

Community Council

Minutes of Meeting held on 26th May 2021

At a meeting of Ilston Community Council held after the AGM, online via Zoom due to the coronavirus pandemic on Wednesday, 26th May 2021.

Present: Councillors: Mr J Howells, Mr D Ponting, Mrs A Elliott, Mrs J Griffiths, Mrs F Owen-John, Mr V Jones, Dr J Kingham and Mr N Hollett

In the Chair: Councillor: Mr D. Ponting

1. Apologies for Absence.

None.

2. Personal Interests.

Councillor Mr V Jones declared an interest in planning application no. 2021/1061/FUL at Stonemill Stables

3. Minutes.

The minutes of the meeting held on 28th April 2021 were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman. Proposed by Cllr V Jones and seconded by Cllr J Kingham, all in agreement.

The minutes of the meeting held on 11th May 2021 were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman. Proposed by Cllr R Church and seconded by Cllr V Jones, all those present at this meeting were in agreement.

4. Matters Arising

On 4(12b) Lunnon Hill – The clerk emailed Mr Fitzgerald giving him the contact details for Cllr Jones and Cllr Church as they had volunteered to be present at a meeting on this subject. Mr Fitzgerald passed this on to the Highways Supervisor, Mr Christopher Pike. Mr Pike has arranged to meet Cllr Church and Cllr Jones on 4th June at 10am to look at and discuss the issues on the hill.

On 4(2 (A.O.B.)) 3 Trail Bikes – The clerk emailed Chris Dale to ask if another ‘No vehicles’ sign could 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. Mr Dale replied that he can arrange for another ‘no Vehicles’ sign on the other track but he would need to order it in. He also said he would talk to the commoners about putting a sign at the plateau, half way up Cefn Bryn to stop unauthorised camping at this spot.

On 4 (7) RPD: Japanese Knotweed – The clerk to contact Chris Lindley to enquire if the team had heard from NRW regarding the necessary licenses to treat the knotweed.

On 4 (10 (A.O.B.)) e Dead Alder Tree – no action has been taken as yet as Mr Cowley is reluctant to tackle the tree due to safety reasons. Cllr Kingham to contact him again.

On 4 (10). Parking Problems in Penmaen – The clerk has not received a reply from Mr Thomas in regard to this issue. The issues may be discussed at the meeting on Lunnon Hill.

On 4 (5) (RfM) Gower Road Closure at Nicholaston – Cllr Owen-John reported that the chamber on her neighbour's land has to be cleared. The promised extra whips and sandbags have not been put in place as yet. Cllr Owen-John will continue to monitor.

On 4 (12) (A.O.B) Broken handrail on Ilston Church Bridge – the handrail is wobbly and this has not been seen to as yet. The clerk to chase up.

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

Blocked drain outside Cllr Howells' residence – the council have cleared the drain and put a cover over the hole in the road. Cllr J Howells to monitor.

Broken stepping stone at Three Cliffs Bay – Cllr Ponting reported that the council have snipped off the protruding reinforcing bars, leaving the stepping stone half its original size but no longer dangerous.

On 4 (8) RPD funding email to community – The window for this round of funding has closed.

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 Lunnon when the one that is there is no longer serviceable.

On 9 Risk Assessments – The clerk to send the risk assessment document to Cllr Ponting to complete on the Penmaen Bench.

On 10 Correspondence-emails – The clerk has emailed Chief Inspector Trudi Meyrick regarding the replacement of PC Jeavons on Gower, but has not been able to get through. The clerk to check the email address on the South-Wales Police website.

On 11 (A.O.B.) Lifting of Lockdown Letter to Swansea Council – Cllr Church has arranged a meeting with our Member of Parliament, Tonia Antoniazzi, on 28th May. The County Council officers have been invited. The Clerk to write formally again to Rob Stewart, the Leader of the Council, to ask for a reply to our original letter 5th March 2021. The clerk to forward the replies received so far from Jane Walters, the Cabinet Office Team Leader and from any of the community councils.

On 6 Planning Applications – Little Hills Farm- Cllr Elliott reported that this application has been approved.

On 10 New issue of the ICC Newsletter - Cllr Ponting reported that the draft of the forthcoming newsletter will be ready for approval by next meeting. A piece to accompany the link to their crowdfunding page has been submitted by Sweet Pickings Swansea.

On 11 Correspondence – the clerk attended the OVW/SLCC conference on the 13th May. She has written a summary of the information obtained from the event. This will be discussed at the next meeting.

On 12 A.O.B. – Issue of double central white lines in Penmaen – The clerk to contact Mark Thomas again regarding the vehicle speed survey in Penmaen at the dangerous stretch from The Glebe, on the western side of Penmaen Crossroads to the brink of the hill on the eastern side.

On 5. Resignation of Councillor Grove - Cllr Ponting has written to Mrs Grove to thank her for her service to the community and as a valued member of the council. The community council members wish her and her family well.

Cllr Ponting to talk to Cllr D Llewelyn regarding his intentions for the future.

