GOWERTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

**CYNGOR CYMUNEDOL TREGŴYR**

**Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council**

 **Held at The Con Club at 7.30pm**

 **on Wednesday 2 October 2024**

**PRESENT**:

**Councillors**, **Chair** Matt Palmer, Amanda Guard, Dai Jenkins, June Merrells,

Pat Evans, Lyneth Howells, Susan Jones, Gareth Evans, Barbara Small, Wayne Erasmus,

 Lynne Carey, Ros Holt

**Clerk to the Council:** Allison James

**65 Apologies for absence** – none received.

**66** **Disclosures of Personal & Prejudicial Interests**

In accordance with the Code of Conduct adopted by Gowerton Community Council, interests were declared by Cllr Dai Jenkins in regard to the planning application for 12 Alderway, Gowerton.

**67** **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 4 September 2024

**68 Announcements of the Chair of Council**

Peter Morgan has resigned as Community Councillor. I would like it to be noted on record our thanks to him for his time with Community Council. Peter was a very constructive member of the council and was excellent at drafting letters etc. We wish him and his family well for the future.

Fairwood Terrace – thank you to the residents who have taken an active part in fighting the planning application and congratulations on the result so far.

**69 Public Question Time**

No public questions.

**70 Record of Payments/Qtr 2 Budget**

The record of payments for September 2024 were presented to Council.

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|  |  | 30/08/2024 | Swansea Council | Precept | -11566 | 0 | -11566 |
| 42 |  | 02/09/2024 | HP Instant Ink | September ink | 15.41 | 3.08 | 18.49 |
| 43 |  | 10/09/2024 | Mrs V Davies | Cheque - flowers | 28.5 | 0 | 28.5 |
| 44 |  | 16/09/2024 | Clerk | Phone allowance Sept | 38.99 | 0 | 38.99 |
| 45 |  | 17/09/2024 | Nest | Pension August  | 103.66 | 0 | 103.66 |
| 46 |  | 17/09/2024 | Audit Wales | 19-20 fees | 200 | 0 | 200 |
| 47 |  | 17/09/2024 | Audit Wales | 21-22 fees | 200 | 0 | 200 |
| 48 |  | 25/09/2024 | Clerk | Salary - Sept | 952.06 | 0 | 952.06 |
| 49 |  | 25/09/2024 | Audit Wales | 2022-23 audit fees | 637.50 | 0 | 637.50 |
| 50 |  | 25/09/2024 | Bay Landscapes Ltd | Grounds maintenance - July | 202.92 | 40.58 | 243.5 |
| 51 |  | 25/09/2024 | Bay Landscapes Ltd | Grounds maintenance - Aug | 202.92 | 40.58 | 243.5 |
| 52 |  | 25/09/2024 | Bay Landscapes Ltd | Grounds maintenance - Sept | 202.92 | 40.58 | 243.5 |
| 53 |  | 25/09/2024 | Clerk | Office allowance Qtr 2 | 200 | 0 | 200 |
| 54 |  | 26/09/2024 | HMRC | 6/7/24 - 5/8/24 | 278.37 | 0 | 278.37 |
| 55 |  | 26/09/2024 | HMRC | 6/8/24 - 5/9/24 | 279.01 | 0 | 279.01 |
| 56 |  | 26/09/2024 | Nest  | Pension September | 103.66 | 0 | 103.66 |
| 57 |  | 26/09/2024 | OVW | Training - A Guard inv 8380 | 40 | 0 | 40 |
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|  |  |  |  | **Total for September**  | **-7880.08** | **124.82** | **-7755.26** |

