

Ilston Community Council

Minutes of Meeting held on 28th February 2023

At a meeting of Ilston Community Council, at the Barham Centre, Parkmill and online via Zoom at 7pm on Tuesday 28th February 2023.

Present: Councillors – Mr. D. Ponting, Mrs S Mobbs, Mr R Church, Mr S Pleydell, Mr C Bates, Mrs. H James, and County Cllr L James.
Cllr Bates left the meeting at 8.15pm

Also Present: Mr B Williams, Mr Ian Brown and via zoom, Ms S Llewellyn

In the Chair: Cllr D Ponting

1. Apologies for Absence

Councillors: Mr N Hollett and Mrs A Elliott.

Mr B Beynon

2. Declaration of Personal Interests

Cllr D Ponting and Cllr C Bates both declared an interest in item 15 – Correspondence, regarding the letter and documents received from Ms S Llewellyn regarding the use of the land adjoining Penmaen and Nicholaston Village Hall, as they are both on the Village Hall committee.

It was agreed by all members present, to move to item **15. Correspondence** – letter and documents from Ms S Llewellyn.

As Cllr Ponting and Cllr Bates declared an interest in this item and took no further part in the discussion, Cllr Church took over chairing the meeting at this point. He said that following the ‘Meet Your Councillor’ evening at the Gower Inn on 21st February 2023 where Ms Llewellyn had brought up the dispute, Ms Llewellyn had sent detailed documents to the clerk who then distributed them to all members. Cllr Church suggested that the clerk write to the Village Hall Committee and Swansea City Council to ask for their views before the ICC proceed to discuss the matter. This was proposed by Cllr Church and seconded by Cllr Pleydell. All members involved in the discussion agreed.

Cllr L James ask the clerk to forward the documents submitted by Mrs Llewellyn to her and she also agreed to look into who best to contact at Swansea Council for their views.

Item 8. Consideration of the applications to fill vacancies on the council

As Mr B Williams and Mr I Brown had attended the meeting they were asked to introduced themselves. At 7.08pm Mr Williams, Mr Brown and County Councillor L James were asked to leave the meeting so that members could discuss how to proceed with the applications as one of the nominations was not able to be present at the meeting and had sent apologies.

After a brief discussion, it was proposed by Cllr H James and seconded by Cllr Pleydell that the nominees be asked to attend an interview to be conducted before the start of the March monthly meeting. All other members present agreed. Cllr H James was asked to write two questions that will be put to each interviewee and to circulate them to members for comment and agreement. Cllr H James agreed to do this. It was also agreed that Cllr H James, Cllr Bates and Cllr Ponting would be on the interview panel and all other members would observe and then vote on the successful candidates.

Mr Williams, Mr Brown and Cllr L James were invited back into the room at 7.18pm. Mr Williams and Mr Brown were told that they were welcome to stay and observe the meeting as members of the public but did not have to stay if they didn't want to. Both decided to stay.

As Cllr Bates had to leave the meeting early, it was agreed to move to item **14. Traffic Working Party**

Cllr Bates had sent the final Traffic Report to the clerk for distribution to members prior to the meeting. Cllr Bates, Cllr Pleydell, Cllr Mobbs, Cllr Church and Cllr Ponting had all contributed to the report. Cllr H James commented that it was a very comprehensive and detailed report. It was noted that the next stage was to look at the Penmaen to Oxwich Junction part of the A4118 and then to Lunnon Hill, Lunnon Road and Ilston. The report to be sent to Cllr L James for her consideration to allocate funding along with the '20 is Plenty' emailed received as supporting evidence. Cllr James will consider and will potentially organise a meeting with the Highways department. It was agreed by all members present that Cllr Pleydell write a short synopsis of the traffic report to be sent out on the mailing list and to direct residents to the website to view the complete report. Cllr Pleydell will upload the final report to the website. Cllr Ponting thanked Cllrs' Bates, Pleydell, Church and Mobbs and Lucas Williams from TSB for all their hard work on the report.

3. To approve the minutes of the meetings held on 11th January 2023- The minutes for the meeting held on 11th January were proposed as a true record by Cllr C Bates and seconded by Cllr H James. All members present in agreement.

4. Matters Arising

On 4 (5, 18) Footpath in Parkmill – Cllr Mobbs reported that she had emailed Mr Dale twice but had not heard back. She said that there is still a tree, which has taken part of the path away, blocking access at the Shepherd's shop end of the path and emphasized that the path was an important alternative route for pedestrians to access The Gower Inn from Shepherds and vice versa. It was agreed by all members present that Cllr Mobbs chase this up with the Countryside Access Team as Cllr James reported that Mr Dale was currently not at work.

