Ilston Community Council
Minutes of Meeting held on 24th September 2026

At a meeting of Ilston Community Council, at the Barham Centre, Parkmill on Thursday 24th September 2026.

Present, Cllr. N Hollett, Cllr. R Church, Cllr. S. Pleydell (arrived at 7.20)
Cllr L James (Swansea Council) and Mr P Sizer Clerk

Also, present Mr Tom Beynon

In the Chair Cllr Hollett

Also attending was Mr Ian Anderson representing Ms Lina Li owner of Nicholston House.

It was agreed as Mr Anderson had attended the meeting and his participation was most important the agenda would be reviewed and agenda item reference 3 was to be held first.

Mr Anderson introduced himself to the attending Councillors. Mr Anderson was representing Ms Ling Li who could not attend the meeting regarding the development at Nicholston House.

There had been some work commenced at the House but all work was now stopped pending a revised planning application.

Originally the site was to be used as a residence for International Students attending Gower College Swansea but this had now changed and a new application would be submitted for use as a "boutique wellness retreat and a local wellbeing community". Mr Andferson produced an excellent "emerging vision" of the proposed development which clearly states "What we are not proposing includes, weddings or parties, large events or conferences, nightlife or a high-volume visitor attraction"

Several discussions were held regarding different aspects and parking was one concern raised by both Mr Anderson and the Councillors.

At this stage only a pre-application was being considered to be sent to Swansea Council to obtain their feelings of the site.

There were several issues that neighbours were not happy about and Mr Anderson and Ms Li offered to hold a public meeting at Penmaen Village Hall to meet with members of the public and the neighbours to discuss their fears and the development. This suggestion was approved by the Councillors who will attend where possible. A date has yet to be arranged. *(Note post meeting the date has been arranged as Monday 12th October)*

Mr Anderson left the meeting after being thanked by the Chair and all present.

1. **Apologies for Absence**
Cllr. D Ponting (family commitment), Cllr. S Mobbs (Medical), Cllr I. Lloyd (Employment), Cllr. B Beynon (Medical)

Absent Cllr. N Huffer and Cllr. I. Brown,

6. **Co-option of new Councillor**
At this stage the meeting was not quorate as there were only three Councillors in attendance. The Clerk asked the Chair to change the agenda order and bring item 6 forward to this point in the running order. All present agreed to this.

Cllr. Ponting had made a written statement to the Clerk that he proposed Mr Tom Beynon to be coopted as a Councillor to Ilston Community Council. Cllr. Hollett seconded the proposal and all present agreed to the motion. Mr. Beynon was welcomed to the Council by the Chair.

As there were now four Councillors present, the meeting became quorate and could proceed.

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.**
These matters were discussed before the meeting formally commenced

4. **Approve minutes of monthly meeting held on 30th July 2026.**
Cllr. Church proposed and Cllr. Hollett seconded they were a true reflection of the events at the meeting held in July 2026.

5. **Matters arising**
Cllr James had arranged for her team at Swansea Council to paint the railings, but needed the paint. The Clerk was asked to purchase some as soon as he can. The colour was a green shade.

ACTION POINT Mr P Sizer

It was suggested the Clerk get in contact with Ironman and Lovetrails and see if there could be some form of contribution to the community for the inconvenience their events impede on Community Members.

ACTION POINT Mr P Sizer

Cllr. Ponting had discussed the parking at Penmaen Loop west car park to see if the NRT would be reopening it. The Clerk was asked to make contact wit the NT but Cllr. Pleydell asked the action be stopped due to the rewilding in the area. This matter was agreed to be carried forward to the next meeting.

The matter of the signs that the Clerk was going to investigate with NT were not completed before the summer season finished to be located on Three Cliffs regarding grazing cattle and their calves. The matter will be taken forward to a future meeting with NT in the Spring.

7 **Swansea Community Review**

An initial meeting had been held with members from Pennard Community Council and Cllr.s Hollett, Ponting and Church along with the Clerk attended. The majority was based around recommendations from Swansea Council of actions that should be taken before the two Councils are merged in May 2027.

Also discussed was what needs to be in the budget for the period 1st April to 7th May 2027. These have to include, the Clerks wages for the period even if paid by the new Council, any redundancy payment to the Clerk again to be paid by the new Council, election costs in the region of £1175.11

A second meeting has been arranged in November.

8 **Consider planning applications**

There were three planning applications from:

Old Rectory Ilston Swansea – Works to trees

And two from Pleasant View Stones Field Penmaen Swansea – both connected to a previous planning application asking for discharges of conditions.

There were no objections to these requests.

9. **Consider grant requests**

There were no grant requests

10. **Traffic Updates**

Cllr. Ponting had been in contact with Kilvrough Manor regarding the speed issues around their premises. Cllr. Ponting had received a response from Mr Chris Pierce, Head of Oxfordshire Outdoors Learning Service at Oxfordshire County Council agreeing he would assist in the matter.

