

Community Council

Minutes of Meeting held on 30th November 2022

At a meeting of Ilston Community Council held at 7pm at the Barham Centre on Wednesday, 30th November 2022 and via zoom.

Present: Councillors – Mr. D. Ponting, Mrs. H James, Mrs. S Mobbs, Mr. C Bates, Mr. R. Church and Cllr L James arrived at 7.50pm

In the Chair: Cllr D Ponting

1. Apologies for Absence

Councillors: Cllr N Hollett, Cllr A Elliott, Cllr S Pleydell and Cllr N Huffer

2. Declaration of Personal Interests

Cllr H James declared an interest in pre-planning applications, 2022/2317/PRE and 2022/2537/PRE and will not take part in the discussion regarding these items.

3. Minutes

The minutes for the meeting held on 26th October 2022 were proposed as a true record by Cllr C Bates by Cllr S Mobbs. All members present in agreement.

4. Matters Arising

On 4 (12b) Lunnon Hill – Cllr Church has spoken to a resident on Lunnon Hill who has offered to fill in holes on the side of the road outside white lines. After discussion, all members present agreed that they had no objection to a resident filling in the holes.

On 5(4) Reports from members –

On 5(15) AOB – Road Sign – The clerk has been in touch with Steve Avo, who is responsible for ordering the new signs. He reported that these signs are on the list and that he is waiting for the quote to submit a new order. The clerk to monitor.

On 5(18) Footpath in Parkmill – Cllr Mobbs reported that another tree had come down which she had reported to the council. No work has commenced as yet. Cllr Mobbs to monitor.

On 5(6) Report from Members – Iron Man Meeting – Cllr Church and Cllr Ponting attended the meeting. Cllr Church reported that also present, amongst others, were Swansea Council officers responsible for events, Mumbles County Councillor, Mrs F O'Brien, the chair of Penrice Community Council, Rebecca Ferguson from Ironman and a representative from the independent firm contracted by the Iron Man organisers. At the meeting it was reported that the event has proved very popular with event users and that the date for next year's event has been set for 16th July with 1400 applications already submitted. Cllr Church also reported that although there was general support for the event within the community and

local businesses, many felt that they did not receive proper notice of the road closures, were dissatisfied with how the event was managed and with the all the road closures. Closing both of the main roads into Gower was felt to be unsafe and dangerous. It was generally felt that the organisers were not open to discussion about the concerns raised by residents and businesses. They did however say that alternative route suggestions will be considered if submitted before the end of December.

After discussion, it was agreed that Cllr Ponting try and arrange a meeting with the chair of all other affected community councils and Tourism Swansea Bay to collaborate on this issue to come up with an alternative route.

On 5(10) Sewerage Outfall at Parkmill – Cllr Mobbs reported that Hamish Osborne from NRW agreed that this needs further investigation. She will reply to him, asking for an update and will then monitor the situation.

On 5(21) AOB – Attendance of local police at a monthly meeting – The clerk has been in touch again with PCSO Andrew Brown but has not been able to establish when he could attend a meeting. After discussion it was agreed by all members present that the clerk contact the new PC, Simon Chadwick, to ask if he would attend a meeting in the near future.

On (4) 18 - Correspondence – a) Sustainable Wales Grant – this will be looked at in the January monthly meeting.

- i) **Landscape and Biodiversity Enhancement Scheme** – The clerk reported that no further information had been received but the email had gone out to the mailing list.

On (4) 19 - AOB – a) Environment Budget – It was reported that Cllr Hollett has asked for £100 to buy a lime tree to be planted on Penmaen Green. All members present agreed to this request.

Maintenance Team

– Cllr Pleydell reported he was very pleased with the work near Rose Cottage which has been completed and asked other members for more ideas.

- Tor Bay Car Park – Cllr L James reported that she will look at putting the resurfacing parts of the car park affecting access for residents on the Highways Maintenance Team program schedule. It was agreed by all members present that Cllr L James also liaise with the Housing Department as they own part of the land.
- Safer access to bus stop on pavement opposite Tor Bay Car Park – Cllr L James reported that she had been in contact with Highways and the officer stated that a hatched area was not safe. The works to improve safety and visibility had been estimated at £60,000 without drainage, therefore, she proposed adding this to the Safe Routes grant application. Cllr James also asked for other ideas for cycling and walking routes for Safer Routes funding.

