

Ilston Community Council

Minutes of Meeting held on 26th April 2023

At a meeting of Ilston Community Council, at the Barham Centre, Parkmill and online via Zoom at 7pm on Wednesday 26th April 2023.

Present: Councillors – Mr. D. Ponting, Mrs S Mobbs, Mr R Church, Mr S Pleydell, and Mr N Huffer. Cllr N Hollett joined that meeting at 7.10pm via zoom and left at 7.30pm to attend another meeting. Cllr L James joined at 8.19pm.

Also Present: via zoom, Ms S Llewellyn

In the Chair: Cllr D Ponting (Cllr Church took over the chair for item 8).

1. Apologies for Absence

Councillors: Mr C Bates, Mr B Beynon, Mrs H James and Mr I Brown

2. Declaration of Personal Interests

Cllr D Ponting declared an interest in item 8 - To consider parking issues on the land adjacent to the Penmaen and Nicholaston Village Hall, as he is the chair of the Village Hall committee.

At this point Cllr Ponting proposed to move to item 6 - To consider any Planning Applications followed by Item 12 - To consider the Local Development Plan Review and Replacement so that Cllr Hollett could report back to the council on these items before needing to leave to attend a different meeting. This was agreed by all members present.

6. Planning Applications –

Application No. 2023/0771/FUL

Location: Green Cwm Cottage, Parkmill, SA3 2EH

Proposal: Installation of a ground mounted solar array

Applicant: Mr and Mrs Robson

Cllr Hollett had circulated a summary to all members via email prior to the meeting. It was agreed by all members present not to raise any objections.

12. Local Development Plan Review and Replacement –

Cllr Hollett reported that the document was very lengthy but he summarised the major points relevant to Gower which were circulated to all members prior to the meeting. He pointed out that the Gower Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) policy was functioning effectively but that updates are needed. These include:

- The potential need for LIA's/LVIA's lighting strategies.
- Colour Impact Assessments
- The potential for designated landscapes to deliver more for biodiversity
- The importance of highlighting the designation of Gower being a Dark Sky Community

He also highlighted the importance of linking the policy to the revised Placemaking Guidance for the Gower AONB SPG and ensuring that wording is accurate and consistent throughout LDP policies in relation to safeguarding the AONB. It was agreed by all members present to keep a watching brief of the revision of the Gower Management Plan and any candidate sites in the ICC area.

Cllr Hollett then reported on item 4. **Matters Arising – On 4 (4,19) AOB a) Environment Budget** – Planting of the tree to commemorate Queen Elizabeth II - Cllr Hollett reported that the tree was due to be delivered by 8th May and therefore it was agreed by all members present that the tree planting ceremony take place on 8th May at 10.30am. Cllr Hollett reported that he had contacted Reverend Peter Brookes to see if he was available and to ask him to bless the tree. It was agreed that the information go out on the mailing list and website. It was also agreed by all members present that Cllr Hollett talk to Cllr Brown regarding Greens sponsorship of the plaque to accompany the tree.

At this point, so as not to keep Ms Llewellyn waiting further, Cllr Ponting proposed moving to item 8 - To consider parking issues on the land adjacent to the Penmaen and Nicholaston Village Hall. This was agreed by all members present

8. Parking issues on the land adjacent to the Penmaen and Nicholaston Village Hall -

As Cllr Ponting had declared an interest in this item, he took no further part of the discussion other than when asked to respond. Cllr Church took over as chair at this point. The clerk confirmed that she had sent the information requested to Ms Llewellyn and had also emailed the Housing Department with the questions raised at the last meeting and to ask when it would be convenient for ICC to facilitate a meeting between all the interested parties. Cllr Church thanked Ms Llewellyn for the further information that she had sent to ICC via email. Ms Llewellyn then raised the additional concerns felt by the residents regarding the request for disabled parking on unlimited days and the landscaping that would be needed to facilitate these parking bays. She also stressed that residents have asked to be informed when events were happening at the hall. After discussion, Cllr Church proposed that the community council await the response from Swansea Council Estates Department. This was agreed by all members present with voting rights on this issue. It was also agreed that the Clerk chase up a response to her enquiries to the Housing Department and reaffirm the offer of ICC facilitating a meeting between Swansea Council, the residents of Tor View and the Village Hall Committee members. Ms Llewellyn then left the meeting.

