

Ilston Community Council

Minutes of Meeting held on 29th May 2019

At a meeting of the Ilston Community Council held at Penmaen and Nicholaston Village Hall on Wednesday, 29th May 2019, at 7.30pm:

Present: Councillors Mrs A. Elliott, Dr. J Kingham, Mrs F Owen-John, Mr. R Church, Mr D. Llewellyn, Mr D. Ponting and Mrs C Grove.

In the Chair: Councillor Mrs A. Elliott

In Attendance: Two members of the public

1. **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors: Mr N Hollett, Mrs J Griffiths, Mr V Jones and Mr J Howells.

2. **Declarations of Personal Interest**

None.

3. **Minutes.**

The minutes of the meeting held on 24th April 2019 were approved as read and signed by the chair.

4. **Matters Arising.**

4(9a) **Bus Shelter at Perriswood** – The Clerk has spoken to Tim Mitchell of the transport team at Swansea Council. They are still looking for a replacement to Queensbury. The work has been put out to tender along with 45 other jobs. The process takes about 6 weeks. The team sends their apologies for the delay. It was noted that the council would still be asking the community council to foot the bill for the cost of the upgrade to the shelter. Cllr Church suggested making a grant application to the RDP. The deadline is the end of June.

On 4 (11a) **Bin at Tor View Car Park** – The Clerk received an email from Paul Griffiths, Area Cleansing Manager, on 14th May, stating that as the original bin was removed as it was being filled with household waste. It was removed four years ago therefore it would be classed as a new installation. The authority has no budget to install new bins unless funded by ward members or a community council. He proposes to move the bin from the bus stop across the road from the car park and site it by the gate in the car park. His crew would empty the bin and monitor its use. If it did start being used for household rubbish, stickers would be put on the bin reminding users of its correct purpose. After some discussion, in which it was mentioned that there was a risk that the bin could be at risk of being lost altogether, it was unanimously agreed, that the clerk respond to Mr Griffiths that the Community Council are happy with this compromise.

On 9 **Access to Tor View** – A letter has been received from Swansea Council's Housing Department, stating that our requests for the resurfacing of the car park, redoing the crosshatching and for better signage are being considered. However, these costs are being fully assessed against other competing priorities across the county. The council have termed what we have asked for as improvements to the car park. Cllr Ponting pointed out that our requests are for repair and maintenance and not improvements. One of the members of the public present is a resident of Tor View. Cllr Church enquired as to whether any maintenance funds existed for the access to the houses. The resident wasn't aware of any such fund. He showed a photo of a car parked outside of the car park area, directly on the cross-hatchings. The resident

was also aware that the car park is jointly owned by two different council departments and an also by individual. Clerk to write back to Housing to point out that the requests are for repair and not improvements. Clerk to contact the two local officers to be a presence to deter bad parking practices.

On (4) 11b Sandy Lane Potholes – No update.

On 4 (12/2A) – Lane from Bryn Afel to Ilston – Cllr Grove stated that signs had been put up stating that the lane was to be closed from the 28th-31st May but that there was no evidence of any activity as yet. Cllr Grove to monitor the situation. The verges have not been cut as was promised before work was to commence.

On 4(12b) Japanese Knotweed - The clerk contacted Sean Hathaway who replied by email that he was monitoring the situation. He also asked whether the community council would consider contributing towards the cost of the treatment. Cllr Church proposed that we could look at funding through an RDP grant as this was how it was funded last time.

On 4(12e) Asset Transfer of land in Lunnon and Penmaen – Deputy Minister, Hannah Blythyn has written back to confirm that the land is currently not allocated as housing on the LDP. She suggests re-contacting Swansea Council regarding the matter. One of the members of the public present is a resident of Tor View and also a landscape architect. She has come up with a plan for the land in front of Tor View with the view to uniting the community. This was shared with the community council in paper format. Cllr Ponting explained the current situation in that the land is considered as housing stock land by Swansea Council but is not in the current local development plan. The community council are seeking to gain control of the land via an asset transfer to keep it as community space and stop any future development. The Community Council has received an email from another resident and responded by explaining the situation and inviting the residents to attend the June meeting to discuss their concerns. Cllr Church suggested writing to the deputy minister again asking how we approach the City Council to make an asset transfer under the current Welsh Assembly regulations. This was the agreed course of action.

On 8 RDP Funding Possibilities – The Clerk has sent out the funding criteria to council members via email.

On 4(9) Gower Community Council Forum Meeting – The clerk has received emails from more clerks interested in joining the forum.

