GOWERTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

**CYNGOR CYMUNEDOL TREGŴYR**

**Minutes of the AGM of Council 2025**

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

 **on Wednesday 7 May 2025**

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

**Councillors** Susan Jones, Dai Jenkins, Amanda Guard, Barbara Small, Lyneth Howell, Wayne Erasmus, Gareth Evans, Pat Evans, Lynne Carey, Kath Jennings, Ros Holt.

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

**1.** **Apologies for absence** – June Merrells

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

It has once again been an honour to have chaired Gowerton Community Council this past year. The Community Council has been kept busy with supporting community events and raising issues on behalf of residents.

It is very pleasing to see local projects such as Gowerton Summer of Fun, Hive and Friends of Gowerton Woodlands, and Open Spaces. (Just to name three of many) continuing to grow. I hope that the Community Council is seen as a supportive partner to groups around the village.

As Chair, I have been wanting to see the Community Council grow its voice in standing up for the village. Over the last year, we have written many times to public organisations and Swansea council. I have wanted to keep the community council focused on those issues that residents have raised with us and I hope that we achieved that this past year.

It is important that our Community Council is resilient into the future. Other community councils are struggling. I am pleased to say that when we have had vacancies, we have had keen interest in a range of people in the village looking to play a role. Being resilient and responsible means having a grip on our budgets, policies, and paperwork. I must thank Allison as clerk for her work updating our processes.

I would like to put on record my thanks to all councillors, including those who have left and those who have joined in the last year.

**3. Election of Chair of Council**

Cllr Howells proposed Cllr Pat Evans and Cllr Jones proposed Cllr Matthew Palmer

to be elected as Chair of Council for the Municipal Year 2025-26. A vote was taken and Cllr Pat Evans had the lead vote by one and was duly elected and the Chairperson chain was handed over to Cllr Evans.

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

Cllr Sue Jones proposed Cllr Ros Holt to be elected as Vice-Chair of Council for the Municipal Year 2025-26. This was seconded by Cllr Matt Palmer.

**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 2025

**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 as was agreed during December 2024 when the budget was set.

**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) Rechabite Community Hall Management Committee (1 Member)

**Cllr Lyneth Howells**

d) Governing Body – Gowerton Primary (1 Member)

**Cllr Lyneth Howells is already standing as Governor**

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

**Ros Holt**

Cllr Wayne Erasmus attended the meeting at 19.47

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

 **Resolved** – reviewed. Changes made to press enquiries.

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

 **Cllr Pat Evans**

 Thank you for giving me the opportunity to become Chairperson. I shall carry out the duties to my utmost integrity and to the best of my ability.

**13. Report from the Ward Members**

Cllr Susan Jones and Cllr Dai Jenkins provided reports for the month of April 2025.

**14. Record of Payments/Finance.**

The record of payments for April 2025 and forthcoming payments for May 2025 were presented to Council.

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| **Order Number** | **Minute number** | **Date** | **Creditor** | **Subject** | **Net** | **VAT** | **Total** |  | **Budget Code** | **Reconciliation** |   |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | **Opening bal 31/3/25** | **20680.66** |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | **Reserves balance 31/3/25** | **6172.97** |
| 1 |  | 01/04/2025 | Celtic Credit Union | Repay loan | -4500 | 0 | -4500 |  | Receipt |  |  |
| 2 |  | 02/04/2025 | HP Instant Ink | April Ink | 15.41 | 3.08 | 18.49 |  | GA |  |  |
| 3 |  | 07/04/2025 | Temple | Rent - storing xmas decs etc | 50 | 0 | 50 |  | SAF |  |  |
| 4 |  | 10/04/2025 | Gowerton CC  | Transfer to Reserves | 4500 | 0 | 4500 |  | Loan | Transfer to reserves | 4500.00 |
| 5 |  | 17/04/2025 | Clerk | Phone allowance April | 38.99 | 0 | 38.99 |  | CE | 4/4/25 Interest on reserve a/c | 87.04 |
| 6 |  | 25/04/2025 | Clerk | Salary - April |  | 0 | 1002.07 |  | S  |  |  |
| 7 |  | 30/04/2025 | Swansea Council | Precept | -13116.67 | 0 | -13116.67 |  | Receipt |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  | **Total Payments** | **5606.47** | **3.08** | **5609.55** |  |  | **Balance as at 30/5/25** | **32687.78** |
|  |  |  |  | **Total Receipts** | **-17616.67** | **0** | **-17616.67** |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | **Reserves bal @ 25/4/24** | **10760.01** |

