

Ilston Community Council

Minutes of Meeting held on 31st July 2019

At a meeting of the Ilston Community Council held at Penmaen and Nicholaston Village Hall on Wednesday, 31st July 2019, at 7.30pm:

Present: Councillors Mr D Ponting, Mrs F Owen-John, Mrs C Grove, Mr J Howells, Dr J Kingham, Mr R Church,

In Attendance: Member of the Public

In the Chair: Councillor Mr D Ponting

1. **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors: Mrs A Elliott, Mr V Jones, Mr D Llewellyn and Mrs J Griffith, Mr N Hollett

2. **Declarations of Personal Interest**

Cllr R Church regarding the application to upgrade footpath number 18.

3. **To receive a presentation from Stephen Crocker, Project Director of The Gower Project, a community-based industry program set up to eradicate bovine TB on Gower**

Mr Crocker, along with a veterinary surgeon partner, have set up a company to collect data with the ultimate aim of eradicating TB on Gower. Gower is an ideal sample area as it is a peninsular and has a very high badger infection rate of 33% compared to a national average of 7%. Mr Crocker gave a comprehensive talk about how TB gets into the environment. The first case on Gower was in 1994, the research aims to show that this has been reoccurring due to hidden cases in the cattle and not the badger population, ever since. A number of measures are being implemented including new tests, educating farmers, biosecurity measures and a vaccination programme. The four-year project has the support of the government but it is a community run project and not government funded. The data supplied by the project could allow Wales to become a pilot area to eradicate TB. The data will be used in researched papers published by Warwick University, amongst others.

It was agreed by members that the Community Council are happy to publish an article written by Mr Crocker, in the community newsletter. This will include information on what to do if you find an infected badger, phone numbers, links to the facebook page and how to donate to the project.

4. **Minutes.**

The minutes of the meeting held on 26th June 2019 were approved as read and signed by the chair.

5. **Matters Arising.**

4(9a) **Bus Shelter at Perriswood** – There has been no update from the Transport team regarding the bus shelter. See RDP for update on funding application.

On 4 (11a) **Bin at Tor View Car Park** – The bin has been emptied after the weekend. A message regarding the bin usage will be put in the next newsletter.

- On 4(9) Access to Tor View – The clerk still has not received a reply from the Housing Department querying the term improvements rather than maintenance of the car park. The clerk will follow up on this matter. PC Jeavons has replied that he and the team will park up in the car park when the opportunity arises to be a presence.
- On (4) 11b Sandy Lane Potholes – Clerk to contact Welsh Government to find out where they are in regard to unadopted roads policy, as we have a road in urgent need of repair.
- On 4 (12/2A) – Lane from Bryn Afel to Ilston – A response has been received from Nigel Fitzgerald, Highways Manager for Swansea Council. He replied that the maintenance vehicles could not access all of the sections of road, due to their size, to carry out the planned patch work. They are looking for a solution to this issue. With regard to the overgrowth issues, this is being monitored within the inspection programme and will be actioned accordingly.
Clerk to respond that this is the alternative way out from Ilston Village for residents and the only access for a number of residents. The issue has been ongoing for a number of years. Clerk to cc Cllr Richard Lewis.
- On 4(12b) Japanese Knotweed – See RPD update.
- On 4(12e) Asset Transfer of land in Lunnon and Penmaen – The clerk has received a response from Welsh Government. They are currently updating their Asset Transfer guidance. They advise that decisions of this nature are best made at a local level and urge Ilston Community Council to continue to engage with Swansea Council in this matter in line with the town and community council and Swansea Council charter.
The clerk has done some more research and come across a document from Swansea Council. The Clerk to contact Lewis Hinds and Polly Gordon at Swansea Council, to ask whether the document is still relevant and to clarify their position. The clerk to also ask what the Community Council are expected to do in regard to the asset transfer.
- On 4(12b) Potholes from Brownswell Farm to Lunnon Farm and Lunnon Hill – An attempt has been made to fill in the potholes on Lunnon Hill. A watching brief is to be kept.
- On 4 (6) Planning Applications - Cllr Ponting reported that the eco toilet behind the lifeguard hut at Three Cliffs Bay has been installed but is not operational as yet. Many beach users are already asking to use it. He also reported that a lot of rubbish is being left there. The replacement dwelling at Stones Field, planning application 2019/0972/FUL, has now been approved.
- On 4(12a) Penmaen Hill Accidents – the Clerk has contacted Highways but not heard an update. Clerk to chase up as another accident occurred on Friday 26th July. Residents are very concerned especially as the number of cyclists on the road is ever increasing.
- On 7 Application Number 2019/1384/TCA -The application to fell trees at the Guide Centre, Parkmill, referred to the felling of an Ash tree suffering from Ash Dieback.
- On 9 The Audit Return for the year ending 31st March 2019 -The completed audit was sent by recorded delivery on 27th June 2019.
- On 10 Counsellor Allowance of £150 for the year ending 31st March 2020 – The Clerk to send out more forms by email to Cllrs Howells, Grove and Church.
- On 12 a Correspondence, Dog Waste Bin – Cllr Ponting has passed the email from Mr Griffiths onto the resident concerned. She will keep a watching brief and pass on any evidence of dog poo bags being left on the road.
- On 12a AOB Cutting of the verges on the cattle grid at Nicholaston – the verges have been cut by Mr Rutter

On 12b Appeal by North Hills Farm – Cllr Ponting thought that the appeal is due in early October

6. **Reports from Members**

None.