Payments to be authorised for October 2024

Bay Landscape Ltd October Invoice £243.50

Clerk Salary October £952.06

Nest Pension £103.66

HP instant Ink Sept £18.49

HMRC October £279.00

Cllr Pat Evans Travel expenses £54.00

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| **Quarter 2 Budget report** | **Apr - Sept** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
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| **Detail** | **Budget to date** | **Actual to date** | **Variance to date** | **Annual Budget** | **Budget left** |  | **Projection 24/25** | **Variance from budget** | **23/24 Outturn** | **Comments** |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |   |  |  |  |  |
| **Salaries**  | 5712 | 5712 | 0 | 11424 | 0 |   | 11424 | 0 | 11554 | Net salary |
| **EE Pension Cont** | 389 | 396 | -7 | 777 | 381 |   | 777 | 0 |  | Employee contributions to Nest |
|  **ER Pension Cont** | 233 | 228 | 5 | 466 | 5 |   | 466 | 0 | 971 | Employer contributions to Nest |
| **HMRC** | 1068 | 1880 | -812.18 | 2135 | -812.18 |   | 3759.36 | -1624.36 | 3402 | Refund of VAT from 23-24 £2593 |
| **Clerk Expenses** | 650 | 634 | 16 | 1300 | 16 |   | 1268 | 32 | 1507 | Qtr 2 payments complete |
| **Chair Allowance** | 250 | 0 | 250 | 500 | 250 |   | 500 | 0 | 500 | Not yet spent |
| **General Admin** | 350 | 160 | 190 | 700 | 190 |   | 400 | 300 | 1424 | Possible underspend? |
| **Subs and Fees** | 1600 | 3014 | -1414 | 3200 | -1414 |   | 3100 | 100 | 4317 | Temple Church, Zurich, Lyn Llewellyn, Moneysoft. Email hosting charges to come in approx £252. Audit fees paid up to 22-23 |
| **Remuneration** | 1014 | 0 | 1014 | 2028 | 1014 |   | 624 | 1404 | 624 | Paid in March 25 |
| **Grounds Maintenance** | 1600 | 1698 | -98 | 3200 | -98 |   | 3396 | -196 | 2827 | 6 months invoices paid |
| **Floral Displays** | 1500 | 0 | 1500 | 3000 | 1500 |   | 3100 | -100 | 3080 | Invoice not yet received. |
| **Events** | 3500 | 6 | 3494 | 7000 | 3494 |   | 7000 | 0 | 7934 | Flag. Bowen Hopkins invoice is usually around £5k inc VAT for lights. |
| **Defibrillators** | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |   | 0 | 0 | 0 |  |
| **Training** | 500 | 235 | 265 | 1000 | 265 |   | 500 | 500 | 269 | A Guard 2 Training courses, J Merrells 1 course |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |   |  |  |  |  |
| **Total** | **18365** | **13963** | **4403** | **36731** | **4792** |  | **36314.36** | **417** | **38409** |   |
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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.

3) Budget report for Qtr 2 agreed,

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

**Correspondence for the month of September 2024**

Emails from OVW giving details of training courses and other information.

Emails from Dean Mason regarding Summer/Autumn Fun updates. Dean has been given an extension to apply for the grant so the underwritten loan of £4500 will be granted by Community Council.

Email from Louise Way, local resident expressing concern regarding speeding traffic on the bypass near the Elba and speed of traffic entering the Elba. Would like information about speed and traffic calming measures. I have replied as discussed in the September meeting.

Email from OVW giving draft minutes from the Area meeting in July.

Email on 23/9/24 from OVW re Swansea Area Committee meeting at 5pm on 14 October 2024.

Email from Democratic services on 20/9/24 regarding a meeting on 30 September 2024 at 5pm. Councillors are welcome to attend either at the Guildhall or remotely via teams.

Email from Linda Bolchover regarding the storage cupboard at Rechabite Hall. Removal of CC items will be on 30 September 2024 at 12pm.

Planning applications from Swansea Council have been forwarded on as applicable. An objection has been raised on behalf of Gowerton CC regarding the site at Waunarlwydd as discussed via email.

Thanks to all that responded to Dean Masons email regarding distribution of flyers.

Instagram – 425 posts and 581 followers.

