

# **Ilston Community Council**

## **Minutes of Meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> September 2024**

At a meeting of Ilston Community Council, at the Barham Centre, Parkmill on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> September 2024 at 7.00 p.m.

**Present:** Cllr. N Hollett, Cllr. D Ponting, Cllr. R Church, Cllr. S Mobbs, Cllr L James and Mr P Sizer Clerk

**In the Chair:** Cllr N Hollett

As there were members of the public present, the Chair suggested that item 3 was held first. All agreed by those present.

3. **Consider representations from members of the public.**  
Present were three members of the public.

Mr Ken Bond of The Poplars spoke first regarding the recent flooding in Parkmill. Mr Bond recalled the flooding in Parkmill and how the water level rose to around five feet high. He explained it was not the river flooding as the river level was below the road level, but water coming down the roads and possibly coming off the farmland and possibly the local pony club land. Six houses had to be evacuated and several cars including two of his were written off. Mr Bond had noticed that the drains built into the side of the road were blocked by grass and debris which stopped the water escaping.

Also present were Mr Simon and Mrs Judith Peake of the Old Forge. They agreed that the river was not at fault and the entire water was coming down the road from Kilvrough way. They also had videos and photographs of the devastation caused and the river levels. They agreed that they felt the farmlands could be a cause and other areas. They also stated that the amount of rain falling flattened any grass which would absorb the rain usually and because almost a solid base which further aggravated the issue. They reminded the Council of the floods in 2010 and 2012.

Cllr. James asked all residents of Parkmill to keep an eye on the drains and any sign of grass growing or blockages to immediately contact her and Highways and she would ensure they are cleared as quickly as possible.

All present agreed City & County of Swansea did what they could that night with the amount of downpour experienced by the whole of Swansea and Gower. Cllr. James reported that 12 tons of debris had been removed by the CCS workforce that weekend from Parkmill.

The Council had recently agreed a flood plan but it was very new and would have been very difficult to implement with the amount of rain that

landed that weekend. It was agreed the Flood Plan would be looked at again. Suggestions were made that:

A WhatsApp group could be set up (which would be quicker than emails) to warn residents of any bad weather coming. The app could also ask for assistance from any able-bodied residents and that elderly residents could be visited to check their safety.

Another suggestion was the Council purchase Hi-Vis jackets and LED torches and these are located around the Village.

Power and mobile phone signals were lost that night and the Clerk has been asked to contact Openreach to see if a telephone can be installed in the area that is permanently live to use in emergency situations.

**ACTION POINT Mr Sizer**

Another suggestion from Mr Peake was to erect a barrier, connected to his house which could be pulled across the road to deflect any water into the river but this would have to be with agreement from Highways.

Cllr. Hollett thanked the members of the public for their attendance and would keep them involved with the Flood Plan and any suggestions.

1. **Apologies for Absence**

Cllr. B Beynon and Cllr. C Bates, - both could not attend due to the late change of day of the meeting. The Clerk recommended that the Council placed on record their absence due to the change of date and that these absences are not recorded in the 6-month rule. Cllr. Ponting proposed the Clerk's recommendation and Cllr. Church seconded. The motion was agreed by all present.

Also absent were:

Cllr. S Pleydell (holiday)

Cllr. N Huffer and Cllr. I Brown

2. **Declaration of personal interest**

There were no declarations of interest stated

4. **Approve minutes of monthly meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> July 2024**

The minutes were accepted as a true representation of the meetings held on the 29<sup>th</sup> July 2024. Cllr. Ponting proposed and Cllr. Church seconded a motion they are correct.

5. **Matters arising**

Possibly an autumn date could be set regarding the clean-up at St. John's Church. Cllr Hollett would write a letter.

**ACTION POINT Cllr. Hollett**

The steps at Parkmill. Cllr Church reported the next meeting of the Local Access group was next week and he will bring this matter up

**ACTION POINT Cllr. Church**

Meet your Councillors – Cllr. Brown to arrange a date, advise the Clerk who can email out to all in the Community. No date yet set but will be arranged prior to the next meeting and potentially hold the event in the Gower Inn in October. Cllr. Brown was absent from the meeting so this matter could not be discussed.

**ACTION POINT Cllr. Brown and Mr Sizer**

Contact with the residents in Ilston who might need support from Care and Repair and or Age Cymru will be contacted once the updated emailing lists have been formed. Carried over to the next meeting.

**ACTION POINT Mr P Sizer & Cllr. Huffer.**

Sandy Lane – the debris has been removed at the bottom of the road. Cllr L James reported that funds might be available once they had been moved from other budgets.

**ACTION POINT Cllr. L James**

WIFI/Broadband/Nicholston – Cllr. Beynon stated that he had been in contact with Openreach and they would be happy to support fibre cabling provided a minimum of 20 residents contacted them to request such a facility. Cllr. Bates offered to contact residents in the area and allow them to contact Openreach directly. There has been no update on this matter as Cllr. Bates was not attending.