At this point the chair reverted back to Cllr Ponting.

3. To approve the minutes of the meetings held on 28th March 2023 - The minutes of the meeting held on 28th March 2023 were proposed as a true record by Cllr Pleydell and seconded by Cllr Mobbs. All members present in agreement. The minutes were then signed and dated by the chair.

4. Matters Arising –

On 7 (4) Footpath in Parkmill – Cllr Mobbs reported that the footpath had been shored up, made safe and overhanging and fallen trees have been removed. It was agreed by all members present to keep a watching brief.

On 7 (4) Report from Members – Iron Man Meeting- Cllr Church had circulated the map of the route for the Iron Man event on 16th July 2023. After discussion, it was agreed by all members present that the clerk write to Swansea Council and ask them what arrangements have been made for residents who require access for carers, those working antisocial hours or those who need access for any other reason. Cllr Church proposed replying to Mrs Lloyd, who has written to the community council with her concerns over the road closures due to the event and ask her if she has any specific needs with regard to access during the event and if she would like the community council to take up her concerns with race officials. This was agreed by all members present. It was also raised by Cllr Church that there is a need to contact the council and race organisers regarding compensation for the loss of business of local businesses affected by the road closures. It was agreed by all members present that the clerk liaise with Cllr Church over the wording of the letters to Swansea Council and event organisers.

On 4 (5,10) Sewage Outfall at Parkmill – the clerk reported that she had written to Hamish Osborn at NRW and copied in Julie James AM. She also reported that she had had difficulty finding a contact email address for Welsh Water, Cllr Ponting agreed to share the contact he has with her. Mr Osborne had replied and the clerk summarized his response. He reported that he had recently spoken to a member of his team who offered the following information:

National Resources Wales (NRW) have asked Welsh Water (DCWW) to investigate the pumping station at Pennard as it is becoming overloaded during wet weather and discharging storm sewage into the river. In order for NRW to establish whether there is any way that storm sewage can enter the surface water drain, they have asked DCWW to confirm which of the two pipes is connected to the pumping station. At present the instrumentation at the pumping station does not record if the wet well overflows, only if it reaches a high level, therefore DCWW will be installing a monitor to record if any spills are occurring from the pumping station during wet weather. The other potential source of contamination is from houses where a misconnection of private sewage systems has occurred. NRW firstly need to investigate the pumping station and if this is not the source of the sewage pollution then they, along with DCWW and Swansea Council, will look at any misconnections. Due to unsuitable weather or flow conditions, NRW have been unable to carry out a biological study of the river. They will endeavor to do this asap as this will give them more information on whether the river is being impacted by the discharge from the outfall pipe(s).

Cllr Mobbs also reported that she had spoken to a lady in Swansea Council's Environment Team. They are looking at carrying out a river survey and then looking at the storm drain and at any misconnections to washing machines, cesspits or overflows from private residences.

On 18 Correspondence – a) Sustainable Wales Grant – The funding officer responded to the clerk and said that that particular grant window was now closed. She did, however, recommend contacting SCVS to ask what funding is available to the community council. The clerk also spoke to the Clerk at PCC who said that they have dealt with Karen Proctor at SCVS who has been very helpful.

On 5 Reports from Members – a) Accident on Lunnon Hill- Cllr L James reported that she had ordered the new signs for Lunnon Hill and Mill Lane but the order would only go through with the next bulk order of signs for Swansea Council. She asked members if ICC has any land that could be left unmowed to grow into meadow land. Cllr Church suggested the field at the end of Lunnon Close that used to have a playground on it.