On 4 (5, 6) Report from Members – Iron Man Meeting – Cllr Church reported that not reply had been received since the two alternative routes were suggested to Swansea Council and the organisers of the Ironman event. Cllr L James agreed to follow this up.

On 4 (5, 10) Sewerage Outfall at Parkmill – Cllr Mobbs reported that Hamish Osborne had replied to her and agreed that there was a problem and that NRW would look into it. It was agreed that the clerk circulate to members the email reply from Mr Osborne. Cllr Mobbs

reported that a team had come to the site to survey the pipes leading down to the river with cameras but that they couldn't find them as they are not mapped. Cllr Mobbs also showed them the pumping station. Cllr Mobbs has not heard anything since the team were onsite.

On 4 (5, 21) AOB – Contacting the local police to come to a meeting – The clerk reported that she hasn't heard back from Sergeant Simon Chadwick since the last meeting. It was agreed by all members present that the clerk let him know the dates of the March meeting.

On 4 (5, 18) Correspondence – a) Sustainable Wales Grant – After a brief discussion, it was agreed by all members present that the clerk look into the next round of funding. Cllr Ponting agreed to forward the documentation to the clerk.

On 4 (4, 19) – AOB a) Environment Budget – Cllr Ponting reported that the cost of the lime tree had risen to £70 since the planting of the tree was first agreed. All members present agreed to the increase in expenditure of £10. Cllr Ponting also reported that Cllr Hollett has agreed to organise an event to plant the tree as it is to commemorate Queen Elizabeth II and he will also consult with local residents and Mr Methuan-Campbell. Cllr Ponting agreed to look into whether it is a native lime tree in light of it being planted near the Gower Ash Woods Special Area of Conservation.

On 4 (5) Reports from Members – a) Accident on Lunnon Hill- Cllr Church reported that the land where the sign is to be sited is not registered to any of the farms at the top of the hill. Cllr Church produced photos showing that it is part of the highway and grass verge. It was agreed that a standard Give Way sign was insufficient, therefore, Cllr H James agreed to take a photo of the sign in Port Eynon which reads 'Give way to traffic coming up the hill' and send it to Cllr L James. It was agreed by all members present that a sign is also needed at the bottom of the hill. The clerk to look to see if Cllr L James has previously sent plans for the signs.

It was mentioned that in the Traffic Report, the ICC are asking for a lot of signage to be put up. It was suggested that they can be mounted on existing poles. Cllr L James mentioned that the County Council are not keen on painting speed limit signs on the road surface as they wear off quickly and need repainting often. She also reported that Welsh Government are providing grants for the 20mph signs. Cllr Church asked her, that as the ICC had submitted our traffic report, if our areas can be prioritized.

On 4 (4, 6) – Planning –

- **Application No. 2021/3250/FUL** - Land south of Furzehill Green, Parkmill – No update. It was agreed to keep a watching brief.
- **Gower Society Aerial Survey No. 30** – No update.
- **Three Cliffs Campsite Yurts and Car Parking Issues** – No update.

On 4 (14) – Discussion on the use of Vocaleyes for Community Engagement – This was discussed under item 10.

On 4 (4, 17) – Correspondence –

- a) **Local Community Councils' working collaboratively** – Cllr Ponting reported that he will contact all the community councils who have responded to arrange a zoom

meeting in the near future. All but Bishopston CC and Three Crosses CC have replied and are interested in looking at common objectives. It was suggested meetings could be on a three-monthly basis.

c) Section 6 Biodiversity and Ecosystem Resilience – see item 9.

e) Local Places for Nature - It was agreed by all members present that this can be looked at after the Section 6 Biodiversity Report has been finalized.

On 4 (4, 6) - Reports from Members – Community Bus – It was reported that Cllr Pleydell has been replaced by Cllr Mobbs on the committee. Cllr James reported that from April the bus will be a registered service, therefore, adults will pay £3 each way and £1.50 for children. The money for bus pass usage will be reclaimed from Welsh Government and also a grant has been received from the National Lottery. Cllr James also reported that the committee is still looking for a Treasurer.

Mumbles Triathlon Event – The clerk reported she had been in touch with the event organisers asking for the route and had not heard back as yet.

On (4) 7 - Planning Applications - Application No. 2022/2317/PRE, Furzehill House, Ilston, SA2 7LE – no update.