The ongoing lack or response from Swansea Council to the Traffic Report and especially the lack of contact from Mr Ferris at the Council led the Councillors to recommend a formal complaint be sent to his line manager after Mr Ferris had been notified. **ACTION POINT Mr P Sizer**

11. **Training including Defibrillator Training**

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

The Clerk had agreed a date with Heartbeat Trust of the 7th November and had proposed holding two events. One for the general public at 1pm and a second at 3pm aimed at families. The Clerk asked for assistance in how to make contact with various members of the Community. It was recommended the Clerk email all on the mailing list plus they would spread the event by word and mouth as they all agreed the events are most important. **ACTION POINT Mr P Sizer**

12. **April 2027 final meeting and plans for celebration**

At the July meeting, the Clerk had proposed holding one final Council meeting in April 2027 as the next scheduled one in May 2027 would be after the merging of the two Community Councils. As all had agreed to this a date was set for Thursday April 29th 2027. Cllr. Church offered to hold the event at the Heritage Centre where the Clerk would arrange for Cheese and Wine to be made available.

It was suggested that all previous Clerks and Councillors would be invited along with members of the public to celebrate the work of the Ilston Community Council.

13. **Reports from members**

Cllr. Ponting, in his absence sent the following details to the Clerk:

No parking sign supported by Gower Commoners with the fire service logo has been placed on the bypass gate at Gelli Deg. Thanks to Roy for designing and laminating it.
Gower Commoners have also cleared the undergrowth.

Cllr. Pointing had spoken to the Secretary of Kilvrough Manor who put me in touch with the Head of Estates for Oxfordshire Education Authority, Mr Chris Pierce. I have written to Mr Pierce outlining our concerns about speed limits and signage outside the entrance of Kilvrough Manor. I have asked for his support in designating the premises an educational establishment. CCS Highways would hopefully be forced to review the speed limit and signage at the location. (This was referred to in agenda item number 10)

The subsiding track behind Maes yr Haf appears to be getting worse, and one side of the of the sink hole looks to be overhanging the river. Cllr. Ponting had emailed the matter again to countryside access officer, but she has not responded. (Cllr. James reported that she had made contact with the Footpaths officer and this was scheduled to be completed asap)

The recycling in the Penmaen area (particularly Three Cliffs) continues to be unreliable. Cllr. Ponting had been in contact with Mr Carl Watkins of Swansea Council almost every week since the last meeting to report missed collections. Unfortunately, because our collection day is Friday, rubbish is not collected until the following Monday or in the case of bank holidays, Tuesday.

At the request of local residents No barbecue and fire signs were produced and laminated by Roy and affixed to the bypass gates at either end of the Loop Road by Steve Pleydell.

Cllr. Mobbs, in her absence sent the following to the Clerk by email:

There is very heavy traffic going through Parkmill, especially very heavy vehicles. Yesterday evening four went through in concession.

Some days a tractor will go back and forth with a trailer full of top soil several times in a morning.

This can't be doing our newly resurfaced road any good and it's just time before pot holes appear. There are already track marks from large vehicles all the way up to Vennaway Lane.

These matters were discussed by those present and it was felt the tractors were coming from Kittle egg farm and were carrying chicken manure to local farms. Cllr. Hollett offered to make contact with the egg farm.

ACTION POINT Cllr. Hollett

The Clerk asked if he could add a few comments at this point on traffic. Recently had been the Gower Bike Ride and this year it had been routed through the narrow roads of Parkmill and Reynoldston where in past years the route taken had avoided these small villages. The Clerk asked for permission to write to the organisers to ask them to reconsider the routes away from Reynoldston and Parkmill. This was agreed by all present.

ACTION POINT Mr P Sizer

Cllr. Church offered a video taken at Llangennith with families coming out to instal the new Slow banners that had been developed recently for Gower in conjunction with our MP. The event was a great success and Cllr. Church asked if we could do something similar in Ilston Community Council area. The budget would be circa £3000 but he could get a grant for 50% of the costs through Tourism Swansea Bay. Cllr. Beynon offered a contribution himself from his business and Cllr. Church asked if Ilston Community Council could cover the rest of the costs, c £1200.

The Clerk had brought with him the budget and had agreed there was room by moving some expenses around to accommodate this proposal.

At this stage Cllr. Church declared a personal interest and would not take part in the vote. Cllr. Hollett proposed the recommendation be accepted and this was seconded by Cllr. Pleydell. The Clerk pointed out with Cllr. Church declaring an interest, the vote could not be agreed as the Council was now not quorate but he recommended that if he could get a written response from another Councillor via email, he would accept the matter as agreed. This was agreed by all present. (Note post meeting Cllr. Ponting agreed in an email that he would be in favour of the expenditure). The Clerk accepts this as a vote on the item under review.