7. **Planning Applications.**

Application to upgrade Footpath No.18 to a restricted byway

Mr Paul Beynon raised concerns about the proposed restricted byway across family land and that there is no right of way for cyclist across this land. These concerns have already been raised with Swansea Council. He further wished to raise the issue of wooden bollards that have been placed, apparently by Swansea Council, at the junction of the old drovers' road down to Three Cliffs Bay, off the A4118. These bollards effectively prohibit his family's right to vehicular access to Three Cliffs Bay. Members agreed that they would forward his concerns to Swansea Council on his behalf.

The Clerk read out a statement from Cllr Jones, stating his reasons not to support the application to upgrade the footpath, as Cllr Jones was not present.

Application No. 2019/1586/ELD

Location: Three Cliffs Nursing Home, Penmaen, SA3 2HQ

Proposal: Lounge extension (application for a certificate of Existing Lawful Use)

Applicant: Mr M Shah

After discussion, no objections were raised to this application.

Application No.

Location: Furzehill, Ilston,

Proposal: Three Eco Small holdings, each leasehold to be sold for £120K

Ecological Land Cooperative

The proposal was discussed at a meeting at the Chapel in Parkmill, attended by Cllr Ponting. After discussion it was felt that the proposal was not supported as there are already a number of vacant agricultural dwellings in the vicinity and that larger acreages are finding it very hard to be profitable.

8. **Financial Statement.**

Noted transactions since the last meeting were as follows:

Debit -

1. Clerk's Pay		£195.00
2. Clerk's PAYE	(HMRC)	£1.20

3. Mr R Dolbear	£75.00
4. ICO	£35.00
Total	£306.20

Credit –

NIL

Therefore -

Balances: £3,332.43 Deposit account
£3,321.66 Current account

a) To consider and review the budget –

Spending so far this financial year amounts to £1,143.38

Cllr Church to look into the surveys done on the Sunday Bus Service in previous years. The Clerk to chase up the new figures from Swansea Council and the bus service provider, for our area.

The contribution to the Three Cliffs Bay Lifeguards was discussed with the possibility that this could be reduced and the surplus go towards financing the three RDP projects and the newsletter.

Cllr Church raised the need for increased security on the website after a hacking attempt. This could come in at £120 for two years on top of the £80 already paid for maintenance. Members were happy with other outgoings.

b) Payments – An invoice has been received for £120.60 for the hire of the Village Hall (including utilities). An invoice for £15 has been received from Mr Rutter for the cutting of the verges by the cattle grid in Nicholaston. Members agreed to the payment of both invoices.

9. Rural Development Partnership.

Cllr Church is currently completing three Project Information Forms (PIFs) on behalf of the community council. These are for improving signage, (possibly on Penmaen Hill); knotweed removal and for the Bus Shelter at Perriswood. Each application would require some form of match funding, this could take the form of contributions in kind, such as a work team to physically remove Himalayan Balsam (an addition to the Knotweed application), the Heritage Centre could contribute funds and make a joint application in the case of signage etc. Cllr Church is currently waiting for clarification of how to complete the forms and will report back in September. The forms may need to be completed before the next committee meeting so communication will be via email. Volunteer labour will be sought through the community newsletter.

12. Correspondence (not dealt with elsewhere) -

Received and noted:-

Emails Received:

a) Received on 26th June 2019, from Erin Rickard, Gower Hedgerow Hub, enquiring into the possibility of including some information about the Hedgerow Hub in our community Newsletter. Members all agreed to this, Clerk to contact to confirm.

- b) Received on 3rd July 2019, Julie B, resident of Lunnon, regarding concerns due to roosting bats and nesting birds in the trees being felled on the land adjacent to Carterford Bridge. The Clerk has written to Natural Resources Wales to inform them of these concerns and to ask them to look into the matter.
- c) Received on 4th July 2019, forwarded by One Voice Wales, from Joshua Lovell, Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales, attaching the draft proposals of the commission and providing notice of a period of representation.
- d) Received on 11th July 2019, from Ayo Falade, Local Council Team, BDO LLP Ltd, asking for the minutes of the meeting where the annual return was approved. These minutes, dated 26th June 2019, have been read, approved and signed at this meeting (31st July 2019) and will be sent off the following day. The clerk has contacted a member of the local council team at BDO to make sure that this fits in with their timeframe. A signed copy of the minutes relating to the increase in the clerks salary will be sent of at the same time.
- e) Received on 15th July 2019, from Ann Peregrine Davies, Chair of Friends of Singleton Park, asking for support in opposing the proposed house building project in the public park. Members agreed that the clerk write to Swansea Council to support the Friends of Singleton Park and oppose the building project. Proposed and seconded, all members agreed.

Other Correspondence:

- f) Letter dated 3rd July 2019, from Shereen Williams, Chief Executive of the Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales, stating that they have completed the first stage of their review of the electoral arrangements for the City and County of Swansea and enclosing the draft proposals document. The commission welcomes any comments by 2nd October 2019. The Clerk to scan the pages relating to Ilston Community Council and send to members.
- g) Letter dated July 2019 from Dr D R Lloyd Assembly Member for South West Wales, asking the Community Council to display his details. After discussion, members agreed to display all serving AM details on the Community Council website.
- h) Clerks and Councils Direct July 2019 Issue 124

12. Any Other Business

- a) Cllr Owen-John is concerned about the increasing number of large vehicles on the Gower roads, especially in light of the safety issue due to the increasing number of cyclists also on the roads. The clerk to right to highways to see if any tonnage restrictions can be put in place.
- b) Cllr Owen-John asked whether, as a safety measure, two sets of temporary lights could be put in place in Parkmill and Kilvrough to ease the traffic flow during the summer season. Clerk to contact Highways to enquire into this matter.
- c) Cllr ? raised the point that the verges along the South Gower Road, throughout the Community Council Area need cutting. Clerk to contact Highways.

Date of next meeting

Noted date as Wednesday 25th September 2019 at 7.30pm.

The meeting closed at 9.45pm.

Chairman.