GOWERTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

**CYNGOR CYMUNEDOL TREGŴYR**

**Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council**

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

 **on Wednesday 5 June 2024**

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

**Councillors**, June Merrells, Ros Holt, Pat Evans,

, Lyneth Howells, Dai Jenkins, Amanda Guard, Barbara Small, Wayne Erasmus

**Clerk to the Council:** Allison James

**21 Apologies for absence** –. Peter Morgan, Gareth Evans, Lynne Carey. Susan Jones

**22** **Disclosures of Personal & Prejudicial Interests**

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

**23**  **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 May 2024

**24 Announcements of the Chair of Council**

Chair had no announcements to make.

**25 Public Question Time**

No questions.

**26 Record of Payments**

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

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|  |  | 30/04/2024 | CCOS | Precept payment | -11566 | 0 | -11566 |  | Receipt |  |  |
| 8 |  | 03/05/2024 | HP Instant Ink | May ink | 15.41 | 3.08 | 18.49 |  | GA |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 9 |  | 03/05/2024 | Nest | Pension | 103.66 | 0 | GDPR |  | CE |  |  |
| 10 |  | 10/05/2024 | V Davies | Chq no 202651 Grounds maint | 160.69 | 0 | 160.69 |  | GM |  |  |
| 11 |  | 13/05/2024 | HMRC | Tax/NI | 285.15 | 0 | GDPR |  | HMRC |  |  |
| 12 |  | 13/05/2024 | Bay Landscapes Ltd | Grounds maintenance April | 242.92 | 48.58 | 291.5 |  | GM |  |  |
| 13 |  | 15/05/2024 | Clerk | Phone allowance | 38.99 | 0 | 38.99 |  | CE |  |  |
| 14 |  | 24/05/2024 | HMRC | balance payment | 1.26 | 0 | 1.26 |  | HMRC |  |  |
| 15 |  | 24/05/2024 | Staff  | Salary - May | 951.86 | 0 | GDPR |  | S |  |  |
| 16 |  | 28/05/2024 | Amazon | Flag | 5.89 | 0 | 5.89 |  | E |  |  |
|  |  | 29/05/2024 | VAT return 23/24 | HMRC | -2593.34 | 0 | -2593.34 |  | HMRC |  |  |
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|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | **Balance as at 30/5/24** | **31585.57** |
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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.

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

Correspondence for the month of May 2024

Usual emails from OVW giving details of training courses and other information.

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 – SSE have asked for more information which will be sent on.

Emails from Mr Dean Mason giving updates and a summary of summer fun 2024

An email from Paul Rees asking if we have any green space that could be used for men’s mental health meetings. To be discussed as an agenda item.

Instagram – 414 posts and 573 followers.

**28. Planning Matters**

No planning applications were received during the month of May

**29 Gowerton Ward Councillors Update**

MAY 2024 Cllr Dai Jenkins Monthly Report

Save Gowerton from Gridlock –Myself, Cllr. Jones and the sub-committee are ready with the current information available and will be investigating any further information when it arrives from Persimmon and Highways. It’s looking like August at the earliest with the general election taking place in July.

Gorwydd Road and Cefn Stylle –Skimmers on the road surface at the lights by Commercial and carpet shop which were too large for pot-hole replacement tarmac and needed a jet patcher, I was successful in my lobbying to resolve these issues and we now have a smooth surface.

Gowerton Park Road Park and ELBA– My bids and quotes have been submitted for extra equipment in both areas, will release details when successful.

George Manning Way- Stop sign hopefully this will be in place before end summer 2024.

 George Manning Way Speed survey - ongoing awaiting calls backs.

Fairwood Terrace – Yellow lines on some road corners chased and should be painted in Summer 2024.

Path from Fairwood to Station Road – Escalated as high as possible to leader of Swansea Council and Cabinet level. The good news is the original contractor has been replaced with a new contractor and it’s hoped that the missing track will be in place before the end of summer 2024.

Mobility access – Walked parts of Gowerton with resident with disability and liaising with Cabinet Member on aspects of routes.

