

# **Ilston Community Council**

## **Minutes of Meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> January 2025**

At a meeting of Ilston Community Council, at the Barham Centre, Parkmill on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> January 2025 at 7.00 p.m.

**Present:** Cllr. R Church, Cllr. S Mobbs, Cllr. S Pleydell, Cllr. N Huffer, Cllr. B Beynon, Cllr L James (joined at 7.30pm) and Mr P Sizer Clerk

**In the Chair:** Cllr R Church

1. **Apologies for Absence**

Cllr. N Hollett, Cllr. D Ponting, and Cllr. C Bates (holiday) – Cllr. Bates - agreed by those present to allow under the 6-month rule.

**Absent**

Cllr. I. Brown

2. **Declaration of personal interest**

There were no declarations of interest stated other than Cllr. Church as Director of Tourism Swansea Bay (item 13) and Cllr. Pleydell as a neighbour to an LDP consultation site (item 14).

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

There were no members of the public present

4. **Approve minutes of monthly meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> November 2024**

The minutes were accepted as a true representation of the meetings held on the 28<sup>th</sup> November 2024. Cllr. Beynon proposed and Cllr. Mobbs seconded a motion they are correct.

5. **Matters arising**

The Clerk had written to Openreach regarding establishing a dedicated telephone point which is active at all times. Openreach has responded and the Clerk was asked to make contact with BT regarding the possibility of this telephone point. **ACTION POINT Mr Sizer**

The Clerk was asked to provide costs for Hi Vis Jackets and Trousers and Torches for the Community. This was provided and placed into the next year's budget. The matter was also discussed under item 11 on the agenda. **ACTION POINT Mr Sizer**

Cllr. Church reported on the steps on Footpath IL22 and asked the Clerk to make contact with the Foot Paths Officer at City & County of Swansea regarding the lack of steps and or a handrail at both ends. **ACTION POINT Mr Sizer**

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**

WIFI/Broadband/Nicholston – Cllr. Beynon agree to take over this action from Cllr. Bates and would report back. Cllr. Church commented on the new Vodaphone “Not Hot Spot” they were developing.

**ACTION POINT Cllr. Beynon**

The Clerk had written to the Police regarding the damage to the Anti-litter signs and had asked them to make contact with Cllr. Ponting.

**ACTION POINT Cllr. Ponting**

The Clerk had made contact with National Grid regarding the power lines in Parkmill. They had attended and met with Cllr. Mobbs who reported an excellent meeting and they had left details of the proposed work. The Clerk was asked to make contact again and thank them for their quick response and also ask if the plans that had been left with Cllr. Mobbs could be put on the website.

**ACTION POINT Mr Sizer**

The Clerk had made contact with a contact of his who was willing to make a frame to support the anti-litter signs for a nominal cost. The work will be done in the spring when drier and warmer with Cllr. Ponting advising on location etc.

**ACTION POINT Mr Sizer**

NRW had been out to check and cut trees as required on Penmaen Hill.

The Ash trees reported as being decreased on Cefn Bryn are not owned by City & County of Swansea so they will not attend to cut the trees. Cllr. Ponting will make contact with the owners of the land and report back.

**ACTION POINT Cllr. Ponting**

Cllr James reported that the litter clearance on the B4271 and the A4118 will start in February once a new team have been trained.

6. **Swansea Community Review**

No further notifications had been received regarding the proposed merger and Cllr. Huffer had received no acknowledgement to his letter. Cllr. Huffer was asked to chase up the matter and report back. It was agreed to leave this item on all future Agendas as various actions will be required before the merger takes place. The Clerk reported at a recent meeting he had been advised that one Voice Wales were going to assist Community Councils with the handover process.

**ACTION POINT Cllr. Huffer**

7. **Budget for 2025/2026.**

The Clerk had written a suggested budget for 2025/2026 and had submitted it to all Councillors before the meeting based on a 10% increase in precept. He had also prepared a revised budget set at a 5% precept increase. A discussion was held regarding the merits of the two different budgets and it was agreed to go with the original budget with a

10% precept increase to £8338. The Clerk was asked to complete the precept request for the year. The Clerk was also asked to revise the budget slightly and reduce the Flood Prevention value from £4000 to £1000 and install a budget of £2000 for Tree Cutting/Maintenance and £1000 for the Community Bus. The Clerk agreed to make these alterations and will send out a revised budget. **ACTION POINT Mr Sizer**

8. **Consider planning applications**

There was only one planning application which had already been decided by City & County of Swansea at Falcon Tor, North Hills Lane, Penmaen regarding a previous planning application with minor alterations.

