GOWERTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

**CYNGOR CYMUNEDOL TREGŴYR**

**Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council**

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

**on Wednesday 7 February 2024**

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

**Councillors** Susan Jones, Amanda Guard, Barbara Small, June Merrells, Ros Holt, Pat Evans,

Dai Jenkins

Lynne Carey attended the meeting with a view to filling the vacant post of Councillor.

**Clerk to the Council:** Allison James

**139** **Apologies for absence** – Cllrs Brian Edy, Peter Morgan, Lyneth Howells, Gareth Evans.

**140** **Disclosures of Personal & Prejudicial Interests**

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

**141**  **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 3 January 2024

**142 Announcements of the Chair of Council**

Community Council would like to offer condolences to the family of Steve Holmes on the news of his tragic passing. Mr Holmes undertook all the Councils printing requirements and provided an excellent service.

Cllrs Matt Palmer and Ros Holt attended the AGM of Friends of Gowerton Woodland and Open Spaces on Tuesday 30 January 2024.

**143 Public Question Time**

No questions.

**144 Record of Payments**

The record of payments for January 2024 and forthcoming payments for January were presented to Council.

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| 91 |  | 29/12/2023 | Swansea Council | Precept |  | -11289.66 |  | Receipt |
| 92 |  | 02/01/2024 | HP Instant Ink | January |  | 16.49 |  | GA |
| 93 |  | 02/01/2024 | IONOS Cloud | Web hosting |  | 54 |  | SAF |
| 94 |  | 02/01/2024 | Staff | Office Allowance Qtr 3 |  | GDPR |  | CE |
| 95 |  | 03/01/2024 | HMRC | November |  | 480.92 |  | HMRC |
| 96 |  | 03/01/2024 | HMRC | October Tax |  | 261.42 |  | HMRC |
| 97 |  | 08/01/2024 | Rowena Moyse | Balance for carriage |  | 250 |  | E |
| 98 |  | 10/01/2024 | Lyneth Howells | Xmas supplies reimbursement |  | 14.42 |  | E |
| 99 |  | 15/01/2024 | Staff | Phone Allowance |  | GDPR |  | CE |
| 100 |  | 18/01/2024 | NEST | Pension |  | GDPR |  | P |
| 101 |  | 25/01/2024 | Staff | Salary |  | GDPR |  | S |
| 102 |  | 29/01/2024 | Bay Landscapes Ltd | December invoice |  | 243.5 |  | GM |
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Balance of current account as at 29/1/24 £31150.34

Balance of reserve account as at 29/1/24 £12,959.55

Forthcoming payments for authorisation

Bay Landscapes Ltd Grounds Maintenance £243.50

HMRC Tax £261.00 approx

NEST Pension (approx. £ GDPR

HP Instank Ink Monthly Charge £ 16.49

Clerk Phone Allowance £ GDPR

Staff Salary £GDPR

Vision ICT Balance owed for web design £150

Remuneration 3 x Councillors @ £156 each £468

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**Resolved that**:

1) The Payments & Receipts be noted.

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

**145 Financial Reporting**

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

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

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

**Correspondence for the month of January 2024**

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.

Update – SSE have asked for further information regarding the lights on unmetered supply which I have sent on to Bowen Hopkins in the hope they can give me the information to send back to SSE.

Emails from Mr Dean Mason following the Xmas events. It was agreed for Mr Mason 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. Update – I received an email from Mr Mason giving information on applying for a grant to help fund Summer Fun events. As we had agreed in the January meeting not to take the lead on any events, I replied to say we could not apply for a grant as we were not going to lead any events. It would not be within grant regulations to apply for funding, then hand the money over for someone else to organise the events. Mr Mason was unable to apply for a grant on behalf of the Athletic Club due to being in hospital and the short deadline date. This can be looked at next year perhaps.

Reply from Lucy Kelly, Swansea Council regarding the pelican crossing at the Cefn Gorwydd site. *Further to my email below, please note that the highways contribution was reduced to £20,000 for the toucan crossing opposite 60/62 Gorwydd Road.  The Developer have paid the Council. I have asked the Highways officer to advise on the timescales for implementation. As soon as I hear, I will let you know*

I received an email from a resident asking for advice on where she could sent a request for speed calming measures on Bryn y mor Road. I sent her email to Alan Ferris at Swansea Council who replied to her and gave her details of how to contact Go Safe to put in her request.

Instagram – 403 posts and 554 followers.

**147. Planning Matters**

A local resident emailed the following questions:

1) Gorwydd Rd traffic - if a survey is to be undertaken after the resurfacing is completed whether the speed bumps will be reinstated, could Gorwydd Rd, from the junction at the Commercial Hotel to Bishwell Park, have some speed signs or better still, the speed indicators that actually show the speed you are travelling?! The only speed sign present currently on Gorwydd Rd is on the bypass road before overflow Carpark and before the traffic lights by the Commercial Hotel. As it’s a straight road, I do not believe road users are aware it continues up Gorwydd Road. I do agree that they should ‘know’ but as there is a 30mph sign painted into the tarmac by the new bus stop (junction behind the carpet shop), which is on the same road, it is confusing for motorists.

