

# Community Council

## Minutes of Meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> January 2022

At a meeting of Ilston Community Council held at 7pm, via zoom due to increasing cases of the Omicron variant of Coronavirus on Wednesday, 26<sup>th</sup> January 2022.

**Present:** Councillors: Mrs F Owen-John, Mr J Griffiths, Dr J Kingham, Mr N Huffer, Mr N Hollett, Mr R Church, Mr V Jones and Dr J Kingham.

Cllr Elliott joined the meeting at 8.50pm

Ms R Muuns and Sonia from the Ecological Land Cooperative and Mr B Oliver from the Swansea Airport Stakeholder's Alliance.

**In the Chair:** Councillor: Mr R. Church

### **1. Apologies for Absence.**

Councillors: Mr D Ponting, Mr J Howells and Mr D Llewellyn

Trevor and Patina Davies, the stewards of the Ecological Land Cooperative land at near Furzehill Green, also send their apologies as they don't have the necessary equipment to access the meeting.

### **2. Personal Interests.**

Cllr Church and Cllr Hollett declared an interest in Planning Applications 2021/3250/FUL and 2021/3051/FUL as Cllr Church is a member of Cae Tan and Cllr Hollett receives a vegetable box from them. Cllr Church also declared an interest in 2021/3240/TEM as the applicants are members of Tourism Swansea Bay. Cllr Church declared that although he would continue to chair the parts of the meeting pertaining to these items, he would not vote on them.

### **3. a) Presentation on Planning Application 2021/3250/FUL by Ruth Munns, Planning Manager for the Ecological Land Co-operative.**

This item was moved up the agenda so that Ms Munns could make a presentation on the planning application.

Ms Muuns said that this application was a re-submission of a previous application which contains significant changes since the last submission. Ms Muuns wanted to emphasis a number of points:

1. It is a One Planet Development application which is very different from a rural enterprise dwelling.
2. The Stewards are very dedicated and have worked extremely hard to set up a business and integrate into the community and live a low impact lifestyle.
3. There is very little development associated with this application. A polytunnel and shed are already authorised and the barn has been submitted under a separate application. The barn is necessary for the purpose of the agricultural business. The proposed dwelling is a timber framed single story dwelling under 95 m<sup>2</sup>.

### **b) Presentation on the Swansea Airport Stakeholder's Alliance by Mr Bob Oliver**

Mr Oliver made a presentation to the community council members:

Mr Oliver said that the Airport Alliance was a not for profit company working for the benefit of its stakeholders. He invited the community council to align itself with the Alliance to add its voice to

help force Swansea Council to adhere to the airport lease. Current stakeholders include the businesses and operators at the airport and a number of other businesses and organisations that have an interest in the airport. They are all concerned about the decline of the services at the airport and want to engage with Swansea Council to get them to adhere to the stipulations on the lease. They want Swansea Council to take a more inclusive approach to strategic planning of the airport and to make it beneficial to the community. Regular meetings have been held with Swansea Council to date but with little success.

The alliance has written to everyone who might have an interest in the airport to ask for their support. At the moment the airport is suffering from years of neglect with no maintenance leaving it derelict. The airport has gone from operating 7 days a week with a license from the Civil Aviation Authority with three runways, a café and a number of thriving businesses operating out of the airport buildings to one runway and only two businesses left.

The lease stipulates that the facilities should be maintained to a good quality. The current leaseholder is Swansea Airport Limited.

The Alliance propose that Swansea Council should make more use of the airport and its facilities so that they are more beneficial to the community and its stakeholders. Ideas include:

1. A Tourist Information Centre
2. Park & Ride
3. Community events held in the existing buildings
4. Integrated site management with the surrounding land users.
5. A recognition of climate change – scope for operating at carbon neutral.

The alliance is not in favour of operating more aircraft or charter flights. They have already written to the National Trust, Natural Resources Wales and all the community councils in the area. They have been approached by Swansea Bay's 1940's museum and the Transport Museum to set aside a part of the airfield for Swansea Airport for an exhibition called conflict through time

After Mr Oliver's presentation, a number of questions were asked by members including asking about the lease and if the airport would revert back to common land if it ceases to be used as an airport. Mr Oliver responded to say that there are a number of pieces of legislation that govern the airport. These are the West Glamorgan Act 1957 which states that the airport should be wholly or substantially used for aviation. Mr Oliver reported that twenty rate payers from within the constituencies of Ilston Community and Pennard Community Council could apply to Swansea council to report that the Airport has ceased to be wholly or substantially used for aviation, or this could be determined by the Secretary of State for Wales.

