

Ilston Community Council

Minutes of Meeting held on 28th March 2023

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

Present: Councillors – Mr. D. Ponting, Mrs S Mobbs, Mr R Church, Mr S Pleydell, Mr C Bates, Mrs. H James and Mr N Huffer. Mr N Hollett joined that meeting at 7.21pm

Also Present: Mrs A Elliott, Mr I Brown, Mr B Beynon, Sergeant S Chadwick, PCSO J Borthwick and via zoom, Ms S Llewellyn

In the Chair: Cllr D Ponting

1. Apologies for Absence

None

2. Declaration of Personal Interests

Cllr D Ponting and Cllr C Bates both declared an interest in item 12 -
To consider parking issues on the land adjacent to the Penmaen and Nicholaston Village Hall, as they are both on the Village Hall committee.

3. Welcoming Sergeant Simon Chadwick to the meeting to discuss dog behaviour and other issues

Cllr Ponting welcomed Sergeant Chadwick and PCSO J Borthwick who introduced themselves. A number of issues were discussed:

- a) Dog Behaviour -The issue raised by Mrs Stein regarding dog behaviour was discussed with the officers. Sergeant Chadwick reported that they do receive a few calls regarding dogs and livestock but mostly in other areas of Gower. He advised that any incidences should be reported via the South Wales Police website or by calling 101. He continued that, if such incidences continue to occur, then it's possible that a bodycam can be worn to record the event and any witnesses will be asked for their testimony and that the police can be made aware and try to track down the owners. Cllr Mobbs said that on the whole, local dog walkers are responsible but asked how visitors to the area can be tracked down if an incident occurs. Sergeant Chadwick responded that if there is immediate danger then to call 999 for an immediate response. He stressed that it is important to get as much evidence as possible and that attacks will be followed up by the police and that patrols can be prioritised in problem areas. The police have corrugated signs saying 'Keep Dogs on Leads' that can be put up, these are usually used around livestock. Sergeant Chadwick said that he can deliver some signs and then decisions can be made where to put them up. It was then agreed by all members present that Cllr Pleydell would upload information shared by the police to the website.
- b) Road Racing and Speeding - The issue of bikers racing across the common on Sunday afternoons was raised by Cllr James. Cllr Church also mentioned that races are happening in

Parkmill and Cllr Beynon said that he also hears it happening in Penmaen. It was agreed that the Traffic Report be shared with the officers and Sergeant Chadwick agreed to keep the community council updated regarding the issues raised and to contact Go Safe to arrange surveying areas where speeding and racing is a problem. Sergeant Chadwick also reported that the police can bring down their speed cameras on bikes which can be parked in areas inaccessible to the Go Safe vans.

- c) Police Numbers - Cllr Ponting and Cllr Church raised concerns over strength of police numbers in the area. Sergeant Chadwick responded that they have an emergency response team in Sketty and that they have extra officers on evenings and weekends over the summer period.
- d) Suspicious Behaviour - Cllr Huffer raised that residents had reported to him incidences of suspicious behaviour locally. Cllr Pleydell also mentioned issues in Penmaen and Cllr Ponting said that similar issues were happening at Three Cliffs in the early hours of the morning. Sergeant Chadwick recommended reporting these to the police so that they can concentrate their efforts on these areas.

Cllr Ponting then thanked the officers for their time in attending the meeting and answering concerns. The officers left their cards with their contact information and QR codes. Cllr Pleydell agreed to upload the information shared by the police to the website. Sergeant Chadwick and PCSO Borthwick left the meeting at 7.25pm.

So as not to keep Ms Llewellyn waiting further, Cllr Ponting then proposed moving to

Item 12, To consider parking issues on the land adjacent to the Penmaen and Nicholaston Village Hall - This was agreed by all members present.

As Cllr Ponting and Cllr Bates had declared an interest in this item and took no further part in the discussion, except where asked to respond on behalf of the Village Hall Committee, Cllr Church took over chairing the meeting at this point.

Ms Llewellyn reported that residents feel that they are seen as a nuisance and are not consulted or kept up to date with what is happening. She also said that the concern of the residents is that village hall committee want to increase the usage of the hall and therefore, residents would like to be involved in the discussions on this. They are concerned that their access to and from their properties will be further restricted especially as there is only one way in and out through the gate. Residents feel that the parking usage is not monitored and the ground and exits are not suitable for the number of vehicles parking there. They also feel that their enjoyment of their houses is being degraded.

Cllr Ponting, asks to respond on behalf of the Village Hall Committee, said that the hall committee had written a response to the concerns raised by the residents and this had been submitted to Swansea Council. He assured Ms Llewellyn that the committee were not looking to increase usage but to continue with current usage rates.