- Cllr L James also reported that the Maintenance Team have cleared around the bus shelter at the west end of the loop road opposite Rose Cottage in Penmaen. Members gave their thanks to the Maintenance Team.
- It was reported that there is a post broken on the cattle grid at the end of the loop road near Penmaen Church and also that the wooden post is missing on the cattle grid on Pengwern Common where there is a junction with Lunnon Road. Cllr L James will report these to Swansea Council.

On (4) 5 - Reports from Members –

- a) Accident on Lunnon Hil, addition of Give Way Sign – Cllr L James reported that the ‘Give way to traffic coming up the hill’ is not a standard sign. Cllr H James suggested looking at the signs in Port Eynon as they have signs saying ‘Give way to traffic coming up the hill’. Highways have said that non-standard signs will cost more and that Highways do not own any land where the sign can be situated. They have suggested putting up warning triangles. After discussion it was agreed by all members present that the community council consult with the farmer who owns the land at the top of the hill as the signs would need to be sited on their land.
- b) Cllr Griffiths resignation – Cllr Church reported that he had spoken to an interested party. The clerk also reported some interest. This will be addressed further on agenda Item 5.

On (4) 6 – Planning – Application No 2021/3250/FUL

- **Land south of Furzehill Green, Parkmill** – No update. Cllr Elliott to report at the next monthly meeting.
- **Gower Society Aerial Survey No. 30** – It was reported that the appeal had been dismissed but the sentence had not been given as yet. A fine and compensation order have been put in place.
- **Three Cliffs Campsite Yurts and Car Parking Issues** – The clerk reported that Bethan Jones, from Swansea Council Planning department had been in touch to say that the ICC complaint has been added to the case that they already had open, ENF2022/0328. The officer for the case is aware of the additional issues raised by the community council.

On (4) 7 – Financial Statement – The clerk reported that the new mandate requiring two members to authorize payments was in the process of being completed, therefore the Clerks pay and other payments had not gone through for October. These payments will be generated and authorized in December once the mandate change has been completed and Cllr Church receives the necessary equipment to authorize payments.

Noticeboard – Cllr Ponting reported that he has replaced the noticeboard at Lunnon as it was falling apart.

On (4) 12 – Replacement of Emergency Phones at Three Cliffs Bay – The clerk reported that it would cost considerably more to take on a new contract with BT and/or Adept to run the replacement phone. After discussion it was agreed by all members present that members are happy to enter into a contract with Swansea Council to take over the line rental through them as it is much cheaper than transferring the line to ICC. Peter Beynon, from Swansea Council will contact the clerk once he has spoken to the necessary people and contract has been drawn up for approval by members.

On (4) 13 – Non-Collection of Green Bags in Lunnon - Cllr H James reported that issue with Green Bags has been resolved but the issue with Black bags is still ongoing. She reported that 26 black bags had been dumped by the Bee bus stop on Pengwern Common and on Furzehill Lane. She contacted the council and the Fly-tipping Team came out straight away and found the same address in both locations. The Enforcement Team visited the address in Swansea and a fine has been issued which they have seven days to pay. If this is not paid within the time limit then additional fines and/or a custodial sentence can be issued.

Cllr James also reported on the other issue with black bags being dumped, tied with baler twine in Lunnon. A local address was found and the Enforcement Team have issued a warning on this occasion. The community Council members thanked Cllr James for all her hard work on this issue. Cllr James to write a short piece for the website.

On (4) 14 – Discussion on the use of Vocaleyes for Community Engagement – Cllr Church reported that the Gower Inn are happy to host an evening councillor surgery on a Wednesday between 6 and 9pm. After discussion it was agreed by all members present to hold a ‘Meet a Councillor’ session at the Gower Inn. Once a date is chosen, Cllr Church will organize the format of the flyer and the booking system. The councilors will then organise a rota with three councilors each covering a one-hour time slot.

