

# **Community Council**

## **Minutes of Meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> February 2021**

At a meeting of Ilston Community Council held at 7pm, online via Zoom due to the coronavirus pandemic on Wednesday, 24<sup>th</sup> February 2021.

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

**In the Chair:** Councillor: Mr D. Ponting

**1. Apologies for Absence.**

Cllrs: Mrs A Elliott, Mr N Hollett, Mr D Llewellyn and Mrs C Grove

After discussion, it was agreed that Cllr Grove and Cllr Llewellyn be given a three-month period of grace from attending meetings as they are both going through family difficulties and Cllr Llewellyn is also having technical difficulties with online meetings and no mobile access. The chairman will contact both during this time to establish how they are getting on.

**2. Personal Interests.**

None

**3. Minutes.**

The minutes of the meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> January 2021 were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman. Proposed by Cllr Owen-John, Seconded by Cllr Griffiths, all in agreement.

**4. Matters Arising**

On 4(12b) Lunnon Hill – The clerk received a reply to her email saying that an initial site survey has been undertaken by Highways but they still need to establish the measurements of the adopted highway before any measures can be implemented to deal with the issues. The Clerk to reply to Mr Fitzgerald to ask if the gutters on the side of the road, potentially outside the measured adopted highway, can be filled in, as was done in the past. This was done every year as the gutters were washed away by the winter weather annually.

On 12 (A.O.B) 3 Trail Bikes – Chris Dale has confirmed that the signs are due to go up soon.

On 7 RPD: Japanese Knotweed – The clerk has contacted Chris Lindley but not had a reply. The clerk to contact Sean Hathaway directly and give him the information on the new, non-spray treatment option.

On 5 V.E. Day - It is hoped that by the May meeting, Councillors can access the site to physically survey it.

On 10 (A.O.B.) e Dead Alder Tree – The clerk has not been able to establish who to contact in NRW. The clerk contacted Swansea Council for advice but has not had a reply. The clerk to chase up.

On 10. Parking Problems in Penmaen – The clerk received an email from Nigel Fitzgerald asking a Mark in Parking to get back to her. No email has been forthcoming so the clerk will endeavour to find a Mark in the Parking department.

On 12 b- Broken bridge and trees down in Ilston valley – Work still in progress, in the hope that it will be completed by the end of February.

On 5 (RfM) Gower Road Closure at Nicholaston – Cllr Owen-John reported that the Highways department cleared the blocked drain on the south side of the A4118 and un-silted the overflow chamber on her neighbour's land. The team are looking at a more substantial alternatives to sandbags to shore up the bank and more to add established whips than initially planted to prevent the bank being washed away in the rain. The situation will be monitored.

On 12 (A.O.B) Broken handrail on Ilston Church Bridge – This is being looked at and will hopefully be mended by the end of the month.

On 6 North Hills Lane gravel drain – Cllr Ponting reported that the drain is still flooding. The clerk has had a reply from the council, the work has been actioned but not carried out yet.

Blocked drain outside Cllr Howells' residence – Cllr Howells rang the council and informed them that a hole had opened up and subsidence was occurring at the drain site- they have come out and surveyed the site.

Broken gate on coastal path – The clerk and Cllr Ponting have notified the countryside access team as the gate is dangerous and needs repair. The clerk to chase up.

Broken stepping stone at Three Cliffs Bay – The Access Team are already aware of the issue. The clerk to chase up.

Bin at Tor View Car Park – The clerk has contacted the council department to ask for the bin to be re-sited. The clerk to chase up.

On 7 Planning Application No. 2021/0012/FUL - Ivy Cottage, Penmaen – Cllr Ponting reported that a number of local residents have also written to the council regarding this application.

On 9 Llanrhidian Lower Community Council in support of the reinstatement of a Gower Local Area Coordinator – Llanrhidian Lower CC will write and keep ICC updated.

On 10 RPD funding email to community - The email has been sent out to all on the community list informing residents of the latest funding opportunity. No response has been received as yet.

On 12 (A.O.B) Ilston Notice Board – Cllr Jones has removed the notice board in readiness to fix it. The notice board that was in Penmaen is in storage and could be used as a replacement. Cllr Ponting to deliver to Cllr Jones.

## **5. Reports from Members**

Cllr Llewellyn has reported that there have been off road bikes again on Cefn Bryn. He has had a chat with those responsible and has assured them that this activity is not acceptable.

## **6. Planning Applications**

Application No. 2021/0390/S73

Location: Nicholaston House, Christian Retreat Centre, Penmaen, Swansea, SA3 2HL

Proposal: Variation of condition 1 of Planning Permission 2015/2225 granted 19/12/2016 to extend the period of time for commencement of works by 4 years

Applicant: Mr Geoff Thomas

After discussion, no objections were proposed.

