

Community Council

Minutes of Meeting held on 8th December 2021

At a meeting of Ilston Community Council held at 7pm, at Penmaen and Nicholaston Village Hall on Wednesday, 8th December 2021.

Present: Councillors: Mr D Ponting, Mrs F Owen-John, Mrs A Elliott, Mr J Griffiths, Dr J Kingham, Mr N Huffer, Mr R Church and Mr V Jones

Cllr Llewellyn joined the meeting at 7.20pm. Cllr Kingham left the meeting at 8.20pm.

In the Chair: Councillor: Mr D. Ponting

1. Apologies for Absence.

Councillors: Mr N Hollett

2. Personal Interests.

Cllr R Church declared an interest in the Speed Indicator Device invoice from The Gower Heritage Centre.

3. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 27th October 2021 were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman. Cllr J Kingham proposed and Cllr A Elliott seconded, all present in agreement.

4. Matters Arising

On Matter raised by members of the Community – this issue will be discussed in the next meeting.

On 4 (3) – Introduction of PC Paul Thomas – PC Paul Thomas sent an update on the issues raised at the July meeting. He said that crime is down and that they are concentrating on speeding issues across Gower. The traffic department have carried out two speed operations during November and are planning more.

On 4(12b) Lunnon Hill – Chris Pike emailed to say that a highway inspector had visited the location and confirmed that there are no potholes on the adopted highway. The potholes are beyond the white lines but this is not adopted. The clerk to email back to enquire what is the definition of the adopted highway and to point out that the white lines have moved over the years.

On 4(2 (A.O.B)) 3 Trail Bikes – Chris Dale emailed to say that the contractor has been isolating due to Covid but should be able to install the sign shortly.

On 4 (10). Parking Problems in Penmaen – The clerk wrote to Mark Thomas and Cllr Richard Lewis. Cllr Lewis asked to be updated if the community council receive a reply from Swansea Council. The clerk to write again to Mark Thomas, head of traffic, and point out that Swansea Council would be failing in their duty if they don't repair the car park. The community council agreed to contribute £1000.00 towards the repair if Swansea Council agreed to urgently see to the repairs.

On 4 (5) (RfM) Gower Road Closure at Nicholaston – The clerk emailed Nigel Fitzgerald regarding the adoption of the lay-by near Nicholaston hall. He revisited the records and confirms that the lay-by is indeed adopted. An attempt has been made to fill-in a few pot holes but the repairs are not finished. Mr Fitzgerald also wanted to clarify that Swansea Council did not use the lay-by to store materials whilst the repairs to Gower Road were ongoing. The clerk to reply to Mr Fitzgerald to say that Cllr Owen-John refutes these claims and maintains that materials were stored in the lay-by whilst repairing the soak away in a neighbouring field.

On 4 (12) (A.O.B) Wobbly handrail on Ilston Church Bridge – Mr Dale replied to the clerk's email to say that the contractor has been isolating due to Covid but should be able to complete the job shortly.

On 4 (9) Risk Assessments –The clerk to contact PC Homecall again to get the printer issue sorted.

On 4 (11) (A.O.B.) Traffic and congestion in Parkmill - Mr Pinske, Traffic Engineer for Swansea Council emailed the clerk with a summary of the meeting in October with Cllr Ponting and Cllr Owen-John. Concerns raised centred around large seasonal vehicles on the A4118 becoming congested in and around the narrow sections between Kilvrough Manor, Parkmill and the Gower Heritage Centre. The Community Councillors advised Mr Pinske that seasonal traffic flow has been getting worse over a number of years and this year has been particularly bad as many people are coming to Gower rather than going abroad due to Covid restrictions. Mr Pinske conceded that this has been ongoing issue for some time and that the council are aware of the associated concerns of grid locked traffic, access by emergency services and associated air pollution. He maintained that any blanket bans or area wide restrictions were not feasible and potentially disadvantageous to residents and local businesses. Swansea Council have previously written to local businesses, particularly holiday parks, seeking their support in co-ordinating larger deliveries out of peak hours. Mr Pinske noted that driver behaviour, especially visitors, exacerbated the issues along this stretch of road. During the meeting, in half term, it was noted that drivers where navigating the area with little problems. To gain a better understanding of the issues, Mr Pinske will:

- Review accident records
- Look at recorded traffic flows
- Review existing speed limits, potentially reducing limits to 20mph at these pinch points
- Look into the possibility of signing and carriageway marking review.