On (4) 17 – Correspondence

- a) Local Community Councils’ working collaboratively - Cllr Ponting is awaiting a response from some of the Gower Community Councils. He has spoken with Pennard, Penrice and Reynoldston to organize a date and time for a meeting.
- c) From Welsh Government regarding the Section 6 Biodiversity and Ecosystem Resilience Duty – this will be put on next meeting as Agenda item for Cllr Mobbs and Cllr Huffer to report back.
- e) Local Places of Nature – this will be on the next agenda.

On (4) 18 – Any Other Business –

- b) Parkmill Signage – Cllr L James has ordered the new signage for Parkmill but it hasn’t been delivered yet. She also has a new sign for Nicholaston.

On (4) 6 - Reports from Members – Community Bus – see agenda item 14.

- Pennard Area Community Partnership -Cllr James also reported that the constitution of the PACP has been amended to cover the whole of Pennard Ward, which now includes the areas covered by Ilston Community Council. The purpose of the partnership is to accomplish projects. They can therefore, be applied to for funding for projects taken on by the community councils.

Mumbles Triathlon Event – The clerk reported that she had contacted Swansea Council regarding the arrows permanently sprayed on the road at junctions but has not heard back. It was agreed by all members present that the clerk chase this issue up.

On (4) 7 - Planning Applications - Application No. 2022/2317/PRE, Furzehill House, Ilston, SA2 7LE, Cllr James declared an interest in this item. She contests the statement from the meeting that the property is a Gower Long House. She stated that this was factually incorrect.

Enquiry from Mr V Jones regarding the property at Stonemill, Parkmill - Cllr H James reported that she had not heard back from Mr Jones.

On (4) 9 - Training for Members - It was agreed by all members present that the increase in training costs would be considered as part of the budget. The training plan has been published on the website and the clerk reported that she had sent the link to Swansea Council.

On (4) 12 - Website and Communications –

2 - Cllr L James reported that she will add a section to her newsletter asking for people in the Ilston CC area to get in touch with the clerk if they would like to be put on the mailing list.

3 – Data Sharing - Cllr Pleydell has set up data sharing on Google Drive, all other members to have a look.

Adding Lucas Williams of Tourism Swansea Bay to the mailing list – the clerk reported that this had been done.

On (4) 14 - OVW/SLCC Conference – The clerk is unable to attend due to other work commitments, she will forward to members to see if they are able to go.

On (4) 15 - Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales draft Report- The clerk reported that she had emailed the Remuneration Panel to put forward the ICC’s comments on the draft report.

On (4) 16 - Parking Problems in Penmaen – Cllr L James reported that the Gower AONB Forum had not met since the last ICC meeting.

On (4) 17- Correspondence -

b) Received on 4th October from Endurance Life regarding their four annual Trail Running Events which are happening in Gower on November 5th. – The organisers have asked for feedback. It was agreed by all members present that the clerk respond to them to ask if all litter and signage be removed after the events in future.

d)Received on 21st October 2022 from Bob Oliver, regarding an update for stakeholders on Swansea Airport – it was agreed by all present to monitor the situation.

5. Co-option to fill the vacancies on the community council -

After discussion it was agreed by all members present to use the Pennard CC Co-option pack as a guideline for Ilston CC co-option. It was also agreed that the essential criteria be amended to include Relevant Experience as an additional bullet point in the Experiences, Skills and Knowledge section. Members have been approached by interested parties and it

was agreed by all members present that a co-option pack be sent out to them. It will also be displayed locally and on the website. It was agreed by all members present that the closing date for application be 18th January.

6. Reports from Members

Cllr H James reported that she had attended the Town and Community Council Forum earlier in the evening. The Charter between Swansea Council and Town and Community Councils, adopted in 2019 was under review. After discussion it was felt that no amendments were necessary. It was reported that only one of the community councils had not signed up. It was also highlighted that there are free training sessions run by Swansea Council available to community council members. The Well-being Duty and the Swansea Public Services Local Well-being Draft Plan was also discussed. This was presented by the Joint Committee and Partnership Forum. They are evaluating the well-being of people in the Swansea area. Some Community Councils, depending on size, have a duty to consider a plan to improve the well-being of residents up to 2040. The Forum can help with resources and funding for this. The main objectives fall into the categories of - early years, live well and age well and climate change and nature recovery. It was agreed by all members present that decision making by the community council take the wellbeing duty into account.

