GOWERTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

**CYNGOR CYMUNEDOL TREGŴYR**

**Minutes of the AGM of Council 2023**

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

**on Wednesday 3 May 2024**

**PRESENT**:  **Chair**: Matthew Palmer

**Councillors** Susan Jones, Dai Jenkins, Peter Morgan, Amanda Guard, Barbara Small, Lyneth Howells, June Merrells

**Clerk to the Council:** Allison James.

Following the uncontested election, Mr Wayne Erasmus signed a Declaration of Office to join Community Council.

**1.** **Apologies for absence** – Ros Holt, Gareth Evans, Pat Evans, Lynne Carey

**2 To receive the report of the retiring Chairperson.**

Cllr Matt Palmer said how much he had enjoyed his time as Chairperson in 23-24 and thanked all those who had helped in community events during the year. Cllr Palmer wanted to highlight the work of Cllr June Merrells and those connected with HIVE in Gowerton RFC. Cllr Palmer ended by thanking fellow councillors for their time, help and commitment to Community Council this year.

**3. Election of Chair of Council**

Cllr Small proposed Cllr Matthew Palmer to be elected as Chair of Council for the Municipal Year 2024-25. This was seconded by Cllr Susan Jones.

**4** **Election of Vice-Chair of Council**

Cllr Sue Jones proposed Cllr June Merrells to be elected as Vice-Chair of Council for the Municipal Year 2024-25. This was seconded by Cllr Amanda Guard.

**5.** **Disclosures of Personal & Prejudicial Interests**

In accordance with the Code of Conduct adopted by Gowerton Community Council, interests to be declared as they arrive.

**6.** **Public meetings.** None

**7. To receive any Public Representations** None

**8**. **To consider the Minutes of the Last Meeting**

**Resolved** that the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on the following date be approved and signed as a correct record.

(i) 3 April 2024

**Resolved that**:

1) The Payments & Receipts be noted.

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

**9. To set the amount of Chairperson’s allowance in pursuit of S34(5) Local Government Act 1972.**

It was unanimously agreed to set the Chairperson allowance at £500.

**10. To appoint representatives to serve on the following bodies:**

a) One Voice Wales Area Committee (2 Members)

**The chair and the clerk should attend this meeting.**

b) CCS/Community Council Forum (2 Members)

**Chair and Vice Chair**

c) Area 2 Development Control Committee sites visits (1Member)

**Peter Morgan**

d). Planning Committee (to be implemented only when timescale does not allow before next meeting within consultation period).

(3 Members)

**To be via email or an extra ordinary meeting as and when required.**

e) Rechabite Community Hall Management Committee (1 Member)

**Gareth Evans**

f) Governing Body – Gowerton Primary (1 Member)

**Ros Holt and Lyneth Howells both expressed an interest in this. It was put to a vote. Lyneth Howells received the majority of votes. Cllr Peter Morgan and Cllr Wayne Erasmas abstained from voting.**

g) Link person – Adopt a station scheme (1 Member)

**Ros Holt**

**10b To review working practices for 24-25. Review Standing Orders.**

**Resolved** – reviewed and no changes needed.

**11. To receive any announcements from the incoming Chairperson.**

Cllr Matt Palmer thanked everyone present for voting him in again this year.

**12. Record of Payments/Finance.**

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

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| **Order Number** | **Minute number** | **Date** | **Creditor** | **Subject** | **Net** | **VAT** | **Total** | | |  | | **Budget Code** | **Reconciliation** | | |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | |  | |  | **opening bal 31/3/24** | | | **25628.39** |
|  |  |  | Uncleared payment from 23/24 | |  |  | 5250 | | |  | |  |  | | |  |
| 1 |  | 02/04/2024 | HP Instant Ink | April Ink | 15.41 | 3.08 | 18.49 | | |  | | GA |  | | |  |
| 2 |  | 08/04/2024 | Temple Church | Shed rent | 50 | 0 | 50 | | |  | | SAF |  | | |  |
| 3 |  | 11/04/2024 | Clerk | Phone allowance | 38.99 | 0 | 38.99 | | |  | | CE |  | | |  |
| 4 |  | 23/04/2024 | Clerk | Stationery, mouse. | 14.15 | 0 | 14.15 | | |  | | GA |  | | |  |
| 5 |  | 23/04/2024 | Clerk | Stationery | 4.48 | 0 | 4.48 | | |  | | GA |  | | |  |
| 6 |  | 24/04/2024 | Amazon | Items for audit file | 16.5 | 0 | 16.5 | | |  | | GA |  | | |  |
| 7 |  | 25/04/2024 | Staff | Salary - April | GDPR | 0 | GDPR | | |  | | S |  | | |  |
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|  |  |  |  | **Total for April** |  |  | **6344.67** | | |  | |  | **Balance as at 25/4/24** | | | **19283.72** |
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|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | |  | |  | **Reserves bal @ 25/4/24** | | | **13067.09** |
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**Forthcoming payments for authorisation during the month of May 24**