Mr Pinske was of the opinion that signing an alternative route into Gower for large vehicles is impractical.

After discussing the summary and the issues, members asked the clerk to write back to Mr Pinske emphasising that the Community Council were committed to resolving this situation. Members are of the opinion that alternative routes (even if only advisory) and signage warning motorists of the narrow roads can be a useful option. The community council feel that looking at historical records will not give an accurate reflection of the current problem as it is getting worse year on year. It would be more helpful to look at the current situation and monitor it over the next few high seasons. The community council will be surveying local resident for their views in Parkmill. Cllr Llewellyn will speak to Lady Green of Kilvrough Farm regarding the possibility of widening the road.

On 4 (12) A.O.B. – Issue of double central white lines in Penmaen – The community council received a letter from local residents regarding concerns over speeding issues in Penman. The clerk to forward this correspondence to Mr Thomas, head of traffic, at Swansea Council.

On 4 (7) Planning Application – The Bungalow, Parkmill, SA3 2EJ – No update. Cllr Elliott has emailed again and has not had a response. Cllr Jones reported that the build has been completed but the field, that in the plans was to be reinstated, has not been and is currently being used as a storage yard for machinery and large vehicles.

-2021/1913/FUL -Falcon Tor, Northhills Lane – A new application has been submitted but no decision has been made.

On 4 (8) Report from the One Voice Wales/ Society of Local Council Clerks Conference – Cllr Huffer reported back that he needed some clarification from the clerk. The clerk and Cllr Huffer to liaise and report back.

e) Overhanging tree branch on Lunnon Hill - Mr Pike emailed the clerk to say that the Highway Inspector for the area has inspected the overgrowth and said that all the branches from the trees are not encroaching on the highway. Cllr Llewellyn reported that the problem is a small tree and not an overhanging branch. Following the last two storms the tree has come down further and is now dangerously low. Cllr Llewellyn stated that he had to take an alternative route. He also said that he had been advised, a number of years ago, that there was a minimum requirement of 5 meters clearance for vehicles to get under anything overhanging the highway. The clerk to reply to Mr Pike to ask if this applies to Lunnon Hill and Cllr Jones to provide photos for the clerk to forward on.

On 4 (6) Reports from Members - The clerk still has not had a reply to her letter to the RNLI.

Cllr Ponting reported that the Access Only sign on North Hills Lane is still missing, the clerk to chase up with Swansea Council.

On 7 Planning Applications -Application No. 2021/1862/FUL, The Hideaway Penmaen. No update on this as yet.

On 14 Correspondence – Broadcasting Meetings – Cllr Ponting declared an interest in this matter as he is the chair of the village hall committee. The hall committee are looking into the possibility of getting an internet connection and Cllr Ponting will come back to the community council with costings. After discussion, members agreed that contributing to costs was a possibility.

On 5 Reports from Members - Illegal Camping on Cefn Bryn – The clerk wrote to the National Trust regarding this matter and was given the email address for the head warden in reply. The clerk then emailed the head warden but has not heard back. Cllr Ponting has an email address for the National Trust Manager for the Brecon Beacons and Gower and will send it to the clerk. The clerk to re-send to the new address.

On 11 Correspondence –

8 -Jet Skis – Mr Methuan Campbell replied to the clerk’s letter asking if the Community Council had written to Swansea Council. The clerk to send a letter to Swansea Council regarding this matter

7 – Zoom renewal – The clerk has cancelled the zoom contract. There is a possibility that Microsoft Teams could be used as an alternative.

9 – The Public Path Diversion Order for Footpath 13 and 15 in the community of Ilston – The diversion has been completed. The clerk wrote to Swansea Council regarding a section of the footpath that was frequently deliberately blocked. Chris Dale replied to say that he has looked at the path recently and it has been cleared, he will monitor the situation.

On 10 AOB – a) Draft Minutes – The clerk confirmed that the decisions made at each meeting will be posted on the website within seven days and the minutes will not be published until after they are ratified at the following meeting.

b) Hosting of the website – Cllr Church recommended switching to another hosting platform as the current one is expensive and not reliable. He will look into changing to a more suitable platform and report back with alternatives and costings.

5. Reports from Members

Cllr Hollett has written to the National Adventure Travel group regarding the poor level of the bus service. He will report back at the next meeting.

