

Community Council

Minutes of Meeting held on 20th January 2021

At a meeting of the Ilston Community Council held at 7pm, online via Zoom due to the coronavirus pandemic on Wednesday, 20th January 2021.

Present: Councillors Mrs. A. Elliott, D. Ponting, Mrs F Owen-John, R. Church, V. Jones, J. Howells and Dr J Kingham
Councillors Mr N Hollett and Mrs J Griffiths arrived at 7.25pm

In the Chair: Councillor: Mr D. Ponting

1. **Apologies for Absence.**

Cllr D Llewellyn and Mrs C Grove

2. **Personal Interests.**

None

3. **Minutes.**

The minutes of the meeting held on 26th November 2020 were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

4. **Matters Arising**

On 4(12b) Lunnon Hill – Clerk to chase up Nigel Fitzgerald once again, Cllr Owen-John to pass on the name of the Head of Highways so that the Clerk can copy them in to the correspondence. The clerk to emphasise how dangerous the road surface still is and also her personal experience of a tyre blow-out.

On 12 (A.O.B) 3 Trail Bikes – The ‘No Access’ signs haven’t gone up yet. No further update.

On 7 RPD: Japanese Knotweed – The clerk spoke to Chris Lindley who said he would speak to Sean Hathaway who is very knowledgeable on Japanese Knotweed and get back to her. The clerk followed up with an email but has heard nothing further. The clerk to chase up.

On 5 V.E. Day - The clerk attained a mains water map but this doesn’t show enough detail. Other locations for the trees were discussed but it was thought best to delay a decision until members can physically visit the location. This issue will be carried forward to May’s meeting.
Cllr Kingham has looked into the cost of ornamental rowan trees. At present, bare rooted exotic pink trees, growing to approximately 4-5 metres, cost £100 for four trees plus carriage costs.

On 10 (A.O.B.) e Dead Alder Tree – The dead alder is over 30ft high and bends out over the river. It is growing on the flat between the wall and the bank. The clerk to notify NRW to ask them if they can remove it as if it falls it will be a flood hazard and it is also very dangerous.

On 10. Parking Problems in Penmaen – Clerk to chase up Nigel Fitzgerald to ask a member of the traffic department to contact the community council.

On 12 b- Broken bridge and trees down in Ilston valley – Work still in progress, clerk to contact Caroline Gregg to ask for an update.

On 5 (RfM) Gower Road Closure at Nicholaston – Cllr Owen-John reported that the residents are not happy with the replacement hedge, the saplings have been washed away. More mature bushes are needed to provide a sufficient hedge, to stabilise the bank thereby preventing further erosion and providing a screen from the main road for the houses behind. The drain on the south side of the road is blocked due to heavy rain eroding the bank and washing it onto the road as the sapling cannot stabilise it. The sandbags provided by the city council are not sufficient to protect the bank in its current unstable condition and therefore the residents have suggested a curb wall to protect the bank whilst the vegetation grows to sufficient size to stabilise the soil and therefore the bank structure. Cllr Owen John has provided the council with photos. The clerk to write once again to Mr Fitzgerald, copying in his head of department on this issue, Lunnon Hill and the traffic issue at Penmaen.

On 12 (A.O.B) Broken handrail on Ilston Church Bridge – The clerk to chase up with the countryside access team.

5. Draft Budget and setting of Precept for 2021/2022 financial year.

The draft budget was prepared at the meeting held on 26th November 2020. The budget was reviewed and after deliberation was approved to the sum of £8277.00

It was proposed by Cllr Hollett and seconded by Cllr Griffiths that the current precept of £15 remain the same. All in favour.

No. of Band D Properties for 2021/2022 = 364

$364 \times £15 = £5460$, therefore the precept for the 2021/2022 financial year is £5460.

6. Reports from Members

Cllr Ponting reported that the gravel drain at the end of North Hills lane, opposite Tir Na Nog, has silted up. It was put in by Swansea Council a few years ago but is now not passable in the rain without wearing wellies. The Clerk to contact the council and ask them to inspect it.

Cllr Howells reported that the drain outside his house is blocked and water is, therefore, flowing down the road. This has been ongoing for a number of years. The clerk to chase up.

Cllr Ponting reported that the gate on the path behind the Village Hall, past the Guide Hut, towards, the coastal path, has a broken hinge and is very heavy and lying at a drunken 30degree angle. The clerk to report this to the countryside access team.

Cllr Ponting reported that the third stepping stone from the west bank at Three Cliffs bay has eroded so that the four reinforcing bars are dangerously exposed. The clerk to contact the countryside access team.

Cllr Ponting reported that a resident has requested that the bin at Tor View be moved to another place in the car park. This is due to the resident being the victim of fly-tipping as the current location of the bin

is on the opposite side of the residents' hedge. The Clerk to contact the relevant department at Swansea Council to see if the bin can be relocated within the car park. New 'Take your litter home' sign to go up in the car park.