Bay Landscapes Ltd Grounds Maintenance £291.50

HMRC Tax £261.00 approx

NEST Pension (approx. £ GDPR

HP Instank Ink Monthly Charge £ 18.49

Clerk Phone Allowance £ 38.99

Staff Salary £GDPR

Zurich Insurance £453

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**Resolved that**:

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**13. Correspondence**

**Correspondence for the month of April 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.

Update – Chris from Bowen Hopkins has given the information and it has been sent on as requested.

Update – An email from the debt collection agency saying SSE have not received any information. I replied saying I find this hard to believe as we have responded to all emails promptly with information as requested. I now have a name to email directly in SSE and I shall forward on all emails that have been sent to the email address I have been given.

Update – more information is required by SSE

A phone call from a local resident saying there is a problem with rubbish and rats on Woodlands by the flats.

An email from a local resident asking when the tree protectors will be removed from the Culvert on Bryn y mor Road. I contacted Swansea Council and have been reassured that these will be removed at the next inspection of the Culvert by the maintenance team.

Email from Alan Ferris in response to my query – see agenda item.

Instagram – 412 posts and 560 followers.

**14. . Planning Applications & Planning Matters**

**Application No: 2024/0581/FUL Date Registered: 10.04.2024**

Electoral Division: Gowerton - Area 2

Status: Being Considered Map Ref: 257009 196486 Development Type: All Other Minor Dev Location: Llwynmawr Farm, Penclawdd Road, Penclawdd, Swansea, SA4 3RB

Proposal: Retrospective permission to retain equestrian training arena

Applicant: Miss Rowena Moyse Agent: Mr Wayne Reynold

Gowerton Community Council do not object to this planning application.

Cllr P Morgan declared an interest as he deals with this business on a personal basis. Also to be noted that GCC use the services of this business at the annual Xmas event.

**15. To receive the report of the Ward Member(s).**

Reports were given by Cllr Susan Jones and Cllr Dai Jenkins saying what they had been involved with during the month of April.

**16 Grounds maintenance – hard standing at the flag pole update.**

Further to the quotation received from Bay Landscapes Ltd, Clerk to ask for quote for concrete or flagstones for a T shaped path.

Cllr Susan Jones requested that we purchase a new welsh flag for the flag pole. This was agreed.

**17 Highways – update on junction by Commerical and Sterry Road.**

Letter from Alan Ferris, Swanse Council received saying the junction is to be assessed with a camera. Dropped kerb not viable.

Clerk to write to Swansea council – Rob Stewart, Andrew Stevens cabinet member, head of highways Stuart Davies about the pot holes near traffic lights. Ask when is this likely to be repaired? Where is Gowerton on the list? We have waited a number of months despite a ward member being told it is on the list.

**18 Letter from Gowerton Twinning Association and request for funding to be discussed.**

We do not have money in the budget for S137 requests. There is not another power in legislation that would cover this request. How many people in the community would it benefit?

Any applications for funding has to incorporate the widest possible social inclusion and unfortunately this group was felt that it does not meet this criteria.

Cllrs Sue Jones, Dai Jenkins and Lyneth Howells abstained from voting. All others present voted no funding to be granted.

**19 Risk Assessment for 2024 to be approved.**

Amended as necessary and approved.

**20 Set date for next meeting.**

5 June 2024.

Meeting closed at 21:16

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