Mr Oliver reported that he had spoken to the Commoners and they had had mentioned that Swansea Council do not want this to happen as the cost is substantial, estimated to be £1.5million over a decade ago. This is in part because the land is classed as contaminated as copper slag was used as hard core under the standings and run way. Swansea council also do not want to run the airport.

Cllr Hollett suggested that low impact homes could be built on the site as a brownfield site, under the One Planet Development scheme, however the terms of the lease restrict development unless associated with aviation but accommodation could be built or existing building adapted to provide it for those working or training on site.

Cllr Church concluded that as the 300acre site was within the constituency of Ilston Community Council, the matter should be discussed at a Special meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> February at 7pm at Nicholaston and Penmaen Village Hall. All members present were in favour.

#### **4. Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> December 2021 were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman. Cllr Owen-John proposed and Cllr Griffiths seconded, all present in agreement.

#### **5. Matters Arising**

On Matter raised by members of the Community – Field adjacent to Maes Yr Haf - this issue will be discussed in the next meeting.

On 4 (3) – Introduction of PC Paul Thomas – Cllr Church reported that road speed operations have been carried out in North Gower with a view to implementing speed control. This has also occurred on Gower Road in Upper Killay.

On 4(12b) Lunnon Hill – The clerk wrote to Mr Pike to enquire into what is defined as adopted highway and how is it worked out. She also asked if there a specific distance between white lines on an adopted highway and if not, how do they work out where to put the white lines. The clerk has emailed again as no reply was forthcoming. The clerk to chase up this query.

On 4(2 (A.O.B)) 3 Trail Bikes – Chris Dale emailed to say that the ‘No Parking’ sign has been put up.

On 4 (10). Parking Problems in Penmaen – The clerk wrote to Mark Thomas, head of traffic, to point out that Swansea Council would be failing in their duty if they don’t repair the car park and stating that the community council agree to contribute £1000.00 towards the repair if Swansea Council agreed to urgently see to the repairs. The clerk has not had a response to this letter. After discussion it was agreed that this item should be put on the agenda for the next meeting. If a response has not been received by the next meeting then the clerk to write to the Ombudsman Office. The clerk to also write to County Councillor Lynda James to help get a response and to ask if she has any money available to contribute to the repairs needed. Cllr Ponting also forwarded a letter to the clerk from a resident to County Councillor Richard Lewis regarding the appalling state of the car park surface.

On 4 (5) (RfM) Gower Road Closure at Nicholaston – The clerk emailed Nigel 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. No response has been received. Cllr Owen-John reported that only some of the potholes have been filled-in. The clerk to write back to Mr Fitzgerald to see when the remaining potholes will be filled.

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 should be able to repair the handrail by the end of February.

On 4 (9) Risk Assessments –The clerk’s laptop and printer have been repaired by PC Homecall.

On 4 (11) (A.O.B.) Traffic and congestion in Parkmill - The clerk wrote 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. Mr Pinske replied that he would be interested in the results of the survey. Cllr Church and Cllr Ponting will compile a survey to be distributed to the local residents.

On 4 (12) A.O.B. – Issue of double central white lines in Penmaen –The clerk forwarded the email received from local residents regarding speeding through Penmaen to Mr Thomas, head of traffic, at Swansea Council.

On 4 (7) Planning Application – The Bungalow, Parkmill, SA3 2EJ – The applicants have invited members of the community council to visit the development. The applicants have a reinstatement plan in mind and hope to get this underway soon. Cllr Church has their email address as they would like to be added to the community council email list.

-2021/1913/FUL -Falcon Tor, North Hills Lane – No update.

On 4 (8) Report from the One Voice Wales/ Society of Local Council Clerks Conference – The clerk sent some documents pertaining to the changes being brought in under the new Local Government and Elections (Wales) 2021 to Cllr Huffer. The clerk to arrange a meeting with Cllr Huffer and report back.

e) Overhanging tree branch on Lunnon Hill – Mr Pike emailed the clerk to say that the tree limb has been removed. The landowners have talked to Cllr Church about other trees which have the potential to be a problem in the future. The landowners would like to be added to the Community Council email list.

On 4 (6) Reports from Members- Donation to RNLI - The clerk has received a reply to her letter to the RNLI regarding the donation of £250 towards the cost of repairing the emergency phone at Three Cliffs Bay. The clerk's email was passed on to the lifeguard team to ascertain who is responsible for the emergency phone and the correct person to pass the offer on to.