After a discussion, it was raised that the community council can only act as facilitators on this issue as the ICC don't have any legal responsibilities or rights over the land. Cllr Pleydell suggested that ICC could facilitate a meeting between all interested parties at the village hall so all views can be heard. It was agreed by all members with voting right on this issue that the clerk write back to Swansea Council Housing Department asking them to state what the

situation currently is in terms of what the residents can do with the land and also what the Hall Committee can do. The clerk will also ask them to clarify to what extent the land is used for hall parking and ask what their response is to the points raised by the letter and documents presented by Ms Llewellyn. Ms Llewellyn voiced that she is willing to share any letters or further information that she has on the matter. It was therefore agreed that the clerk share the email response received from Swansea Council and the Hall Committee with Ms Llewellyn so that the residents are kept in the loop.

Ms Llewellyn left the meeting at 7.42pm.

4. The Resignation of Cllr Elliott

Cllr Ponting announced the resignation of Cllr Elliott after 10 years on the community council. Mrs Elliott was presented with flowers with thanks from all members and the clerk for her hard work and support whilst being a member, the Chair and Planning Officer. Mrs Elliott left at 7.45pm. It was agreed by all members present that Cllr Ponting compose a thank you to Cllr Elliott to be uploaded to the website. It was reported by the clerk that democratic services had been notified and that the appropriate vacancy notice has been displayed locally and on the website.

5. To welcome the new co-opted members and to sign the declaration of office – Cllr

Ponting announced that Mr Williams had withdrawn his nomination and therefore there was no longer any need to interview the two remaining candidates for the two vacancies. Mr Brown and Mr Beynon were then asked to leave the room so that the formal co-option process could proceed. Cllr Ponting called for nominations, it was proposed by Cllr Church and seconded by Cllr Pleydell that Mr Beynon and Mr Brown be nominated. The two nominees were then voted in as members of the council unanimously. Cllr Ponting then declared them as successfully co-opted on to the council. Mr Beynon and Mr Brown were then asked to return to the room and each sign the Declaration of Office form, witnessed by the clerk.

It was agreed by all members present to elect Mr Brown as the member for Ilston Ward and Mr Beynon as the member for Nicholaston. Cllr Brown then agreed to join the Environment Committee and the Planning Committee. Cllr Beynon agreed to join the Environment Committee and the Traffic Committee. Cllr James and Cllr Huffer agreed to cover the area along Pengwern Common to Tirmyndd Road left unrepresented by Cllr Elliott's resignation.

It was agreed by all members present that the clerk send through the relevant documentation for these committees to the new members along with the training plan and policy.

Cllr Ponting then reminded members of their responsibilities and what was expected of them as councillors. He urged new members to undertake the New Councillor Training and all members to take the Code of Conduct training as it should be completed once per term of office. He acknowledged that everyone has a lot going on in their lives but asked that time is dedicated to the work of the council and also to representing each ward. He asked members to respect each other and the clerk, work together as a team, respond to emails in a timely matter and send apologies if unable to attend a meeting. Cllr Ponting also urged members to update the Activities Record as it shows how much the council and individual members are

achieving. He voiced that ICC should be very proud of what has been achieved over the last few years and thanked members for their efforts.

6.To approve the minutes of the meetings held on 28th February 2023

The minutes for the meeting held on 28th February were proposed as a true record by Cllr Pleydell and seconded by Cllr H James. All members present in agreement.

7. Matters Arising –

On 7 (4) Footpath in Parkmill – Cllr Mobbs reported the path had been widened to make it easier to pass the area where the fallen tree had taken away the path and where it had been trampled by livestock. It was agreed that she keep a watching brief as the signage still needs to be sorted out.

On 7 (4) Report from Members – Iron Man Meeting – Cllr Church reported that another route is being considered for this year's event. It was agreed that he would report back when he had further information.

On 4 (5,10) Sewage Outfall at Parkmill – Cllr Mobbs reported a further incident of contaminated water discharging from the storm drain which she reported to Welsh Water who realised that there is a problem as only rainwater should be discharging from the storm drain. After discussion, it was agreed by all members present that the clerk write to NRW to ask them to invoke their powers to investigate and protect designated areas as contaminated water is going into a river which is designated as a SSSI. It was agreed that the clerk also copy in Welsh Water, Swansea City Council and Assembly Member Julie James. Cllr Brown reported that he had the contact details for the Head of New Connections at Welsh Water and that he would share these with the clerk.

