

Minutes of the Grovesend & Waungron Community Council Meeting held on

Wednesday, 13th July, 2011

Present:

Mr. L. Jones, Chairman

Mr. M. Jones

Mrs. T. Rees

Mr. B. Williams

Mr. D. True

Mr. J. John

Mrs. C. Knox

Mrs. T. Morgan

Mrs. S. Morgan

Mr. J.I. Burge (Secretary)

4 members of the public present

1486. Apologies.

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

1487. Disclosure's of personal interest.

None.

1488. Minutes of the meeting held on 8th June, 2011.

The Secretary informed Members that he had omitted to state in minute 1483 (LDP Response to Candidate site proposals) that to ensure all comments and concerns from the meeting were accurately captured, he would hold from submitting a response to Swansea Council Planning until after the July Community Council meeting in order for Members to confirm and agree the decision recorded.

1489. Matters arising from the minutes.

1479 (1475 ii) Mr. J. John informed Members that he had learnt from attending a recent OVW meeting that a small delegation from Gorseinon Town Council meet regularly with representatives of the Highways Department at Swansea Council to discuss issues of concern. Members felt that such a meeting would provide a useful opportunity to raise issue relating to Grovesend and Waungron.

Resolved: That the Secretary would discuss with his counterpart in Gorseinon how they set this up and to arrange something similar for Grovesend.

1490. Local Members Report.

In the Absence of Councillor D.I.E. Jones the Secretary informed Members that he had received from Councillor Jones a copy of an invitation sent to him from the Lord Mayors Office at Swansea extending an invitation to all Swansea Councillors to bring with them up to six constituents to the Mansion House for tea with the Lord Mayor. The Secretary suggested that Members may wish to consider nominating any worthy individuals by way of a special commemorative birthday, anniversary etc in a similar way as the Buckingham Palace Garden Party.

1491. Ten-minute Public Questions.

Mr. D. Merriman and Mr. J. White were in attendance as Trustees of the Village Hall. They informed Members that they were concerned to read in the June Community Council Minutes of a letter that was reportedly from the Trustees. Both Mr. Merriman and Mr. White advised that no such letter had been discussed or sent from the Trustees. The Secretary explained that the letter gave the distinct impression it was from the Trustees, however, given the representations made at the meeting all present were content to accept that the letter must have been written on behalf of the Committee instead.

Mr. Brian Davies asked why the Community Council had decided to relocate to the Brynlliw Club which was a privately owned drinking establishment when the Village Hall was the only community asset left. The Chairman explained that a decision had been taken in response to several concerns of the Community Council which had not been addressed satisfactory. Issues such as the NFU Farmers Wives, lengthy delays to the roof repairs and committee room heating etc were discussed at length. Mr. Davies suggested that the Community Council reconsider their decision.

Concerns was expressed that Community Council meetings at the new venue would be on licensed premises which might contravene regulations. Concern was also expressed that given the Brynlliw was a privately operated business any future opportunity for the owners to host a fee paying event would result in the Community Council being asked to step aside.

Mr. D. True and Mr. M. Jones confirmed that they had spoken with the Brynlliw owner who had confirmed that they are more than prepared to accommodate the Community Council free of charge and that the Council would get first priority over any other requests for private bookings including at Christmas time.

Members felt that given the issues and uncertainty surrounding the letter received, the role of Trustees/Club Committee and that all avenues have been fully explored prior to any relocation, it was suggested that a full and frank meeting should take place between members of the Community Council, Trustees and Club Committee to discuss these issues.

Resolved: That the Secretary would arrange such a meeting between the Community Council, Trustees and Club Committee. Immediately following that meeting a private meeting of the Community Council alone would take place to further discuss and relocation for September. Decision made at that meeting would be final.

It was also agreed that at the subsequent Community Council meeting a brief discussion should take place as to a suitable date and venue for a public meeting to discuss the LDP. It was suggested that given the summer period the first week of September would be better suited.

1492. Planning Applications – Mrs. S. Morgan, Planning Officer.

Mrs. S. Morgan reported on the following planning application:

i) Application for a side and rear extension at 125 Coalbrook Road, Grovesend

Resolved: No objections

1493. Application for financial assistance from Pengelli United Youth Team.

A letter requesting financial assistance from the Youth Team at Pengelli AFC was discussed.

Resolved: To provide financial assistance of £100.