- Missing Access Only Sign on North Hills Lane - The clerk received a reply from Mr Avo at Swansea Council who reported that only the section of the sign with the symbols on it was missing and that the writing part was still in situ. He said that this was fine for now and would keep an eye on it during his travels should it need replacing at a later date. After discussion members agreed that the clerk to write back to Mr Avo and ask whether the sign can be legally enforced if the symbol component is missing. The worry is that the sign can be ignored if all the parts are not present.

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

On 14 Correspondence – Broadcasting Meetings – This matter will be discussed at the next meeting.

On (4) 5 Reports from Members - Illegal Camping on Cefn Bryn – Mr Kersley-Evans replied to the clerk letter to say that the National Trust are willing to put up signs to say 'No Camping and 'No Overnight Parking'. He went on to say that the National Trust are increasingly having such issues across the UK and that tackling it is extremely difficult. After discussion it was agreed that Cllr Kingham will contact Mark Hipkin the Gower National Trust warden to enquire whether there are plans for the western car park to remain closed or is it reopening at any point. The clerk to reply to Mr Kersley-Evans to ask whether a sign saying 'No Campervans' can be added.

On 11 Correspondence –

8 -Jet Skis – The clerk received a reply from Craig Davies, Associate Lawyer for Swansea Council to say that they were aware of the consultation and responded that they were in favour of the proposed changes and additions to the Merchant Shipping Act. He went on to say that unfortunately banning jet skis would not be feasible but if the community council are made aware of any anti-social behaviour or pollution incidents then to contact Swansea Council and the police with any videos or photos that we may have.

7 – Zoom renewal – Due to increasing omicron cases the community council have had to restart using zoom. The need to have the facilities to be able to start live streaming. This will be discussed at the next meeting.

9 – The Public Path Diversion Order for Footpath 13 and 15 in the community of Ilston – The diversion has been completed. Cllr Church reported that the new path is clear and usable with new gates installed.

On 10 AOB – a) Draft Minutes – The clerk confirmed that she was happy to continue with this format.

b) Hosting of the website – Cllr Church declared an interest in Tourism Swansea Bay who have quoted £150.00/year for hosting the website and providing a secure site with automatic backup. Cllr Church reported that Go Daddy quoted £400/year for the same service. It was decided that a formal discussion would take place at the next meeting. Cllr Church will look at live streaming options and report back.

On 5 Reports from Members – NAT Group bus service – Cllr Hollett reported that he wrote to the bus company about the unreliable service and to AM Rebecca Evans and Tonia Antoniazzi MP.

On 6 Planning Applications – 2021/2756/FUL, 14 Lunnon Close – This has been approved.

On 7 Water Supply Problems – Cllr Ponting wrote to welsh water regarding this issue. Mr Taylor, the Senior Business Improvement Manager replied to say that he was hopeful that a meeting could be arranged in the near future to discuss the problem. He also offered to reimburse Cllr Ponting for a ceramic tap insert replacement. Cllr Ponting declined this offer.

On 8 - Financial Statement – a) The invoice for £1500.00 has been paid for the Speed Indicator Device (SID). The payment was proposed by Cllr Jones and seconded by Cllr Kingham. It was agreed by all members present. The device has been sent back to the suppliers because of a technical fault. This has been resolved and the device will be back in situ shortly. The device is still reporting over 50% of cars passing are over the speed limit. The reinstalled device will convey a new message to deter this happening.

a) Budget 2022-2023 – this was discussed under agenda item 10.

The clerk to facilitate the donations to Friends of Pennard Library, Welsh Air Ambulance and Gower First Responders.

On 10 – Correspondence – a) The clerk has responded to the email regarding the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee celebrations to say that the community council have not finalised the details as yet.

**6. Reports from Members** - None

**7. Planning Applications** – this item was delayed until Cllr Elliott could join the meeting as she is the planning officer.

Three applications for 5 touring caravans were received:

2021/3243/TEM – Heatherbrae, Nicholaston;

2021/3240/TEM – Ivy Cottage Caravan Site, Penmaen

2021/3235/TEM – Perriswood Farm, Penmaen

After discussion it was agreed by all that no objections be raised.

Application No. 2021/3130/FUL

Location: Ivy Cottage Caravan Site Penmaen, Swansea SA3 2HL  
Proposal: Siting of toilet and shower facility and chemical disposal  
Applicant: Ms Sian Chathyoka

After discussion, all members agreed that the siting of the facilities should be repositioned further away from the neighbours’ boundary.

Application No. 2021/3250/FUL

Location: Land South of Furzehill Green, Parkmill SA2 7LQ  
Proposal: A One Planet Development consisting of one detached dwelling and associated ecological land-based creation of three ponds.  
Applicant: Ms R Muuns

It was agreed by all members present that this application should be discussed at a special meeting to be held on 9<sup>th</sup> February at 7pm. The special meeting was proposed by Cllr Jones and seconded by Cllr Griffiths.