**72. Planning Matters**

**Application No: 2024/1594/FUL**

 Date Registered: 28.08.2024 Electoral Division: Gowerton - Area 2

Status: Being Considered Map Ref: 259054 196316

Development Type: All Other Minor Dev Location: 71 Sterry Road, Gowerton, Swansea, SA4 3BN

Proposal: Change of Use of Ground Floor from a Shop (Use Class A1) to a part Café/Bar (A3) and part rear Communal Living Room for Upper Floor House of Multiple Occupation, together with Change of Use of First and Second Floor Gym/Flats (Class D2/C3) to a 14 Bed House of Multiple Occupation and fenestration alterations

Applicant: Mr F Vernon Agent: Richard Banks

**Gowerton CC Object on the grounds of site is unsuitable for the number of residents proposed, insufficient parking facilities for residents and customers of the café bar.**

**Application No: 2024/1685/FUL**

Date Registered: 04.09.2024 Electoral Division: Gowerton - Area 2

Status: Being Considered Map Ref: 259213 196718 Development Type:

 Householder Location: 12 Alder Way, Gowerton, Swansea, SA4 3FR

 Proposal: Single storey rear extension with fenestration alterations

Applicant: Mr & Mrs Johnson Agent: Mr Mark Thomas.

 **Gowerton CC do not have any objections.**

Dai Jenkins declared an interest.

**73 Gowerton Ward Councillors Update**

**Cllr Susan Jones**

Where to start:

I attended many scrutiny panels during the month and Governor meetings at both the Primary and Secondary School in the village.  I have been appointed Chair of Governors in Gowerton Primary School and I would like to thank those who supported me. I have been appointed as the Governor involved with attendance, this is an important issue because children can only learn if they are in School, we need to regain attendance levels that were achieved before the pandemic.  Gowerton Primary School and the local Art Group are hoping to join together to refurbish the Elba Disaster Memorial, which is an exciting project. During my role in Education Scrutiny I have visited Bishopston Comprehensive School and their new build.

I have attended 3 Friday evenings with Gowerton Cricket Club to present certificates and awards to both children and adults.  I have to give credit to all the coaches, parents giving up their time to ensure that all enjoy, improve and work on team progress.  Dean Mason is an inspiration for all and a big thank you for his organisation, support and friendship promoting cricket in our village.

Summer of Fun have applied for a grant to organise activities in the village during the Autumn period.  Watch this space.  If anyone wants to become involved please contact myself, Ros Holt or Dean Mason.

I have purchased a tracking devise to attach to one of the defibrillators in the village to monitor and trace when used.  I would like to thank a member of the Ambulance Service for being involved with this project.

Both Councillor Jenkins and myself have been asked to contribute to installation of an up to date skating facility at the Elba Sports area, which we have agreed to.  When more details are available we will be able to keep you informed.  During the Summer period there has been some anti social behaviour at this location e.g children on the railway line, lighting of fire in a container the Police are aware of this and have been asked to monitor the area.  The railway personnel are going to arrange to educate the school children on the dangers of accessing the railway areas.

There have been many issues for individuals which I have dealt with over the last few weeks.

The Harvest Supper hosted by Zion (Waunarlwydd) was a lovely evening with friends from St. Barnabas, St. John's and Sardis all enjoying a meal together.  The evening was lead by Rodri Lewis of the BBC.

We have a new Inspector at Gorseinon Police Station (Nia Lambley) and I welcome her in her new role.  Could I also thank Inspector Simon Trick for his support during his time in Gorseinon and best wishes in his new role.  Just to remind you details of Clare Turner our PCSO Tel: 07584004036

The wall on Cecil Rd:

* A section of the wall, along Cecil Road, collapsed on the 2ndSeptember 2024.
* The Council subsequently installed concrete barriers and traffic lights to make the situation safe for passing motorists/pedestrians.
* Specialist geotechnical engineers were engaged to ascertain the cause of the collapse and provide suitable remedial options.
* Following receipt of the report from the geotechnical engineer a wall reconstruction solution was produced, and appropriate funds allocated.
* A works order has now been sent to the Council’s internal construction unit to carry out the wall reconstruction works.

The parking spaces have been renewed in the carpark near the junction of Sterry Road which makes it clear to stay within the lines.