On (4) 12 - Website and Communications –

3) Data Sharing – After a brief discussion, it was agreed by all members present that Cllr Pleydell run a tutorial for all members after the monthly meeting to ensure all can get access as Google have tightened up security so further stages are needed to go through. It was agreed that Cllr Pleydell would send invitations via email to members to access separated folders, which can be updated but area leads who are to retain ownership of their area. This will be monitored and back-up will be offline.

On (4) 14 - OVW/SLCC Conference – The clerk contacted the Society for Local Council Clerks after being told that they had hosted the event by OVW. It was suggested and agreed that the clerk contact Pennard CC to ask if they would share a copy of the report.

On (4) 16 - Parking Problems in Penmaen – No update.

On (4) 17- Correspondence -

c) Update for stakeholders on Swansea Airport – see item 11.

On 6. Reports from Members –

1. Town and Community Council Forum – the clerk reported that she had been in contact with Huw Evans, Head of Democratic Services, about training opportunities for members. He said that there had been some confusion and that SCC could not offer free training to community councillors but that eLearning modules were available at a cost. The cost would be per course or a flat fee for all members of the community council. It was agreed by all members present that the clerk contact Mr Evans to ask for a list of eLearning training offered by the council and to enquire more into the costs of such training, once the new training platform is up and running.

On 7. Planning Applications –

- 1) Application No. 2022/2537/PRE, pre-application for either a static caravan or log cabin for agricultural purposes at The Quarters, Furzehill, Ilston SA2 7LE. No update.
- 2) New road at The Willows, Willoxston, SA2 7LQ – It was agreed by all members present that the clerk contact Emma North to ask for an update.
- 3) Pre- application consultation for a Planning Application at Three Cliffs Bay Holiday Park, North Hills Lane, Penmaen, SA3 2HB – No update.
- 6) Kittle Hill Poultry Farm – Cllr Ponting reported that he and the clerk attended the community meeting in Pennard on 26th February about application 2023/0281/FUL - Change of use of agricultural buildings to B2 (General Industrial) and B8 (Storage and Distribution) – After discussion, it was agreed by all members that they submit individual comments on the planning portal.
- 7) Application No. 2022/2519/PRE, pre-application enquiry for a detached dwelling at Mulberry Hill Penmaen Swansea SA3 2HQ – Cllr H James reported that the pre-planning application had not been approved. It was agreed to keep a watching brief as a new application could be submitted with altered criteria.

On 11. ICC Activities Record – Cllr H James reported that the record was now on google drive and available for all members to update with their activities. It was reiterated that all activities undertaken by councillors need to be captured and therefore members were asked to access the record via google drive after the training given by Cllr Pleydell.

On 15. Biodiversity and Ecosystem Resilience Duty – see item 9.

On 16. To receive any correspondence –

- d) Received 14th November 2022, from One Voice Wales, regarding new guidance on Bullying and Harassment in Councils – see item 13.

On 17. Any Other Business -

- a) Restricting Heavy Vehicles on Mill Lane, Parkmill – Cllr L James reported she had been discussing signage with Swansea Council. She agreed to put up a warning sign but that it would not be enforceable.
- b) Grant Applications to Update the Barham Centre Kitchen – Cllr Mobbs reported that she had spoken to the Gower Society who have said that an application could be made to them for the kitchen refurbishment.
- c) Isolated Community Members – Cllr H James reported that she had been in contact with Leanne Ahern about possible funding to help isolated members of the community. She reported that no funding is currently available but that Cllr James comments would be captured as feedback in the Corporate Plan.

On 4. Financial Statement -

- a) To consider any invoices or accounts for payments and any requests for donations under section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972 – the agreements have been paid:
 - £100 to Tourism Swansea Bay for membership) and £240 for website maintenance and cost of domain name
 - £481.18 to Swansea Council for the costs incurred by the May 2022 Election.
 - £35.00 to OVW for training

On 6. Emergency Phone at Three Cliffs Bay - The clerk reported that she had contacted Peter Beynon to let him know about budget constraints and that the community council will be seeking funding for the cost of the replacement phone. Mr Beynon reported that Swansea Council are still compiling an agreement between themselves and ICC for the line rental which will be sent out for our consideration once ready. It was agreed by all members present that the clerk chase this up with Mr Beynon. Cllr Church is looking at getting the funding needed to purchase the phone apparatus.

