

Ilston Community Council

Minutes of Meeting held on 27th March 2024

At a meeting of Ilston Community Council, at the Barham Centre, Parkmill on Wednesday 27th March 2024

Present: Cllr D Ponting, Cllr R Church, Cllr N Huffer, Cllr S Mobbs, Cllr B Beynon and Cllr S Pleydell.

Cllr C Bates (via Zoom)

Cllr N Hollett joined for item 6 planning applications

Also attending: Cllr L James City & County of Swansea, Mr P Sizer -Clerk,

In the Chair: Cllr D Ponting

1. **Apologies for Absence**
Cllrs I Brown and Cllr H James
2. **Declaration of personal interest**
There were no declarations of interest stated
3. **Consider representations from members of the public.**
There were no members of the public attending the meeting
4. **Approve minutes of monthly meeting held on 31st January 2024**
The minutes were accepted as a true representation of the meeting held on the 31st January 2024. Cllr Church proposed and Cllr Ponting seconded a motion they are correct.
5. **Matters arising**
The clerk reported he had not received any commentary to email around the Community regarding St John's Church. Cllr Ponting will chase this up and forward to the clerk. **ACTION POINT Cllr Ponting.**

The steps at Parkmill had been reported to City & County of Swansea by the clerk although he was not sure of the exact location. Cllr Mobbs offered to take some photographs and send the clerk the exact location.

ACTION POINT Cllr Mobbs

The Iron Man race will be taking the same route as last year and Cllr Church had attended meetings on this event. Vouchers will be made available to any business or organisation who will suffer from the event. Cllr L James reported that the event was scheduled for the same date as the Pennard Carnival which was planned well in advance and will have to be cancelled this year. Councillors reported several cyclists already practicing for the event, especially on Sundays making roads around Gower more dangerous than usual. Cllr Church to monitor any further meetings.

ACTION POINT Cllr Church

Lunnon Hill closures – the clerk apologised to the Council as he had failed to make contact with the organisers of the Mumbles events to ensure road closures were in place although Cllr L James did report there was a road closure notice for the March event in place. The clerk will contact the organisation regarding the May event. **ACTION POINT Mr P Sizer**

Emergency phone at Three Cliffs Bay – this item is on the agenda for discussion at the meeting, however it was reported that an application had been submitted to the Gower Society who are meeting in May.

Meet your Councillors – due to the absence of Cllr Brown this would be carried forward to the next meeting in May.

Traffic speed around Kilvrough Manor – this item is on the agenda for discussion at the meeting.

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 should now have two LACS covering their area, however Cllr L James reported that some LACS had lost their jobs as areas were being merged and she would report back when more information was available.

The clerk was now successfully ending out emails to the community residents. Two “bulk” emails had been sent out. The clerk had been in touch with City & County of Swansea to obtain an electoral listing for the community but had not yet received a copy. The intention was for the clerk to manually write to all residents not on the current mailing list inviting them to join the email mailing lists. He would also check current listed emails were up to date. This task will take some time but is achievable. Cllr L James offered to send the clerk her copy of the electoral lists which was gratefully accepted.

ACTION POINT Mr P Sizer & Cllr L James

Signage at Three Cliffs Beach – Cllr Ponting had spoken to the life guards who are using their own temporary signs at the waters edge warning visitors about the tides. The permanent signs are with City & County of Swansea. Cllr Beynon would speak to the RNLI as well. It is City & County of Swansea who ultimately will decide on the signage. The Council asked if Cllr L James could investigate and support the request.

Data Safety Policy – this item is on the agenda for discussion at the meeting.

Update on the fallen tree in the river. Cllr Church had been in discussions with NRW regarding the tree and other trees in the area. He had requested more maintenance in the area and this will be investigated by NRW. Cllr Church had been advised that NRW will be felling Ash trees in Parkmill Woods soon.

Flood Plan for the area. Cllr Brown had produced a draft but due to his absence, the matter could not be finalised and would be carried to the May meeting. Sandbags had now been located in the Guide centre Parkmill, the Heritage centre Parkmill and at locations at Ilston. Cllr Huffer was concerned that many of the residents in the Ilston area were "aged" and might not be able to move the sandbags when required. It was agreed that the letters being sent to residents, could be adapted for Ilston residents to offer further support. Cllr L James mentioned that Care and Repair is available through City & County of Swansea and Age Cymru is available to support residents. It was agreed that leaflets be included in the letters regarding these two bodies. It was also suggested that possibly Cllr Huffer could hand deliver the letters to assess any support that might be required. Cllr Ponting thanked Cllr L James for the supply of the sandbags.

