registered: 13.12.2023 Electoral Division: Gowerton - Area 2 Status: Being Considered Map Ref: 259111 196274 Development Type: All Other Minor Dev Location: 94 Sterry Road, Gowerton, Swansea, SA4 3BW Proposal: Change of use of former offices to a two-bedroom flat above the existing hairdressers (application for a Certificate of Proposed Lawful Development)

Applicant: Mr Chris Davies Agent: Mr Thomas Gronow

**Application No: 2023/2648/FUL**

Date Registered: 20.12.2023 Electoral Division: Gowerton - Area 2 Status: Being Considered Map Ref: 258260 196710 Development Type: All Other Minor Dev Location: Land At Gowerton Primary School , Ffordd Beck Road, Gowerton , Swansea Proposal: Enhancement of existing footways and provide an Active Travel Shared Use Path in Gowerton to provide an additional walking and cycling route that connects to existing infrastructure, ultimately linking to the National Cycle Network route 4, and a safer route for children attending the school

Applicant: Mr Stuart Davies Agent: Mr Robbie Meredith

**130 Gowerton Ward Councillors Update**

**December 2023 Cllr Dai Jenkins Monthly Report**

**Save Gowerton from Gridlock** – Chaired a meeting on 11th December giving residents full updates and explaining we need to raise funds to critique additional Persimmon submissions.

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

**Flooding Bryn y Mor Road** –. Successful meeting with Swansea Council Highways officers and residents – extra work to be carried out on a drain in Shaws wood plus monthly inspections now on a schedule.

**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** – Attended Christmas Fayre at Llys Nini. Dog show to be arranged on a dry Saturday or Sunday morning before March 31st.

**George Manning Way-** Stop sign and speed surveyhighlighted slow progression and escalated.

**Path from Fairwood to Station Road** – Escalated again and asked if a complaint can be raised as its dragging on so long, no response to my email will try in January.

**Dropped Kerbs** – Working with Cllr Barbara Small, our head lead councillor on this and met on 1st December, and new dropped kerbs will appear in Church Street and Sterry Road.

Meetings.

1.12.23 -Meeting Sterry Road with Mike Jonhson and Cllr Barbara Small (access to all) .

4.12.23 - Scrutiny Training.

6.12.23 - Gowerton Community Council.

7.12.23 - Full Council Guild Hall.

8.12.23 - Gowerton Hive – Cheque presentations.

8.12.23 - Shaws wood meeting residents and Jack Davies (Flooding).

11.12.23 - Save Gowerton from Gridlock meeting Gowerton RFC.

12.12.23 - Service Improvement Scrutiny meeting.

12.12.23 - Gowerton Transport Hub meeting.

14.12.23 - Facilitated Sight Life Christmas quiz at Glyn Vivian.

14.12.23 – Cllr Babara Small at Rechabite Hall Christmas Decorations moving.

15.12.23 - Attended Gowerton Hive (Carol Concert by Ysgol Gyfun Gwyr).

16.12.23 - Attended residents Llys Elba Christmas Buffett and facilitated Christmas quiz with my wife Michelle.

17.12.23 - Crowd control and security Community Council Santa parade.

17.12.23 - Christmas quiz at Commercial.

21.12.23 - Observer Swansea City Cabinet meeting.

22.12.23 - The Sharing Table – Volunteered to delivered 5 food parcels to families needing a helping hand over the festive period.

 Supplemental

Making Gowerton Look Great Again

**(Fairwood Terrace)-** Storage area (looks like scrap yard), Chased and escalated looking for a way forward.

**Bypass Trip Hazard** – It took a long time, but the uneven shared cycle pathway caused by flooding November 2022 has now been smoothed over and made safe.

**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- - {On Going}

**Missing walk/cycle link Alder Way to Station Road** Unfortunately this is still dragging its feet, emailed again to escalate and highlighted to my superior officers.

**Ward Surgery** – Rechabite Hall 26 January 10am, all welcome.

**131 Review of Precept for 24/25**

Precept has not been raised from £33,869 in a number of years. Clerk presented figures showing that number of Band D equivalent properties has increased from 1966 to 2015 since last year. Therefore, precept can be raised to £34,698 without financial impact to residents.

Estimated budget for 24/25 is £36176 and any shortfall can be covered by reserve funds if necessary.

**Resolved:** that the increase be approved. Proposed by Cllr B Small, seconded by Cllr R Holt.

**132 Hazards near entrance to Drs Surgery**

Drs surgery entrance – during wet weather there is water pouring down outside. Also, gutters and drains are blocked and water is not running away causing hazard. Trip hazard with paving slabs.

**Resolved:** Clerk to write a letter to the Practice manager stating concerns and to request action is taken.

**133 Pelican/pedestrian crossing S106 Cefn Gorwydd Development**

Pelican Crossing downgraded to pedestrian crossing. S106 agreement by Pobl at Cefn Gorwydd Road development. What is happening with this?

**Resolved** – Clerk to write to highways and planning depts to ask what is happening and can it be co ordinated with the road surfacing.

**134 Christmas event review**

Possible date for Xmas event 2024 – 8th December.

It was agreed that the route worked well and encouraged residents into the centre of the village.

Let businesses know about the date in plenty of time and try to all work together with regard to markets, etc.

Send letter of thanks to Margaret Wheel for storing the decorations. Was decided that we can clear the shed we are paying rent for storage. Ask if we continue to pay £50 per year can we continue to store the decs at the Temple?

Clerk to find out who can take away and dispose of the old gazebo that is there.

Cllr Lyneth Howells would like to give her thanks for all that gave time to organize the Xmas grotto.

Update – Clerk has confirmed 8 December 2024 with Rowena Moyse to book horse and carriage again.

**135 New Website**

Going live on Friday 19th January 2024. Clerk and Chair to receive training from Vision ICT.

**136 Grounds maintenance**

Ground around the flagpole is uneven. Possibly look at a memorial near the flagpole. Awaiting a quote from Bay Landscapes Ltd.

Grass verge near Pharmacy. Resident has complained that grass is not being cut by Council.

**Resolved:** To be reported to Swansea Council.

**137 Letter from Llwchr Town Council re Gowerton Treatment works.**

Cllr Matthew Palmer, Chair said he would attend the meeting at Llwchr Town Council when the Goweton Treatment works would be discussed.

**138 Set date of next meeting.**

The date of the next Community Council meeting is 7.30pm Wednesday 7 February 2024

at Gowerton Conservative Club.

**Meeting closed at 9.05 pm**

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

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

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