**ACTION POINT Cllr. Bates**

#### 6. **Swansea Community Review**

Cllr. Huffer had sent in the objections to the boundary changes and the Council will have to wait until late November/early December time for the outcomes. Cllr. Hollett had received an email from Rebecca Evans MS stating that she could not do anything. It was agreed Cllr. Hollett should make contact again with Ms Evans and ask her for her support on the matter. Would the much larger Community Council have done as much or be as interested in the water damage of flooding etc.

#### 7. **Consider planning applications**

There were three applications at:

Discharge of condition, Furzehill House Ilston  
Variation of condition, Oakdale Penmaen and  
Side garage extension, Laurel Hill Nicholaston Penmaen

The Councillors present could find no reason to object to any of these applications.

The Clerk brought to the attention of the Council two emails he had received recently from a Mr. Richard.

One regarded possible house building in Woodland – the clerk had checked this development and it was in Cornwall although Mr Richard was warning Councils that it could happen on Gower.

The other email regarded City & County of Swansea no longer include comments from the public/neighbours on their planning applications. This matter was discussed by the Councillors and agreed that the Clerk should write to City & County of Swansea asking for clarification from the on this matter.

**ACTION POINT Mr Sizer**

## 8. **Consider financial statements**

Since last meeting payments made to:

HMRC	£210.83
K L Kneath	£435.00
Clerk's salary	£801.47
RCC	£52.50
Interest received	£10.77
Precept received	£2526.67

After these payments and interest received, the balances of the bank accounts stood at:

Current	£5150.49
Deposit	£2902.69
Total	£8053.10

Payments due:

None

The Clerk suggested he "cost out" 20 Hi Vis jackets and 20 LED torches for the residents and discuss these costs at the next meeting in November. The location of these could either be in a central place or distributed across the residents.

## 9. **Grant requests**

There were no requests for grants

The Clerk suggested a grant application for ought to be made available to anyone organisation seeking a grant. This is extremely rare in Ilston CC but it was agreed as a good suggestion. The Clerk will adapt a version he already has on record and have available to any future requests.

## 10. **Traffic Report**

The Clerk had sent letters to:

Chief Executive City & County of Swansea,  
Ms Tonia Antoniazzi MP  
Ms Rebecca Evans MS  
Ms Eluned Morgan MS  
Cllr. L James

Lodging a complaint with regard to the response received from City & County of Swansea in regard to the Traffic Report supplied by Ilston CC.

The Clerk had received an acknowledgement from Ms Antoniazzi and a letter from City & County of Swansea, addressed to Mr. Pointing instead of Cllr. Ponting. The letter proposed a meeting in the near future.

Cllr. Ponting stated he would be absent from the area very soon and could other Councillors meet with the Highways if he is away and a date agreed. This was agreed.

The collapsed bank onto the A4118 was also discussed as the traffic lights there were causing issues especially at rush hour times. In Cllr. Beynon's absence, Cllr. Hollett read out a note from Cllr. Beynon stating that there was no further news from the Highways as to whose responsibility it was but they were working as best they could.

11. **Reports from members**

Cllr. Ponting stated he had not got anywhere with the National Trust in regard to placing signs about overnight camping. He suggested the Clerk send the National Trust a further letter on the matter. The Clerk mentioned that Reynoldston CC were proposing possibly purchasing some A4 signs stating no Overnight Camping and could easily access some more if the National Trust were acceptable to them being fitted on their land.

Cllr. Ponting also advised the Council that one of the new anti-Litter signs had been badly damaged at Torbay car Park. They had been attached by what looks to be a "Stanley Knife" style blade. The ties had also been damaged. It was agreed to ask the Clerk to write to the Police pointing out the criminal damage to the sign.

**Sizer**

**ACTION POINT Mr**

Cllr. Mobbs reported still having annoying noise from a drain outside her house. Cllr. Mobbs will contact Highways to report the problem.

**ACTION POINT Cllr. Mobbs**

12. **Receive correspondence**

The Clerk advised he had sent out any correspondence received already to the Councillors but there was nothing important to discuss.

There was a meeting of One Voice Wales coming up soon and the Clerk asked if anyone could attend. No Councillor is available so the Clerk will see if he can attend.

The Clerk had sent around communications regarding a meeting on Monday about the review of the Charter between City & County of Swansea and Community Councils. The Clerk was asked if he could contact Cllr. Huffer to see if he could attend and bring up the fact that a Community Council cannot complain to the Ombudsman about their County Council

13. **Clerks Update**

The Clerk had heard from the Auditors on two matters already, one regarding timesheets for the previous Clerk which he supplied and copies of the declaration from Councillors not to accept any allowances.

The Clerk advised the Council, he will be out of the Country from Sunday until the 10<sup>th</sup> October but he will have a laptop with him for any communications.

14. **AOB at discretion of chairman.**

Cllr. Church mentioned that he had heard the Lifeguards were pulling out of serving Three Cliffs Bay. Cllr. Hollett would contact Cllr. Beynon and see if he had any news on the matter.

Cllr. Church also thanked Cllr. James for the new storm drain in Parkmill

Cllr. James mentioned that a feasibility study was being held about the possibility of installation of traffic lights through Parkmill to help traffic flow especially in the summer.

**Time and date of next meeting.**

The next meeting will be on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> November 7.00 p.m.

The meeting closed at 8.30 p.m.