

Ilston Community Council

Minutes of Meeting held on 25th July 2018

At a meeting of the Ilston Community Council held at Penmaen and Nicholaston Parish Hall on Wednesday, 25th July 2018, at 7.30pm:

Present: Councillors: Mrs A. Elliott, Mr N. Hollett, Mr D. Ponting, Dr J Kingham, Mr R. Church, Mrs F Owen-John, Mr J. Howells and Mr V Jones
Mr John Jacobs as advisor to the Clerk.

14 members of the public – representing all the permanent residents of North Hills Lane and the unnamed lane leading to Three Cliffs Bay.

In the Chair: Councillor Mrs A. Elliott

1. **Apologies for Absence**
Apologies for absence were received from Councillors: Mrs J Griffiths, Mrs C Grove and Mr D Llewellyn
2. **Declarations of Personal Interest**
Cllr D Ponting, Cllr N Hollett and Cllr R Church all declared an interest pertaining to item 3 on the agenda and therefore took no part in the discussion of this item. Cllr R Church declared an interest in item 6 b and therefore took no part in the discussion of this item.
3. **To consider concerns raised by members regarding the increased car parking facilities in the two fields leading up to Three Cliffs Campsite and to consider the problems caused by the increase in traffic going to and from the campsite. These issues will be discussed in the presence of any members of the public who wishes to attend.**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Mr T Beynon then spoke, representing the campsite. He and his father, Mr D Beynon, also present, wished it to be noted that they were unhappy that they had received only 4 working days notice of the meeting and did not feel that this was adequate time to prepare. Having taken legal advice, they stated they were not in a position to comment further at this stage.

Mr J Dupreez, a resident of North Hills Lane raised a number of points, the main issues being parking on the two fields and the number of vehicles going up and down the lane. The permitted development allows parking for 28 days of the year on one field. Mr Dupreez has kept a log for a number of years and the usage number exceeds 100 already this year. Another field has also been brought into use without permitted development rights attached to it. It was raised that the increase in cars movements, noise and visual impact are negatively impacting on quality of life and property values and that these issues had been discussed with the campsite owners without resolution. Mr Dupreez also referred to a planning application to extend car parking in the field

which had been rejected in the 1990's. He suggested that a letter be sent to the planning department asking them to act and enforce the planning regulations.

He also stated that when he had raised the issue with Mr Tom Beynon he had been threatened that they may put the boys brigade camp in to the field instead.

Mr J Dupreez offered to share his log and photographic record of the use of the field with the planning authorities.

Mr S Bagnallio made a suggestion for alleviating the issues (which would require planning consent). He also expressed concerns regarding the access to Three Cliffs Bay by emergency services when the road is blocked by campsite traffic. Vehicles are reportedly reversing onto the busy A4118 when there is congestion on the lane and residents also raised the issue of safety and the possibility of reducing the speed limit on that stretch of the A4118 as the junction with North Hills Lane is hazardous.

Mr R Kett-White stated that he felt that the campsite should comply with the planning regulations.

Mrs J Ponting pointed out that recently two fields had been used at the same time, and no permission exists for a second field to be used

Dr P Rabbio stated that he concurred with everything that had been said and made a suggestion to alleviate the pressure on North Hills Lane.

Mrs S Hollett stated they are happy that the business is thriving but feel that over the last two years the noise levels have increased, especially since the alcohol license was granted and privacy has become a concern as picnic benches have been placed in the car park directly opposite the front of our house and bedroom windows. She suggested that a 9pm shut off time be applied to the car park field and wardens to patrol the site to maintain appropriate behaviour. She hoped that the community could work together with the campsite owners to find a solution that worked for all as they all lived together.

The owners of the campsite recognised that the business has got busier and stated that planning applications were currently in progress to address some issues. They asked for a chance to come back to the meeting at a later date when they have time to address the issues. They stressed that they were trying their best to run a well-managed site and would like to work with residents and discuss ideas. Mr T Beynon challenged Councillor Ponting as to how much notice the residents had been given of the meeting. Councillor Ponting responded "about 4 working days".

Mr T Beynon asked whether all businesses were subject to such scrutiny. Cllr Elliot replied that the meeting was to address the strong feeling in the village and that such concerns would be conveyed to Swansea Council. Cllr Hollett replied that other business ideas which have provoked such strength of feeling have been treated in the same way, i.e. asked to attend a meeting of the council to discuss them such as Cae Tan's solar energy farm in Ilston.