1494. Letter from Chief Superintendent Mark Mathias, South Wales Police.

A letter from Chief Superintendent was discussed. Members were concerned to note the contents of the letter which explained that due to severe budget restrictions all local Police Stations (Gorseinon included) would close with immediate effect. The only station to remain open for public access is to be Swansea Central.

Mrs. S. Morgan and Mrs. T. Rees declared an interest in the following item and left the room.

1495. Local development Plan (LDP) response to candidate site proposals.

The Secretary reminded Members that he has held back the Community Council's response to the LDP candidate sites to enable Members to have a final discussion on each application prior to submission and any public meeting.

The Secretary informed Members that he had been advised by the Planning Section that the closing date for any comments had now been confirmed as 30th September, 2011.

PY001 – Land adjacent to 211 Pentre Road (0.6 hecter) for 15/20 houses.

Agreed unchanged:

Concern was expressed that the surrounding land is currently water logged. Further building at this site will result in additional water running further down into Waungron. Drainage in Waungron is already overloaded and currently inefficient.

Resolved: To object for the reasons given.

PY005 – Land at Coalbrook Road (right hand side entering village)

(4.1 hecter) for an undisclosed number of houses.

Amended to:

Comments were made that part of this site is common land where there is an active right to roam. This must be preserved. The size of the site suggests an overbearing and vast development for a small village. Concern is expressed regarding the sewage system, ability for storm drains to manage and the erosion of the community boundaries between Grovesend and Gorseinon merging the two villages into one. The site is green belt, agricultural land and is totally inappropriate for such a development.

Resolved: To object for the reasons given.

PY008 – Land at Coalbrook Road (left hand side on entering village)

(8.7 hecter) for 120 houses.

Agreed Unchanged:

Concern was expressed at the size of the proposed development. The site is highlighted in the current UDP as green belt and agricultural land. It forms a natural separation between the communities of Grovesend and Gorseinon. Members felt that such a development totally conflicts with current planning policy.

Resolved: To object for the reasons given.

PY009 – Land off Pentre Road alongside Llwyn-Adam Fach (1.6 hecter) for 30/40 houses.

Amended to:

Comments were made as to the current overloading and congestion of the main road through the village which this development would have access directly to. Upwards of 80/100 vehicles would be entering/emerging from the site. Other concerns were in relation to a lack of a suitable sewage system, drainage facilities and ability for storm drains to manage. The area is also currently designated green belt.

Resolved: To object for the reasons given.

PY010 – Land to the rear of Ty Rhosyn & Long Oaks, Box Road

(0.889 hecter) for 12/14 houses.

Amended to:

It was felt that this development would be a natural extension to the current and new Meadgate estate opposite. Given the relative small scale proposal and subject to any possible issues of drainage, any concerns should be able to be addressed as part of the imposition of appropriate planning conditions.

Resolved: Subject to a full drainage evaluation and highway assessment as to appropriate access/egress there would be no objection.

PY011 – Land at Plas Road (2.5 hecter) for 60 houses.

Amended to:

Concern was expressed that the development would be too large for its position and would cause massive traffic problems through a current narrow lane into a populated area. If the alternative access to the development were used this would create upwards of 150 additional vehicles travelling through a densely populated family estate (Clos Gors Fawr and Plas Newydd). The site is green belt, agricultural land and wholly inappropriate for such a development.

Resolved: To object for the reasons given.

PY012 – Land at Tyrisha Farm (3.8 hecter) for 75/80 houses.

Amended to:

Concern was expressed that the development would again be too large for its location causing severe traffic problems through a current narrow lane into a populated area. The site is green belt and used for agricultural and farming use. Concern is also expressed of the inability of storm drains to cope. This site had previously been rejected by Swansea Planning Department for such a development a few years ago. Given that there has been no change to the area since that time the reasons for the original refusal should stand.

Resolved: To object for the reasons given.

1496. Secretary's Report.

None.

1497. Any Other Business.

Mr. B. Williams informed Members that there was not a single street light illuminated between Waungron and Rhyd Goch Cemetery in Pontarddulais. There is no pavement when crossing the railway bridge which adds to the danger for pedestrians.

Mr. J. John mentioned that there was a scheduled Forum meeting with Swansea Council Officers at the Civic Centre the following week that he and Mr. Williams were attending. The whole issue of street lighting being extinguished could be raised at that meeting.