On 4 (4,6) Report from Members –

Community Bus – Cllr Mobbs reported that although it had been agreed that users would be charged £3 for each journey, the set up for taking money has not yet been installed. Cllr Pleydell reported that £10,000 had been secured from the National Lottery, this along with the £3 fare per person (once this is up and running) will be enough to keep the bus running for a further five to six months. It was agreed by all that this was a very good result.

Mumbles Triathlon Event – the clerk reported that she had emailed Mr Powell regarding the community council’s disappointment at the antisocial behavior reported, but had not heard back.

On 7 (4) - Website and Communications – 3) Data Sharing – Cllr Pleydell reported that he had sent the details to access Google Docs with Cllr Beynon and Cllr Brown and asking them to provide their details and statement of interest to be uploaded to the website. It was agreed by all members that the clerk chase up the two councilors for their details and the additional information needed. Cllr Pleydell also reported that raising the profile of the website has been a success as it is receiving a lot more hits. The average number of hits per month has risen to 95 compared to 50 last June.

On 7 (4) - OVW/SLCC Conference – The clerk reported that she had distributed the conference documents shared by Pennard CC with the relevant committee members.

On (4) 16 – Parking Problems in Penmaen – Cllr James reported that she is waiting until the meeting between residents, Swansea Council and the village hall committee has taken place to resolve the issues of parking adjacent to the village hall before looking at what is happening with the Car park itself. Cllr Ponting told Cllr James that Mr Lewis Hinds with her regarding the parking at the village hall.

On (4) 6 Reports from Members – Swansea Council eLearning opportunities – No update.

On 7 (17) Any Other Business -

- a) Restricting Heavy Vehicles on Mill Lane, Parkmill – See On 5 Reports from Members a) above.
- c) Isolated Community Members – No update. KWB

On 7 (6) To consider the Emergency Phone at Three Cliffs Bay – The clerk reported that Mr Beynon had been in touch to say that he liaised with colleagues about the contract and they had assured him that they would get something to him by the end of the following week. He would then be in touch to share the information with the community council for feedback. It was agreed by all members present that Cllr Pleydell ask Lucas from TSB for information on the Gower Ambassadors thanking them for their sponsorship of the replacement phone unit to be placed at Three Cliffs Bay.

On 7 (12) Correspondence –

e) Swansea and Gower Local Access Forum – Cllr Church reported that he had been in contact with the Countryside Access Team and been told that Chris Dale is away until 12th May.

On 5. Reports from Members –

3) Next ‘Meet your Councillor’ evening – Cllr Church reported that the Gower Inn would prefer a date in June as May is so busy. He suggested either June 13th or 20th as possible dates. After discussion, it was agreed by all members present that the next event have the theme of the Biodiversity Report and the Biodiversity Action Plan. It was agreed by all members that Cllr Church liaise with the clerk to get this organised.

5) Grazing and how the commons are managed report for the website – Cllr Huffer reported that he had been liaising with the Gower Commons Safety Group, members of which have a lot of knowledge and information on the common and how it is managed. He suggested using the information already written by the group to promote their work for the piece to go on the website and also to go out to the local press as publicity for the group and ICC. Cllr Huffer also reported on the litter problem on the common that is very visible before the spring and summer growth. It was agreed by all members present to ask Cllr James what can be done about it. Once Cllr James joined the meeting she agreed to look into getting Swansea Council’s Cleaning Team to do a litter pick from Vennaway Lane to Upper Killay. Cllr Huffer asked if it is possible to get them to also look at litter along the North Gower Road. Cllr James agreed to do this.

20mph Speed Limit Scheme – Cllr Church reported he had spoken to the new officer for the scheme and sent him the ICC Traffic Report. Mr Ferris, the new officer, responded that he can look at other roads but the national scheme is only concerned with roads with street lighting. Cllr Church proposed that the council still pursue the implementation of 20mph limits of Gower roads as a health and safety issue. This was agreed by all members present. It was also agreed to ask Cllr Bates to send the report to Go Safe and also to the Welsh Transport Secretary, Lee Waters.