6. Planning Applications

Application No. 2021/2756/FUL

Location: 14 Lunnon Close, Parkmill, Swansea SA3 2EL
Proposal: Retention and completion of detached outbuilding
Applicant: Mrs V Barry

After discussion, no objections were raised.

Application No. 2021/2699/FUL

Location: Falcon Tor, North Hills Lane, Penmaen, SA3 2HB
Proposal: Amended plans from 2021/1913/FUL. Single story extension with extended first floor balcony and balustrade. Single story attached garage/workshop, conversion of existing garage to a gym and utility room with alterations to the porch roof, raised rear patio and steps, fenestration alterations. Installation of solar panels to the roof on south elevation and airtsource heat pump.

Applicant: Mr J Evans and Professor F Bhatti

After discussion, no objections were raised.

Application No. 2021/2848/FUL

Location: Oakdale, Penmaen, SA3 2HL
Proposal : Single story side extension
Applicant: Mr and Mrs Kearns

After discussion, no objections were raised.

Application No. 2021/2631/PRE

Location: Sandy Haven, Lunnon, SA3 2EJ
Proposal: (Pre-application) Replacement dwelling

Applicant: Mr A Tossell

This application was not approved by Swansea Council as the proposed dwelling was considered to be too prominent.

7. Water Supply Problems

Cllr Ponting reported that Penmaen and Nicholaston have been subjected to 40 water outages in the last 5 years. Approximately one month ago the area had no water from 4am for the next 16 hours. They then suffered problems with supply for a number of days. Cllr Ponting wrote to Welsh Water and Cllr Hollett wrote to the Assembly Member for Gower, Rebecca Evans. Cllr Ponting reported that John Taylor, Welsh Water Regional Manager, replied saying that the main pipe from Cefn Bryn was very old and coming to the end of its usable life. He stated that more stop cocks and monitoring were needed to isolate specific issues. The pipe is over 100 years old. Welsh Water recognise that it is a significant issue but do not have the funding to replace the pipe with the problems associated with it lying in a SSSI and AONB.

Mr Taylor has offered to come to a meeting to update the community council on plans and proposals. Cllr Ponting to contact him to arrange for him to attend the February meeting and mention that the water distributed during the outage was not done in a timely manner and needs to be addressed when this happens again.

8. Financial Statement

Balances

Noted transactions since the last meeting are as follows:

Debit -

C E Toft	£226.00	29/11/2021
Total:	£226.00	

Credit – None

Therefore –
Balances:

£4201.60 Current Account
£3,338.60 Deposit Account

- a) An invoice for £1500.00 was received from The Gower Heritage Centre for the Speed Indicator Device (SID). All members present agreed to pay.

Cllr Church reported that the SID had been up and running for 48hrs. The device records speed and volume of traffic. It had recorded 1500 cars going past, 50% of which were speeding. Cllr Church also reported that a crash had occurred on the bridge on 7th December. A car had been on the wrong side of the road. The car approaching the device did slow down indicating that the device is having an effect.

b) Budget 2022-2023

After discussion all members agreed the following:

- To donate £250 to Wales Air Ambulance, the same amount as last year. To donate £250 to Gower First Responders and to continue to donate £100 to the Friends of Pennard Library.
- To approach the RNLI and offer to contribute £250 towards the replacement of the emergency telephone at Three Cliffs Bay in lieu of a donation.
- To budget £225 for the cost of the elections due in May 2022
- To budget £120.00 to cover the cost of printer and laptop maintenance
- To budget £1500 for additional Traffic Control Measures – possibly near the Gower Inn in Parkmill. Cllr Church to speak to the owners of the Old Forge with a view to carrying out a traffic survey at this location.
- To budget £500 towards the Queens Platinum Jubilee celebrations. The VE Day celebrations have not taken place due to Covid restrictions therefore no money has been budgeted for this.

It was agreed by all members that the other items on the budget should remain the same as for the 2021/2022 budget.