The planning application for Fairwood Terrace was held for the second time at the Guildhall and we support the common sense decision to reject the plan to build 216 dwellings in this area.  The vote was very close and we as a village won by 1 vote.  I would like to thank all that worked so hard to achieve the result.  A big thank you to Carl Jones who spoke so well at the meeting and has spent many hours researching the LDP, policies, and the plan for this area.  The Highway solutions for Victoria Road were challenged by Carl and common sense ruled in the end.  This planning decision will probably be taken to appeal by Persimmon so we wait for the next stage.

I will be holding my monthly surgery at Gowerton Library on Saturday the 5th of October from 11.00am to 12 noon. All welcome.

SEPTEMBER REPORT (Plus 1 day of October) 2024 Cllr Dai Jenkins Monthly Report

**Save Gowerton from Gridlock** – We won voting round two, with outline planning being refused by a score of 5 against outline, 4 in favour and two abstentions. It was hard work for 18 months with volunteers giving hours of their free time, Gowerton owes them a massive gratitude and I owe them a pint or two! You all have my thanks and respect.

**Gowerton Park Road Park and ELBA uplifts** – Now with procurement.

**George Manning Way A –** The give way sign has been painted.

**George Manning Way B –** I have secured funding for a dropped kerb so residents can cross this road more easily.

**Fairwood Terrace –** Yellow lines on some corners in the cul-de-sacs surrounding Fairwood Terrace have now been painted.

**Path from Fairwood to Station Road** – Escalated to leader Rob Steward who has escalated to his heads of department and senior officers at Network Rail.

**Mobility access** - Awaiting news off cabinet member, but great news on George Manning Way.

**116 New Route** – No further forward regrettably.

**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. Following publication of revised guidance by the Welsh Government, a further review of roads in Swansea is underway which focuses on roads which are potentially affected by the new guidance,

The WG published the new guidance at the end of July and since then traffic officers in the city have looked at the potential for returning further roads or sections of roads back to 30mph.Residents can now get in touch with Swansea Council's traffic team and put forward suggestions for roads they feel could be included, in line with the newly published guidance - [https://www.gov.wales/new-framework-support-councils-20mph#content](https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.gov.wales%2Fnew-framework-support-councils-20mph%23content&data=05%7C02%7CJason.Rogers%40swansea.gov.uk%7Cbcdf7093671242b7d32508dcc0222c1a%7C4c2e0b76d4524d358392187fac002efe%7C1%7C0%7C638596500204428790%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=jB1e3vgiLpkhf6w%2BGUFF5e%2B9xY6tthWgW8OR5n065%2FQ%3D&reserved=0)

If you want to put forward suggestions for inclusion in the ongoing review, please email traffic@swansea.gov.uk

 Making Gowerton Look Great & Safe Again

 **Fairwood Terrace –** Issues with land being used for number of years as storage site, some progress but site visit to be arranged**.**

**Fairwood Terrace & Lliw Valley Close-Parking issues -** yellow lines are now painted. However, cars and vans are continuing to park on yellow lines, a record is being kept and they have been reported.

 **Alder Way – Overgrowing trees opposite number 8 10 –** Not responsibility of Swansea Council, however they have been helpful and instrumental in contacting a solicitor acting on behalf of the owners who are shortly to deploy a company to cut back the trees, which are actually hitting bin lorries now.

**Cleansing Team** – Excellent work clearing all weeds in Sterry Road – Brilliant service.

**Gowerton Glitterati** –I am working closely with Gowerton Glitterati as the ward councillor and additionally am an advisor to the team. On 1st November Gowerton Glitterati will be awarding a prize for best Halloween Display (visible from pavement) free to enter by emailing gowertonglitterati@gmail.com – watch out for posters soon.

**Gowerton Summerfun –**. Autumn-Fun has been arranged, with Dean Mason instrumental in securing funding (cheers Dean) look out for some excellent indoor events shortly, such as quiz in Nomads as an example (I ‘ll be there!)

**Daffodils** –Should see the benefit of these throughout the village come the spring.

**Trespassing on Railway** – Working towards a talk in local schools, awaiting availability of all stakeholders.

 **Miscellaneous** – Parking, planning, boundary fence issues, lane disputes, one to one meetings, bus issues, Culvert issues.

**MEETINGS**

3.9.24 Site visit residents’ protests meeting Fairwood Terrace.

3.9.24 meeting to object to outline planning in Fairwood at Guildhall.