Deregulation of Cilonen Road - Cllr James to update at next meeting.

Footpath from Nicholaston through to Perriswood to the Penrice Estate - The clerk reported that she had sent further information on this, along with the map supplied by Cllr Church to the Countryside Access Team to follow up.

6) Watermain works along the loop road in Penmaen – Cllr Pleydell reported he had written to Mr Kearsley-Evans but had not received a response as yet. Cllr Ponting reported the National Trust plan to restore the area by creating a bund to replace the rocks and by planting trees.

On 7. Financial statement –

a) To consider any payments to be made before the end of the financial year –

- Allocation of £250 originally budgeted for Gower 1st Responders – As it was agreed at the last meeting to reallocate the £250 to the training budget, Cllr Ponting asked the clerk update this year’s budget to reflect the additional £250 in the training budget. This was agreed by all members present.

On 15. Correspondence –

- b) Received on 31/01/23 from OVW, TAN 15: Development, flooding and coastal erosion – further amendments. It was agreed by all members that the clerk resend the information to Cllr Huffer to take a look.
- f) Received on 12/03/23 from Mrs B Stein, resident of Lunnon, regarding speeding in Lunnon and Ilston lanes and also unruly dog behaviour – The clerk reported that she had written back to Mrs Stein to update her on what was discussed with the police at the last meeting.
- g) Received on 16/02/23 from OVW regarding the OVW/SLCC event – The Value of Planning and How it Positively Impacts our Welsh Communities, online event on 22nd March 2023 at a cost of £40 per delegate. – Cllr Hollett reported that he couldn't attend this training but has asked the clerk for future dates of the Planning Aid Wales training.
- i) Received on 21/02/23 from Mrs Jan Crocker, Clerk to Pennard Community Council, regarding arranging a stakeholder meeting to look at what can be done to combat and manage the erosion of cliff paths and dunes in our areas – Cllr Mobbs reported that she had attended. She reported that at the meeting Mike Scott, the Gower AONB Officer, reported that there is concern as the cliffs and surrounding land is not able to withstand the increasing number of walkers and visitors to the area. He said that Swansea City Council do not have the manpower and also there is a difficulty in getting the necessary equipment to the sites where it is needed. It was proposed that the rubber mats laid down by the Golf Club could be used to minimise erosion.

On 8. Reports from Members

- a) State of the road at North Hills Lane due to development - Cllr Ponting reported that most of the road has been cleared up along with the unplanned builder's yard.
- b) John Jacobs - Cllr Ponting thanked Cllr Church, Cllr Beynon and Cllr Pleydell for composing the obituary that was put on the website. It was agreed to discuss the removal of this with Cllr Beynon after a month.

On 10. Financial Statement -

- c) To consider extra hours worked by the clerk – the clerk reported that she had not as yet looked into a separate sim but that she would do so before the next meeting. She reported that she had added the tagline to her emails.

On 11. Road Closures – Cllr Church reported he had looked into the situation and there is no procedure in place to notify community councils of road closures. Cllr James reported that Swansea Council were often aware twelve months in advance of an event but that the information was not released in time for stakeholders to respond, including community councils. After discussion, it was agreed that Cllr Church and Cllr L James get together to write to Swansea Council about the road closure procedure. It was agreed that Cllr Ponting also bring this issue up at the next Community Council Forum meeting.

On 13. To consider the Section 6 Biodiversity Report – see item 11

On 14. Independent Remuneration Panel Report regarding payments to members - The clerk reported that she had emailed all members separately regarding the acceptance of payments and that she had not heard back from all members. It was agreed by all members that the clerk send out a reminder to those who hadn't yet responded.