7. Planning Applications

Application No. 2022/2537/PRE

Location: The Quarters, Furzehill, Ilston Sa2 7LE
Proposal: Pre-application for either a static caravan or log cabin for agricultural purposes.
Applicant: Not stated on the application form.

Cllr H James declared an interest as it is a neighbouring property. After discussion, it was agreed by all members present that members would look at this application online and submit their responses to the clerk.

New Road at The Willows, Willoxston, SA2 7LQ – the clerk has written to the planning department asking them to investigate the new road. An investigation has been instigated. The planning officer will get back to us when they have completed their investigation.

Pre- application consultation for a Planning Application at Three Cliffs Bay Holiday Park, North Hills Lane, Penmaen, SA3 2HB - for the following development –

- a. A new vehicular access into the holiday park from the A4118 and site road;
- b. Use of field for 56 days car parking;
- c. Relinquishing of permitted development rights for car parking in field no. 3671;
- d. Proposed “check-in” car park;
- e. Proposed play area and equipment: and
- f. Proposed picnic area and equipment

This consultation was received after the last meeting so members discussed the consultation via email to put forward a response to Savills who are acting on behalf of the holiday park owner.

Application No. 2022/1849/PLD – Aldergrove, Ilston, SA2 7LE, for the siting of a mobile home (Application for a Certificate of Proposed Lawfulness) – This has been decided by Swansea Council as not lawful.

Application No. 2022/2205/PNA – Furzehill Green, Parkmill, SA2 7LQ, Agricultural barn (application for a Prior Notification of Agricultural Building) – Swansea Council decided that prior approval was not needed.

Kittle Hill Poultry Farm - Berrys have issued a Publicity and Consultation Notice to provide opportunities for comment directly to the developer prior to applying for the change of use from agricultural to industrial use and storage and distribution at Kittle Hill Poultry Farm Kittle Swansea SA3 3JQ. It was agreed by all members present that Cllr L James send this notice to the clerk for distribution to members for comment as the deadline is before the next monthly meeting.

It was noted that a pre-application has been submitted for Mullberry Hill, Penmaen. It was agreed by all members that the clerk look into this and send details to all members.

8. Financial Statement

It was agreed by all members present that as no payments were made since the last meeting due waiting for the new mandate change to be completed, the November payments would be put through with the December payments.

Therefore –

Balance:

£2,399.42 Current Account

£3,340.04 Savings Account

- a) It was agreed by all members present to pay the two invoices from One Voice Wales for £75 for training completed by members in June and £70 for training completed in October. It was also agreed by all members present to pay the invoice from Penmaen and Nicholaston Village Hall for £30 for the use of the hall in April and May 2022.
 - It was agreed by all members present to pay the clerk for the 6.25 extra hours worked since June 2022. After discussion, all members present agreed to increase the clerk's pay by £1.00 per hour in line with the National Association of Local Councils National Salary Awards 2022-2023 and that this be backdate to 1st April 2022. It was agreed by all members present that the clerk work out the hours and inform members at the budget meeting.
 - It was agreed by all members present to reimburse the clerk for £70.97 for spending incurred on stationary, postage and printing.

9. Budget for the year ending March 31st 2021

It was agreed by all members present that the budget be discussed at a special meeting. This meeting has been scheduled for Monday 12th December, the time to be confirmed.

10. Training for Members

Cllr H James reported that no training had taken place since the last meeting but the Training Plan had been submitted to Swansea Council as per the statutory duty.

Cllr Ponting and the clerk to look at the clerk's training plan. It was agreed by all members present that the clerk work out the training cost for all members in preparation for the budget meeting.

11. ICC Activities Record

The clerk sent round a snapshot of how the Activities Record currently looks, supplied by Cllr James. Following a discussion into the value of such a record, it was agreed by all members present to keep the Activities Record going as it reflects the huge amount of work done by members not necessarily reflected in the minutes. Cllr H James to send it to Cllr Pleydell to upload to the website and to google docs. It was agreed by all members present that this item be taken off as a standard agenda item.