116 New Route – Chased up as to when the bus will eventually go down Mill Street and up the by-pass- awaiting firm commencement date, will keep lobbying for date.

PUP – Pick up Poop campaign launched in Gowerton for residents to report to me any dog poo now picked up so I can report and keep a record, posters placed around the village to support campaign. on-going campaign.

BACK TO 20 – Campaign launched asking Gowerton Residents which streets they wish to remain at 20MPH or which, in their opinion, need to revert to 30mph. Liaising with highways, awaiting Welsh Government guidance on process due July or August, on-going campaign.

Supplemental

Making Gowerton Look Great & Safe Again

 Fairwood Terrace – Liaising with senior planning officers with a view of possible issue of a section 215 latest update 21st May is, still working on a solution(on-going).

Fairwood Terrace & Lliw Valley Close-Parking issues – Chased yellow lines, reported to Council and monitoring, and chasing parking attendant – on going issue.

Health and Safety –   Reported slip and trip hazards lane between Talbot Green and Mount Pleasant.

Cleansing Team – Great work in ward at Mount Pleasant and George Manning Way.

Old Signs – Chased again and I have seen that the streets are on the list, awaiting firm dates so new signs will hopefully be in situ before end of the summer 2024.

Gowerton Glitterati –I am working closely with Gowerton Glitterati as the ward councillor and additionally am an advisor to the team.

Gowerton Summerfun – I attended as a ‘helper’ of this team, who are now also a voluntary group within Gowerton ward, with my assistance mostly confined to stewarding and security. Attended both May bank holidays events on the Sundays, very enjoyable mid-morning and afternoon event enjoyed by all the community.

Dangerous Driving and Parking Talbot Green – Liaising with appropriate authorities to resolve this issue, meetings arranged for June 2024.

Pavement Obstruction – Liaised with contractors in Gorwydd Road.

Illegal Swing – Many broken bones caused by a perilous swing in woods, arranged for removal of swing begore a major accident occurred.

Miscellaneous – Parking, planning, boundary fence issues, one to one meetings, bus issues, mobility access in Gowerton.

MEETINGS

1.5.24 Summer Fun meeting.

1.5.24 Community Council meeting.

7.5.24 All day course on safeguarding level 2.

8.5.24 Growing in the community forum.

10.5.24 Gowerton Glitterati meeting.

12.5.24 Supporting art in the community Nomads.

13.5.24 Growing in the community scrutiny meeting.

16.5.24 Full annual county council meeting at Guildhall.

20.5.24 Rechabite Hall management committee meeting.

22.5.24 site visit to discuss illegal parking on pavement Gorwydd Road.

25.5.24 Ward surgery at Rechabite Hall.

30.5.24 On-line bid workshop development budget forum.

Coming Up.

 New Road Surface Gorwydd Road opposite Pobl Development – Funding was secured for a road enhancement at this site, with Pobl and Morganstone still responsible for any future road issues if the road is damaged between now and end of phase two.

Enhancing Safety in Gorwydd Road– Looking for smarter way to enhance safer parking whilst looking aesthetically pleasing. Neil to speak with Alan and is confident that it will be in place before September 2024.

Openreach Opportunities – Working with Community Councillor Lyneth and Openreach on painting project- paintings are being worked on and Lyneth has identified two boxes as a start to paint. Unfortunately, Openreach have closed applications at the moment, I will monitor.

Motley Mount – Cllr Jones and I are working with active travel to enhance the green area outside Motley Pies, with sculptures, picnic bench, and bike stands, plus a reference sign highlighting that Gowerton South Railway station was in that vicinity   Hope to be in place by October 2024.

Smart Bench – Smart Bench is evolving and may well be a covered small seating meeting area, when that’s installed, I will be looking at securing a wi-fi charging station, (ongoing.)

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.

Extra Large Play Equipment – Looking to spruce up current park with equipment and lobbying for funding to enhance play equipment in Park Road Park I have placed a bid and have meetings to discuss in June 2024.

