

Community Council

Minutes of Meeting held on 31st March 2021

At a meeting of Ilston Community Council held at 7pm, online via Zoom due to the coronavirus pandemic on Wednesday, 31st March 2021.

Present: Councillors Mr D. Ponting, Mrs F Owen-John, Mrs A Elliott, Mr J. Howells, Dr J Kingham, Mrs J Griffiths and Mr R Church
Councillors Mr N Hollett and Mr V Jones arrived at 7.30pm

In the Chair: Councillor: Mr D. Ponting

1. **Apologies for Absence.**

Cllrs: Mr D Llewellyn and Mrs C Grove.

2. **Personal Interests.**

None

3. **Minutes.**

The minutes of the meeting held on 24th February 2021 were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman. Proposed by Cllr Owen-John, Seconded by Cllr Griffiths, all in agreement.

4. **Matters Arising**

On 1 Apologies for Absence - The clerk has consulted One Voice Wales as to the procedure to follow if both or either of the councillors confirm that they wish to resign from the community council.

On 4(12b) Lunnon Hill – The clerk wrote back to Nigel Fitzgerald, he replied that he was about to go on holiday and that no emails would be read until his return to work. The clerk will chase up her email to try and get a response from Mr Fitzgerald.

On 41(2 (A.O.B)) 3 Trail Bikes – The ‘No vehicles’ sign has been put up on Cefn Bryn. The police have added a sign saying no trail biking allowed. Cllr Kingham reported that cars are now going up the next track, 200 yards along from the track where the signage has been erected. There are also cars regularly parking half way up Cefn Bryn, this was mentioned when Cllr Ponting and Cllr Kingham met with Chris Dale. The Clerk to contact Chris Dale to mention these issues and to see what can be put in place as a deterrent. Cllr Ponting also spoke to PCSO Andrew Brown, requesting that South Wales Police patrol the area periodically to keep an eye on unauthorised vehicles, parking and littering under section 34 of the Road Traffic Act.

On 4 (7) RPD: Japanese Knotweed – The clerk has had a reply from Chris Lindley who said that they are in the process of appointing a new officer to deal with this issue. They will be working with the landowners directly on this.

On 4 (10 (A.O.B.)) e Dead Alder Tree – The clerk emailed Chris Dale for help in this matter but has not received a reply. It was proposed by Cllr Jones and seconded by Cllr Owen John that the council look to employ a company to remove the tree. Cllr Kingham to look into costs.

On 4 (10). Parking Problems in Penmaen – The clerk has contacted Mark Thomas in Traffic at Swansea Council but has not received a reply.

On 4 (12 b)- Broken bridge and trees down in Ilston valley – Work still in progress, in the hope that it will be completed by the end of February. The Clerk to ask for an update.

On 4 (5) (RfM) Gower Road Closure at Nicholaston – Cllr Owen-John reported that the silt has been removed from the chamber but that no further progress had been made.

On 4 (12) (A.O.B) Broken handrail on Ilston Church Bridge – In answer to the Clerk's enquiry, Chris Dale reported that this is due to be sorted out shortly.

On 4 (6) North Hills Lane gravel drain – Cllr Ponting will monitor.

Blocked drain outside Cllr Howells' residence – No update

Broken gate on coastal path –and Cllr Ponting have notified the countryside access team as the gate is dangerous and needs repair. The clerk to chase up.

Broken stepping stone at Three Cliffs Bay – In answer to the Clerk's enquiry, Chris Dale reported that they are having difficulty in getting a contractor to do this job as it only a small job but needs a digger. The community council are very concerned as stepping stone is very dangerous. The RNLI Lifeguards have also expressed their concern about the danger that the broken stone and the four exposed steel spikes poses. The clerk to chase up

Bin at Tor View Car Park – Stuart Rees, the new Cleansing Operational Area Manager reported that the bin has been moved to the grass verge near the bus stop. The residents of Rose Cottage are very grateful.

On 4 (8) RPD funding email to community – Cllrs Hollett and Griffiths declared an interest as Governors of Pennard Primary School. The school are contemplating putting in an application to the RDP. No other responses have been received.

On 4 (12 (A.O.B)) Ilston Notice Board – Once Cllr Ponting is able to get into the shed, he will deliver the notice board to Lunnon.

On 6 Planning Application No. 2021/0012/FUL - Ivy Cottage, Penmaen – Cllr Elliott reported that the planning application has now been approved.

On 7a Financial Statement – The clerk established that the Urdd received a financial contribution of £1.3million from Welsh Government due to Covid. The Community Council do not feel that we need to contribute further.

On 8 Update on RDP – The clerk has been asked if an email can be sent to confirm that Ilston Community Council will continue to support the Gower Ambassador project in relation to Gowerton School as confirmed in the February meeting. The clerk to write the email and sent to Cllr Church.

On 9 Risk Assessments – Cllr Church has updated the risk assessment document for the community council to cover the necessary Covid restrictions. Cllr Ponting has completed a risk assessment on the Bench on Penmaen Green, the clerk will send him the form to complete. The clerk will send the document to Cllr Griffiths to complete on the Ilston bench. The clerk has arranged for the laptop to be included in with the next lot of PAT tests done on the electrical equipment of Pennard Community Council. The clerk to update the virus software and look into PC Homecall at a cost of approximately £52 per year.

