

Community Council

Minutes of Meeting held on 29th June 2021

At a meeting of Ilston Community Council held at 7pm, online via Zoom due to the coronavirus pandemic on Wednesday, 29th June 2021.

Present: Councillors: Mr D Ponting, Mrs J Griffiths, Mrs F Owen-John, Mr V Jones and Mr N Hollett

Councillor Mr J Howells joined the meeting at 7.30 pm and left at

Councillor Mr R Church joined the meeting at 7.50 pm

Mr N Huffer was voted in as a council member at 7.15 and joined the meeting at 7.20pm

In the Chair: Councillor: Mr D. Ponting

1. Apologies for Absence.

Councillors: Mrs A Elliott, Dr J Kingham and Mr D Llewellyn

2. Personal Interests.

None

3. Minutes.

The minutes of the meeting held on 26th May 2021 were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman. Proposed by Cllr Griffiths and seconded by Cllr Owen-John, all in agreement.

4. Co-option to fill the casual vacancy on the council

The council received one application for the casual vacancy on the council. The council were impressed by Mr Huffer's application. A vote was taken by a show of hands. The result was a unanimous vote to accept Mr Huffer as a new council member. Mr Huffer was then invited to join the meeting at 7.20pm and informed of the result of the vote. Mr Huffer then signed the Acceptance of Office form and emailed it to the clerk who co-signed the document.

5. Matters Arising

On 4(12b) Lunnon Hill – Cllr Church and Cllr Jones met with Christopher Pike from Swansea Council at Lunnon Hill on 4th June. They walked all the way up the hill to Lunnon and through to Cleveland Dale to assess the problem of the road surface. Mr Pike said that they are prepared to look at anything that is a danger to motorists and pedestrians even though the areas outside the white lines are outside their normal remit. Mr Pike said he would look into what the council is obliged to do. He said that a number of options could be looked at, such as making the lane one way, putting up a crash barrier and/or putting in a passing place. The community council feel that all these options have issues. The clerk to chase up if we have not had a response by the July meeting.

On 4(2 (A.O.B)) 3 Trail Bikes – The clerk will email Chris Dale to enquire into the progress of getting another sign put up at the bottom of Cefn Bryn.

On 4 (7) RPD: Japanese Knotweed – Chris Lindley has confirmed the appointment of a new AONB Communities and Nature officer who is qualified in Japanese Knotweed control. They will be looking at the issue after they start the new job on 12th July. Mr Lindley also confirmed that NRW have been in touch with them regarding consent and licensing.

On 4 (10 (A.O.B.)) e Dead Alder Tree – Cllr Kingham and Cllr Griffiths confirmed that the tree fell down, with no damage to persons or property. It hasn't been confirmed if the tree has been taken away. Cllr Jones said he could help with this if needed.

On 4 (10). Parking Problems in Penmaen – Mr Thomas, the Group Leader for Traffic and Highway Network Management, has replied to the clerk and has initiated a Gower wide review on the on how traffic generated by visitors and holiday makers will be accommodated on Gower over the holiday seasons. He will arrange for parking officers to monitor parking levels in Penmaen when they are in the area as part of the Gower Review. He also said that once the data has been collected, he would appreciate the input of the local community so that the review can benefit from local knowledge.

On 4 (5) (RfM) Gower Road Closure at Nicholaston – Cllr Owen-John will continue to monitor the situation as some work still remains to be completed. Cllr Owen-John also reported the appearance of pot holes in the layby near Nicholaston Hall. She will report them to Swansea Council.

On 4 (12) (A.O.B) Broken handrail on Ilston Church Bridge – the handrail is still wobbly, the clerk to chase up.

On 9 Risk Assessments – The clerk has sent the risk assessment document to Cllr Ponting to complete on the Penmaen Bench. PC Homecall have looked the laptop which is running slowly and needs some clean up work done. The clerk to ask PC Homecall for a quote to get this done. The PAT test has been done on the laptop and printer cables.

On 10 (Correspondence-emails) – Chief Inspector James Ratti replied to the clerk to confirm the appointment of PC Thomas as a replacement for PC Jeavons. The Clerk to contact PC Thomas and invite him to the July meeting.

On 11 (A.O.B.) Lifting of Lockdown Letter to Swansea Council – Cllr Church attended a meeting with the Gower MP Tonia Antoniazzi and Rob Stewart the council leader. Mr Thomas maintained that traffic problems were an issue for the police to deal with. No plan was mentioned regarding dealing with the influx of people to Gower over the summer months. Cllr Church wrote again to the council and they have actioned a traffic review in certain areas. There is a possibility of putting a free bus service in place. Cllr Church is putting in an application for funds to Cllr Richard Lewis to enable the community council to address the issues directly. Cllr Church will also chase up Ms Antoniazzi,, as she is keen that the issues are addressed, and he will report back at the next meeting.

On 10 New issue of the ICC Newsletter - Cllr Ponting sent out a draft newsletter to council members before the meeting. Cllr Hollett and Cllr Owen-John will edit in order to go out/online at the next meeting.

On 12 A.O.B. – Issue of double central white lines in Penmaen – The clerk has emailed Mark Thomas again regarding the vehicle speed survey in Penmaen to pinpoint the exact location of the stretch of road which is of concern.

On 5 Resignation of Councillor Grove - Cllr Ponting has spoken to Cllr Llewellyn who has said that he is willing to continue as a member of the council and hopes to join the July meeting in the hall. He has been unable to take part in online meetings due computer and online problems.