On 10. Planning Applications – no update

On 12. Correspondence -

c) Received on 8/12/22, forwarded by OVW from Welsh Government concerning the Single Use Plastic Bill which was passed on 6th December 2022 – this information has been uploaded to the website by Cllr PLeydell.

e) Received on 14/12/22, from Chris Dale, the Countryside Access Team Manager for Swansea Council, regarding the Swansea and Gower Local Access Forum – Cllr Church agreed to join the forum. It was agreed by all members that the clerk look into this and send Cllr Church the details on how to apply.

5. Reports from Members

1) Cllr Mobbs reported that a MacMillan Mighty Hike has been scheduled for 8th July, this is different from the usual annual Gower MacMarathon. The date coincides with the annual Pennard Carnival. Cllr Mobbs to look into the details so that the community council can let businesses and residents know.

2) Cllr L James reported that Swansea Council are looking at candidate sites for the new Local Development Plan. She reported that a Swansea Council meeting was scheduled for 2nd March in which the draft LDP has been submitted to be agreed upon. She reported that the infill in the villages of Scurlage and Pennard had been completed in the last round of the LDP therefore new sites will be looked at. Cllr Church raised that the boundary of settlements needs to be looked at as our areas contains a number of hamlets and not one big village and therefore the boundaries of each village/hamlet should remain distinct. This needs to be respected in terms on infill and development. It was noted that as we are now in Pennard Ward and not Gower we are therefore defined as Gower fringe rather than rural Gower. Cllr James agreed to report back on the outcome of the LDP meeting.

3) Cllr Church mentioned the ‘Meet Your Councillor’ event. See Item 10.

4) Cllr Pleydell agreed to write a synopsis of the Traffic Report, to be agreed by Cllr Ponting, Cllr Church, Cllr Mobbs and Cllr Bates, so that it can be sent out to residents on the mailing list and uploaded to the website to keep residents informed about the work being done by the community council.

5) Cllr Church raised the issue of grazing and how the commons are managed as this topic had come up at the Meet your Councillor event. Cllr L James agreed to send the report on the management of the commons to the clerk. It was reported that Cllr Huffer, at the Meet your Councillor event, agreed to write a report on the Commons and Gower ecosystems and how they work with a view to advising motorists.

Mr B Williams reported that the footpath from Nicholaston through to Perriswood and down to the Penrice Estate is impassable. It was agreed by all members present that the clerk report this issue to the Countryside Access Team.

6) Cllr Pleydell reported that the watermain works along the loop road at the bottom of Cefn Bryn has started. The road will be closed for approx. 8 weeks. Cllr Pleydell raised that after the works have been completed the area at the end of the loop road, previously used as a car park, should be restored.

6. Planning Applications

None

7. Financial Statement

Noted transactions since the last meeting are as follows:

Debit –		
C Toft	£322.80	16/02/2023
C Toft	£665.23	20/02/2023
OVW	£35.00	20/01/2023
TSB	£240.00	20/01/2023
TSB	£100.00	20/01/2023
CCS	£481.18	20/01/2023
 Total:	 £844.21	

Therefore –
Balance:

£1436.64 Current Account
£3341.90 Saving Account

a) To consider any invoices or accounts for payments and any requests for donations under section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972 –

- It was agreed by all members present to pay Cllr Church £143.88 as he paid the Zoom yearly subscription using his credit card as this was the only payment option offered by zoom.

- It was agreed by all members present to pay the invoice for £50 to PC Homecall for the installation of Kapersky 2022 licence and laptop maintenance.
 - It was agreed by all members present to pay the invoice for £96.00 for the continued membership of One Voice Wales.
 - It was agreed by all members present to pay the invoice for £40.00 to OVW for the Code of Conduct training courses completed by Cllr Hollett and Cllr Bates.
- b) To consider any payments to be made before the end of the financial year –
- It was agreed by all members present that the clerk be paid the £180 for utilities, phone and internet that she uses whilst working for ICC during the 2022/2023 tax year, agreed at the budget meeting.
 - It was agreed by all members present that the clerk facilitates the payment of £250 to Gower 1st Responders as agreed at the budget meeting to come out of this year's budget.
 - It was proposed by Cllr Pleydell and seconded by Cllr Mobbs that the money allocated to Friends of Pennard Library be re-allocated elsewhere as Cllr L James reported that the library is now financially stable. This was agreed by all members present.

