

## **Minutes of the Grovesend & Waungron Community Council Meeting held on**

**Wednesday, 13th April, 2011**

### **Present:**

Mr. J. John, Chairman

Mr. M. Jones

Mrs. T. Rees

Mr. B. Williams

Mrs. S. Morgan

Mr. D. True

Mr. A. Hamilton

Councillor D.I.E. Jones

Mr. J.I. Burge (Secretary)

One member of the public present

### **1447. Apologies.**

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

### **1448. Disclosure's of personal interest.**

None.

### **1449. Minutes of the meeting held on 9th March, 2011.**

Approved.

### **1450. Matters arising from the minutes.**

1443 (ii) The Secretary reported that the Charter developed by Swansea Council to encourage a greater partnership approach between Swansea and all Community Councils had now been approved by Swansea Council for adoption and with recommendation for Community Councils to do the same.

Resolved: To circulate the Charter to all Community Councillors in advance of the May meeting to enable a full discussion as to whether to adopt the Charter.

1446 (i) The Secretary informed Members that he had received a response from the Elections Section of Swansea Council regarding the query as to why the Welfare Hall was not being used as a Polling Station instead of the School. The reply said that a review was to take place following the May elections into all Polling Stations throughout the County which would include the suggestion of the Welfare Hall being used for future elections.

### **1451. Local Members Report.**

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

i) Paul Smith, the Chief Executive of Swansea Council had now retired and Jack Straw had temporarily taken up the position of Acting Chief Executive. Mr. Straw had previously occupied the post of Executive Director. This move will reduce the number of Corporate Directors and management costs significantly.

ii) The Highways Department had been working hard to repair a growing number of pot-holes around the County. Lessons were being learnt and different methods of filling and repairing tested to ensure that repairs lasted longer.

iii) This year's inauguration of the Lord Mayor is to be a more low key event due to the current economic climate. There will be a small ceremony in the Council Chamber to thank the current Lord Mayor and welcome in the new one. In previous year's a grand ceremony was held in the Guildhall with a large guest list which included dignitaries, politicians, family/friends and other distinguished guests of the Lord Mayor.

The Lord Mayor for the year ahead is Cllr Ioan Richards from Craig Cefn Parc.

iv) 160 employees had left the Council on early retirement by voluntary agreement in an attempt to save costs. It was expected that more would finish shortly.

### **1452. Ten-minute Public Questions.**

None.

### **1453. Planning Applications – Mrs. S. Morgan.**

Mrs. S. Morgan advised Members that a retrospective planning application for the retention of a detached house and garage at 33 Station Road, Grovesend had been received.

Mrs. Morgan reminded Members that this application had been discussed previously and had been refused by the Community Council.

Resolved: Members felt that given the fact that nothing material had changed in regard the application, the same reasons for objection be submitted once more.

### **1454. Application for financial assistance from Pengelli Primary School PTA.**

Mrs. T. Morgan, Chair of Pengelli PTA, was present at the meeting to make a verbal request for financial assistance to enable a village party for children to take place to celebrate the royal wedding on 29th April. Parents had been asked to bring along cakes and pastries with funding being requested to purchase sandwiches, soft drinks and some banners/bunting.

Mrs. Morgan said that all children were invited to attend including those who do not attend Pengelli Primary.

Resolved: To make a £250 donation to the event.

### **1455. Co-option of Community Councillor.**

Whilst present, Mrs. T. Morgan was invited for co-option to the remaining seat on the Community Council. Mrs. Morgan accepted the invitation. The Secretary informed

Members and Mrs. Morgan that any co-option would be until the next Community Council election which are scheduled to take place in May, 2012.

Resolved: To co-opt Mrs. Morgan to the Community Council until the elections in 2012.

**1456. Membership of One Voice Wales 2011/12.**

The Secretary advised Members that the renewal membership fee for 2011/12 was £119.

Resolved: To renew the membership for a further year.

**1457. Community Council Public Liability Insurance Renewal 2011/12.**

The Secretary advised Members that the renewal quote had been received for 2011/12 of £225.

Resolved: To renew the insurance for 2011/12.

**1458. National Training Programme for Community Councils in Wales.**

The Secretary advised that the new programme of training events from One Voice Wales had been received. Again for the year ahead there was a specific training scheme available to enhance the work of Community Councils. The scheme contains eight separate modules for Members to choose from.

Resolved: To note the training programme.

**1459. Application for financial assistance from Pengelli Primary School towards the cost of leasing computers.**

A letter from the Headteacher of Pengelli was discussed. The Secretary informed Members that he had spoken to the Headteacher to ascertain how many computers were included in the leasing arrangements and what the annual maintenance cost were. Mrs. Loydon had advised that there were currently more than a dozen PC's subject to a new lease agreement at a total cost of £1800pa.

Resolved: To provide £750 funding per year for the duration of the three year lease agreement.

**1460. Application for financial assistance from Mencap Cymru.**

A letter from Mencap Cymru requesting financial assistance was discussed.

Resolved: To note the application.

**1461. Swansea Council Consultation regarding new Sex Establishment Policy.**

The Secretary advised that he had received a letter from Swansea Council explaining that they were consulting on a new policy which would cover licensed sex entertainment venues such as lap dancing clubs. The close of the consultation was 20th May, 2011.

Resolved: To note the consultation exercise.

**1462. Citizens Advice Bureau request for Trustees.**

A letter from the Citizens Advice Bureau calling for volunteers to join the trust was

discussed.

Resolved: To note the request.

### **1463. Secretary's Report.**

The Secretary reported on the following matters:

i) A late letter requesting financial assistance had been received from the Ladies Section of the Miners Club for funding to pay for Easter Eggs for the forthcoming children's Easter Party. The Easter party was open to all children of the village not just to Members children.

Resolved: To provide £100 financial assistance.

### **1464. Any Other Business.**

i) Mrs. S. Morgan mentioned that back in January a letter was sent from the NFU farmers wives to the Trustees of the Welfare Hall as there was no heating available for one of their regular meetings. Mrs. Morgan said that despite it being several months later a response had been received in the past few days with no apology for the heating failure, a demand for a hire increase and a general tone suggesting that the group were no longer welcome.

Mrs. Morgan said that the group felt disappointed given that they had been in existence using the hall for some 38 years now, supporting the club through difficult times and always paying their hire charges on time.

Members of the Community Council said that they too were disappointed that frequently throughout the winter months there had been no heating available during Council meetings. In addition funding had been given to the Club to repair the roof and interior ceiling of the meeting room almost two years ago now and this work still hadn't been carried out.

Resolved: For the Secretary to write to the Secretary of the Miners Club with both sets of concerns expressed above.

ii) Mr. B. Williams informed Members that several drains in Waungron had recently collapsed. These need to be lifted and repaired urgently before a cyclist falls off and hurts themselves.

Resolved: That the Secretary contacts the Highways Section of Swansea Council to report this.

iii) Mrs. T. Rees informed Members that Mr. D. Egan had commenced work at the former Coal Yard despite planning approval yet to be determined.

Resolved: That the Secretary report this work to the Planning Enforcement Section at Swansea Council.

iv) Mrs. S. Morgan informed Members that due to a lack of attendance, future Grovesend PACT meetings would be merged with the Penyrheol meetings with immediate effect.