

Minutes of the Grovesend & Waungron Community Council Meeting held on

Wednesday, 8th December, 2010

Present:

Mr. J. John, Chairman

Mr. M. Jones

Mrs. T. Rees

Mr. B. Williams

Mr. D. True

Mrs. S. Morgan

Councillor D.I.E. Jones

Mr. J.I. Burge (Secretary)

1 member of the public present

1402. Apologies.

Apologies for absence were received from Mr. L. Jones, Mr. B. Moon and Mr. A. Hamilton. Councillor A. Jopling was absent.

1403. Disclosure's of personal interest.

None.

1404. Minutes of the meeting held on 10th November, 2010.

Approved.

1405. Matters arising from the minutes.

1395 (1391iv) Following a discussion regarding the Christmas Carol Service, it was agreed that given the absence of any representatives from Pengelli Primary School and the unavailability of several members of the Community Council the joint service should be cancelled for this year. Those Members of the Council that were available though were encouraged to attend the Church Service to represent the Community Council.

It was agreed to continue with the annual Christmas card/poem competition with the School. The Secretary had spoken to the Headteacher who suggested that the presentation of the prizes takes place at the School Assembly on the last day of term. Members also agreed to funding pop and sweets for the Miners Club annual Christmas Children's party.

Resolved: i) Judging of the Christmas card/poem competition to take place on Monday, 13th December at 7.00pm; ii) Presentation to take place Friday, 17th December at the School; iii) Secretary to purchase 8 x £10 vouchers from WH Smiths; iv) £100 to be donated to the Miners Welfare Trustees for pop/sweets towards the Children's party; v) as many Members as possible to attend the Church Carol Service at Mount Pleasant on

Sunday, 19th December at 5.30pm to represent the Community Council.

1400 (iii) The Secretary reported that a copy of a letter and petition had been received from residents of Clos Gors Fawr asking Swansea Council to install grit bins. Councillor DIE Jones mentioned to Members that a report detailing the need for grit bins around the County had been discussed at Swansea Council recently. Given the financial position that Swansea Council is facing, it was no surprise that the report was not favouring the installation of new bins only a small number of replacement ones.

Resolved: Members agreed that as there were sufficient funds available and that four grit bins were to be installed around the village shortly, the Community Council would fund an additional two bins for Clos Gors Fawr and Plas Newydd. Both to be sited near their respective roundabouts.

1401 (iii) The Secretary reported to Members that he had received a response from the Highways Department regarding the adoption of the roads through the Meadgate Estate which stated that the Developer Bond money had now been returned to the Council; therefore, the remaining highway work could now be completed and the road adopted. Timescale for the required works was currently unknown.

1406. Local Members Report.

Councillor D.I.E. Jones reported on the following items:

Budgets were starting to be prepared for the 2011/12 financial year. A very difficult settlement was expected with some harsh decisions needed to be made.

The new bus station at the Quadrant was now open. It looks very impressive, although it is not heated and there are no toilet facilities.

All Members of the Council have been called to a special meeting at the Civic Centre at the end of the week. The expectation was that Members were going to be informed of the need for a high number of staff redundancies.

1407. Ten-minute Public Questions.

None.

1408. Planning Applications – Mrs. S. Morgan.

Mrs. Morgan reported that one application had been received:

i. Amendment plans to the application for a non-ferrous metal recycling centre at the former coal yard on Allt-y-Graban Road:.

Mrs. T. Rees informed Members that there was a planning meeting of the Council scheduled to take place the following Monday to discuss this application. Mrs. Carey Knox had permission to speak at the meeting on behalf of the local residents and to present a petition against the development.

Recommendation: To uphold the Community Council's original objections which were submitted in April, 2010 and to add to those objections by stating the applicant needs specific planning permission from the Welsh Assembly Government under Section 198 as the development is on common land and that he had failed to obtain such permission for previous applications.

1409. Community Council Precept 2011/12.

The Secretary informed Members that he had received a request from the Finance Department of Swansea Council to set the precept for 2011/12. He reminded Members that the precept for the current financial year was £5000.

Resolved: To set the 2011/12 precept at £5000 for a further 12 months.

1410. Application for financial assistance from Mount Pleasant Church.

An application for financial assistance from Mount Pleasant Church to take the children to the pantomime at Penyrheol was discussed.

The letter received mentioned that numbers had dwindled to just 10 children at a cost of £9 per ticket. Members agreed that with numbers falling and the cost of the tickets and transportation rising the Community Council should once again contribute £200 which the Church can choose to spend either on transporting the children to Penyrheol or towards the cost of any adult tickets.

Resolved: To provide £200 assistance.

1411. Consultation on proposed diversion of public footpath.

The Secretary informed Members that he had received a letter from the Rights of Way Officer at Swansea Council seeking comments on a proposal to divert a public footpath alongside, and near to, the marsh area under the M4 motorway between Waungron and Pontardulais.

Resolved: After discussion Members agreed to object to the application as there were no advantages to the proposals for walkers or users of the route.

1412. Secretary's Report.

The Secretary reported on the following matters:

He had received a late letter from the British Heart Foundation requesting financial assistance.

Resolved: To note the application.

1413. Any Other Business.

Mr. D. True asked whether the Secretary could report to the Swansea Council that a lamppost was not working properly outside of Pentre Farm. As the light worked sometimes it appears the problem was with the transformer.

Resolved: That the Secretary would report this to the Street Lighting Section at Swansea Council.

Mr. D. True mentioned to Members that the BT phone box in Waungron had recently been vandalised and smashed-up.

Resolved: That the Secretary would report this to BT.

Mr. D. True suggested to Members that they consider the use of a Grovesend and Waungron facebook page to promote the villages, any forthcoming events and the work of the Council. Mr. True said he would be willing to maintain and update the site on behalf

of the Council.

Resolved: Members agreed to the suggestion in principal, however, wished to discuss the issue further and in more detail at the next meeting of the Community Council.

Mr. J. John informed Members that a discussion had taken place recently at a OVW meeting regarding youths becoming part of Community and Town Council meetings as non-voting members. The purpose of this was for them to have an input into the discussions of Council's and village matters.

Resolved: Members agreed to such a proposal in principal.

Mr. J. John mentioned to Members that he had learnt quite recently that Mrs. Ros Edwards of the Guides Group was retiring after 20 years of voluntary service. Given the tireless and dedicated hard work Mrs. Edwards had put into the Guides over that period it was felt that the Community Council should recognise such valued service and show its appreciation.

Resolved: That the Secretary sends Mrs. Edwards a letter of thanks for her hard work from the Community Council and Mr. John is refunded the cost of purchasing a bottle of Bailey's and box of chocolates.

Mr. D. True gave his apologies in advance of the January, February and March meetings due to work commitments.