After the public had left the meeting, Cllr Jones asked whether, with the large number of cars parked in the field, had footfall increased in North Hills lane or was there an alternative route through the campsite to Three Cliffs Bay? It was stated footfall had increased significantly. It was noted that the pathway through the campsite has been closed apparently due to health and safety concerns and the only route down on foot is along North Hills Lane. It was noted that beach users are coming back late at night.

Cllr Howells asked the question: On the evidence heard, do we think a breach in planning regulations has occurred? After discussion it was thought that there had been a breach, if the figures presented by the residents are correct. Cllr Elliott suggested compiling the issues and concerns raised by the residents and writing to the City Council. Clerk to write the letter.

4. **Minutes**

The minutes from the previous meeting were accepted as read and signed by the Chairman.

5. **Matters Arising**

On 4(5a) Speeding in Parkmill – Cllr J Howells reported witnessing an accident on the bend going towards the Heritage Centre from Penmaen on the A4118. The vehicle hit the rock that juts out from the cliff face but as it was within the white lines the highways department won't deal with it. Cllr R Church said there have been four crashes due to this large rock and rocks falling from the cliff into the road. Clerk to email Geoff Green, head of Highways, directly, as the situation is very dangerous.

On 4(9a) Bus Shelter at Perriswood – The clerk reporting receiving a message from Nigel Fitzgerald on 3rd July, with regard to carrying out remedial work to the area surrounding the shelter. He assured the Community Council that he had arranged for safety rails to go up, the bank to be reinstated and the repair of the carriageway to be carried out, during the following week. Cllr F Owen-John reported that the safety rails had been put in place but the carriageway work had not been done. Cllr Owen-John to send photos with railings to the clerk.

On 4(11a) Bin at Tor View Car Park – The Clerk has emailed County Councillor R Lewis once again regarding this matter, attaching a photo of the overflowing dog bin and rubbish surrounding it. No response has been received as yet.

On 4(12/2a) Bryn Afel to Ilston – The Clerk has spoken to the Highways department, pinpointed where the site of the problem is occurring and resent the email containing the information supplied by Cllr J Griffiths. The Clerk has received an acknowledgment email and awaits further response.

On (4) 11b Sandy Lane Potholes – Cllr J Kingham declared that he can understand why residents don't want the road repaired as it will encourage more traffic and speed. The Clerk has established that the road belongs to the Lowe family and will contact them and report back.

On 6a Car Park adjacent to Maes Yr Haf, - the car park has been approved by planning.

On 12a – Councillor D Llewellyn – Cllr A Elliot has received a message that Cllr Llewellyn does want to continue. Cllr Elliot to contact Cllr Llewellyn again to remind him to attend and to discuss how to keep him updated and 'in the loop' with the issue of email correspondence.

Cllr Llewellyn via Cllr Howells, reported that the pot hole near the residence of Cllr Owen-John has been filled-in with concrete and large sized chippings from adjacent field. Cllr Owen-John reported that the people doing the repair said that the best solution was to put a pipe under the road but due to the Gower Show and other holiday traffic they would not do this. Therefore, a problem with water still remains. Clerk to contact highways and cc to PC R Jeavons.

5. Reports from Members.

No reports from members.

6. Planning Applications.

The following applications have been received:-

a). Application No. 2018/1529/PNA

Location: Long Oaks Farmhouse, Penmaen SA3 2HP

Proposal: Agricultural building (application for Prior Notification of Proposed Development)

Applicant: Mr Douglas

Cllr D Ponting provided a synopsis for this application. The proposal is part of the Gower Meadow Beef enterprise and is not visible from the surrounding. It is to house cattle and fodder. After discussion no objections were raised.

b). Application No. 2018/1464/FUL

Location: Gower Heritage Centre, Parkmill, SA3 2EH

Proposal: Provision of pole mounted electronic speed checker sign

Applicant: Gower Heritage Centre

Cllr Church provided a synopsis. The pole would be 3metres high with a 30x30cm camera mounted on top. It would be position on Gower Heritage Centre land and powered by them. After discussion no objection were raised. The proposal was fully supported.