2) The Pobl works on former Cefn Gorwydd colliery site - it has been agreed that works should not commence before 8am. This is not the case and are starting from 7.30am some days.

3) Pelican crossing - why is the proposed location not directly opposite the location of the pedestrian walkway or nearer the bus stop?! The current location will affect the nearby residents, of which I am one, so could all residents affected by this be informed of agreed location and how it will affect them. Is there a possibility it could be moved further down closer to the bus stop and the access lane to the Comprehensive school. This makes more sense.

**Resolved:**

1. It was agreed to refer the resident to Go Safe Partnership to express her concerns. Clerk to contact Swansea Council regarding a SID signal.
2. Clerk to write to Morganstone and Pobl to put in a complaint.
3. Clerk to contact Swansea Council Highways Dept to find out exactly where the pelican crossing is proposed to be located.

**148 Gowerton Ward Councillors Update**

**Cllr Dai Jenkins Monthly Report**

January 2024 Cllr Dai Jenkins Monthly Report

**Save Gowerton from Gridlock** – The persimmon proposed development off Fairwood Terrace continues to drag its feet with the latest email off Swansea City planning department stating that it may not even reach planning committee until August 2024. A group of volunteers are dealing via watts group and continue to meet and discuss this outline planning. At least monthly at Gowerton RFC.

**Gorwydd Road** – I promised re-surfacing to start between the Launderette and Cedar Close, before 1st April 2024. Well it actually started on January 29th, Weather permitting it will be completed before end of the month .

**Speed Cushions** – These ‘cushions’ went down in April 2022, a month before I was elected in May 2022 – I knew absolutely nothing about them and was as shocked as anyone to see them appear. I have been campaigning since the very day I was elected to have these at least moved to alternative positions as some where too far apart, and others you couldn’t drive over properly without hurting your back, with many residents contacting me with conditions like arthritis pleading for their removal. Luckily, I was successful in lobbying for a new surface in Cecil Road and now Gorwydd Road. If the ‘cushions’ return it will be for proven safety reasons as motorist will be speeding. However, if they do return I will work with all stakeholders to ensure they are placed in correct positions. If we all just stick to 20mph they shall not return.

**Gowerton Park Road Park** – Fresh up to date quotes are now in the pipeline to bid for any additional grants that appear before April 1st 2024

**Gowerton’s Dog show** – Spoke with Llys Nini. Gowerton Dog show 2023 to be re-arranged on Sunday April 7th or 14th watch this space.

**George Manning Way-** Stop sign and speed surveyhighlighted slow progression and escalated, asking for a commitment to deal and engage by 1st April 2024.

**Path from Fairwood to Station Road** – Escalated to leader of Swansea City Council Rob Stewart.

**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.

**Gowerton and Gwyr –** Teenagers “voice and visions” had two great meetings with teenagers of the Welsh and English comprehensives. Will take their views on board and meet a number of times a year so their voices can be heard, and their visions championed.

Meetings.

3.1.24 – Gowerton Community Council.

9.1.24 – One to one meeting Council leader Rob Stewart.

10.1.24 –Presentation of flood management Gorseinon Fire Station.

12.1.24 – Gowerton Comprehensive Teenagers Visions & Voices.

12.1.24 – Summit Good Dunvant (discussed expansion into Gowerton)

12.1.24 – Gambling awareness meeting.

19.1.24 - Gwyr Comprehensive Teenagers Visions & Voices.

23.1.24 – Scrutiny Training and seminar Guild Hall.

25.1.24 – Full Councill at Guild Hall.

30.1.24 – Swansea replacement LDP meeting.

Supplemental

Making Gowerton Look Great Again

**(Fairwood Terrace)-** Storage area (looks like scrap yard), Chased and escalated looking for a way forward. Escalated for a reply before March 1st 2024.

**Gowerton Library** – Volunteers from BT Group (where I work) organised by Local Area Co-ordinator Donna Kendal in conjunction with Waunarlwydd resident and EE Manager Sean Keirnan and his team did a sterling job with fourteen bags of brambles and weeds – Thank you Donna and Sean( & Team of EE Guides) for making our village look great again.

**Cleansing Team -** Reported Woodview, Willowbank, Gower Rise & Bishwel.

**Coming Up.**

**New Road Surface Gorwydd Road** – It’s been started 29th January.

**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. Lyneth in India on-going.

**Smart Bench** – Met pupils from Gowerton Comprehensive and Gwyr on Friday 12th and 19th January. Our teenagers want bench in Park Road Park or down the Elba. One area will win but I will do everything in my power if the bench is a successful to place one in both areas, that’s my commitment to the young people of our village.

**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. (Escalated both as one outstanding since February 2023 and other since August 2023) delayed in fairness caused by implementation of 20mph signage.