**Payments to be authorised for May 2025**

Bay Landscape Ltd £264.00

Clerk Salary

Clerk Phone Allowance £38.99

Nest Pension

HP instant Ink £18.49

HMRC £294

Zurich Insurance £407.96

**15. Correspondence**

Emails from Dean Mason giving updates regarding Summer Fun Events for 2025.

Emails from Swansea Council giving details of planning applications.

Emails from One Voice Wales giving details of training courses, webinars and other news which are forwarded on to Councillors as applicable.

Clerk has sent an email to Bowen Hopkins asking for a quote for Xmas light feature so that we might apply for grant funding. No response to date – Clerk to chase up.

Clerk emailed Cllr Stevens for a fourth time re zebra crossing on Gorwydd Road. Received a reply which has been forwarded to all Councillors.

Email from Mrs Viv Davies asking if we would like a tree for the centre of the village. It was agreed by all that this would be a good idea. Clerk to liaise with Mrs Davies and Bay Landscapes Ltd.

**16. Planning Applications**

Application No: 2025/0639/PLD

Date Registered: 26.03.2025 Electoral Division: Gowerton - Area 2

Status: Pending Decision Map Ref: 259600 195787

Development Type: All Others (CPLDS, Prior etc)

 Location: 114 Gorwydd Road, Gowerton, Swansea, SA4 3AW

 Proposal: Removal of existing detached garage and replace with a detached garden/study room (application for a Certificate of Proposed Lawful Development)

Applicant: Mr & Mrs Donald & Julie Kennedy Agent: Mrs Caroline Grey

No objections were made

Application No: 2025/0734/FUL

Date Registered: 07.04.2025 Electoral Division: Gowerton - Area 2

Status: Being Considered Map Ref: 258258 196276

Development Type: All Others (CPLDS, Prior etc)

Location: 20 Clos Cae Dafydd, Gowerton, Swansea, SA4 3GZ

Proposal: Removal of existing conservatory to be replaced with a single storey side/rear extension

Applicant: Holloway Agent: Mr Callum deSchoolmeester

No objections were made

**17 Risk Assessment for 2025 to be approved.**

Risk Assessment was approved.

**18 Doctors Surgery. Problems getting through.**

1. Unable to get through on phone lines.

2. Difficult to get appointments.

3 Prescriptions are not going across to the new Pharmacy as requested which is causing delays.

4. Why has it not returned to the system that was in place prior to the Covid pandemic.

It was resolved that the Clerk will contact the practice manger and invite the practice manager to a meeting to discuss the problems and how they can be resolved.

**19 Dog attacks in Gowerton**

Ward Members have brought this up in Scrutiny Meetings that all dogs should be on leads.

It was resolved:

Clerk to write to Freedom Leisure to put up signs to keep dogs on leads on the Elba Playing Fields.

Contact Dog Warden – ask for last report on visit and how often do they visit the Elba.

Encourage people to report any dog attacks via the police or ring 635600 for the Dog Warden to log attack. Put on notice board and website.

**20 Pelican crossing on Gorwydd Road.**

The following reply was received from Cllr Andrew Stevens:

*“The funding is triggered on occupation of the 50th house, at present the team have not had confirmation that the threshold has been reached. They will come back to me when they have more information and I will share with you and the local ward members”*

**21 Set date for next meeting.**

 4 June 2025

Meeting closed at 21:00

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| Chair signature \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |  |
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