

# **Ilston Community Council**

## **Minutes of Meeting held on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2024**

At a meeting of Ilston Community Council, at the Barham Centre, Parkmill on Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2024

**Present:** Cllr D Ponting, Cllr R Church, Cllr N Huffer, and Cllr I Brown.  
Cllr H James joined via Zoom  
Cllr N Hollett joined for item 6 planning applications

**Also attending:** Mr P Sizer -Clerk,

**In the Chair:** Cllr D Ponting

**1. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies received from: Cllr C Bates, Cllr S Mobbs, Cllr B Beynon and Cllr S Pleydell. Cllr L James also sent her apologies

**2. Declaration of Personal Interests**

There were no declarations of interest stated

At this time, the chair proposed to alter the agenda order and bring part of item 8 forward. There were no objections

**8. Grant requests (including presentation by David Harry Warden to St John's Church)**

David Harry Warden to St John's church in Penmaen made a presentation to the Community Council. The church are not requesting funds but support to help with the upkeep of the church grounds. It was agreed on receipt of more details, the clerk would send an e-mail around all the community members asking if anyone was willing to offer support.

Suggestions were also made as to whether an open day would be of assistance at the church and/or a feature in the new Gower magazine coming out in April.

The Church were looking for upgrades to the fabric of the church, floor, electrics and pews but this would hopefully be achieved via grants from other organisations.

The Chair asked Mr Harry to draft a form of words setting out the position of the church, and requesting volunteers to assist in its upkeep. This to be posted on the ICC website.

Mr Harry left the meeting at 19.40

**3. Consider representations from members of the public**

There were no members of the public attending the meeting at this stage although two members joined for item 6 planning applications.

**4. Approve minutes of monthly meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> November 2023**

The minutes were accepted as a true representation of the meeting held on the 24<sup>th</sup> November 2023. Cllr Ponting proposed and Cllr Brown seconded a motion they are correct.

**5. Matters arising**

- Footpath in Parkmill – the work has been completed; however, the steps have been removed. Since their removal there have been a couple of accidents. The councillors asked the clerk to make contact with City & County of Swansea Footpaths Officer to advise that either a slope or steps should be reinstated.

**ACTION POINT Mr P Sizer**

- Iron Man Meeting – Cllr Church is meeting with councillors in February regarding the implications of the Iron man event.

**ACTION POINT Cllr Church**

- Lunnon Hill closures – The clerk advised he had received a letter from Activity Wales Events regarding road closures in March and May. The councillors asked the clerk to respond pointing out that an application for road closure must be made for both of these events.

**ACTION POINT Mr P Sizer**

- Emergency phone at Three Cliffs Bay –Cllr Brown confirmed he had applied for funds from the Gower Society. It was agreed that a “no buttons” version which connected directly to the Coastguards would be the best version to locate at the site.

**ACTION POINT Cllr Brown**

- Swansea and Gower Local Access Forum – Cllr Church reported he had attended two meetings now and will remain the contact for the Community Council.

- Meet your Councillors – Cllr Brown would arrange the meeting and would have support from an environmentalist. No date has yet been set and Cllr Brown will advise. It was suggested that the meeting could be held in St John’s church in Penmaen to help support their campaign for assistance in the grounds.

**ACTION POINT Cllr Brown**

- Traffic speed around Kilvrough Manor – Cllr Ponting reported he had no response from City & County of Swansea with regard to the Traffic report that was sent to them. This was despite requests on behalf of ICC by both Tonia Antoniazzi MP and Rebecca Evans MS. Neither have received responses from SCC. He feels the matter should now be escalated with City & County of

Swansea and would send communication to the Chief Executive, and Head of DLS.

**ACTION POINT Cllr Ponting**

- Removal of Ivy – as Cllr Bates had offered his apologies this matter has been transferred to next meeting

**ACTION POINT Cllr Bates**

- The Community council now have two LACS covering their area. An invite would be sent out by Cllr James to invite the new LAC to the next meeting in March.