Cllr. Church also reported he had managed to get a company to remove the tree in the river after NRW would not consider being involved. The contractor asked for agreement from the Community Council which was offered and he needed permission from the landowner Mr T Beynon to get access.

Cllr. Pleydell stated that the Torbay Car Park had been cleared of growth.

A white Fiat Uno had been parked there for two weeks, Cllr. James offered to raise the matter with Swansea Council and arrange to contact the registered owners to remove the vehicle.

Cllr. Pleydell asked Cllr. James when the Gully clearers were due. Cllr. James replied it was an all-year-round contract and they had been in the area recently.

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

The current bank balances stand at:
Current account £3,210.41
Savings account £6,046.05
Total £9256.46

Paid since the last meeting:
Cllr. Ponting for expenses incurred in purchasing a gift for the Internal Auditor £34.50
Reynoldston Community Council £79.00
Clerks' salary C£863.03
HMRC for PAYE and NI C£315.07
Audit Office 211.85 (24/25 accounts)

Since last meeting we have received:
Precept payment of £3058.33
Bank interest of £15.79

The Clerk asked for the following payments to be authorised:
Swansea Council £2185.73 for bus shelter.

The Clerk advised all present of the sage around this late invoice. The original invoice had been sent to the address of the deceased Clerk's to the Community Council, before the previous one to the current Clerk. The current Clerk had noticed the owners of the property putting a picture of the invoice on Facebook asking what it was about. The Clerk had contacted Swansea Council about the error and they initially stated they could not issue a credit note and re-invoice and we would have to pay the invoice even though it was incorrectly addressed. The Clerk was about to contact the External Auditors to ask their opinion on the matter when a revised invoice was received from the Swansea Council to the Clerk's home address correctly.

Cllr. Hollett proposed making this payment and this was seconded by Cllr. Church with all agreeing the proposal.

The Clerk brought with him the budget to discuss the matter asked by Cllr. James for an extra £800 towards the base of the bus shelter in Nicholston. The Clerk advised that there was room to make an extra £800 payment if requested. At this stage Cllr. James stated that she had already made the payment from her funds but the community bus fund

was very short of funds and would the Council be prepared to make the £800 payment to them instead. This was proposed by Cllr. Hollett and seconded by Cllr. Pleydell and agreed by all present.

The Clerk had received notification of pay scale changes for Clerks. His salary would go up from £15.56 per hour to £16.08 per hour. The Clerk's contract of employment allows for a band increase each year but the Clerk refused to accept this, just to accept the basic rate change of pay. This is backdated to April 2026 and will be paid in November 2026. This was proposed by Cllr. Hollett and seconded by Cllr. T Beynon and agreed by all present.

New defib pads had been collected from the Ambulance Trust and fitted by the Clerk in September as they were due for replacement in October and the Circuit updated. These pads would last until December 2027 which them becomes the responsibility of the new Community Council but the Clerk has already advised the Clerk to Pennard Community Council of this fact.

New Model standing orders were received from One Voice Wales with a slight financial change. As the Community Council will only be in existence for a short period of time now, he recommended not implementing the new policy. This was agreed by all present.

An email had been received from a Dylan Reed whose role is Curriculum Development Coordinator with Adult Learning Wales, covering Swansea and Neath Port Talbot asking if the Council felt we had demand for adult learning in the area. It was agreed there was no demand at this stage.

Japanese Knotweed – Cllr. Church advised that we had been notified that treatment would be taking place and that the new Community Council must be made aware of this contract so it can continue.

The Clerk had been advised from Swansea Council that a recommendation of the Gambling Act 2005 - Consultation on proposed amendments to Swansea Council's Statement of Principles (Gambling Policy) in respect of a proposal to pass a new resolution not to issue casino licences.

The next meeting of the Gower management plan is on Wednesday 21st October at Reynoldston Village Hall from 13.30 to 15.00 – Cllr. Church will be attending to represent the Community Council.

The Clerk advised all present that he would be away from his office from Monday 5th October to Thursday 22nd October working away but he would have his laptop and mobile phone with him if anything urgent arose.

14. **AOB at discretion of chairman.**
Cllr. James offered her cleansing team are available.

Cllr. James has a supply of daffodils if anyone can think of a good location to place. Cllr. Hollett offered to assist with this matter.

Pennard Community Council were in contact with Men's club and were looking for a location to be based. Cllr. Church offered use of the Heritage centre.

The footpath apposite Cllr. Pleydell's house is being upgraded and double yellow lines will be in force around the bend area. The Council are in discussion with local residents about the matter.,

Time and date of next meeting.
The next meeting is planned for Thursday 26th November 2026 at 7pm

The meeting closed at 9.15 p.m.