

Minutes of the Grovesend & Waungron Community Council Meeting held on

Tuesday, 10th July, 2012

Present:

Mr. J. John, Chairman

Mr. M. Jones

Mrs. T. Rees

Mrs. C. Knox

Mrs. S. Morgan

Mr. W.B. Davies

Mr. B. Williams

Mr. J.I. Burge (Secretary)

Councillor J. Curtice

Councillor D. Cole

2 members of the public present

1613. Apologies for absence.

Apologies for absence were received from Mr. D. Merriman, Mr. H. Bates, Mr. A. Hamilton and Mr. L. Jones.

1614. Disclosures of personal interest.

None.

1615. Minutes of the meeting held on 12th June, 2012.

Approved.

1616. Matters arising from the minutes.

1600 (ii) Mr. W.B. Davies informed Members that he had been advised that the land at Pentre Road/Box Road had been bought by an individual in the 1980's. If this were the case then that individual should be responsible for maintaining the area rather than the Community Council.

Members said they would be surprised if this were the case as the Community Council were in contact with the land owner, the Duke of Beaufort Estate, in the early 1990's when negotiating permission to clear the area and improve the appearance of the site.

Mr. W.B. Davies said he would make further enquiries and report back to Members.

1607 (iv) The Secretary reported that he had spoken to Swansea Council regarding

the possibility of a bus shelter being reinstated opposite the park by Station Road. The Highways Department advised that currently there was no money available for new shelters, however, should the local Members wish to use some of their environment monies as a contribution then a replacement might be possible.

Resolved: Councillor J. Curtice would speak to Charlotte Collins at Swansea Council regarding a possible replacement shelter.

1611 (iii) Several Members indicated they attended the recent training by Swansea Council on the Code of Conduct. All said it was worthwhile.

Following further discussion by Members regarding the training needs of Councillors it was suggested that there may be economies of scale if training was shared with other neighbouring Community Councils on a collaborative basis. There was a further suggestion that this could be extended beyond training to other local issues that affect Councils collectively.

Resolved: (i) That the Secretary would write to: Gorseinon, Llchwyr and Pontarddulais Town Councils and Penllergaer and Pontlliw Community Councils to ask whether there was any interest in meeting bi-annually to discuss training and common areas of interest, together with invitations being extended to the local Ward Members for those areas; (ii) if the suggestion is favoured, then up to three Members should represent each Council. Nominations for this Council were: Mr. W.B. Davies, Mrs. C. Knox and Mr. M. Jones.

1617. Local Members Report – Councillors D. Cole & J. Curtice.

Councillors D. Cole and J. Curtice reported on the following:

i) Discussions had taken place as whether Swansea Councillors were tainted and prejudiced by discussing planning applications at Community and Town Council meetings. Councillors Cole and Curtice have agreed between them that in order to remain impartial at Swansea Council planning meetings, they would remain at Community Council meetings to listen to discussions surrounding planning applications, however, would not participate, pass comment or show favour. Members felt this was an excellent compromise knowing that Community Council discussions often included the opinions of neighbouring residents to the application site and from the applicant themselves, thereby, providing a fair and balanced discussion.

ii) Since their election only one planning meeting had taken place which did not affect Grovesend or Waungron. The next meeting was in a week's time.

iii) Councillor J. Curtice had been appointed as a representative of the Fire Authority with Councillor D. Cole being appointed to the Licencing Committee.

1618. Ten-minute Public Questions.

Mr. Roger Wilde addressed Members as a Trustee of the Miners Welfare Scheme. Mr. Wilde explained that sadly it was necessary for an extraordinary meeting of the Miners Welfare Club to be called in the next few days to formally close the club side down due to it being financially insolvent.

Traditionally the Committee of the Miners Club paid a rent to the Trustees which enabled the welfare hall to be maintained and costs covered for items such as heating and electricity.

The Trustees were hopeful that the welfare hall could remain open and continue to be used as a community facility and village hall as it had intended to be used.

Mr. Wilde circulated a current cost schedule for the maintenance of the welfare hall. The schedule showed a monthly requirement of £580 with just £1273 available funds, enough to keep the welfare hall open under current conditions for a further two months.

Discussions took place regarding the future of the welfare hall including the suggestion of a public meeting to seek the views and opinions of residents of increasing the Community Council precept to contribute towards maintenance costs.

The Secretary suggested that prior to any public meeting, both the Community Council and Trustees needed to satisfy themselves of actual costs needed to maintain the welfare hall long-term and whether there were any additional untapped funding sources available. Whilst it was hoped that residents would be supportive of uplifting the precept to provide for a contribution to maintain the hall, an inevitable question would arise as to by how much. Comments had been made in the past how the precept for Grovesend and Waungron was already in excess of that at Mumbles.

1619. Planning Applications – Mrs. S. Morgan.

Mrs. S. Morgan reported that no planning applications had been received.

1620. City & County of Swansea Community/Town Council Forum Meeting Feedback – Mr. J. John.

Mr. John reported that he had not attended any meetings recently.

1621. Enhancements to the Village.

A discussion took place regarding various possibilities in an attempt to enhance the village. Ideas included:

Floral displays. Councillor J. Curtice informed Members that the cost of a hanging basket was £59 each, which included installation and regular watering;

Back-to-back village signs near the Allt-y-graban triangle which would display Grovesend one side for those entering from the Pontarddulais direction and Waungron the other side for those leaving Grovesend and entering Waungron;

Further floral displays around any new signs such as in ground daffodils and potted planters;

A permanent Christmas tree planted at the maintained site at Pentre Road/Box Road;

General maintenance and tidying up of the square near the park.

Resolved: That Councillor J. Curtice would speak with the Highways Department regarding the back-to-back signs near the triangle. A further discussion would take place prior to Christmas regarding flowers/planters in readiness for any orders to be placed with Swansea Council by January.

1622. Secretary's Report.

The Secretary reported to Members on the following:

i) He had received notification that the Community Council's contribution towards the website maintenance was due at £100 for the year.

Resolved: Members agreed to continue with the website for a further 12 months.

ii) A late letter requesting financial assistance was received from Pengelli United Youth Team. The Secretary reminded Members that the Community Council last provided financial assistance in 2011 of £100.

Resolved: To make a donation of £100.

iii) He read out a letter which had been received from Mrs. D. Thomas of Woodcote Green, advising that the wild orchids on the parcel of land by Box Road/Pentre Road had recently been cut down by Swansea Council whilst mowing the grass. Mrs. Thomas' letter mentioned that she had already complained to the Parks Department at Swansea Council who had apologised for this oversight.

Resolved: To note and acknowledge the letter.

iv) Due to a mix up over bookings of the welfare hall, the September meeting of the Community Council would commence at 7.30pm instead of 7.00pm.

v) With no meeting during August the Secretary asked Members to consider delegating authority to Mrs. S. Morgan, as Planning Officer, the Chairman and Vice-Chair, should any planning applications be received. As was customary, if any planning applications were received that were to be considered as contentious, an emergency meeting of the whole Community Council would be called.

Resolved: To delegate authority to Mrs. S. Morgan as Planning Officer, the Chairman and Vice-Chair to consider any planning applications that are submitted during the summer recess.

1612. Any Other Urgent Business at the discretion of the Chair.

None.