7. Financial Statement.

Noted transactions since the last meeting were as follows:

The savings account balance as of 29/06/18: £3,325.79

The current account balance as of 29/06/18: £4,235.21

Due to a number of unrepresented cheques, the actual current account balance is: £3,077.21

Unrepresented cheques are as follows:

Cheque No.	Amount £	Payee
100528	1,000.00	RNLI
100532	40.00	Understanding the Law course - OVW
100533	40.00	Information Commissioner Office – Data Protection Fees

100534	66.40	Mrs C E Toft
100535	11.60	HMRC
Total	1.158.00	

a) Audit Returns – Items that were highlighted by the external auditors are as follows:

- Reserves/ Budget – we were previously told to make use some of our reserves as we were holding too much. However, we need to hold enough to cover the budget and any unexpected expenditure such as a snap election. A more detailed budget is required.
- Internal Auditor appointment letter – we were advised that the letter was insufficient. The Clerk has contacted One Voice Wales and received a model letter to be used in future.
- Payments – we need to have a specific item on the agenda to agree payments of any kind. From now on, therefore, the agenda will include ‘To consider any invoices or requests for payment or donations’. When a donation is made we must quote that it has been done under (s)173 of Local Government Act 1972.
- Asset Register – the printer and laptop were added to the asset register. Dates of installation of the benches to be added next year.

Clerk to write to the external auditor, referring to their letter and report dated 19/07/18, noting amendments as requested, enclosing the duly signed audit return and an updated asset register.

Internal Auditor – Clerk has spoken to Paul Egan, from One Voice Wales. He has offered his services as an independent auditor for approximately £140. Cllr Owen-John to contact Penrice Community Council and Clerk to email other small local community councils to see if they can pass on details of the internal auditors that they use.

10. **Rural Development Partnership**

No update at this time.

11. **Correspondence**

Received and noted:-

- HAGS brochure, Clerk to phone to request removal from mailing list as the email sent has not had the desired effect.
- Clerk and Council Direct – July issue
- Letter dated 9th July, from One Voice Wales, regarding the Swansea Area Committee Meeting on 23rd July 2018. Cllr A Elliot sent her apologies.

It was raised by Cllr Church whether it was necessary to list all the email correspondence in the minutes. After discussion it was decided only to document those emails on which action is taken. Clerk to contact One Voice Wales to confirm that this is the correct procedure.

Emails received have been noted, the following actions have been taken:

1. Received on 20th July 2018, from Democratic Services, Swansea Council, containing the agenda and other information for the forthcoming Community and Town Council Forum meeting on 30th July 2018. Cllr Dale Ponting agreed to attend.
2. Received on 24th July 2018. Forwarded by OVW, from Welsh Government on behalf of The Independent Review Panel, regarding the forthcoming stakeholder review session on 15th August 2018. The session will put forward the emerging findings of the review and consider recommendations. Cllr J Howells to go if possible.
3. Received on 25th July 2018, from Barclays Bank Business Team, regarding the mandate change request. The signature of Mr J Jacobs, former Clerk and outgoing RFO, does not match that of the sample on record. In order for Barclays to proceed with the mandate changes, Clerk to write to Barclays to say that Mr Jacobs signature has changed over time.

12. Any Other Business

- a) Cllr Ponting raised the issue of road safety along the stretch of road alongside Kilvrough Manor. A number of residents have raised concerns about road safety where there are no white lines. It was suggested by one resident that traffic lights be put in place. Highways are aware of the problem and are looking into this option. There is an issue due to there being one driveway on this stretch of road, requiring a four-way system of traffic lights and the lights would need to be a mile apart. Clerk to follow up with Highways to establish the current situation.
- b) With regard to Item 3 on the agenda, the Clerk will write to the Head of Planning Services as soon as possible.
- c) Cllr Jones raised the issue of trees in Ilston valley, they are still there. The clerk has spoken to Chris Dale, the pathways officer at Swansea Council who is aware of the problem. Cllr Jones also said that where the footpath branches off, over the bridge to Lunnon, the situation is even worse. Clerk to contact Mr D Williams, the land agent to ask them to remove the trees or appoint someone to do it.
- d) Cllr Hollett raised the issue of the Clerks hours and pay review. This is to be put on the September agenda.
- e) Cllr Hollett also asked what the current situation was with the asset transfer of the land in Penmaen and Lunnon. Clerk to email/ speak to Mr L Hinds who is dealing with the issue on behalf of Swansea Council.

f) The Clerk was recommended a book by One Voice Wales, 'Local Councils Explained'. It was agreed that this payment would be approved in September.

g) Cllr Owen-John asked for the payment for the Hall rent go on the September agenda.

Date of next meeting.

Noted date as Wednesday 26th September 2018 at 7.30 p.m.

Any matters of emergency to be referred to the chairman, Cllr A Elliot, and vice-chairman, Cllr D Ponting. Planning matters to be referred to Cllr D Ponting as the Planning Liaison Officer.

The meeting closed at 9.25pm

Chairman