

Ilston Community Council

Minutes of Meeting held on 26th March 2026

At a meeting of Ilston Community Council, at the Barham Centre, Parkmill on Thursday 26th March 2026 at 7.00 p.m.

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

In the Chair: Cllr R Church

1. **Apologies for Absence**

Cllr. B Beynon, Cllr. I. Brown & Cllr. S Pleydell.

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.

2. **Declaration of personal interest**

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

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

Two members of the public, Mark Wild and Seth Carroll attended and another resident Jo Jones sent a message on the same subject via Cllr Mobbs.

All accepted that the new rails at the Sandy Lane end of footpath IL22 were a necessity but they had been constructed out of scaffolding metal work and were very exposed visually to all residents in the area. The Clerk was asked to make contact with Caroline Gregg Countryside Access Officer about the situation. A recommendation of changing to wood might not last so a suggestion of using composite materials, similar to those used on the replaced bridge near the old chapel would be a good suggestion. It was noted that at the other end of the footpath, the other railings were again scaffold metal work but these were hidden visually from residents.

ACTION POINT Mr P Sizer

Cllr Huffer asked to address the meeting in a personal capacity as a resident and member of the public. Mr Huffer resides at Aldergrove and has made a planning application to allow the siting of a caravan in his garden for elderly parents. The application was turned down as City & County of Swansea on the basis that the land is not a Cultivated Garden. Mr Huffer objects to this statement stating that in his opinion the land is a Cultivated Garden. The planners suggested Mr Huffer moves the caravan 20metres nearer the road which would place it on Cultivated Garden. Mr Huffer is applying to meet with the Council's planning solicitors and hoping to get a referral to the Council Planning Committee.

Mr Jon & Ms Rita Robinson also attended the meeting as they wanted to let the Community Council know before they make an application to the planning department for changes to their plot of land used for agricultural purpose and next to the other agricultural plots in Ilston known as Cae Tan, and The Rowan Tree

Mr Robinson explained that they are growing vegetables, mainly lettuce for local restaurants etc and that he and Rita were looking to do this full time and they were considering making a planning application to City & County of Swansea for a consent under the One Planet policy which would allow them to look at having accommodation on the land to support the growing business eg enabling them to more effectively carry out watering their polytunnel and more husbandry on the land. No application has been made yet but Mr Robinson would like to undertake some consultation with the local community before he starts, similar to the exercise carried out by the Ecological Land Corporation who obtained a One Planet permission for the adjacent fields.

Mr Robinson agreed that he would keep the Community Council informed as his plans progressed.

4. **Approve minutes of monthly meeting held on 29th January 2026**

The minutes were accepted as a true representation of the meetings held on the 29th January 2026. Cllr. Mobbs proposed and Cllr. Church 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. The Clerk had chased Highways and was asked to chase them again on this matter

ACTION POINT Mr P Sizer

The Clerk advised he had been in touch with the President of Pennard Golf Club who agreed they owned the land down to the river up to the Pennard Castle and then land behind no 6 green. There were some few trees behind no 6 green but they were high up on the bank and would not fall into the river.

The Clerk had not contacted Jake Cosgrove of the AONB, now known as National Landscapes regarding financial support to Community Councils and he would complete this as soon as possible. It was also asked if the Clerk could let Mr Cosgrove know about the metal handrails as noted earlier in the meeting.

ACTION POINT Mr P Sizer

Cllr Church had met with the NRW and they had walked along the river noting the damage to trees etc. NRW wanted the trees left in a natural state as he could not see they were not in a position to cause imminent danger to flooding.

The brick structure remains in the river behind Maes Yr Haf and the Clerk was asked to write to both Mt Colin Forth, owner of Maes Yr Haf and Oldwalls as tenants about removing the structure from the river.

ACTION POINT Mr P Sizer

6. **Swansea Community Review**

Cllr Ponting and the Clerk had attended an on-line meeting with OVW and SLCC attending regarding the forthcoming Community review Merger. They both felt that the meeting was not a great success but had brought away with them that the Clerk has to be TUPE'd across to the new Community Council. That the current Community Council prepare a budget from the 1st April to the end of May and request a precept to cover that period but who decides what precept for the rest of the financial year? This was not clear at the meeting. Cllr Ponting mentioned that it was down to the Community Councils to arrange everything and felt there was little support available if "we get it wrong"

It was stated at the meeting that the Chair has to write a letter to the Clerk explaining that he will be TUPE'd to the new Community Council if he so wishes. The Clerk will liaise with the Chair over the content of this letter.

Cllr Church enquired about the insurance. Would the current provider be willing to offer a policy just for two months. The Clerk stated he would look into this matter.

ACTION POINT Mr P Sizer

7. **Consider planning applications**

There were three planning applications made since the last meeting as follows:

- *Construction of a small, purpose-built bat roost structure within the grounds of Rose Cottage, Rose Cottage Fairwood Swansea SA2 7LH*

Before the next planning application was discussed, Cllr Church stated he had a Declaration of Interest on the subject and would abstain from any discussions and vote.

- *Use of existing over spill car park for the temporary siting of up to 20 touring caravans and campervans from 15th - 17th May 2026 (inclusive) and 16th - 18th October 2026 (inclusive), Gower Heritage Centre Parkmill Swansea SA3 2EH*
- *Use of building as a holiday let (Application for a Certificate of Lawfulness) The Little Forge At The Old Forge Parkmill Swansea SA3 2EQ*

There were no objections to any of the planning applications.