**ACTION POINT Cllr James**

- The clerk reported full access now to e-mails thanks to Lucas and his support. A new password was arranged and e-mails migrated to the Clerk's home computer. The clerk had recently sent out an e-mail to all in the community from a listing he had retrieved from the laptop. The clerk will attempt to obtain the latest copy of the electoral lists for the Community and check all addresses and e-mails are up to date.

**ACTION POINT Mr P Sizer**

- Signage at Three Cliffs Beach – Cllr Ponting had spoken to the local RNLI manager Mr Vinnie Vincent who stated the Safety Officer for Wales & West had sent a recommendation in to City & County of Swansea (including warning of rip tides) with regard to the correct signage. The placing of the signage would then be responsibility of SCC.

- Cllr Ponting and Cllr Pleydell will work together to write an updated Data Safety Policy. Cllr Huffer offered to review the policy.

**ACTION POINT Cllr Huffer**

- Update on the fallen tree in the river. The clerk had contacted NRW who had also been in contact with Cllr Church. It was suggested that Cllr Church take on the role of meeting with NRW to discuss the issues.

**ACTION POINT Cllr Church**

- Cllr Brown had started the Flood Plan for the area. This is still a work in progress. Cllr L James from City & County of Swansea is to be contacted with regard to sandbags etc. A discussion was held as to where they ought to be located. Gower Inn, Gower Heritage Centre and one other site were all discussed. Cllr Brown would investigate storage as they will require to be covered and "off the floor". The Councillors thanked Cllr Brown for all his work on this matter.

**ACTION POINT Cllr Ponting & Cllr Brown**

- Cllr Huffer asked if there was a possibility of also storing "Cold Patch" materials to perform quick repairs to potholes in the area. Cllr Ponting will contact Cllr L James to seek her thoughts on this matter.

**ACTION POINT Cllr Ponting**

- Sandy Lane had been cleared of debris but it had returned. Cllr Mobbs to contact City & County of Swansea again to remove the debris. Due to the absence of Cllr Mobbs this matter will be carried to the next meeting. **ACTION POINT Cllr Mobbs**

## 6. Consider planning applications

The meeting was joined by two members of the public, Mr David Patton and Mrs Renata Prells.

Cllr Hollett also joined the meeting at this stage via telephone link.

### **Cobwebs Penmaen Swansea**

*Demolition of existing, part single, part two storey property and the construction of a new, part single, part two storey, highly sustainable, contemporary family home with detached, single storey, flat roof garage*

Mr Patton made statements regarding various aspects of the application that had been submitted to the Planners at City & County of Swansea. His comments were supported by Mrs Prells.

Cllr Brown agreed with the comments especially with regard to the removal of the trees, the appearance of the alterations and the overall changes to buildings around Gower in general. Mrs Prells also spoke about the entrance to the house and gardens as access appears to be off a very "basic" lane. She was also concerned as the property was on a bend in the road, any deliveries made during the alterations could cause traffic issues.

Cllr Ponting suggested that there were two alternatives, to get the matter called in by SCC Planning Committee. Either a petition with a minimum of 30 householders from the area be instigated, or 20 letters of complaint be sent to the Planning Department. It was agreed that Cllr Ponting would arrange circulation of a petition. The petition would ask for a full review of the application by the Council.

**ACTION POINT Cllr Ponting**

Mr Patton and Mrs Prells left the meeting at this stage.

### **Nicholaston House Christian Retreat Centre Penmaen Swansea**

*Change of use of Christian retreat and Conference facilities to 1 number dwelling house (C3)*

The Councillors felt a change to what in effect is a 13-bedroom house would be very unusual for the area. It was felt that the change would result in a loss of employment for locals and be a loss of a service employer. The premises had previously been an hotel and the Councillors wondered if a future application may be made to this effect. It was agreed that Cllr Brown would make comments to the planners at City & County of Swansea with regard to the Councillors feelings on the proposal.

There were other planning applications but no comments were required from the Community Council.

Cllr Hollett left the meeting at this stage.

**7. Consider financial statements**

The bank balances stood at £2870 in the savings account and £3309 in the current account after the latest precept had been received.

The clerk had received an invoice from the Audit Office in the sum of £245 in regard to the last audit they had completed.