## **7. Financial Statement**

### **Balances**

**Noted** transactions since the last meeting are as follows:

Debit -

C E Toft	£215.20	15/02/2021
HMRC	£4.80	15/02/2021

Total: £220.00

Credit –

0

Therefore –  
Balances:

£3,675.10 Current Account  
£3,338.36 Deposit Account

In a letter dated 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2021, received via email from Stephanie Young, Mr Ben Smith, Chief Finance Officer, Swansea Council, confirmed the following;

### **The Community Council Precepts 2021/2022:**

Three payments of £1,820.00 on or before 30/04/2021, 28/08/2021, 31/12/2021.

- a) No invoices were received during February. We received a letter from Aled Sion, the Director of the Eisteddfod and Arts, asking for donations towards the numerous activities held and supported by Urdd in our locality and also for annual Urdd National Eisteddfod which this year will be held in Cardiff. After discussion, members wish the clerk to look into any grant funding recently received by the Urdd before a decision is made whether or not to donate.

## **8. Update on the RDP**

Gowerton Comprehensive School has been in touch with Cllr Church as he has been involved in the ongoing Gower Ambassador's scheme that was funded by the RPD. See

[www.gowerambassadors.co.uk](http://www.gowerambassadors.co.uk). The school would like to apply jointly for funding to educate their children to be Young Gower Ambassadors. This would entail teaching the children, via a digital teaching format, about Gower, its history, how to enhance it sustainably, its hidden treasures, etc, using sustainable visitor profiling. This would be carried out by Tourism Swansea Bay. The project would be a three-year project, starting in August 2021. The community council agreed to be supportive partners in the scheme.

## **9. Risk assessments for Community Council owned property**

Cllr Church to send the risk assessment template to the clerk. The clerk to update for covid purposes. The clerk and Cllr Ponting to visit and risk assess the benches and notice boards. They will report back to members.

## **10. Correspondence**

- a) Letter dated, 1<sup>st</sup> February 2021, from Henry Gilbert, Chair of the Board of Trustees, Heartbeat Trust UK, regarding Saving Lives by Making Swansea the UK's First 'Defib-Friendly' Region. Including a brochure and map of Gower Ward indicating where each defibrillator is located. Noted.

### **Emails:**

- Received on 23/01/2021, forwarded from OVW, from Joan Lockheart, Local Government Partnership, Connecting with your Local Community – A Communications Guide for Welsh Community and Town Councillors and their Clerks. The community newsletter is to be put on the agenda for March. Gives the council an opportunity to find out what the community want via the email contact lists. This also enables printing costs to be reduced.
- Received on 25/01/2021, from Martin Bull, Local Government Finance and Workshop Partnership Division, Welsh Government. Regarding the preparation and publication of Statutory Financial Accounts for 2020-21. The dates for the publication of the draft accounts are 31<sup>st</sup> August and the final audited accounts by November 2021. The clerk to action.
- Received on 15/02/2021, forwarded from OVW, from Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales, Expression of interest from individual council to participate in the process of the review of the remuneration framework. Response by 1<sup>st</sup> March 2021.
- Received on 19/02/2021, forwarded from OVW, from Catrin Jones, Policy Officer, Litter and Fly-tipping Prevention Plan for Wales – Consultation. This is a very long document and it was noted that it would be beneficial if a executive summary could be produced.
- Received on 22/02/2021, from Suzy Richards, Sustainable Policy officer, Swansea Council, Swansea and Climate Change, Swansea Council's Climate Change survey, efforts to reduce emissions and how we can adapt our city towards net zero by 2050. After discussion it was proposed that Cllr Hollett be asked as he has expertise in this area.
- Received on 20/02/2021, from PC Richard Jeavons, Leaving of Role as Gower Neighbourhood Beat Manager. The Clerk has written back wishing PC Jeavons every success in his new role and thanking him for everything he has done in our community. PC Jeavons replied thanking the Community Council for our support and assistance during his time in the role.

- Received on 22/02/2021 from Wales Air Ambulance, thanking Ilston Community Council for our donation and informing us that this will enable them to carry on providing life-saving care in Wales 24/7.

#### **11. Any other Business**

a) Cllr Church raised the issue of the influx of visitors to Gower once lockdown restrictions are lifted. Many other areas, such as Snowdonia and the Brecon Beacons are prepared and have put contingency plans, such as utilising marshals, in place. The community council will write to Swansea Council to enquire into their plans, asking what their plans are, raising some of the risks and making suggestions as to what could be put in place. The clerk to contact the other Gower ward community councils to establish whether they are also interested in contacting Swansea Council. The clerk to liaise with Cllr Church and Cllr Ponting regarding the letter.

**Date of next meeting.** Wednesday, 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021 at 7pm via Zoom.

The meeting closed at 8.30pm

Chairman.