9. To consider the Section 6 Biodiversity Report

The clerk circulated the draft report before the meeting, after meeting with Rachel Carter from One Voice Wales. It was agreed by all members present that the clerk arrange a meeting with the environment committee to look at the report and also add the work that Cllr Mobbs has been involved with on the footpaths in Parkmill. It was agreed that more members are needed on the environment committee, this will be looked at once new members are appointed.

10. To consider the feedback from the 'Meet your Councillor' evening

Cllr Church reported that 28 residents attended the event. He reported that the main issues raised were to do with traffic, speeding, parking and accidents and parking at Tor View. It was felt by all members who attended that the evening had been a success and impactful in terms of making the ICC aware of residents' concerns. It was agreed by all members present that the event be repeated with an open forum format on a quarterly basis with different council members taking part each time.

11. To consider any update on the Swansea Airport Stakeholders Alliance

The clerk read out parts of the recent emails received from Mr Oliver. The alliance is still awaiting a decision from Swansea Council regarding the future of the airport. It was agreed by all members present to keep a watching brief.

12.To consider the Cyber Awareness Training

Cllr Church reported that the ICC use Clook as a protection system on the website and it was mentioned that basic safeguarding was needed as members use personal emails etc. After a brief discussion, it was agreed by all members present that all members look at the training PDF to make them aware or remind them about the importance of safeguarding, good housekeeping and good practice on emails on personal phones and computers.

13.To consider adopting the Bullying and Harassment in Councils Guidance

After a brief discussion, it was proposed by Cllr H James and seconded by Cllr Church that the guidance be adopted. This was agreed by all members present. Cllr Pleydell agreed to upload the guidance to the ICC website

15. Correspondence

Emails received and noted:

- a) Received on 31/01/23 From Mr K Bond, resident of Parkmill, reporting to the clerk that a tree had fallen across the stream in Parkmill. It was agreed by all members present that the clerk report this to NRW as a potential flooding issue.
- b) Received on 31/01/23 from OVW, TAN 15: Development, flooding and coastal erosion – further amendments. Cllr Dale proposed asking Cllr Huffer, as a member of the Environment Committee, to look at and comment on behalf of the ICC. This was agreed by all members.
- c) Received on 2/02/23 from Leanne Ahern, Swansea Council, regarding the Swansea Council Corporate Plan 2023/28, ‘Have Your Say, online survey. Cllr H James proposed that individual members respond if they want to. This was agreed by all members present. A discussion followed on the many surveys and consultations coming through to ICC. Cllr Church suggested that, on a rota basis, members take it in turns to look at all consultations sent through. It was agreed by all members present that this be looked at during the March meeting.
- d) Received on 3/02/23 from Mr J Williams, resident of Penmaen, regarding the missing 30mph change of speed sign as you travel westbound into Penmaen. The clerk reported that she had reported this to Swansea Council who would replace the sign when budgets allowed. Cllr Ponting agreed to send photos of Penmaen Cross, showing that only an advisory 30mph sign is present, to Cllr L James.
- e) Received on 6/02/23, forwarded by OVW from National Forest Woodland Liaison Officer regarding the National Forest for Wales Programme. It was agreed to send this out on the mailing list and for it to be uploaded to the website.
- 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. After discussing Mrs Stein’s concerns, it was agreed by all members present that the clerk respond to say that the issue of dog’s behaviour will be raised with the police at the next meeting and that the traffic issues in Lunnon/Ilston will be looked at by the Traffic Working Party as part of the next phase of the traffic group work. Mr Williams also reported that badger bating and hare coursing were also an issue.

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 Ponting reported that he would ask Cllr Hollett to attend, as a member of the planning committee, on behalf of the ICC as Cllr Elliott is not able to attend. This was agreed by all members.

h) Received on 17/02/23 from OVW regarding the Training Needs Survey 2023. It was proposed by Cllr H James that all members look at the survey and send comments to the clerk so that she can collate responses and then respond on behalf of ICC. This was agreed by all members present.

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. It was agreed that Cllr Mobbs send her availability to the clerk for her to send to PCC.

j) Received on 27/02/23 from the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales regarding their annual report. It was agreed by all members present that this be looked at in the March meeting as members have not had time to thoroughly look through the report. It was agreed that the clerk to contact OVW to ask if the community council can vote on whether members accept payments. It was agreed that this would have to be looked at in the budget.

13. Any Other Business

None

Date of Next Meeting - It was agreed by all members present that the next meeting take place on Tuesday 28th March at 7pm at the Barham Centre, Parkmill and also online via Zoom.

Meeting closed at 9.30pm

