

# **Ilston Community Council**

## **Minutes of Meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> November 2024**

At a meeting of Ilston Community Council, at the Barham Centre, Parkmill on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> November 2024 at 7.00 p.m.

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

**In the Chair:** Cllr N Hollett

As Sarah Davies, LAC for the area was present, the Chair suggested that item 7 was held first. All agreed by those present.

### **7. LAC Review**

Sarah Davies the LAC for Ilston attended the meeting at an invitation from the Clerk. Sarah gave a presentation of her role and responsibilities.

The LAC's area covers Ilston, Three Crosses, Penclawdd and Pennard at present. The LAC has no office base but is visible in the community and attends various groups, activities and one to one support to solos and families.

The LAC meets people new to the area to help introduce them to local support groups and assists with any ill health issues and support for current residents.

The Community Council agreed to support the LAC role by providing links to groups that they feel it would be worth her attending and putting an article on the website.

Sarah has also held sessions to support community members in Upper Killay and in Killay supported a festival after COVID where the Fire Service, Ambulance Service, Energy Suppliers and AGE UK also attended to support the event. Sarah has also worked recently with the Community Lives community supporting their efforts.

The Chair thanked Sarah for attending and welcomed her back to any future meeting she wished to attend.

Sarah thanked the Council for listening to her and decided to stay for the remaining meeting.

### **1. Apologies for Absence**

Cllr. I. Brown and Cllr. C Bates, - Cllr Bates noted as clash of study – agreed by those present to allow under the 6-month rule.

### **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 present

4. **Approve minutes of monthly meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> September 2024**

The minutes were accepted as a true representation of the meetings held on the 24<sup>th</sup> September 2024. Cllr. Ponting proposed and Cllr. Church seconded a motion they are correct.

5. **Matters arising**

The Clerk to write to Openreach regarding a permanent telephone contract in Parkmill after the recent floods. The Clerk has written to Openreach and is awaiting a response.

**ACTION POINT Mr Sizer**

The Clerk was asked to advise on costs for Hi-Vis Jackets and trousers and LED torches – the Clerk provided costs for these and the matter will be discussed at a later meeting once wardens or similar have been arranged.

**ACTION POINT Mr Sizer**

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 – There has been no news received on this matter.

**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.**

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**

One of the Antilitter signs had been damaged by knife. The Council asked the Clerk to write to the Police about the matter.

**ACTION POINT Mr Sizer**

The Clerk advised he had written to the local police station in Reynoldston but had not received any response.

6. **Swansea Community Review**

The Clerk had received the latest notification of the changes in 2027 where Ilston CC would be merged into Pennard CC and had forwarded these to the Councillors. It was agreed that the matter was now a “done decision” and there was little that could be done. It was agreed that Cllr. Huffer would write to ask if the Councillor allowance could be increased from two to three Councillors due to the area size of Ilston CC.

**ACTION POINT Cllr. Huffer**

7. **Consider planning applications**

There was one application at:  
Shepherds Parkmill where they want to replace the doors/windows in the conservatory with UPVC

This was agreed as being acceptable as long as the UPVC was a timber coloured instead of white. The Clerk would make the Council’s feeling known to City & County of Swansea.

**ACTION POINT Mr Sizer**

In a previous meeting the Clerk was asked to write to City & County of Swansea regarding their reluctance to publish comments from members of the public. At the meeting no response had been received.

**ACTION POINT Mr Sizer**

Post the meeting a response had been received from City & County of Swansea as follows:

*The Town & Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) Wales Order 2012 requires the Local Planning Authority to keep a register of planning applications and sets out the requirements of the register, which may be kept electronically and available for inspection on a website. The register has to include the planning application, submitted plans, documents supporting the application, and the decision notice together with any associated legal agreements. There is no legal requirement for responses to consultations to be part of the register.*

*Whilst comments have been published previously, it is evident that by publishing these comments, the Council is at risk of breaching the Data Protection Act. Following investigation of a suspected breach, legal advice was given to officers that they should cease from publishing responses as a breach of the Data Protection Act could see the Council face substantial fines.*

8. **Consider financial statements**

Since last meeting payments made to:

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

Current	£5150.49
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Deposit	£2902.69
Total	£8053.18

Payments due:  
See Clerk's update

9. **Grant requests**

There were no requests for grants

10. **Traffic Report**

A response had been received from Mr Wade at City & County of Swansea asking to arrange a meeting at their offices.