On 15. To consider the update from the Traffic Working Party –see item 13

On 16. Correspondence - e) Received from Wendi Patience, OVW on 21/03/23 – Training Dates for March and April 2023 - It was agreed by all members present that Cllr Ponting remind the new councillors that they need to do the new councillor training and Code of Conduct training. The clerk reported that the Advanced Local Government Finance training session clashed with the monthly meeting. It was therefore agreed by all members present that she looks at alternative dates.

On 17. Any Other Business – None

5. Reports from Members

1) Cllr Pleydell reported that he had spoken to the new local co-ordinator and the new Gower ranger for the National Trust. The local co-ordinator has agreed to make a presentation at the next monthly meeting and will send her details via Cllr Ponting. She also mentioned that the National Trust have trees for planting. It was agreed by all members present to ask residents if they would like to plant any trees at the next ‘Meet your Councillor’ evening.

2) County Councillor Lynda James reported she has been unable to locate who owns the tree that has fallen from the riverbed in Parkmill. Cllr James agreed to ask the Parks Department to remove the tree this once.

3) Cllr Ponting asked Cllr James if the maintenance team could look at the broken post on the cattle grid gate on the loop road behind Penmaen Church. Cllr James responded that it wasn’t a job for the maintenance team but that she had reported it to highways and will therefore, chase it up with them.

4) Safer access to bus stop on pavement opposite Tor Bay Car Park – Cllr James reported that she had successfully secured a grant to get the footpath extended in Penmaen, opposite Rose Cottage. This will consist of a 150metre extension to the entrance of Gelli Deg. Cllr James showed the plan to all members present. She reported that the work would likely take a couple of years to complete and that the decision of whether Swansea Council would carry out the work or if it would go out to tender had yet to be made.

5) Cllr Ponting reported that the path along Pennard Valley, on the opposite side to Pennard Castle, is unfinished and extremely muddy. Cllr James agreed to contact the Countryside Access Team to look at it.

6) Cllr Ponting reported that the Penmaen Village sign at the junction of North Hills Lane is in ribbons. Cllr James reported that Swansea Council are in the process of replacing all damaged signs and agreed to chase them up.

7. Financial Statement

Noted transactions since the last meeting are as follows:

Debit –

Wales Audit Office	£200.00	18/04/2023
Mr D E Ponting	£30.00	18/04/2023
C Toft	£322.80	18/04/2023

Total	£522.80	
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Therefore –
Balance:

£51.16 Current Account
£3346.05 Saving Account

After receiving the financial statement, it was agreed by all members that the clerk move £500.00 from the savings account to the current account to cover costs.

- a) To consider any invoices or accounts for payments and any requests for donations under section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972 – None received.
- b) To receive a Budget update – The clerk presented an update on the budget up until 31st march 2023, showing what was actually spent in the 2022/2023 tax year compared to what was initially agreed and what was agreed at the last budget meeting. After receiving the budget update, it was agreed by all members present that the clerk send out the documents showing the figures to all members.

9. Co-option to fill current vacancy –

The clerk reported that democratic Services had confirmed that no election had been called for and that the council was now free to co-opt. It was agreed by all members present that the clerk put up the relevant notices advertising a vacancy in the Ilston Ward in the locality and on the website.

10. Insurance Renewal

The clerk had sent out the renewal document for this year's insurance before the meeting. After discussion it was agreed by all members present to accept the renewal quote of £167.44 as the renewal price had not increased and the council's requirements had not significantly changed from last year. It was agreed that the clerk look into the risk assessments needed and to ask the clerk to Pennard CC if we can borrow their format for any risk assessments relevant to our activities that we do not currently have in place.

11. Biodiversity Report

The clerk met with Cllr Mobbs and then circulated the draft report prior to the meeting for councillors to comment. It was agreed by all members present that the clerk implement the additions and amendments suggested by Cllr Pleydell (received prior to the meeting), Cllr Ponting and Cllr Huffer and then recirculate them and put on Google Docs for agreement before publishing the document. Cllr Huffer said he would send his amendments via email and also recommended adding the report to the agenda as a regular item.