9. **Grant requests**

There were no requests for grants

10. **Traffic Report**

Cllr. Ponting was absent from this meeting but a letter had been sent by the Clerk to Mr Bowyer of City & County of Swansea regarding a site meeting which was to be arranged and would be fed back at the next meeting.

**ACTION POINT Cllr. Ponting**

11. **Flooding update**

An email from Cllr. Ponting to and from Mr Mike Sweeney was read out with very positive news about the drains in Parkmill and they were totally filled and would be cleared as a matter of urgency. A long-term improvement had also been discussed but NRW need to see the design before the work can be completed. Work also being carried out near Pony Club to improve drainage.

The Clerk was asked to make contact with residents Mr & Mrs Peake about forming a "WhatsApp group" of residents affected by the flooding. The Council will offer and support they can with regard to the affected properties.

**ACTION POINT Mr Sizer**

The Hi Vis Jackets and trousers and Torches were included in the 2025/2026 budget and would be purchased as required by the residents.

12. **Reports from members**

Cllr. Ponting had sent an email regarding fallen trees on footpath PD10 to the Footpaths officer.

Cllr. Church reported on the general awareness of the footpaths in the area especially with regard to access to Three Cliffs Bay and not just via the Pennard Golf Club.

Cllr. Church completed the questionnaire sent to him by the Clerk from One Voice Wales.

Cllr. Beynon was asked if there was any news on the Lifeguards at Three Cliffs Bay for this summer. He had heard nothing directly back but felt they would be there. A suggestion was made to ask Pennard Community Council if they would make contact with businesses in the area asking if

they would support the funds required for the Lifeguards. The Clerk was asked to make contact with Pennard CC. **ACTION POINT Mr Sizer**

Cllr. Church asked the Clerk to check the latest position regarding the Service Agreement at Three Cliffs Bay. The Clerk reported the City & County of Swansea were waiting for an update from BT but would chase up the Council and advise on the latest position.

**ACTION POINT Mr Sizer**

13. **Clerks Update to include Correspondence received and the Financial position.**

The Clerk advised the bank balances stood at £6518.855 in the current account and £2913.55 in the savings account, a total of £9432.40

The final precept of £2526.66 had just been received along with some interest of £10.86

Since the last meeting the Clerk had made payments of:

The Clerks salary £871.43

HMRC on Clerks salary £263.51

HMRC £23.36 – balance of July account plus interest.

The Clerk recommended transferring c£4000 to the savings account from the current account.

The Clerk had received an invoice from Audit Wales in the sum of £426 which he felt was very high although this year was a full audit. The Clerk was asked to write to Audit Wales and ask them to explain the high invoice value before it is paid. **ACTION POINT Mr Sizer**

There was an ongoing issue with HMRC regarding PAYE/NI. Two matters had arisen, in July an incorrect amount was paid to HMRC in regard to the Paye/NI on the Clerk's salary which led to an urgent extra payment in the sum of £23.36 to clear the balance and this was completed in December. The Clerk thought this was the end of the matter until he received a letter from Moorside Debt Recovery stating that an amount was still owed to HMRC. After numerous phone calls the Clerk was advised that HMRC appeared to have a record that the Clerk was paid twice in one Month. This was disputed by the Clerk and has been confirmed by Dan Perrin who operates the Payroll Bureau. Mr Perrin has made contact himself with the complaints team in Debt Management at HMRC and is arranging directly to have the account updated and corrected.

The Clerk had received Guidelines about Cloud Storage from one Voice Wales which was discussed. It was agreed not to change the current systems due to the forthcoming merger of the Community Councils.

Cllr. Church had received notification from the Pensions Regulator and the Clerk had requested not to join.

The Clerk had received communications regarding the proposed Pay and display at Torbay Car Park from Cllr. James. A discussion as held

regarding this facility and it was agreed not to recommend proceeding with this suggestion.

The Footpaths along the A4118 were to be upgraded according to an email from Cllr. James.

Cllr. Church offered the Clerk an invoice from Tourism Swansea Bay Tourism in the sum of £150.00 to be paid. Cllr. Church stated an interest in the matter. It was agreed that the invoice would be paid asap.

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

Cllr. James advised that under LDP2, a document had been raised regarding an area in Ilston Community Council between Holly tree Lodge and Ashtree Cottage that had been designated for building on. The Clerk was asked to make Cllr. Hollett and Cllr. Brown aware of this as the discussion period is between April and June. Cllr. Pleydell stated a declaration of interest as he is a neighbour to an LDP consultation site

**Time and date of next meeting.**

The next meeting will be on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> March 7.00 p.m.

The meeting closed at 9.00 p.m.