Application No. 2021/3251/FUL

Location: Land South of Furzehill Green, Parkmill SA2 7LQ  
Proposal: Agricultural barn and hardstanding  
Applicant: Ms R Muuns

It was agreed by all members present that these applications should be discussed at a special meeting to be held on 9<sup>th</sup> February at 7pm.

**8. The Stall on path to Tor Bay** – Cllr Church reported that Cllr Ponting has spoken to the vendor and they are aware that there is a lack of support for the stall in the community. Cllr Ponting has also contacted the Environmental Health department and is waiting for a response. The clerk to write to

Swansea Council to enquire whether a street trading license is needed and whether the landowner's consent has been sort and given.

## 9. Financial Statement-

**Noted** transactions since the last meeting are as follows:

Debit –

C Toft	226.00	23/12/2021
GHC	1500.00	23/12/2021
C Toft	226.00	17/01/2021

Total: £1952.00

Credit –

Savings Account –

Interest	0.08	6/12/2021
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Current Account -

Precept	1820.00	31/12/2021
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Total: 1820.08

Therefore –

Balance:

£4069.60 Current Account

£3338.68 Saving Account

**10. The Budget** – The budget, discussed at the December meeting, was agreed by all members present. It was proposed by Cllr Griffiths and seconded by Cllr Kingham. The clerk confirmed that the completed Precept Notification form had been sent to Swansea Council via email and in hard copy.

**11. Welsh Government Defibrillator Scheme** – After discussion it was agreed that the clerk to contact the Gower Inn to establish whether they had a defibrillator and if not to see if they were interested in getting one. The clerk to forward the details of the scheme to the new landlords of the Gower Inn. The clerk will also forward the details on to the local campsites.

**12. RDP Update** – The deadline for applications has been extended for another year. Anyone interested in applying can contact Cllr Church for assistance.

## 13. Correspondence

Emails received have been passed onto council members and noted.

- a) Received on 17<sup>th</sup> December 2021, from One Voice Wales, detailing The Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 consultation.

- b) Received on 6<sup>th</sup> January 2022, from the Boundary Commission Wales regarding the re-designation of parliamentary areas. In the report Gower constituency would include part of Cockett and Townhill and lose Goreseinon. The commission have also recommended that the area be renamed ‘Swansea West and Gower’. After discussion it was agreed that Gower should take precedence in the name. This has also been recommended by the Gower Society. It was agreed that Cllr Church respond to the consultation to ask the commission to rethink the name and take a fresh look at the eastern boundary changes.
- c) Received on 7<sup>th</sup> January 2022 from Michael Beardshaw, Senior Electoral Services Officer, detailing the estimated cost of the elections in May. The estimated cost could potentially be £1500.00. The cost would be charged for before April 2023. The email contained a warning that estimated costs could go up or down. This will be looked at during the next monthly meeting.
- d) Received on 12<sup>th</sup> January 2022 form Matthew Newbold regarding the Vocaleyes Digital Engagement Platform. The clerk to write to Mr Newbold to invite him to the next meeting to discuss community engagement. Cllr Huffer suggested getting local young people interested in local issues via schools and colleges.
- e) Received on 17<sup>th</sup> January 2022 from One Voice Wales regarding a consultation on Violence against Women. After discussion it was agreed that Cllr Ponting to respond to the consultation on behalf of the community council.
- f) Received on 21<sup>st</sup> January from One Voice Wales regarding the Garden Party at Buckingham Palace. It was agreed by all members present that Cllr Ponting be nominated to enter the draw because of his hard work within the community during the Coronavirus pandemic.

#### **14. Any other Business**

- a) Litter in the layby up from the Gower Inn towards Kilvrough Manor – It was agreed by all members present that the clerk should contact Swansea Council about this matter.
- b) Potholes in Furzehill Lane – It was agreed by all members present that the clerk to contact Swansea Council about this issue.
- c) Burst litter bag, green bag and paper in hedge and layby in Nicholaston - It was agreed by all members present that the clerk to contact Swansea Council about this issue.
- d) Fiber Optic Broadband in Nicholaston – It was agreed by all members present that the clerk to contact BT and Openreach about this matter. The clerk to also contact Welsh Government and local AM Rebecca Evans.

**Date of next meeting.** The special meeting will be on Wednesday, 9<sup>th</sup> February 2022 at Nicholaston and Penmaen Village Hall. The next monthly meeting will be held on Wednesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2022 at 7.00 pm at Nicholaston and Penmaen Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 9.08pm

Chairman.