**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. in process of re-quoting for works in hope of new announced grants before end of financial year April 1st 2024. {On Going}

**Missing walk/cycle link on B4295.**  Working with fellow Gowerton Councillor Susan Jones and Penclawdd Councillor Andrew Williams plus missing link action group- Meetings have been held and there is one 1st February at 10am, this is looking extremely positive, and we all have our fingers crossed so active travel grants can be forthcoming have a safe shared walking and cycle trach between Gowerton and Penclawdd.

**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. Its now with Council leader Rob Stewart to try and move the project along.

**Staying safe online** – Rechabite Hall 7.45pm Tuesday 20th February – Presentation to the community by BT Group (EE) to ensure you remain safe whilst using the internet (Full details will be advertised on social media before event).

**Ward Surgery** – Rechabite Hall Saturday 24 February 10am, all welcome.

**Cllr Susan Jones Monthly Report**

Can I wish the residents a healthy, happy 2024.

I have attended many Scrutiny Meetings over January and undertaken training to ensure that the process is the best it can be by asking relevant questions, and ensuring knowledge of subjects has been enhanced.

I have made a visit to the Fire Station in Gorseinon and watched a demonstration of the equipment available to them to ensure safety of our area.  With the flooding of many areas around Gorseinon/Gowerton this is an essential emergency service.  Gowerton Primary School are hoping to arrange a visit of the Fire Department to the school for the children to be aware of water safety.

A visit arranged by Donna our Local Area Coordinator, to Summit Good in Dunvant was very interesting with the provision of a Woman's Shed available for Gowerton ladies. The possibility of provision in Gowerton was discussed.

The Hive in Gowerton Rugby Club on a Friday morning is going from strength to strength thanks to June Merrells and her team.  It was with pleasure that myself and Councillor Jenkins were involved with the presentation of cheques to help with funding of this project.

I have updated my training for Safeguarding and would like to emphasize that Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.

Two members of the local Art Class. Have had their work displayed in the Glyn Vivian Art Gallery Exhibition and I congratulate them both.  The class is held in St.John's Church Hall on a Tuesday morning and always welcome new members.

There was a Holocaust Memorial Day held at the Swansea Com Stadium which I attended.  This encourages all to remember the persecutions of many, many groups throughout the World.  Including recent events in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur.  Many Schools were involved in singing, poetry reading etc. all items were very moving and emotional.

There are several anti-social incidents which have occurred around the village and the Police are involved to try and address this. There are a small group of youths that are giving concern.

I have contacted the Coop regarding the lack of lighting in the Carpark, there is a duty of care for the village residents and to the staff to ensure their safety.  I am awaiting a reply from the Coop.

The Cleansing Department have worked around the Mount Pleasant area of Gowerton cleaning and litter picking around the paths.  Unfortunately, the good work is soon replaced by more litter, please can I appeal to all to take your litter home.

It is good to see the partial resurfacing of Gorwydd Road, the area around the new estate off Gorwydd Road will be completed when the estate is finished.  Hopefully, this will not be too long a wait.

We still await information on the missing Defibrillator at the bottom of the Bishwell.  If anyone has information, they can contact the Clerk to Community Council.

I have tried to ensure all the businesses are aware of the Levelling Up Grants available for them to access.  If any businesses that are not aware and need any information, please contact me.

Spent time with Primary School Parliament listening to their ideas and suggestions to be implemented in School.  These ideas will be discussed, and the children will have involvement and feedback from the Headteacher and the Staff.  It was great to hear their good ideas, well done to all that were involved.

There have also been many individuals who I have tried to help with their concerns and wishes.

**149 Adopt updated Equal Opportunities policy. Last policy was adopted in in 2002**

**Resolved:** All present agreed that the updated policy should be adopted.

**150. Pelican Crossing by Pobl update.**

**Ongoing** – Swansea Council replied to the email sent to say they would keep us updated on progress.

**151 Christmas event 2024 – date of 8 December confirmed available by Rowena Moyse for carriage.**

**Ongoing –** Date has been confirmed. It has been confirmed by The Temple Church that we are able to store out xmas decorations there and continue to pay £50 per annum rent. Clerk to arrange for gazebo to be taken out of the shed and scrapped.

**152 Update on new website – it is now live. New email address is up and running.**

**Noted –** Clerk and Chairman have received training for the website.

**153 Grounds maintenance – Bay Landscapes Ltd are taking over maintenance for notice board area from March.**

Conifer trees to be pulled up.

Resolved – Contact BT Volunteers to pull up the trees.

Clerk to chase up Bay landscapes regarding the bit of grass around the flag pole to put hardstanding or gravel area there.

Clerk to contact John Hopkins from Swansea Council to see if the notice board can be lowered.

**154 Set date of next meeting.**

The date of the next Community Council meeting is 7.30pm Wednesday 6 March 2024

at Gowerton Conservative Club.

**Meeting closed at 20.35 pm**

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

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