

# Community Council

## Minutes of Meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> April 2021

At a meeting of Ilston Community Council held at 7pm, online via Zoom due to the coronavirus pandemic on Wednesday, 28<sup>th</sup> April 2021.

**Present:** Councillors Mr D. Ponting, Mrs F Owen-John, Mrs A Elliott,  
Dr J Kingham and Mrs J Griffiths  
Councillors: Mr V Jones and Mr R Church joined at 7.10pm and Mr J. Howells joined at 7.15pm.

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

1. **Apologies for Absence.**

Cllrs: Mr D Llewellyn and Mr N Hollett.

2. **Personal Interests.**

None

3. **Minutes.**

The minutes of the meeting held on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021 were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman. Proposed by Cllr J Kingham and seconded by Cllr A Elliott, all in agreement.

4. **Matters Arising**

On 4(12b) Lunnon Hill – The clerk has emailed Mr Fitzgerald twice and is still awaiting a reply. The clerk has been instructed by the community council to contact Mr Fitzgerald's boss as this matter is of great concern. The volume of traffic has increased recently and will continue to increase further in the summer months.

On 41(2 (A.O.B)) 3 Trail Bikes – The clerk to contact Chris Dale to ask if another 'No vehicles' sign can be put up at the bottom of the second track leading up to the reservoir and also at the half-way, flat area, as it is being used as an unauthorised camping area. Three campervans plus other vehicles were camped there over the previous weekend.

On 4 (7) RPD: Japanese Knotweed – The situation will be monitored.

On 4 (10 (A.O.B.)) e Dead Alder Tree – Cllr Kingham spoke to Adam Cowley who had a look at the tree but as it is big, dead and leaning, he is unhappy to take it down without an assistant as it would be unsafe. He will come back to Cllr Kingham when he can do it safely with his assistant. Once felled Cllr Jones will remove it.

On 4 (10). Parking Problems in Penmaen – The clerk has not received a reply from Mr Thomas in Traffic. The clerk will chase this up.

On 4 (12 b)- Broken bridge and trees down in Ilston valley – The work has been completed.

On 4 (5) (RfM) Gower Road Closure at Nicholaston – Cllr Owen-John reported that her neighbour has had a meeting with Mr Fitzgerald and others from the council. They have promised to put in more hedge plants to provide a screen to give privacy to the houses located behind and to put down additional sandbags. The chamber constructed on the land of one of the houses behind has silted up again. This will have to re-examined and a solution to the problem be found as it has been less than a year since it was put in and it has silted up many times already. Cllr Owen-John will continue to monitor the situation

On 4 (12) (A.O.B) Broken handrail on Ilston Church Bridge – the Clerk to check if this work has been completed.

On 4 (6) North Hills Lane gravel drain – As yet, nothing has been done to sort out the problem. Cllr Ponting will monitor.

Blocked drain outside Cllr Howells' residence – the council have done some work to remedy the problem. Cllr Howells to monitor the situation after heavy rain.

Broken gate on coastal path – Cllr Ponting reported that the gate has now completely come off its hinges and is therefore no longer a problem. p.

Broken stepping stone at Three Cliffs Bay – In answer to the Clerk's enquiry, Chris Dale reported that he has now found a contractor to complete the job. It will be done when the contractor is available. This should be in a few weeks' time.

On 4 (8) RPD funding email to community – The clerk has not received and information or requests from the community.

On 4 (12 (A.O.B)) Ilston Notice Board – Cllr Ponting has delivered the noticeboard from Penmaen to Cllr Jones who will put it up in Ilston shortly.

On 8 Update on RDP – The clerk sent an email confirming that that Ilston Community Council will continue to support the Gower Ambassador project in relation to Gowerton School as confirmed in the February meeting.

On 9 Risk Assessments – Cllr Church has updated the risk assessment document for the community council to cover the necessary Covid restrictions and completed the risk assessment on the benches. Cllr Griffiths also looked at the bench in Ilston. PC Homecall are coming to look at the laptop and printer on 28<sup>th</sup> April.

On 10 (Correspondence-emails) – PC Jeavons has still not been replaced. The clerk has not received a reply to her enquiry as to when a replacement for PC Jeavons will be in post. Cllr Ponting to find an alternative contact to contact the Chief of Police.

On 11 (A.O.B.) Lifting of Lockdown Letter to Swansea Council – Cllr Church is meeting our Member of Parliament, Tonia Antoniazzi, on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> May to discuss the issues and concerns raised in our letter. Ms Antoniazzi has arranged a meeting with Mr Rob Stewart, the leader of Swansea Council on 28<sup>th</sup> May. Mr Stewart's office is to arrange the meeting. Councillors to email Cllr Church with concerns and comments before the meeting. A Park and Ride scheme has been suggested from Scurlage to Rhossilli, the Holiday Village at Scurlage would provide parking. This could also be extended to other areas of the peninsular. Cllr Church suggested that the strategy employed in North Wales could be considered. They have a system where they have implemented the pre-booking of parking places and visitors to the area have to pass through a police cordon and show their prebooked ticket in order to pass

through. Gower has been named as the safest place to visit in the UK. Infrastructure and traffic controls therefore, are needed to manage and control vehicles in the coming months. It was suggested that a checkpoint could be set up on the A4118 as vehicles approach Gower and a curfew be introduced for motorhomes and other large vehicles. Cllr Church will impart this information and these suggestions, along with highlighting the issue of overnight parking on Cefn Bryn to Ms Antoniazzi at their meeting.