Missing walk/cycle link on B4295.  Working with fellow Gowerton Councillor Susan Jones and Penclawdd Councillor Andrew Williams plus missing link action group. Meetings on 1st February it has been agreed that the route it will take is alongside the pavement, taking the old railway line route where possible. A survey, costings and report will now be produced and then passed for funding. Thiis process is going to take a good two years to implement, but we will appraise you all whenever there is an update. (ongoing)

Walking and or cycle path -     New walking path behind pobl development Gorwydd Road{on-going}

Ward

Surgery –    No surgery planned for June 2024, please email cllr.dai.jenkins@swansea.gov.uk for any issues, or drop me a direct message on Gowerton Guardians on Facebook.

**Report from Cllr Susan Jones**

  This month has seen two Bank holidays and two markets at the Commercial and Nomads.  The weather on the 26th was not so kind and the attendance was a little lower.  The free activities for children which included Animal Magic and Silk painting were enjoyed by all who attended.  The organisation meetings prior to the Markets was taken on by a small team with the appointment of Community Councillor Ros Holt as Treasurer.

           The resurfacing of Gorwydd Rd has received many positive comments and the constant contact with the Highway Department has achieved the outcome.  It is also good to see the horrendous pothole at the junction of Sterry Rd and Gorwydd Rd has been addressed. It is now a pleasure to drive on this area.

            The advert for a new Caretaker for the Primary School is now being advertised.  Hopefully the post will be filled as soon as possible.  Congratulations to the Primary School on their success in the Welsh Heritage Project of Cynefyn.  The Local History Group were involved with giving information on local buildings to the children at the School.  QR codes are around the village for people to access the information which has been recorded by the young people.

              I would like to wish the Rev. Alex Pye a long, happy and healthy retirement and thank him for his service to Gowerton.  During the Pandemic he worked to ensure that many vulnerable people received help and guidance.  Alex introduced the Remembrance Service near the Flag pole ensuring that the service was very visible to all. On a personal level I would like to thank him for his friendship, support and guidance.

             I would like to ask for patience with the refuge collection service who are experiencing staffing issues and delays are being experienced by all areas of Swansea.  The Authority are trying their best to remedy this situation.

              I have dealt with a number of individual issues for people and held my monthly surgery in Gowerton Library on Saturday the 1st of June.

**30 Grounds Maintenance.**

Mrs Viv Davies would like to volunteer to extend wooden area for compost and bedding plants.

All present are happy for Mrs Davies to maintain the land near the notice board. £175 limit agreed for plants etc.

Update – Mrs Davies has done a fantastic job of tidying up the area near the notice board and planting flowers. We would like to thank Mrs Davies for her work and making the village a brighter place to live.

Cllr Pat Evans said that she has been asked by local residents about the outside toilet facilities at the Elba Playing Fields near the park. The facilities are always locked up.

It was agreed that the Clerk should contact Freedom Leisure to ask about opening times.

Cllr Evans has also been asked for a contact name and number for the Boules pitch and as to whether there is a team?

Clerk to contact Freedom Leisure to ask for information or possibly Cllr Susan Jones might have the details?

Clerk to chase up quote from Bay Landscapes re the flag pole area.

**31 Request from Paul Rees for a green space for men to promote mental health**

**awareness.**

It was resolved that Gowerton CC do not own any land but a local resident has obtained permission from Swansea Council to use some land near the Park on Mount Pleasant and is looking for volunteers. Clerk to email Mr Rees with the information and contact details of resident if required.

**32 Approve and sign AGAR for 23/24**

AGAR has been returned from internal audit. Records were inspected by all present and signed as a correct

record by the Chairman. Clerk to post notice of inspection on Website and send accounts to Audit Wales.

**33 Set date of next meeting.**

The date of the next Community Council meeting which will be the AGM is 7.30pm Wednesday 3 July 2024 at The Commercial in Gowerton (TBC).

Cllr Erasmus has requested that the subject of proposed change of boundaries to be put on next month’s agenda.

Cllr Lyneth Howells has request that the traffic lights at the junction of Sterry Road/Gorwydd Road be put on next month’s agenda as she has received more complaints from residents.

**Meeting closed at 20.21**

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

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

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