On 7 Planning Application – The Bungalow, Parkmill, SA3 2EJ – Cllr Elliott will update at the next meeting.

On 9 Update on the RDP – A decision on the application for the Gower Ambassadors Project will be made by the middle of August.

On 10 Correspondence – Letter from Mr R Charles regarding Fallen Trees – The tree on the path to Maes-yr-haf has been attended to.

On 11 A.O.B. Fallen Tree on Furzehill Lane – The tree has not been attended to as yet. Cllr Hollett to chase up.

On 6 Planning Application – Stonemill Stables – Cllr Elliott will provide an update at the next meeting

On 7 Insurance – the insurance premium has been paid to Zurich and they have assured the clerk that a renewal quote will be issued in March.

On 10 Correspondence - The EU Settlement Scheme Notice has been displayed on the website.
- No further information has been received as yet regarding guidance on remote meetings

On 11 Any Other Business:

a) Carterford crash barrier – Cllr Griffiths spoke to a member of the highways team who has located the problem, it has been added to their work schedule

b) The large dip in road at Cleveland Dale – Cllr Jones reported that this was looked at during the meeting with Christopher Pike on Lunnon Hill. The council will address the issue.

c) Face to Face meetings – Meetings will resume at the Village Hall in July.

6. Reports from Members

Cllr Ponting reported that parking at Tor Bay car park is becoming a problem. Cars are parking in inappropriate places. The community council have previously asked for the council to put proper marking down to show areas where parking is not allowed. The surface of the car park is very rough and creating a trip hazard. The clerk to contact the council to ask them to address the issues.

7. Planning Applications

None

8. To consider report from the One Voice Wales/ Society of Local Council Clerks Conference

Cllr Ponting advocated creating a working group to look at the report and establish the priorities for the community council going forward. Cllr Huffer and Cllr Hollett to take a look and liaise with the Clerk and report back.

Cllr Howells left the meeting at 8.30pm due to poor sound quality.

9. To consider the Audit Return for the year ending 31st March 2021

The completed audit return for 31st March 2021 was presented to the council, along with the internal auditor's report, the annual governance statement and the accounting statement. The Internal Auditor recommended using the Local Government NJC Pay Scale to be a basis for paying the clerk to

ensure that there is a recognised pay rate and annual review. The Clerk to liaise with Cllr Huffer regarding this as he is familiar with the scale.

After discussion the audit return was approved and then the clerk reported that she would take it to the chairman to be signed by him and the RFO before posting.

10. Financial Statement

Balances

Noted transactions since the last meeting are as follows:

Debit -

Information Commissioners Office	£35.00	25/06/2021
C E Toft	£120.00	18/06/2021
C E Toft	£588.60	18/06/2021
Zurich Insurance	£167.44	27/05/2021

Total: £911.04

Credit –

Interest £0.08 07/06/2021

Therefore –

Balances:

£3,779.06 Current Account

£3,338.52 Deposit Account

- a) The Internal Auditor has finished his work on the Annual Return at a cost of £75.00. The payment was authorised by all those present.

11. Update on the RDP

No further update.

12. Correspondence -

Emails received have been passed onto council members and noted.

- a) Received on 25th June 2021, from Lucie Paddison, the Volunteer Coordinator for RNID's Live Well with Hearing Loss project. She asks that we display their flyer advertising the campaign to find volunteers to provide support and friendship to those in need. All present agreed to display the notice on our website.
- b) Received on 21st June 2021, from One Voice Wales, attaching a letter of introduction from Rachel Carter, the newly appointed Local Places for Nature Officer

13. Any other Business

- a) Cllr Owen-John reported that the large lump of cement which has been causing problems on Penmaen Hill has disappeared. She also reported that she saw sand on the road, covering something up and was concerned that an accident had taken place. The clerk to contact South Wales Police to find out if an accident did occur.
- b) Cllr Griffiths reported that there has been a lot of fly-tipping on Furzehill Lane. She has contacted the council who said not to touch the rubbish bags. The council have put up a sign to deter fly-tipping but have left the bags of rubbish behind.

- c) Cllr Griffith also reported that the hedges are very high along Ilston Lane, Furzehill and from Wiloxton Cross to Ilston. The clerk to contact the council to ask when the hedge bank trimming will take place.
- d) Cllr Griffiths is concerned about the safety of cyclists coming up Lunnon Hill during the Gower Bike Ride on 25th July
- e) Cllr Jones contacted the clerk earlier in the month to report a dangerously overhanging tree on Lunnon Hill. The clerk contacted the council who sent out a member of Swansea Tree Services who inspected the tree. He said that the tree is leaning but growing that way, seeking light, and has not become uprooted from the bank. The Highways department will serve a notice to the landowner to ask them to take some weight off the overhanging limb to reduce the chances of limb failure. Cllr Jones to monitor.
- f) Cllr Hollett reported that a new biodiversity officer has been appointed to the Nature Conservation Team at Swansea Council. The clerk to liaise with Cllr Hollett to contact them and ask them to attend the September meeting to give an overview of what is happening on Gower and the plans for our area.
- g) The Chairman welcomed Cllr Huffer to the council and apologised for the poor sound quality.

Date of next meeting. Wednesday, 28th July 2021 at 7.30 pm at Nicholaston and Penmaen Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 8.56pm

Chairman.