On 6 Planning Applications – Little Hills Farm- Cllr Elliott reported that no update has been advertised. She will monitor.

On 7 Membership of One Voice Wales – Membership has been paid for the forthcoming year.

On 10 New issue of the ICC Newsletter - Cllr Hollett has written a forward and Cllr Ponting is working on a few pieces including planning information. Cllr Church to write a small piece on the RPD. Cllr Elliott suggested using the format used for the last issue. The newsletter will be issued electronically, published on the website and hardcopies will be delivered to those who wish it or who are not online.

On 11 Correspondence – the clerk has booked a place at the OVW/SLCC conference on the 13<sup>th</sup> May.

On 12 A.O.B. – Issue of double central white lines in Penmaen – Mark Thomas from the Traffic department has replied that central double white lines indicate that vehicles should not cross unless in an emergency. They are usually laid along stretches of highway where it is considered inappropriate for vehicles to cross onto the other side of the carriageway to overtake due to limited forward visibility, usually due to significant deviations in either horizontal or vertical deflection. He will undertake a vehicle speed survey to assess the scale of the problem in this area. Following this the council will be in a position to consider any necessary additional measures. Officers will liaise with the community council before any measures are implemented. Cllr Kingham to take another look at the situation 200 yards either side of the crossroads in Penmaen and to report back.

#### **5. Resignation of Councillor Grove**

Cllr Grove has written to say that she has enjoyed her time on the council and if circumstances permit would like to serve again in the future. Cllr Ponting, as Chair of the Council, will write a letter to Mrs Grove to acknowledge her service to the community and as a valued member of the council.

Cllr Griffiths has spoken to a resident who is keen to get involved as a councillor. They need to check their acceptability to apply before any commitment is made.

The clerk spoke to one voice wales and to the democratic services department at Swansea Council who have explained the process. Vacancy Notices have been displayed on the Website and on the ICC noticeboard.

#### **6. Reports from Members**

None

## 7. Planning Applications

### Application No.

Location: The Bungalow, Parkmill, SA3 2EJ

Proposal: Replacement dwelling (Amendment to Planning Permission 2015/2308 granted 17<sup>th</sup> March 2016)

Applicant: Mr & Mrs P Thomas

A concern has been raised as in the application it was stipulated that the field had to be returned to its former state but neighbours are worried about the landscaping and clearance going on as a hedge has been removed and not replaced. In the meadow, behind the garden area, many items of machinery are being stored. Neighbours are concerned that this area will become an industrial yard where all the plant the owner owns will be stored. The land in question is very close to the valley which is a Special Site of Scientific Interest (SSSI). Cllr Elliott to write to Swansea Council to establish whether any breaches have taken place due to these conditions.

## 8. Financial Statement

### Balances

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

Debit -

C E Toft	£215.40	24/04/2021
HMRC	£4.60	24/04/2021
One Voice Wales Membership	£85.00	24/04/2021
Society of Local Council Clerks	£54.00	07/04/2021

Total: £359.00

Therefore –  
Balances:

£3,186.10 Current Account  
£3,338.44 Deposit Account

a) No invoices were presented for payment this month.

- Funding request from Sweet Pickings Swansea – A request was received from Sweet Pickings Swansea as to the procedure to request funding from Ilston Community Council. After discussion it was suggested that publishing a link to their website in the forthcoming newsletter would be more appropriate than a financial contribution.
- Supporting the RDP bid from Swansea Women’s Aid and their request to meet with the council – a request for support for the RPD application has been received from Swansea Women’s Aid. They have also requested the opportunity to present to the Community Council. The clerk to contact them to clarify if their request is for funding or for help with increasing their profile.

## **9. Update on the RDP**

No update at present. We are waiting to hear how the applications will be rated in this round of funding.

## **10. Correspondence -**

Emails received have been passed onto council members and noted.

- a) Email received on 25<sup>th</sup> April 2021, from Mr Rob Charles, concerning a number of fallen trees in the area. The clerk to contact Mr Charles to clarify the position of the trees and report back to the council.

## **11. Any other Business**

a) Cllr Griffiths reported that there is a dangerous fallen tree on Furzehill Lane, the lane past Bryn Afel. Cllr Griffiths will discuss the issue with Cllr Hollett who has contacts with the Wildlife Trust as the tree is possibly on their land.

b) As the AGM is usually held in May but last year it was delayed until November, due to the disruption of meetings due to covid, the Clerk will check with One Voice Wales as to the regulations regarding holding the AGM next month.

**Date of next meeting.** Wednesday, 26<sup>th</sup> May 2021 at 7pm via Zoom.

The meeting closed at 8.25pm

Chairman.