7. Planning Applications

Application No. 2021/0012/FUL

Location: Ivy Cottage, Penmaen, SA3 2HL

Proposal: The use of the land for touring caravans and tenting from Good Friday or 1st April (whichever is earlier) to 31st October each year.

Applicant: Mrs Sian Chathyoka

After discussion, it was felt that as local residents were concerned regarding the lack of clarification of the number of units, the potential noise issue and that in the past this has been a Caravan Club site and not done through an agent, that the community council would object to the proposal.

The Robin's Nest application has been refused as the applicants have not submitted engineer's drawings.

8. Financial Statement

Balances

Noted transactions since the last meeting are as follows:

Debit -

C E Toft	£196.20	15/12/2020
C E Toft	£368.40	14/01/2021
HMRC	£42.00	14/01/2021
Friends of Pennard Library	£100.00	18/01/2021

Total: £602.60

Credit –

Interest	£0.08	07/12/2020
Swansea City Council	£1635.00	31/12/2020

Total: £1635.08

Therefore –
Balances:

£4,458.54 Current Account
£3,338.36 Deposit Account

a) **Audit Return**

Conclusion of the audit return for the year ending 31st March 2020

The community council have received notification from BDO LLP that they have completed the Audit for the year ending 31st March 2020 on behalf of the Auditor General for Wales. The annual return was presented to the community council by the clerk/RFO and approved and accepted by the council. The issues arising report was read out by the clerk as follows:

- Reserves – the general reserve balance held by the council appear high.

The community council has drafted a budget in order to spend the reserves over the next financial year.

- Accounting Statements – Trust Funds Disclosure Note

The council has not answered box for 2019 in error in the Accounting Statements of the annual return. We believe based on the prior year's information that the council should have answered 'N/a'.

The RFO will ensure that the annual return is proof read and double checked by another member of the council before submission.

- b) Invoices were received from Mrs Merlin Kingham for £10 and Cllr Ponting for £11.49 for topping up the emergency Covid helpline mobile phones. An invoice for £291.95 was received from Wales Audit Office for the completion of the annual return for the year ending 31st March 2020. A letter was received from Wales Air Ambulance for their charity emergency appeal. They have suffered a sixty percent drop in their funding in the last year and they are asking for help. After a discussion, it was proposed by Cllr Church and seconded by Cllr Kingham, to donate £250 to Wales Air Ambulance. This was approved by all present.

9. Request from Llanrhidian Lower Community Council regarding the reinstatement of a Gower Local Area Coordinator

An email was received from the clerk of Llanrhidian Lower Community Council regarding the fact that there is no longer a Local Area Coordinator (LAC) for Gower. Contained within the email was an explanation of what an LAC does and that there is money available in the Rural Development Fund to pay for the position. Llanrhidian Lower CC are asking Ilston CC for support in asking for this position to be reinstated.

After discussion, members agreed to support Llanrhidian Lower CC in their request to get the position of Local Area Coordinator for Gower reinstated.

10. Update on the RDP

Cllr Church pointed out that there is still money available. It is possible that an application can be submitted for the village hall, the committee can speak to the RDP. The clerk to send out an email to publicise to the community that there is money available to anyone wishing to carry out community projects.

11. Correspondence

a) Clerk and Councils Direct, January 2021, Issue 133

Emails:

- Received on 11/12/2020, from Deryck Evans, Audit Manager, Audit Wales, attaching the schedule for Audit Wales' new audit arrangements. It identifies which year councils will receive the transaction-based audit and the two years that the basic audit procedures will be applied. Ilston Community Council will carry out the transaction-based audit in 2022-23.
- Received on 4/01/2021, from Angharad Thomas-Richards, Head of Local Government Election Team, Local Government Democracy Division, Welsh Government, forwarded by OVW, due to the Wales entering Level 4 restriction on Saturday 20th December 2020, the Minister for Housing and Local Government has decided to bring forward new Regulations that will move the window for postponed by-elections to 1st March 2021 – 6th May 2021. This means that the holding of by-elections in February will no longer be possible once the regulations are in force. This change has been made to allow the electoral community a longer period to prepare for the by-elections and move the dates towards the spring.
- Received on 15/01/2021, from Mark Faulkner, Friends of Pennard Library Treasurer, Friends of Pennard Library are very grateful to Ilston Community Council for their wonderful support.

12. Any other Business

a) Cllr Griffiths noted that the notice board in Ilston has a broken post. Cllr Jones to take a look and secure it.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Audrey Elliott for all her hard work as chair over the last two years.

Date of next meeting. Wednesday, 24th February 2021 at 7pm via Zoom.

The meeting closed at 8.27pm

Chairman.