13. Traffic working party

Cllr Ponting reported that he had asked Cllr Bates to follow up with GoSafe to look at implementing speed camera vans and also look at night races. Cllr Ponting asked Cllr Church and Cllr Pleydell to record timings of when they hear the races going on.

14. Correspondence

Received, forwarded to members and **noted**.

- a) Received on 29/03/2023 from Cllr Lynda James, regarding the Swansea Council Meeting on 30th March, Agenda Item 17, p511 – Review of Communities. She highlighted that the council are setting up a committee to look at the community councils, partly to rename in English and Welsh and also to look at sizing and number of residents. The email was forwarded to all ICC members and also sent out to members of the Community Council Forum. Cllr James reported that the committee had not yet met.
- b) Received on 31/03/2023, forwarded by OVW, from the Office of the Counsel General and Minister for the Constitution, attaching a letter from Mick Antoniw AS containing a link to the summary of responses to the recent Welsh Government white paper consultation on Electoral Administration and Reform and a written statement which includes some of the reforms being taken forward. Noted
- c) Received on 4/4/2023 from Mrs J Crocker, Clerk to Pennard CC, asking for interest in joining a zoom meeting to discuss the use of Glyphosate on verges and grassed areas. Pennard CC do not use glyphosate on their own grounds and have tried to opt out of it being used within the Pennard CC area but have come up against many obstacles. Cllr James reported that Swansea Council have an all or nothing policy, therefore, if you opt out of the use of glyphosate then they will not use any other chemical weed killers or supply man power for weeding. It was agreed by all members present that Cllr Mobbs discuss this item with Cllr Beynon and Cllr Brown to see who is available to attend a meeting and report back.
- d) Received on 12/04/2023, from Mr Lyn Cadwallader, the Chief Executive of OVW, regarding updating and publishing new Standing Orders in light of the significant changes in governance law introduced by way of the Local Government and Elections Act (Wales) 2021 and accounting for the need for all councils to become accustomed to how these changes affect the everyday working of councils. They hope to publish these by the end of April. The community council will look to adopt the new Standing Orders at the AGM or when they become available.
- e) Received on 13/04/2023, forwarded by Cllr Lynda James, the decision to deny the appeal of Planning Application 2022/2700/FUL at Severn Lights, Penmaen. Cllr Church commented that this decision contradicts the previous decision made on this application by Swansea Council and that the process seems very subjective. After a brief discussion, members agreed that the decisions made by the planning department seemed inconsistent. Noted
- f) Received on 20/04/2023 forwarded by OVW, from Naturewise, advertising a forthcoming free Eco-literacy course. It was agreed by all members present that the clerk forward to Cllr Huffer to see if any of the dates suit him.
- g) Received on 21/4/2023 from Mrs C Lloyd, resident of Lunnon Hill, regarding concerns that she has in regard to the Iron Man road closures. As discussed under Matters Arising, it was agreed by all members present that the clerk reply to Mrs Lloyd and ask her if she has any specific needs with regard to the Iron man event.
- g) Received on 25/04/2023 from Adam Davis, from the Office of Tonia Antionazzi MP, inviting members of the council to attend a grant funding advice day for Gower Constituents on 19th May. Cllr Ponting and Cllr Mobbs agreed to attend.

15. Any Other Business

a) Cllr Church reported that the end cottage of the three Grove Hill Cottages has been abandoned. It was also reported that Stone Mill Farmhouse has been abandoned and a property in Penmaen alongside the cattlegrid on the Cefn Bryn loop road, behind Penmaen Church. Cllr James agreed to contact the relevant officer at Swansea Council to look into them.

Date of Next Meeting - It was agreed by all members present that the AGM be set for 31st May at 6.30pm at the Barham Centre and online followed by the May Monthly Meeting.

Meeting closed at 9.57pm