12. Traffic Working Party Update

It was reported by Cllr Bates that the aim is to get the draft plan completed by mid-January. Once completed, it was agreed by all members present to ask Cllr Lynda James to look at budgets and funding.

13. Broadcasting and Streaming of Meetings

It was agreed by all members present to take this item off as a standard agenda item.

14. Community Bus Update

Cllr L James reported that she has used some of her environment budget and that funding has been received from the Gower Society. She is meeting with the head of transport at Swansea Council to find other ways of financing the bus service. They are looking to register it as a service. The bus company Brigg's is interested. They would then be able to claim money back from Welsh Government for passengers with bus passes. Setting a fixed price rather than a price per mile is being considered, two thirds of the price of each ticket could then be claimed back from Welsh Government. Funding for a deficit of approx.£15,000 depending on ticket price, will need still need to be found. One option is to ask Ilston and Pennard Community Councils to contribute. An agreement would need to be drawn up between the two CC's and the spending would have to be agreed in the budget for each CC.

A new timetable has been set to give the driver more time to turn around in Mumbles. Usage is being monitored over the winter. Cllr James reported that the bus company is monitoring where people get on and how full the bus is. Some busses have every seat filled with people also standing.

15. Welsh Government Section 6 Biodiversity and Ecosystem Resilience Duty

It was agreed by all members present to discuss this at the next meeting.

16. Correspondence

Post received and noted:

1. Clerks and Council Direct, November 2022, Issue 114

Emails received have been passed onto council members and noted:

- a) Received on 7th November 2022, from Michael Beardshaw, Swansea Council Electoral Services, advising of an invoice to follow for 481.18 for the elections in May 2022. It was agreed by all members present that this would be looked at during the Budget meeting.
- b) Received on 10th November 2022, from Gavin Roberts, Chair of Penrice CC, enquiring into what is happening with the emergency phones at Three Cliffs Bay. The clerk to update him once Swansea Council has got back to her.
- c) Received 14th November 2022, from One Voice Wales, regarding new guidance on Bullying and Harassment in Councils. It was agreed by all members present that this be looked at in the January meeting.
- d) Received on 15th November 2022, from One Voice Wales, regarding an update on the Finance and Governance Toolkit. It was agreed by all members present that Cllr Ponting and the clerk look at this
- e) Received on 30th November 2022, from One Voice Wales regarding the Cost of Living Crisis Webinar. It was agreed by all members present to put this item on the website and send out on the mailing list.
- f) Received on 30th November, from Leanne Ahern, Swansea City Council, draft Local Well-being Plan consultation. It was agreed by all members present to put this item on the website and send out on the mailing list.
- g) Received on 30th November 2022, from Mawr Community Council, advertising for a Biodiversity Project Co-ordinator. It was agreed by all members present to put this item on the website.

17. Any other Business

a) Cllr Mobbs reported a large mound of leaves that has built up at the bottom of Sandy Lane, in Parkmill. It was agreed by all members present that Cllr L James notify the maintenance team of the leaves and ask if they can be removed.

b) Cllr Church asked for the support of the community council in his request to apply to Highways to restrict heavy vehicles in Mill Lane, running between Shepherd's shop and the Heritage Centre. It was agreed by all members present that ICC support Cllr Church's request.

c) Cllr Church reported that the Minister of the Barham Centre has asked for the help of the community council in applying for a grant to replace the Barham Centre kitchen. After discussion, it was agreed by all members present that Cllr Mobbs speak to the Gower Society about supporting a grant application for this.

d) Cllr Church reported that he had met with some elderly residents in Ilston who, whilst still living independently, were suffering from isolation. After discussion, it was agreed by all members present to look into ways that the community council can help isolated members of the community. Members asked Cllr L James to look at funding options and Cllr H James to contact the Local Community Partnership Forum to ascertain what assistance is available. It was agreed by all members present that Cllr Church look at the design and distribution of flyers to establish how many residents are in this situation and to contact the Local Area Co-ordinator to ask for advice.

Date of Next Meeting – Wednesday 30th November at 7 pm

Meeting closed at 9.27 pm.

Chairman: