

Ilston Community Council

Minutes of Meeting held on 29th January 2026

At a meeting of Ilston Community Council, at the Barham Centre, Parkmill on Thursday 29th January 2026 at 7.00 p.m.

Present: Cllr. N Hollett (via Zoom), Cllr. R Church, Cllr. D Ponting, Cllr. S Mobbs, Cllr. B Beynon, Cllr. I. Brown, Cllr I. Lloyd, Cllr. S Pleydell, Cllr L James (City & County of Swansea) (delayed arrival) and Mr P Sizer Clerk

In the Chair: Cllr R Church

In attendance: Cllr Sam Hughes – Chair Llanrhidian lower

The Chair asked all those attending if they had any objections delaying item 3 until Cllr Sam Hughes arrived. There were no objections.

1. **Apologies for Absence**

There were no apologies received, Cllr Hollett joined via Zoom as he was away on business and asked Cllr Church to act as Chair in case there were any issues with the Zoom signal.

Absent

Cllr. N. Huffer

2. **Declaration of personal interest**

It was agreed that any personal interest matters would be discussed as they appeared in the agenda.

4. **Approve minutes of monthly meeting held on 27th November 2025**

The minutes were accepted as a true representation of the meetings held on the 27th November 2025. Cllr. Ponting proposed and Cllr. Beynon seconded a motion that they are correct.

5. **Matters arising**

There had been no response to the Traffic Report from City & County of Swansea and the Clerk was asked to follow up with the Council. This matter had not been completed by the Clerk and was to be attended to asap

ACTION POINT Mr P Sizer

There is still a tree in the river which could cause issues. Cllr. Beynon had checked their land deeds and it was not on their land. A suggestion was made that it might be on the land of the Pennard Golf Club. The Clerk has a contact at the Golf Club and will ask them to check if it lies on their land. NRW are not willing to cut the tree and remove it as it does not lie on their land. This matter had not been completed by the Clerk and would be attended to asap

ACTION POINT Mr P Sizer

6. **Discuss and agree 2026-2027 budget**

Cllr James arrived at 7.15

The Clerk had prepared a budget and distributed it prior to the meeting to all Councillors to allow discussion at the meeting. The Precept was based on a 10% increase which would allow a positive bank balance at the end of the year.

Various different options were discussed and the Clerk reminded all present that when Ilston merges with Pennard in 2027, Pennard precept per house is higher than Ilston so by increasing each year, it won't be such a large increase for the residents. The Clerk also reminded all Councillors that One Voice Wales had actively asked that precepts are kept at a "sensible" level to aid the mergers.

Cllr James advised the Councillors that she had been advised that the tarmacking and repairs to the car park at Tor Bay had now risen to approx. £12,000 and she did not have sufficient funds in her budget to commence the works. After a discussion, it was agreed to reduce the budget for local charities from £3000 to £1500 and "ear mark" £1500 to assist with the costs of this resurfacing.

Cllr Ponting proposed accepting the Clerk's recommendations and budget of a 10% increase to a precept of £9175. This was seconded by Cllr Beynon and accepted by all present.

The Clerk will contact City & County of Swansea on Friday 30th January to report the request which is the last day permissible.

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

Cllr Sam Hughes, Chair of Llanrhidian Lower arrived and was welcomed to the Community Council. Cllr Hughes is also a member of the Gower Society and reported several issues they were facing in North Gower which was also noted as occurring in South Gower. Cllr Hughes had prepared a letter to send to City & County of Swansea which she hoped all Community Councils would put their name to.

Cllr Hughes also discussed the proposed changes by the Welsh Assembly regarding the removal of Article 4 and TR10 which could affect the future of Gower. She was proposing changing the letter format to include these. All present agreed to the letter and endorsing it and communicating it to the Welsh Assembly.

Cllr Hughes was thanked by the Chair for attending and departed from the meeting.

7. **Swansea Community Review**

The Clerk had received an invite from One Voice Wales for Chairs and Clerks to attend on-line meetings regarding the forthcoming mergers and how to proceed with them. The Chair is not available to attend and Cllr Ponting, as Vice Chair offered to attend with the Clerk. The Clerk has made reservations to attend on the 16th February.

8. **Consider planning applications**

There have been various planning applications made since the last meeting:

- *Use of land for the siting of a maximum of 5 touring caravans from 1st March to 30th November during 2026/2027 seasons Perriswood Farm Oxwich Swansea SA3 2HN* This is an annual request.
- *Alteration to roof surrounding existing terrace to north side of building. Little Lunnon Farm Parkmill Swansea SA3 2EJ* This matter had already been decided by City & County of Swansea
- *Discharge of condition 3 (Materials) of Planning Permission 2023/2630/FUL granted 4th January 2024 varied by Permission 2025/0582/S73 granted 24th April 2025.*

It was noted that a previous planning application at Aldergrove Cottage, Ilston for Certificate of Lawful Development had been turned down and on appeal, the request had been refused.

On a previous planning application, there was a request from Nicholston House to approve alterations. Discussions were held regarding the proposed use of the building after the alterations. The Clerk advised he had been informed that Gower College Swansea were planning to house International students there. It was proposed to ask a representative of Gower College Swansea to attend to update the Community Council.

There were no objections to any of the planning applications.

9. **Grant requests**

The Clerk was informed that both grant requests approved in previous meetings were now completed and ready to pay. These were Ilston Church and Penmaen Village Hall.

No new requests had been made. Cllr Church asked to bring a request to the March meeting regarding the Barham Centre

10. **Defibrillators – update**

The Clerk was delighted to advise the Council that he had received delivery of three defibrillators and two cabinets from South Wales Ambulance trust. Two had been fitted already and were fully commissioned and in use and reported on "The Circuit". One was located on the outside wall facing the A4118 on the Shepherds Shop and the other on the wall facing the Car Park at The Gower Inn.