Cllr Ponting thanked Cllr Mobbs for all her hard work on this issue.

On 18 Correspondence – a) Sustainable Wales Grant – The clerk reported that she had been in touch with Mawr Community Council as their funding officer has offered to help with finding funding. It was agreed by all members present that she reports back on this at the next meeting.

On (4) 19 AOB a) Environment Budget – Cllr Hollett reported the tree was due to be delivered this week. It was agreed that he liaise with Mr Methuan-Campbell and Cllr Beynon as to where the tree is to be planted on the green. Cllr James suggested that a plaque be erected to go with the tree. It was agreed by all members present that funding for this be looked into.

On 5 Reports from Members – a) Accident on Lunnon Hill- The clerk circulated the signage sent to her by Cllr L James saying 'Give Way to Oncoming Vehicles'. It was agreed by all members present to respond to Cllr James that ICC are happy for the sign to be put up.

On 4 (4,6) – Planning Applications – Cllr Hollett agreed to take the lead on Planning Applications after Cllr Elliott's resignation.

On 4 (4,6) Report from Members –

Community Bus – Cllr Mobbs confirmed that she was now a member of the committee and that a treasurer has been found.

Mumbles Triathlon Event – the clerk reported that Mr Powell from Activity Wales confirmed that he had travelled the course and that no signage had been left from the Triathlon event. He also confirmed that all signage from the very recent Duathlon was removed immediately. He also reported that there had been some verbal abuse aimed at event volunteers. It was agreed by all members present that the clerk reply to Mr Powell to say that this had been reported to ICC and that all members expressed disappointment that this had happened and agreed that this sort of behavior is unacceptable.

On 7 (4) - Website and Communications – 3) Data Sharing – It was agreed by all members present that Cllr Pleydell send links to the new members with an explanation and details to access Google Docs. Cllr Ponting reminded all members to keep updating the activities record to reflect all the work being done.

On 7 (4) - OVW/SLCC Conference – The clerk reported that the Mrs Crocker, the clerk for Pennard CC has shared the documents from the conference and that she will share them with the appropriate committee members.

On (4) 16 – Parking Problems in Penmaen – It was reported that Swansea Council had now registered the title to all of Tor Bay car park. It was agreed by all members present to ask Cllr James if the car park can now be tarmacked as it is so uneven and subsequently the hash marking be redone to help prevent inappropriate parking in front of the houses fronting onto the car park.

On (4) 6 Reports from Members - The clerk reported that Mr Evans had responded to her requests for a list of eLearning modules and associated costs. He said that as they were in the process of changing their eLearning training provider he was unable to provide the information on what will be available and who will be able to access the site at present. He has promised to get back to the clerk with this information once the changeover is complete.

On 7 (7) Planning Applications – 2) New Road at the Willows – the clerk reported that Emma North, the case officer, had been in touch to report that she has looked into the planning history and visited the property on two occasions and has established that no new formal road has been laid. She thus confirmed that no planning breach had occurred.

On 7 (11) ICC Activities Record – It was agreed by all members present that all activities undertaken by councillors need to be captured and therefore members to access the record via google drive after the training given by Cllr Pleydell.

On 7 (17) Any Other Business -

a) Restricting Heavy Vehicles on Mill Lane, Parkmill – no update in the absence of Cllr L James, it was therefore agreed to keep a watching brief.

c) Isolated Community Members – Cllr James reported that she had received a formal invitation to the launch of the Wellbeing Plan.

On 7 (6) To consider the Emergency Phone at Three Cliffs Bay – Cllr Church reported that funding for the phone unit has been obtained from the Gower Ambassadors Scheme. It was agreed by all members present that the clerk chase up the line rental agreement with Swansea Council. It was agreed that Cllr Pleydell would put a link to the ICC website to the Gower Ambassador Scheme.

On 7 (12) Correspondence –

e) Swansea and Gower Local Access Forum – Cllr Church reported that he had received the forms and information from the clerk and that he is waiting to hear from Mr Dale, the team-leader of the Countryside Access Team.

On 5. Reports from Members –

1) Cllr Mobbs reported that she had been in contact with Macmillan and that the route from Penrice Castle to Worms Head should not impact on roads. It was agreed that Cllr Mobbs send the information of the event to Cllr Pleydell to upload to the website so that local businesses and residents are aware of the event.

2) Cllr L James reported that Swansea Council are looking at candidate sites for the new Local Development Plan. – The clerk had received the documentation from Swansea Council. It was agreed that the clerk circulate the plan to Cllr Hollett and Cllr Brown to review and report back to members.