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. It was proposed to ask a representative of Gower College Swansea to attend to update the Community Council.

ACTION POINT Cllr Brown

8. **Grant requests**

A partially completed application was received from the Barnham Centre asking for support of £1000 towards the changes to the kitchen area and a door to assist with the catering of functions that the Community use the centre for. Councillor Church declared an interest in this being a Trustee of the Centre and did not take part in the discussion. The application was discussed by the meeting and it was proposed by Cllr Mobbs and seconded by Cllr Ponting to agree to support this request once a more detailed application along with quotes for the work was submitted. The matter will be carried over to the May meeting to finalise the details although the grant has been approved in principle.

9. **Defibrillators – update**

The Clerk advised that the two were fully active at Shepherds and at the Gower Inn.

The Clerk advised that the third cabinet had now arrived and was awaiting installation in Ilston at an alternative site as issues had occurred with the planned site at the Church car park. The new site is opposite the Church car park on the main road facing towards the Church. Unfortunately, Paul Evans who installed the other two cabinets is away on holiday at present but will install the cabinet as soon as he returns and the Clerk will advise the Circuit accordingly.

The Clerk had not written the letters to the owners of the sites as yet as he was waiting for the Ilston site to be confirmed. Once the cabinet has been installed, letters from the Chair will be sent to all the three site owners thanking them for their support. **ACTION POINT Mr P Sizer**

The Clerk had met with a resident Jane Coode from Ilston who had agreed to “keep an eye” on the cabinet and the defibrillator and would advise the Clerk whenever the Circuit needed updating.

The Clerk advised the Councillors that after meeting with a representative of Heartbeat Trust UK a recommendation of installing a bleed kit in the Gower Inn cabinet be approved. The cost of the bleed kit was approx. £95. The kit was initially designed for inner city use where cases of stabbings occur but of late, farmers have been using them with accidents on their farms and also at accident sites and the Gower Inn was felt a good location with the road conditions around the bends and the speeds of vehicles at Kilvrough Manor Outdoor Education Centre. Cllr Church proposed purchasing a kit and this was seconded by Cllr Lloyd. The Clerk was asked to purchase a kit from Heartbeat Trust UK.

ACTION POINT Mr P Sizer

Cllr Hollett thanked the Clerk for his continuing support on the defibrillators and the arranged training event.

10. **Training including Defibrillator Training**

The Clerk had agreed a training date with Heartbeat Trust UK for the afternoon of Saturday 2nd May from 2.30 to 4.30. The Clerk will arrange to send out an email to all on the mailing list asking if they wish to attend and to advise the Clerk of their interest. Cllr James would also put in her newsletter for the Pennard area residents. The Clerk if a small donation could be agreed of say £50 as Heartbeat Trust UK is a Charity and are not charging for the event. It was agreed to offer a donation of £50 and this will be confirmed later in the Clerk's Update.

No Councillors wished to undergo any training by OVW in this period.

11. **Reports from members**

Cllr Church commented on the potholes on Penmaen Hill and asked Cllr James if she could report these to the City & County of Swansea.

Cllr Church also asked if there was any news on the reduced speed around Kilvrough Manor Outdoor Education Centre but Cllr James offered no update as yet.

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

The current bank balances stand at:

current account £1482.69

Savings account £7012.29

Total £8494.98

Since the last meeting:

Received interest £17.71

Paid since the last meeting:

Penmaen & Nicholaston Hall £1000

Parish of Penmaen £1000

Tourism Swansea Bay £150 – website

Tourism Swansea Bay £150 – membership

The Clerk asked for the following payments to be authorised:

Clerk's salary £863.03

HMRC for PAYE and NI for the Clerk £315.07

Clerks' expenses £76.40

Heartbeat Trust £575 (This had already been agreed at a previous meeting)

Dan Perrin Payroll calculations for the year £75

Cllr Mobbs – Cllr allowance and expenses £208

The Clerk also advised he had three payments to make early in the next financial year:

April - One Voice Wales membership £110

May - Heartbeat Trust donation £50

Unknown date early in 2026/2027 payment to City & County of Swansea regarding the repairs to the Bius Shelters. This had been agreed at a previous meeting.

Cllr Huffer proposed making these payments and the matter was seconded by Cllr Mobbs.

The Clerk collected the outstanding Councillor Allowances forms.

The Clerk had received notification from the Democracy and Boundary Commission that an agreement had been reached that Councillor allowances and expenses would remain the same for 2026/2027 at £156 for Allowances and £52 for expenses.

The Clerk had received a request from PCSO Andrew Brown to hold quarterly meetings with the Community Councils across Gower and Ilston CC agreed to take part in the events.

The Clerk had received an email from Cllr Sam Hughes from Llanrhidian CC asking to hold quarterly meetings amongst all the Community Councils on Gower again. The first meeting would be in person and Reynoldston CC had offered the Village Hall in Reynoldston as central to all for the event. It was agreed that Ilston CC would join the event once more detail had been received.

13. **AOB at discretion of chairman.**

Cllr Hollett asked the Councillors that he was meeting with the National Trust shortly regarding the Notts Hill issue in the Community.

Time and date of next meeting.

The next meeting is planned for Thursday 28th May 2026 at 7pm

The meeting closed at 9.00 p.m.