The Clerk asked that, even though he had personally thanked the owners of Shepherds and Gower Inn plus South Wales Ambulance Trust, letters from the Chair be sent to acknowledge their assistance on this matter. The Chair agreed to work with the Clerk in penning suitable letters.

The Clerk did notice that the pads, which usually last 5 years were expiring in September 2026. He had contacted South Wales Ambulance Trust who advised they were using old stocks and would send free replacements when they expired. It was the responsibility of the Community Council to replace the batteries and pads when they expired in the future but this will be in five years' time.

Cllr Ponting asked the Clerk to check on renewal of our Insurance that they would be covered against theft and damage as it had been requested by the Ambulance Trust that the cabinets be left un locked at all times. The Clerk agreed to this. **ACTION POINT Mr P Sizer**

The third defibrillator was to be located in the car park of Ilston Church. This had not yet been completed by the Clerk had received a quote from Heartbeat Trust for the installation of the post and cabinet in the sum of £870 which was within the original budget set by the Community Council. The Clerk was in discussion with Heartbeat Trust as to the installation of the post and cabinet. **ACTION POINT Mr P Sizer**

The Clerk wanted to offer training in the locality for Defibrillator use. Cllr Beynon advised the Council that he was holding a training session on First Aid for his employees soon and offered to arrange an event in May on a Saturday morning possibly. The Council, thanked Cllr Beynon and look forward to the arrangements.

Cllr Ponting thanked the Clerk for all his efforts in achieving these very valuable defibrillators and the time he has put in to locate them and put them into use. All present agreed. The Clerk thanked the Councillors.

11. Pennard School Governors

Cllr James advised that there was a vacancy for a local Councillor representative at Pennard School. The Councillors would consider the matter and report back if available.

12. Reports from members

Cllr Church reported he had attended the Local Access Group who felt the use of Gower for Commercial Events had to be better controlled and event holders who make large sums of money from the events should offer compensation/grants to the local community. Cllr Church also reported that handrails are to be installed on the steep parts of the footpath in Parkmill from Sandy lane to Maes Yr Haf

Cllr Church asked the Clerk to contact Ironman and ask them to offer a donation to Gower to cover the inconvenience of their events.

Cllr Church, Cllr James and Cllr Lloyd had all attended the recent event held in Reynoldston Village Hall regarding the future of Gower. Various speakers were present including the Chief Executive of National Landscapes (new name for ANOB) and the Chief Executive of Welsh Landscapes.

The Clerk was asked to contact Jake Cosgrove to ask for financial support to Community Councils.

ACTION POINT Mr P Sizer

Cllr Mobbs had reported to Caroline Gregg, Footpaths Officer for City & County of Swansea regarding the condition of the footpath at Pennard Hill behind Sandy Lane where the householder had been using it to move heavy equipment. The path has already been repaired by the householder.

Cllr Mobbs advised that as previously discussed at Council meetings, a WhatsApp group had been set up known as east Parkmill Flood Line.

Cllr Ponting had reported to Caroline Gregg a fence was down in front of Tor View exposing barbed wire.

Cllr. Ponting had reported four fallen trees which had already been removed.

Cllr Ponting also asked the Clerk to report to NRW about a collapsed brick structure which had fallen on the river behind Maws Yr Haf. The Clerk had completed this request.

Cllr Pleydell reported severe flooding =at the far end of Penmaen and had reported this to Highways who had already been out and cleared the majority of the culverts. One was still to be cleared and Cllr Pleydell offered to show employees of City & County of Swansea the location.

Cllr James advised that Pennard Community Council they were holding a "Vision Setting for the Future" event on the 18th February 2026 at 6.30 and representatives of Ilston Community Council were welcome to attend. Cllr Ponting and Mr Sizer would try and attend after the event on the 16th February they are attending.

Cllr Church thanked Cllr James for her input in the road surface treatment on the A4118 in Ilston Commun it. It was a marked improvement.

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

The current bank balances stand at:

current account £3782.69
Savings account £6994.58
Total £10777.27

But the Clerk advised there were some heavy payments to come over the next three months.

Since last meeting, the bank accounts had received:

Precept £2779.33
Interest £20.35

Since the last meeting payments had been made:

Councillor allowances and expenses totalling £260 had been made.

St John's Parish Church £1000
HMRC for PAYE & NI £326.67
Clerk's salary £889.71
The electrician for fitting the defibrillator cabinets £300

To pay:

Heartbeat Trust £575 for the defibrillator cabinet + £295 for the fitting and supply of the mounting post
Tourism Swansea Bay £150 for membership
Tourism Swansea Bay for Website £150
Penmaen Village Hall £1000 for their grant request
Ilston Church £1000 for their grant request

An Email from a resident had been received over the New Year. The matter had been discussed and a response from the Chair had been sent.

The Clerk reminded the Council that he had received advice from one Voice Wales regarding use of any copyright materials on our website.

The Clerk advised he had sent a general email before Christmas wishing everyone a merry Christmas. He also advised in the email about the sandbags at the Heritage Centre and the new defibrillators arriving in the community.

The Clerk had received a request from City & County of Swansea to sponsor a "Together We Care Ceremony" award. The Clerk had taken the liberty of rejecting the request due to depleted funds. The Councillors agreed with his action.

Cllr Brown proposed making the payments and Cllr Lloyd seconded the motion. All present agreed to the payments.

Cllr Church thanked the Clerk for his presentation.

14. **AOB at discretion of chairman.**
There was no Any Other Business

Time and date of next meeting.

The next meeting is planned for Thursday 26th March 2026 at 7pm

The meeting closed at 9.15 p.m.