The clerk advised that Reynoldston Community Council were sending an invoice in the sum of £60 to cover 50% of the training costs of the clerk and his course with the SLCC. The costs were paid in full by Reynoldston and it had been agreed all costs would be shared between the two Community Councils.

Other expenses that would have to be paid before the end of March and before the next meeting were:

Clerks' wages and PAYE account in the sum of £932

The clerk has some general expenses circa £30 which he will get signed off by the chair as soon as possible.

The emergency telephone line rental of circa £12 would be due soon.

A payment of £30 for Pennard Community Council was agreed to be paid in reference to Code of conduct training for Cllr Huffer.

Cllr Church proposed these payments be noted and paid before the end of March, Cllr Ponting seconded this proposal and all Councillors present agreed to the proposals.

**8. Grant requests**

There were no new grant applications received by the Council

**9. Presentation from National Trust**

Unfortunately, due to a misunderstanding by Ms Geraldine Ferguson from the National trust no representative attended the meeting.

**10. Service Agreement at Three Cliffs**

It was agreed that the clerk will search back through the past e-mails and find the agreement for the telephone landline at Three Cliffs and update the Councillors.

**11 Reports from members**

Cllr Mobbs advised the chair that the debris still existed at the bottom of Sandy lane and she would keep in touch with City & County of Swansea to have it removed.

Cllr Mobbs also advised regarding the speeding still though Parkmill. The speed signage was not clearly visible where sited at the entrance to the village and a mess had been made of the verge by the contractors. Councillors discussed that a possible Enforcement Camera could be

installed on the speed monitor location as there was an existing power supply. Currently speed cameras were not operating in 20 mph areas in Wales.

Cllr Ponting advised he had started writing the Annual Report and would forward it to all Councillors when completed.

Cllr Brown reported that Mr Tom O’Kane of Cae Tan was requesting assistance to purchase land at Furzehill and could the Community Council help promote the idea.

Cllr Huffer was concerned about the wandering livestock around the area. It was agreed that this is an issue but it is a wider issue that just the Community Council due to Grazing Rights etc. Cllr Ponting agreed he would bring up the matter at the Gower Forum next meeting for further thoughts on the matter.

Councillor Huffer to investigate ways to bring concerned parties together, and report to council.

**ACTION Cllr Huffer**

## **12. Receive correspondence**

*There has been a delay in the clerk accessing e-mails so responses to e-mails from residents has been delayed.*

A thank you from Air Ambulance had been received in regard to the recent donation.

An e-mail had been received from Mr Rob Charles with regard to fallen trees on the path behind the water pumping station in Parc Le Breos, leading to Lunnon . Cllr Ponting agreed to take this to the Ramblers footpath clearing group for them to assess.

**ACTION Cllr Ponting**

An e-mail had been received from a Sandra Llewellyn Morgan regarding trees behind her property. This e-mail had been received and discussed at the last meeting in November. The clerk had spoken to City & County of Swansea who stated they could not assist as the matter referred to private land. The clerk had also had an e-mail from MP Tonia Antoniazzi on the matter. The matter was discussed again and it was agreed there was little the Community Council could do, however, the clerk would recommend Ms Morgan try contacting City & County of Swansea herself.

The clerk had received two invitation from Pennard Community Council. One in regard to Councillor Conduct Training as they were running a group event and would any Ilston Councillors like to join in. Cllr Huffer stated an interest and would follow this up.

**ACTION Cllr Huffer**

The second invitation was regarding Spraying of paths with Glyphosate where Pennard were holding a meeting shortly. Cllr Brown agreed to attend the meeting on behalf of Ilston CC.

**ACTION Cllr Brown**

**11. Clerks Update**

The clerk advised he had signed up to training with SLCC as discussed in November. Reynoldston CC and Ilston CC would split the costs 50/50.

The clerk had submitted a request for the revised Precept with City & County of Swansea for 2024/2025.

**12. Any Other Business at the discretion of the chair**

The Council were advised of a St David's day event being held at the Barham Centre, Parkmill on the 1<sup>st</sup> March.

**13. Time and Date of next meeting**

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2024 at 7pm

The meeting closed at 9.48