ACTION POINT Mr P Sizer & Cllr Huffer.

The request from Cllr Huffer regarding cold patch materials to be stored in the community was turned down by City & County of Swansea for Health & Safety reasons.

Sandy Lane – the debris had returned to the bottom of the road. Cllr L James had also been in touch with a resident of Sandy Lane explaining she was attempting to have the road repaired but there was an issue of who owned a section of the road. Cllr L James will keep in touch with the Community Council regarding this issue. **ACTION POINT Cllr L James**

Cllr Huffer had attended the training in conjunction with Pennard CC. Various documents and PowerPoints were received and the clerk will forward these to all Councillors. **ACTION POINT Mr P Sizer**

Cllr Pleydell asked about the spraying of the footpaths with Glyphosate. Cllr L James stated that City & County of Swansea had investigated various methods and Glyphosate was the cheapest method. Cllr Pleydell asked if there was defined list of footpaths being treated. Apparently Ilston is joined with Pennard on the treatment listings. Cllr Pleydell will contact Pennard CC to see if they have any details and if not will contact City & County of Swansea. **ACTION POINT Cllr Pleydell.**

6. Consider planning applications

Cllr Hollett joined the meeting by telephone for this matter.

Nicholston House Christian Retreat Centre, Penmaen, Swansea

Cllr Ponting advised the Council that the application had been refused by City & County of Swansea

Cobwebs, Penmaen, Swansea.

This application had been referred to a full planning meeting on the 14th May. Cllr L James and Mr Patton would be attending. The Council also thanked Cllr Ponting for all his efforts regarding this application. The Gower Society will also be attending and objecting to the application.

7. **Consider financial statements**

The clerk reported that the current bank account held £1968 and the deposit bank account held £4849. All payments had been made for the year and these should be the closing balances apart from some possible interest received.

The clerk had received an invoice from One Voice Wales in the sum of £101 and asked for this to be paid in April as it referred to the 2024/2025 financial year. This was agreed by all present.

Cllr Ponting is arranging with the bankers to amend the post code on the updated address to the correct one for the clerk.

As the clerk is also the RFO for the Council, Cllr Ponting is arranging to add the clerk as a signatory to the bank accounts and allow him full access to the accounts on line. **ACTION POINT Cllr Ponting**

Cllr Ponting is in the process of completing the annual report. The clerk will forward financial details once the year has been concluded and he has completed the accounts.

8. **Grant requests**

There were no requests for grants

9. **Data Protection**

Cllr Pleydell had updated the policy and Cllr Huffer had "proof read" it. The policy will be approved at the May meeting.

The clerk had forwarded an email he had received from NALC which included a section titled "Fact sheet for councils: the use of personal email addresses and devices"

This covered the use of personal emails address for Council work and general Data security etc. Various discussion were held. Pennard CC had moved all email address to .Gov addresses. Although there was no requirement to go to this extreme, they had made this change "to improve the appearance" of the email addresses. Mawr CC uses .cymru emails.

It was recommended that Councillors, where possible, should use a separate e-mail address for Council business away from family accounts.

The Council asked the clerk to contact One Voice Wales and ask for their recommendations and report back at the May meeting.

ACTION POINT Mr P Sizer

10. **Service Agreement at Three Cliffs**

The clerk retrieved the Service Agreement from old emails he had access to. It was recommended the clerk amend any details he sees as incorrect and contact City & County of Swansea to reinstate the agreement asap.

The Council agreed the clerk can sign the agreement and not wait for the May meeting. **ACTION POINT Mr P Sizer**

11. **Traffic Report**

The Council had eventually received a response for the City & County of Swansea from a Mr Ferris. The Council all felt the response was very poor and further action would be undertaken by the Community Council. It was agreed for Cllr Ponting to write a letter to Mr M Nicholls asking for a meeting and a full response to the Traffic Report that had been written. MP Toni Antoniazzi and MS Rebecca Evans would be included. The letter would be sent around Councillors for their agreement before being sent.