On 12 (a) Draft Community Newsletter – The newsletter has been issued to all households. One complaint was received regarding a spelling mistake. Spelling of all of the hamlets is to be checked thoroughly for future issues. Gower Hedgerow Hub got in touch asking to be included in the next issue. Cllr Church to follow up on this.

On 12 (b) Potholes from Brownswell Farm to Lunnon Farm and Lunnon Hill – The clerk contacted Highways again by phone and followed up via email regarding the dangerous road surface on Lunnon Hill. The road surface has not been attended to. The clerk to follow up once again.

On 6 Planning Application for a siting of a solar toilet behind the Lifeguard Hut at Three Cliffs Bay – Cllr Ponting has established that the toilet will be solar powered.

5. Reports from Members

None.

6. Planning Applications.

Application No. 2019/0972/FUL

Location: The Chalet, Stones Field, Penmaen, SA3 2HQ

Proposal: Replacement detached split level dwelling with associated landscaping with parking.

Applicant: Mr Christopher Stone

After discussion, the main concern raised by council members related to increased construction and other traffic and the deterioration of the road surface. Cllr Ponting to ask whether restrictions can be put on the weight and number of vehicles accessing the lane. It was also raised whether Swansea Council were aware of the long-term plans for the site due to the high specification and quality of the new buildings. Cllr Ponting to seek clarification as to whether the new building will have permanent habitation status as this will cause further access issues and overloading on North Hills lane.

7. **Financial Statement.**

Noted transactions since the last meeting were as follows:

Debit -

1.	Clerk's Pay	£195.00
2.	Clerk's PAYE	£1.20
	Total	£196.20

Credit – Nil

Therefore -

Balances: £3,330.77 Deposit account
£2,679.64 Current account

- a) **Payments** – A request for the renewal and payment of subsequent fee of £40 from the Information Commissioner's Office for our registration as a data controller under the Data Protection Act 1998, which will expire on 27/06/2019. Payments made by direct debit will receive an annual reduction of £5, thereby making our annual fee £35 instead of £40. It was therefore agreed that a direct debit should be set up.
- b) **Clerk's Expenses** – The clerk presented expenses for stationary, stamps, printing costs and mileage, with receipt's amounting to £81.94. The councillors unanimously agreed to the payment of these expenses.

8. **The Audit Return for the year ending 31st March 2019**

The internal auditor is happy with the audit. He has prepared a draft report and spreadsheets. The clerk read out the recommendations that the community council continue to reduce the reserves. After discussion it was decided that the Clerk will put together an income and expenditure spreadsheet for the next meeting so that the councillors can look at the figures in detail. The budget to be put on as an agenda item in June.

9. **Insurance Renewal Quote**

Having looked at the documentation and compared it to another quote, which came in at a higher cost, all

councillors agreed to renew the existing policy at the same price as last year. This came in at **£167.44**

10. **Rural Development Partnership.**

Cllr Church suggested that as there was still money available in the RDP pot that the community council make an application for the bus shelter and for funding to spray the Japanese knotweed. He pointed out that the way the funding is paid has changed since previous rounds. The money has to be paid out first then reimbursed. It is also funded on an 80/20 basis, meaning that the community council would have to find 20 percent of the total cost in match funding. This does not necessarily have to be in cash and could be in kind.

9. **Correspondence (not dealt with elsewhere) -**

Received and noted:-

Emails Received:

- a) Received on 14th May 2019, from Democratic Services, regarding the next two meetings of the Community and Town Council Forum. Cllr Ponting and the Clerk to attend.
- b) Received on 21st May 2019, from Gower Commons Safety Action Group, concerning the speed that vehicles are travelling across the common and the resultant number of animals killed, the lack of signage and the fact that the 40mph speed limit is not enforced. Swansea Council has maintained that no money is available for traffic calming measures and the group ask if the community council can help in any way. They are concerned that if animals cannot safely graze the common then the land will revert to scrub, with the resultant loss of a significant habitat and resource. A public meeting is to be held at the Gower Inn on 4th June at 8pm. Cllr Llewellyn may attend if he can.

Other Correspondence:

- 1) Glasdon Focus on Local Councils and Village Gateways Brochure
- 2) Clerks and Councils Direct May 2019 Issue 123

12. **Any Other Business**

- a) There have been a spate of vehicles puncturing their tyres on loose rocks on Penmaen Hill. Over the May Bank Holiday weekend, a car went through the wall on the bridge outside the Heritage Centre after coming down the hill. The Clerk to contact the Highways department to look at Penmaen Hill. The verges are very overgrown, the vegetation is hiding loose rocks which may be causing tyres to puncture.

Date of next meeting

Noted date as Wednesday 26th June 2019 at 7.30pm.

The meeting closed at 8.35pm.

Chairman.