On 10 (Correspondence-emails) – PC Jeavons has not been replaced. The clerk to write a letter to the local police commander asking when this replacement is likely to happen. The ICC is concerned that with the lifting of lockdown and the subsequent influx of visitors, a replacement Gower of PC is needed as soon as possible.

On 11 (A.O.B.) Lifting of Lockdown Letter to Swansea Council – the letter to the council regarding the community council’s concerns regarding the impact of the lifting of lockdown on Gower and suggestions that Swansea Council might put in place to mitigate the impact was sent by the clerk to Rob Stewart, the Leader of the Council. It was also copied to Rebecca Evans AM, Tonia Antoniazzi MP, Cllr Lynda James and Cllr Richard Lewis. With the exception of Cllr Lewis, all replied that they would look into the issue. Cllr Church spoke to Ms Antoniazzi, she said that she is willing to set up a meeting with Mr Stewart to discuss these points and invite the community councils. Cllr Church to contact her and initiate this. The Clerk received a reply from the Swansea Cabinet Office Team Leader who said that the office was looking into the issues raised in the letter and that they would get back to us in due course. The clerk to chase up.

5. Reports from Members

Cllr Hollett completed the Climate Survey for Swansea Council.

6. Planning Applications

Application No. 2021/0521/FUL

Location: Land formerly part of Little Hills Farm, Llethryd, Swansea.

Proposal: Detached agricultural building

Applicant: Mr Dewi West

After discussion, no objections were proposed.

7. Membership of One Voice Wales

After discussion it was proposed by Cllr Owen John and seconded by Cllr Griffiths that the community council renew membership to One Voice Wales. All in agreement.

8. Financial Statement

Balances

Noted transactions since the last meeting are as follows:

Debit -

C E Toft	£215.40	05/03/2021
HMRC	£4.60	05/03/2021

Total:	£220.00	
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Credit –

Interest	£0.08	08/03/2021
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Therefore –
Balances:

£3,455.10 Current Account

£3,338.44 Deposit Account

- a) A renewal of membership letter was received from One Voice Wales, as mentioned earlier, the costs of renewal is £85. Members unanimously agreed to pay this invoice.

9. Update on the RDP

Applications for this round of funding close on 14th April 2021.

10. Community Newsletter

Cllr Ponting said that the community newsletter is a chance for community engagement. It could be produced in a PDF format for people on our community email list, cutting printing costs. It was agreed that content should include reporting on what we have achieved since the last newsletter. Cllr Ponting asked for ideas for content, he will draft an outline. Cllr Hollett will write a paragraph on what the community council does.

11. Correspondence

- a) Letter dated March 2021, from Rebecca Evans, asking us to display her updated contact information on our noticeboards. It was decided that it was best to wait until after the upcoming Senedd elections to do this.

Emails:

- Received on 04/03/2021, from One Voice Wales, a summary of Key provisions of the Local Government and Election (Wales) Act 2021 for the Community and Town Council Sector
- Received on 10/03/2021, from One Voice Wales, Local Government and Election (Wales) Act – Commencement, implementation and guidance.
- Received on 17/03/2021, from Allison Lowe, Democratic Services Officer, Swansea Council, Councillors Allowances and Expenses 2020-2021. The clerk to action.
- Received on 18/03/2021, from One Voice Wales (OVW)/Society of Local Council Clerks (SLCC), Joint event on 13th May 2021, this is a very important event as it focuses on key topic areas such as the new Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 and the new General Power of Competence (GPC), financial governance and accountability and hearing about the forward training plans of OVW and the SLCC. Lyn Cadwallader, Chief Executive of OVW emphasizes the importance of these matters and the event presents a highly important opportunity for councils to be at the forefront of current issues and opportunities now available for our sector. The cost of attendance is £45 per person plus VAT. After discussion it was decided that the clerk attend this event and look into membership of SLCC
- Received on 25/03/2021, forwarded by One Voice Wales, from Cath Wyatt, Bill Manager, Local Government Democracy Division, Welsh Government, on Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021. Local authorities must make arrangements for their meetings to be held remotely from 1st May 2021. The right of the public and press to attend meetings will be restored from that date. There is no requirement for a community council to make a public participation strategy; thought they should consider how they enable public participation to take place. The Act provided eligible community

councils with the general power of competence, with the aim of bringing about more effective, capable and innovative local government. In order to be declared competent, at least two thirds of the councillors on a community council must be have been elected, the clerk needs to be suitably qualified and the council needs to satisfy the audit condition. Community Councils will be required to report on their priorities from April 2022. Community Councils will have a duty to consider training from May 2022 for councillors and staff and publish their training schedule by November 2022.

- Received on 30/03/2021, from Deryck Evans, Audit Manager, Audit Development and Guidance, Audit Wales containing the Annual Return. This year the clerk's payslips, salary and employment contract will be looked at.

11. Any other Business

a) Cllr Kingham raised the issue of very fast traffic going through Penmaen where there are no double white lines. The clerk to contact Highways and ask them to review and clarify their signage and ask why the lines are in certain places and not others.

Date of next meeting. Wednesday, 28th April 2021 at 7pm via Zoom.

The meeting closed at 8.45pm

Chairman.