On 7 Planning Application – The Bungalow, Parkmill, SA3 2EJ – Cllr Elliott has written to the planning department of Swansea Council asking them to investigate whether there has been a breach in the conditions set by the planning permission. An officer will look into the situation and get back to us after the investigation.

On 8a Financial Statements - The clerk has contacted Swansea Women's Aid via email and voicemail, for clarification on the help they are requesting but has not as yet heard back.

On 9 Update on the RDP – The Gower Ambassadors Project has gone through to the final round of funding process.

On 10 Correspondence – Letter from Mr R Charles regarding Fallen Trees – Mr Charles replied to the clerk providing clarification as to the location of the fallen trees. The clerk forwarded this information to the Countryside Access Team who will be inspecting the paths shortly.

On 11 A.O.B. Fallen Tree on Furzehill Lane – It has been established that the tree belongs to the Wildlife Trust. Cllr Hollett spoke to the warden, Paul Thornton, who reported that he will add it to his work schedule.

5. Reports from Members

None

6. Planning Applications

Application No. 2021/1199/FUL

Location: Shorelands, Penmaen, SA3 2HH

Proposal: Increase the ridge height to provide second floor living accommodation

Applicant: Mr J Butler

After discussion it was resolved not to offer an objection to the application. All those present were in agreement.

Application No. 2021/1061/FUL

Location: Stonemill Stables, Parkmill, SA3 2EQ

Proposal: Change of use from existing stable block to additional residential accommodation and fenestration alterations.

Applicant: Mr R McCulloch

After discussion it was resolved that the council object to the application. The previous application for change of use to convert a room within the stables into living accommodation was objected to by the community council. The County Council refused permission for a very similar conversion in 2003.

7. To consider Co-option to fill the casual vacancy on the council

The vacancy has been advertised for fourteen days and no one has asked for an election to be held. We have been informed by electoral services that we can proceed to fill the vacancy by co-option. The Co-option notice has been displayed asking for applications to be submitted by 2nd June. Clerk has emailed Mr Huffer to let him know of the process.

8. Insurance Cover for the coming year

After discussion and the comparison of a quote from BHIB, it was resolved that the council accept the renewal quote from Zurich Insurance and ask them to send the renewal quote in March next year. It was agreed to engage the services of a broker for next year.

9. Financial Statement

Balances

Noted transactions since the last meeting are as follows:

Debit -

C E Toft	£225.00	11/05/2021
HMRC	£1.00	11/05/2021
C E Toft	£90.00	11/05/2021

Total: £316.00

Credit –

City and County of Swansea	£1820.00	30/04/2021
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Therefore –

Balances:

£4,690.10 Current Account
£3,338.44 Deposit Account

The clerk was paid £125.40 last month instead of £215.40 by mistake. The clerk apologised for this error. The clerk contacted the chairman via email and Cllr Elliott as the signatory on the account regarding the error and a payment for £90.00 in arrears to make up the difference was authorised.

- a) An invoice was received from Information Commissioners Office regarding the payment of £40 per year for data handling charges. As the community council pays via direct debit every year the amount required is reduced to £35. The payment will be collected on 27th June 2021. The payment was authorised by all those present.
 - Funding request from Tenovus – Members are happy to share the free support line on the community newsletter
 - Payment to the clerk for utilities, phone and internet – members agreed to pay the £120 in the budget set aside for such use for the past year.

- Payment for the Clerk's extra hours worked in May – due to attending the OVW/SLCC conference, working on the annual return for submission to the Internal Auditor and the work involved in the extra meeting the clerk has worked 32 extra hours on top of the 20 hours normally worked. Members agreed to pay the clerk for the extra time worked.

9. Update on the RDP

No further update.

10. Correspondence -

1. Clerks and Councils Direct, May 2021, Issue 135
2. Letter from Edmund Sides, Wales for Europe, dated April 2021, enclosing an important notice about the EU Settlement Scheme, members agree to display the notice on our website.

Emails received have been passed onto council members and noted.

- a) Received on 12th May 2021, from Huw Evans, Head of Democratic Services, regarding guidance on remote meeting. They will provide further guidance in due course.
- b) Received on 20th May 2021, from Kevin Gordon, Environment and Transport Team, Planning Inspectorate, regarding the EPR Appeal on 8th June, the link to the virtual enquiry for 3rd parties is contained within the email.

11. Any other Business

- a) Cllr Griffiths reported that the crash barrier at Cartersford has been hit and it is now buckled. The Clerk to contact the council.
- b) Cllr Jones reported a large dip which has been created on the verge of the road, by tractors turning out of the field, just past Cleveland Dale in Lunnon. The resident has put a cordon around it. The Clerk to contact highways about it.
- c) The council aims to resume face to face meeting at Penmaen and Nicholaston Hall from July 2021, Covid restrictions at the time permitting.

Date of next meeting. Wednesday, 30th June 2021 at 7pm via Zoom.

The meeting closed at 8.50pm

Chairman.