3) Cllr Church reported that the Gower Inn are happy to host another ‘Meet Your Councillor’ event, but want to avoid the summer months. It was agreed by all members present that Cllr Church look for a date in May that avoids the school holidays and bank holidays. Cllr Ponting thanked Cllr Church for all his work on these events.

4) Sending out synopsis of the Traffic Report to all on the mailing list and uploaded to the website – Cllr Pleydell reported that this had been done.

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 Huffer agreed to write a piece for the website looking at the history, the current situation and animal behaviour to inform the public.

Cllr Church reported that an officer has been appointed to oversee the implementation of the 20mph speed limits coming in in September. He reported that he has been on contact with him and hopes to arrange a meeting with the officer, himself and Cllr L James to discuss the implementation and to help ensure that designated budget for this Welsh Government scheme be spent on road signage and not diverted to road upkeep.

Cllr James raised the issue of the deregulation of Cilonen Road. It was agreed that she check the boundary maps to establish whether it is inside the boundary of ICC.

Mr B Williams reported that the footpath from Nicholaston through to Perriswood and down to the Penrice Estate is impassable - The clerk reported that the issue was raised with the Countryside Access team who had asked for further information. It was agreed that the clerk liaise with Cllr Church who reported that the area behind the archery centre leading to the hamlet of Perriswood is totally overgrown and impassable.

6) Watermain works along the loop road in Penmaen – Cllr Pleydell reported that the work is now likely to take longer than the planned six weeks. As the land belongs to the National Trust, it was agreed that the clerk forward the contact details for Mr Kearsley-Evans so that Cllr Pleydell could contact him about reinstating the land that was previously used as a car park after the works are completed by Welsh Water.

On 7. Financial statement –

- a) To consider any payments to be made before the end of the financial year –
- It was agreed by all members present that the clerk facilitates the payment of £250 to Gower 1st Responders agreed at the budget meeting to come out of this year's budget. – The clerk reported that she had left a message via Facebook for the Gower 1st Responders but had not had a response. Cllr Ponting suggested, in light of budgetary constraints that the decision to donate it be reversed and diverted to the training budget. This proposal was seconded by Cllr Pleydell. All members present agreed.

On 12. Cyber Awareness Training – Cllr Pleydell suggested the guidance from Swansea Council be sent to Cllr Beynon and Cllr Brown for their attention. This was agreed by all members,

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 – It was agreed that the clerk report back to Mrs Stein to update her on what was discussed at the meeting with the police.
- 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. – It was agreed that the clerk liaise with Cllr Hollett, look at other training options and forward the Planning Aid Wales presentation from the OVW/SLCC conference for his attention.
- 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 confirmed that she has agreed to attend on 19th April and will report back.
- j) Received on 27/02/23 from the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales regarding their annual report. – this is discussed at item 14.

8. Reports from Members

- a) Cllr Ponting reported that he had been speaking to the developer North Hills Lane, going down towards Three Cliffs Bay, to ask what they intend to do regarding the state of the road. Two weeks ago, the owner of Cabin 3 agreed that she would get it cleared up. It was agreed by all members present to keep a watching brief.
- b) It was reported that John Jacobs, our former clerk, has sadly passed away. Cllr Church agreed to attend the funeral on behalf of ICC. It was agreed by all members present that Cllr Church and Cllr Beynon compose a piece with a photo to be uploaded to the website.

9. Planning Applications

Application No. 2023/0585/FUL

Location: Underwood, Parkmill, Swansea, SA3 2EH,

Proposal: Proposed porch extension, two storey side/rear extension, first floor rear extension, front rooflights and proposed outbuilding.

Applicant: Mr I Brown

Cllr Brown declared an interest in this application as it is for his property and left the room at 9.12pm. After a brief discussion it was agreed by all members in the room not to raise any objection. Cllr Brown returned to the room at 9.14pm.

10. Financial Statement

Noted transactions since the last meeting are as follows:

Debit –

C Toft	£180.00	07/03/2023
C Toft	£322.80	07/03/2023
Gower Heritage Centre	£143.88	07/03/2023
OVW	£96.00	07/03/2023
OVW	£40.00	07/02/2023
PC Homecall	£50.00	07/03/2023

Total £832.68

Credit –

Interest paid £4.15 06/03/2023

Therefore –

Balance:

£603.96 Current Account

£3346.05 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 –
1. An invoice for £200 was received from the Wales Audit Office for the 2021/22 Annual Return. It was agreed by all members present to pay this amount.
 2. It had been agreed before the meeting, via email, that Cllr Ponting should spend £30 on flowers for Cllr Elliott on her resignation to show the community councils thanks and appreciation of her hard work. The invoice for the flowers was presented and all members present agree to reimburse Cllr Ponting.
 3. Appeals received from Macmillian Cancer Care and the Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod. After a brief discussion, it was agreed by all members present that, as the budget is very tight, the community council will only consider donating to local causes.