ACTION POINT Cllr Ponting

12. **Preparation for Annual Meeting May 2024**

Cllr Ponting recommended that he step down at the next Annual meeting in May as he had been in post for five years. The clerk suggested that all councillors discuss amongst themselves different options so at the Annual meeting a new chair could be elected. Cllr Church offered to remain as Vice Chair and Cllr Ponting offered to act as Co Vice Chair if that was acceptable to the Council. Cllr Pointing mentioned that Cllr Hollett had offered to act as chair until Christmas but meetings would have to move to Thursdays for him to be able to attend due to work commitments. Cllr Ponting also suggested that Councillors might like to act as Chair on a rolling programme through the year.

13. **WIFI/Broadband/Nicholston**

Cllr Ponting had received an email from a resident of Ilston stating how poor WIFI/Broadband was in the area. Fibre Optics were now as far as Nicholston Farm but still did not cover all the community area. Cllr Beynon offered to investigate the matter further and report back.

ACTION POINT Cllr Beynon.

Th Councillors were advised that if a petition with signatories of local residents was supplied to Open Reach they would investigate the poor service.

14. **Reports from members**

Cllr Huffer reported on the issue of ongoing livestock roaming through the community. Cllr Church referred to the Commoners Registration which lists all Commoners with the right to roam livestock and their numbers.

Cllr Mobbs felt the speed sign was in the incorrect position but it had to be located there as there was a power source as it could not rely on solar power. The Council masked the clerk to contact City & County of Swansea to ask them to look at the height of the sign and also the removal of the branches above the sign.

ACTION POINT Mr P Sizer

Cllr Mobbs also reported that the sewerage pipe was being diverted and a new pipe installed.

Cllr Beynon had been advised there was a burst water pipe between Nicholston Cross and Nicholston church. He was inspecting the site the next day and will report back.

ACTION POINT Cllr Beynon

Cllr L James reported the bus service was receiving full usage and was often oversubscribed. A larger bus was to be brought into use soon but it only had one more seat than the current bus.

Cllr Church reported that the Rural Access Plan was to be finalised on April 11th.

Cllr Ponting reported he and Cllr Church had removed a substantial amount of records and documents had been transferred from a previous clerk's home to a secure location in Gorseinon before they are sorted. It was suggested that all Councillors might like to assist with sorting the records and taking "a box each" to sort through. Records such as Minutes and Agendas will be forwarded to the West Glamorgan Archives as soon as possible. The clerk was asked to make contact with the organisation.

ACTION POINT Mr P Sizer

Cllr Ponting had received a complaint regarding rubbish bins being left out on the incorrect days. He will arrange for a letter to be sent out by City & County of Swansea.

Cllr Ponting had removed a substantial amount of wire and plastic posts which were redundant around Penmaen Burrows. He has been in touch with National Trust to arrange for their collection.

Cllr Pleydell reported on several potholes in the area which will be reported to City & County of Swansea. Cllr L James to be kept updated of any issues.

Cllr Church reported he had been in discussion with the Gower Inn owners, Stonegate's with regard to its future. He had suggested a Heritage/Community Pub could be investigated although in practice it was a very large premises to take on in this role. Stonegate's reported they did have someone interested in possibly taking over the lease.

15. **Receive correspondence**

The clerk had received various correspondence

An e-mail from Cllr L James regarding the Sandy Lane repairs which had already been reported on earlier at this meeting.

Secondly, he had received an invite from RNLI marking their 200th Anniversary and inviting Councillors to attend a service in Mumbles on the 25th April. The Council asked the clerk to send the e-mail around all Councillors asap.

ACTION POINT Mr P Sizer

Thirdly, he had received an e-mail from Cllr James to City & County of Swansea regarding possible fly tipping on Fairwood Common.

16. **Clerks Update**

The clerk had completed four of the five units of his ILCA qualification and the remaining unit would be completed, hopefully, within the next 14 days.

The clerk had recently met with the Chair as he had completed six months as the chair and had completed his probation period. Cllr Ponting proposed the clerk had fulfilled his probation and would now become a permanent clerk to the Council. All present agreed to this motion. The clerk thanked the Councillors present.

17. **AOB at discretion of chairman.**

There was no AoB

Time and date of next meeting.

The next meeting will be on Thursday 30th May at 6.30 pm as it is the Annual meeting.