4.9.24 Skateboard Park at Elba Stakeholders meeting online.

4.9.34 One to one with business Sterry Road.

4.9.24 Community Council meeting Con Club.

5.9.24 Full Council meeting at Guildhall.

6.9.24 Gowerton Glitterati meeting commercial.

10.9.24 Scrutiny meeting Guildhall.

11.9.24 Online meeting regards storage site Fairwood Terrace.

12.9.24 Funding meeting officer at Guildhall.

21.9.24 Joined working party at Shaws Woods.

23.9.24 Rechabite Hall quarterly meeting.

23.9.24 Village hotel gambling in community help forum.

25.9.24 Volunteers recognition event Brangwyn Hall.

27.9.24 McMillan Coffee morning at Lodge Gorseinon and Hive Gowerton RFC.

28.9.24 Rechabite Hall Surgery.

1.10.24 Meeting to object to outline planning in Fairwood at Guildhall.

**Coming Up.**

**New Road Surface Gorwydd Road opposite Pobl Development** – An inspection of the new Road surface will take place after the Pobl developments ends and any damage rectified.

**Enhancing Safety in Gorwydd Road**– Pavement planters are now on order, fingers crossed in place by Christmas.

**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, I want this in the Elba, will liaise with Freedom to Leisure as area highlighted now for larger Skate Park.

**Large Skate Park** – Now in the pipeline, but it’s going to take at least 18 months to sort this, as Swansea wants to be the skateboard capital of Wales, with many areas throughout Swansea seeing new and upgraded skate parks for our youngsters (and seniors!) to enjoy.

**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. ( Persimmon have lost outline planning, but awaiting result if/when they appeal to Welsh Government)

**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. This 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}

**Glanmorfa Tree Cutting** – Liaising with Cllr Barbara Small and council manager to arrange for the trees to be cut, unfortunately due to storms there have been lot of urgent clean-up work which has delayed the scheduled work.

**Community Thanks** Attending Brangwyn Hall 25 September with Friends of Gowerton Woodlands and Rechabite Community Centre, great afternoon of appreciation for our volunteers.

**Ward Surgery** – Rechabite Hall October 26th 10am to 11am all welcome. Alternatively, please email cllr.dai.jenkins@swansea.gov.uk for any issues or drop me a direct message on Gowerton Guardians on Facebook

**74 Gowerton Caravan and Motorhome Club (dog walkers) Cllr B Small**

Complaints have been received about people from the Caravan site walking their dogs on the Elba Playing Fields.

Resolved: Clerk to write to Caravan club and primary school to request that people stick to the boundaries around the Elba and not on the playing fields.

Clerk to request that the Dog Warden visits in order to monitor dog fouling and it being picked up.

**75. Pedestrian Crossing – Gorwydd Road. Cllr G Evans**

Resolved: Chase up the council again. Road has been done.

Clarification from Council when this will be done and what type of crossing it will be?

Sign needed either side to warn of crossing. Email Highways (Alan Ferris).

**76 Skate Ramps at the Elba. Cllr A Guard**

 Barriers around the old skate park. Children still getting in. Worried that is it is dangerous.

Cllr Jones has reported it to the Swansea Officer involved. The park will be upgraded. The barrier

will be removed.

No further action needed at this time.

**77** **Remembrance Day**

Contact Rev Ben Jones to advise what is happening on Monday 11 November.

Clerk to ask Mr Dean Mason for contact details for vicar in the Temple. Check with Bay Landscapes

Ltd if the work near the flagpole will be completed before then.

**78 Xmas Event - 8 December.**

June to ask Phil to be Santa again. Events to be arranged at the Commercial for this year. Need to

 revisit arrangements for next year.

Sweets from yummy bears. Cllr Susan Jones to lead the Xmas events, assisted by Cllr J Merrells,

Cllr A Guard and Clerk.

We will review the Xmas event in January 2025.

**79 Set date of next meeting.**

The next meeting will be on Wednesday 6 November 2024 at the Con Club in Gowerton.

**Meeting closed at 20:44**

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

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

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