Budget 2022/2023

Item	2021/2022 Budget set in January	2021 December	Left to pay 2021/2022	2022/2023
Income (Precept)	£5460.00	£3640.00	£1820.00	
Expenditure	Expected £	Actual Expenditure to date (17/11/2020)		
Employees				
Clerk Salary	2712	2159.00	904	2712
PAYE	0	5.60	?	6.00
Administration/Office Expenditure				
Computer and Printer	50	120	0	120
Telephone and Internet	210	120	0	210
Stationary, Printing and Postage	200	72.46	?	200
Newsletter	500	0	500	500
Petty Cash	50	0	0	0
Insurance	170	167.44	0	170
Election Costs	0	0	0	225
Members Costs				
Expenses	200	54	?	200
Training (inc Clerk)	500	0	?	500
Chair's Allowance	0	0	0	0
Premises Costs				
Hall Rent and Electricity	180	0	180	180
Hedge Cutting	15	0	15	15

Item	2021/2022 Budget set in January	2021 December	Left to pay 2021/2022	2022/2023
Asset Maintenance	500	0	?	500
Services and Subscriptions				
Tourism Swansea Bay membership	100	0	100	100
Website Maintenance and cost of domain name	240	0	?	240
One Voice Wales	90	85	0	90
Information Commissioner	35	35	0	35
Internal Auditor	75	75	0	75
Audit Fees	350	0	350	350
Traffic Control Measures	0	0	1500	1500
Grants and Donations (including those under s137 of Local Gov Act 1972)				
VE Day Celebrations	500	0	?	0
Queens Platinum Jubilee	0	0	0	500
Friends of Pennard Library	100	0	100	100
RNLI Three Cliffs Lifeguard	250	0	250	250
Gower First Responders	250	0	250	250
Swansea Council Gower Sunday Bus Service	0	0	0	0
Charitable Donations	1000.00	0	?	1000
Total Expenditure	£8277.00	2667.50	4375.00*	11,108.00
Earmarked Reserves	£2817			5843.00
Budget Requirement (Precept) for the Year	£5460.00			5265.00

The budget was reviewed and after deliberation was approved to the sum of £11,108.00.

It was proposed by Cllr Church and seconded by Cllr Elliott that the current precept of £15 remain the same. All in favour.

No. of Band D Properties for 2022/2023 = 351

$351 \times £15 = £5265.00$, therefore the precept for the 2022/2023 financial year is £5265.00.

The clerk to complete the Precept Notification form with this amount to be sent to Swansea Council Finance Department.

9. Update on the RDP

No update.

10. Correspondence

Emails received have been passed onto council members and noted.

- a) Received on 29th October 2021 from One Voice Wales, concerning The Queens Platinum Jubilee Beacons on 2nd June 2022. The clerk to respond to the email stating that the community council are still in consideration regarding their arrangements for the celebrations but no final decision had been made as yet.
- b) Received on 3rd November 2021, from Welsh Government, stating that they are providing an additional £500,000 to improve access to defibrillators and consequently the survival rates from Out of Hospital cardiac arrests. This item is to be put on the agenda for discussion at the next meeting.
- c) Received on 8th November from One Voice Wales, stating the training sessions available in November and December. Provision has been made in the budget for training. The clerk asked any interested councillors to let her know. The clerk told Cllr Huffer that training was available for new councillors and to let her know if he would like to take up a place.
- d) Received on 15th November 2021 from One Voice Wales, concerning the consultation on local taxes for 2nd homes and self-catering accommodation. Councillors to complete the consultation if they so wish.
- e) Received on 17th November from One Voice Wales, providing a summary of the joint OVW and Society for Local Council Clerks conference entitled 'Together we can do so much'. The main priorities outlined were to make provision in the budget for One Voice Wales membership and to invest in training of clerks and councillors. Both of these have been included in this year's and next year's budget.
- f) Received on 23rd November 2021, from Engagement and Assurance Officer, South Wales Police, regarding the launch of the Police and Crime Commissioners for South Wales annual community survey. This has been sent out to all on our community mailing list. Cllr Ponting has responded.
- g) Received on 23rd November from Mr Bob Oliver, the chair of the Swansea Airport Stakeholders Alliance, asking for the views of the community and community council about Swansea Airport. After discussion, members agreed to invite Mr Oliver to the next meeting to discuss the aims and purpose of the alliance and the consultation.
- h) Received on 24th November 2021 from One Voice Wales regarding the updated TAN 15 which deals with flooding and coastal erosion and including an important update from the minister for Climate Change. This was noted.

11. Any other Business

- a) Cllr Jones reported that the date of the Gower Show 2022 has had to be moved to the last Sunday in July instead of its traditional date of the first Sunday in August as Swansea Council have agreed that an Iron Man event, including a 56mile cycle ride around Gower can take place on this date instead. This has been agreed for the next three years and will mean road closures.

Date of next meeting. Wednesday, 26th January 2022 at 7.00 pm at Nicholaston and Penmaen Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 9.26pm

Chairman.