- b) To receive the Precept Notification –

Precept notification received from Mr B Smith, Director of Finance for Swansea City Council. Payments of £2229.50 will be paid on 28/04/2023, 31/08/2023 and 29/12/2023.

- c) To consider extra hours worked by the clerk – the clerk sent out her timesheets from November to February to all members prior to the meeting showing that the clerk has worked an extra 19.25 hours. The clerk offered to leave the room whilst this was discussed but members thought that this was unnecessary. After a brief discussion it was agreed by all members present to pay the clerk for the extra hours worked but that she should keep an eye on her hours and ask members for help when necessary. It was also agreed to look at buying a separate sim for the clerk's phone to separate private and work calls and emails and also to look at her contactable hours. The clerk to also add a tagline at the end of her emails word to the effect of: I work part time hours and will respond as soon as possible when back at work.

11. Road Closures

Cllr Church informed members on the current procedure. After discussion, it was agreed by all members that Cllr Church, Cllr Huffer and Cllr Beynon draft a letter to Swansea Council asking that community councils get notice of events and road closures well in advance of the event happening in order to have time to inform residents and local businesses and respond with comments and objections if necessary. It was also agreed, for greater impact, that Cllr Ponting raise this issue at the next Community Council Forum meeting so that all the community councils write with one voice.

13. To consider the Section 6 Biodiversity Report

It was reported that as Cllr Mobbs had been experienced technical difficulties that she and the clerk had not been able to meet. Cllr Mobbs has sent the clerk some additional information for the report and they will meet and present the draft report to members before the next meeting.

14. To consider the Independent Remuneration Panel Report regarding payments to members

The clerk reported that she had spoken to OVW who confirmed that the decision to accept the remuneration was to be decided by each member individually and could not be voted on at a meeting. The clerk will send out forms to each member separately for them to respond. It was agreed by all members that this will be discussed at the setting of next year's budget to make provision should members wish to accept payments.

15. To consider the update from the Traffic Working Party

Cllr Church reported that the Traffic Report had been shared with SCC but that no update has as yet been received. Cllr Church also raised the report on the new 20mp national rollout scheme and Cllr Ponting pointed out that definitions were not clear regarding meeting places as they do not seem to cover places like the Guiding Centre in Parkmill, places of worship and Kilvrough Manor. It was agreed by all members present that Cllr Bates chase this up.

Cllr Ponting reported, in the absence of Cllr L James, that the funding to extend the footpath westward from the existing pavement to provide safe access to the bus stop near Rose Cottage in Penmaen has been secured. Cllr Pleydell to contact Cllr L James for further information.

16. Correspondence

Correspondence received and **noted**, emails forwarded to members on receipt.

1. Received from Elan City, dated 28/02/2023, containing leaflets on the newest versions of their radar speed signs and offering special saver prices – to be kept on file.

Emails:

- a) Received on 10/03/23, forwarded by OVW, from Andrew McTaggart on behalf of the Local Development Plan - Swansea Local Development Plan Review and Replacement – It was agreed by all members present that the clerk resend the consultation to Cllr Hollett and Cllr Brown to look at as the consultation period finishes on 20/04/23.
- b) Received on 14/03/23, from Mr M Mathias on behalf of HM Lord-Lieutenant of West Glamorgan, -Invitation to the Coronation Thanksgiving Service at St Mary's Church, Swansea on 30th April 2023. Cllr Mobbs has agreed to attend on behalf of the community council.
- c) Received on 15/03/23, from Julie Fforest, Audit Wales, informing the council of a change of address. This has been kept on file.
- d) Received 15/03/23, from the Severn Estuary Partnership – Bristol Channel and Severn Stakeholder Workshop event has been rescheduled to 18th April so more people can attend.
- e) Received from Wendi Patience, OVW on 21/03/23 – Training Dates for March and April 2023 and appraising us of the price increase from £35 to £38 per attendee per session. It was agreed by all members present that the clerk send the details of the New Councillor Induction training to Cllr Beynon and Cllr Brown. It was agreed that the Clerk attend the Advanced Local Government Finance Module on 26th April.

17. Any Other Business

None

Date of Next Meeting - It was agreed by all members present that the next meeting take place on Wednesday 26th April at 7pm at the Barham Centre, Parkmill and also online via Zoom.

Meeting closed at 9.47pm