It was agreed to meet with Mr Wade but in Ilston and not at the Council offices. Cllrs. Ponting, Pleydell and Mobbs will attend. Cllr. Ponting to make the arrangements. **ACTION POINT Cllr. Ponting**

11. **Reports from members**

Cllr. Mobbs reported the drain outside her house had been repaired.

Cllr. Mobbs reported loss of power on very frequent times in Parkmill. The power cables were being affected by trees moving in the storms and being damaged. The Council asked the Clerk to write to National grid about the matter. **ACTION POINT Mr Sizer**

The Clerk had written to the National Trust and had received a response which was discussed at the meeting. The matter would be carried further by Cllr. Ponting.

Cllr. Ponting also advised the Council that one of the new anti-Litter signs needed moving as it had been fitted to a gate which was causing the landowner issues when opening the gate. Mr Sizer offered a contact to arrange a more permanent timber frame to house the sign in the spring. **ACTION POINT Mr Sizer**

Cllr. Ponting had attended a Flood Defence meeting in the Community where various matters were discussed. He agreed to follow up the matter and also discuss possibility of wardens etc. **ACTION POINT Cllr. Ponting**

Cllr. Ponting asked that the trees on Penmaen Hill need attention and asked the Clerk to write to NRW to ask for them to be attended to. **ACTION POINT Mr Sizer**

Cllr. Hollett reported that the ash trees were deceased on Cefn Bryn by the old seating area on the ring road. The Council asked Cllr. James to ask City & County of Swansea to attend to the trees. **ACTION POINT Cllr. James**

12. **Receive correspondence**

Cllr. Church had received a letter from HMRC regarding the July payment for PAYE/NI stating it had not been paid. The Clerk investigated and found an incorrect amount had been paid after the July meeting which was different to his instructions. The Clerk had arranged payment of the underpayment as he now had access to the bank accounts. He also asked that in future all notifications from HMRC should come to him at his home address and not to a Councillor. This was agreed and the Clerk will contact HMRC accordingly.

The Clerk had also received emails from Endurancelife regarding next years event.

An email had been received from the Reynoldston Fire Brigade inviting anyone to attend a "Brew with the Crew" on the 4<sup>th</sup> December.

An email had been received from one Voice Wales regarding Domain names and emails. This had not been fully read by the Clerk yet and was agreed it might not be worth implementing due to the future demise of the Community Council.

A reminder from One Voice Wales regarding training was received which the Clerk discussed with those present but again the matter was felt to be possible not worth the time as the Council will be closing in the future.

The Clerk asked that in future, the standing agenda items of Financial Statements and Correspondence be joined into his Clerk's Update. This was agreed by all present.

### 13. **Clerks Update**

The Clerk had heard from the Auditors and the accounts for 2023/2024 had been agreed with one small note that the payments to the Clerk were underpaid slightly. The Clerk had explained to the auditors and to the Councillors that this had occurred when he was appointed and a pay increase occurred just as he started in post and he did not want to accept the increase. This had been noted by the Auditors.

The Audit notice would now be published on the webpage and on the noticeboard.

The Clerk had received notification of the new pay awards for Clerks. The Clerk's contract of employment states he has the annual pay review plus an increment of one scale each year. The Clerk asked the Council not to pay the increment award as he was happy to remain on the agreed scale which would increase to £15.08 per hour from April 2024. The Clerk offered to leave the room whilst the Councillors discussed the matter but an instant agreement was taken that if the Clerk was happy with this arrangement, the Council were too.

The Clerk supplied a list of recommended dates of meeting for 2025 to the Councillors.

The Clerk asked for agreement to pay his salary of four months in November of £871.43 which was at the new rate and included a small adjustment for "backpay" to the beginning of April 2024.

The Clerk also asked that his PAYE/NI be paid in the sum of £263.51

All these matters were proposed to be agreed by Cllr. Ponting and agreed by Cllr. Pleydell and agreed by all present.

The Clerk thanked the Council.

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

Cllr Hollett advised the Christmas Part will be on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> December at 3.30

Cllr. Ponting reminded everyone of the monthly coffee morning at the Penmaen Village Hall on the first Saturday of each month at 9.00

Cllr. Church had received a request from a member of the public about the number of black sheep on the common which could be harmed in the dark evenings. Cllr Hollett agreed to speak to the Commoners.

Cllr. James asked about the state of the road to the north of the Community and the Clerk reported there was several areas with litter etc. Cllr. James agreed she would arrange a workforce gang to clear the area.

Cllr. James stated she had no news on the Car Park at Torbay and that the footpath opposite needed more support and would look into the matter.

**Time and date of next meeting.**

The next meeting will be on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> January 7.00 p.m.

The meeting closed at 8.45 p.m.