

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

**Tuesday, 12th June, 2012**

### **Present:**

Mr. J. John, Chairman

Mr. L. Jones

Mr. M. Jones

Mrs. T. Rees

Mr. A. Hamilton

Mrs. C. Knox

Mrs. S. Morgan

Mr. W.B. Davies

Mr. B. Williams

Mr. J.I. Burge (Secretary)

5 members of the public present

### **1602. Apologies for absence.**

Apologies for absence were received from Mr. D. Merriman, Mr. H. Bates, Councillor J. Curtice and Councillor D. Cole.

### **1603. Disclosures of personal interest.**

Both Mr. A. Hamilton and Mrs. S. Morgan declared an interest in Agenda item 7: Planning Applications.

### **1604. Minutes of the meeting held on 8th May, 2012.**

Approved.

### **1605. Matters arising from the minutes.**

1600 (ii) Mr. B. Davies enquired into the need for a grass cutting contract for Pentre Road/Box Road. The Chairman explained that the land was once extremely overgrown where youths congregated drinking alcohol. There had been furniture dumped there and fires were frequent. As the land was not owned by Swansea Council they were reluctant to clear the area. The Community Council paid to completely clear and improve the appearance of the site as a project and has entered into a yearly contract with Swansea Council ever since for them to maintain the grass cutting.

### **1606. Local Members Report – Councillors D. Cole & J. Curtice.**

The Secretary advised that both Councillors had prior engagements at the Civic Centre

but had provided a short report in writing for Members:

- i) The first planning committee was due shortly. It was envisaged that the planning applications for 125 and 147 Coalbrook Road would both be granted;
- ii) The issues of dog fouling at Castell-Ddu Road have been reported with a request for a bin to be installed;
- iii) Comments in support of the rejection of the recycling plant at Allt-Y-Graban have been submitted to the Appeals Inspector at the Welsh Government.

#### **1607. Ten-minute Public Questions.**

i ) Mrs. M. Williams informed Members that the dog fouling issue was still a problem at Waungron. Mr. L. Jones mentioned that he had bought 12 new signs requesting that any dog foul is bagged and taken away. Mr. A. Hamilton volunteered to erect the signs around the village.

**Resolved:** To refund Mr. L. Jones the cost of £120 for the purchase of the signs.

ii) Mr. J. Twigg informed Members that he was not happy that Mr. L. Jones had received planning permission for a riding school when his own application had been rejected by the Community Council and Swansea Council six years ago.

The Secretary reminded Mr. Twigg that he had been advised at the last meeting that Mr. Jones planning application had not yet been determined by Swansea Council and therefore the decision was currently unknown. Mr. Twigg was also reminded of the advice given to him at the previous meeting that if he felt the reasons of refusal by the Planning Department had changed he should resubmit a fresh application for consideration.

iii) Mr. S. Comley updated Members as to the proposed car park next to the Nursing Home to say that the submission of a formal planning application was imminent. The size of the car park was to be approximately 18' x 24'.

iv) Mr. S. Comley asked Members whether the bus shelter opposite the park by Station Road could be reinstated as people were exposed to wind and rain whilst waiting for a bus.

Members were reminded that the bus shelter was only removed a few years ago because it became a magnet for local youths who were hanging around it and continuously smashing the glass.

It was suggested that whilst there remained a few youth annoyance problems within the village, the main perpetrators of the past criminal behaviour had moved away from the area, therefore, there was a possibility that the shelter would remain in tact.

**Resolved:** That the Secretary would enquire with Swansea Council as to the possibility and cost of a replacement shelter.

#### **1608. Planning Applications – Mrs. S. Morgan.**

Mrs. S. Morgan presented the following planning applications for consideration:

i) Application for side & rear extensions, garage and tables;

125 Coalbrook Road, Grovesend, Swansea.

Mrs. S. Morgan informed Members that this was a re-application following the refusal by the Planning Department of the original application which had been supported by the Community Council.

The new application showed a reduction in the main footprint of the house by around 5 meters, the swimming pool removed and the garage and stables moved to the back of the property.

**Recommendation:** No objection.

*Mrs. C. Knox, Mr. J. John, Mrs. T. Rees & Mr. B. Williams declared an interest in the following item and left the room whilst a discussion took place. Mr. L. Jones acted as Chairman.*

ii) Welsh Government appeal against planning consent by Mr. Dennis Egan for a non-ferrous metal recycling plant, Allt-y-graban Road, Grovesend.

Mrs. Morgan informed Members that Mr. Egan had submitted an appeal against the refusal of Swansea Council to grant planning permission for a non-ferrous metal recycling plant. Mrs. Morgan reminded Members that the Community Council had also objected to the application.

**Recommendation:** Members felt that nothing had changed from the original application submitted to Swansea Council, therefore, to object on the following ground:

- a) The area is simply not suitable for such a commercial business. Heavy vehicles will inevitably have to arrive at the depot via the small rural villages of Grovesend and Waungron;
- b) Whilst the specific parcel of land contained within the application is subject to debate as whether it is currently a green or brown field site; the entire site is most certainly surrounded by green belt and countryside;
- c) A proposal such as this kind and size is far more suited on an industrial estate than at the edge of a residential area in open countryside;
- d) This is a development that is not sensitive to the local community and is out of keeping with the local area;
- e) The development has already commenced without planning permission and has gone back beyond the coal yard boundaries into established wooded areas;
- f) This is a departure from the local authority's UDP.
- g) One of the most serious concerns though is the belief that the applicant has reached an agreement with Officers at Swansea Council regarding the re-location of his business from Cecil Road in Gorseinon to Grovesend in order for his site to be sold for development to the benefit of Swansea Council. For this reason it is Members belief that the recommendation to Planning Committee for approval was not entirely objective.
- h) The applicant needs permission from the Welsh Government for a Section 198 approval as the building will be built on Common Land. The Community Council is concerned to note that the developer has failed to obtain such permission from the Welsh Government previously when required to do so for a caravan storage yard. As such there is little to suggest that permission for this application will be sought this time around either.

*Mrs. S. Morgan declared an interest in the following item and left the room whilst a*

*discussion took place. Mr. L. Jones presented the application.*

iii) Application for retention & completion of land restoration and reprofiling by increasing the land level by up to 2 metres; Bryn Yr Arad, Grovesend, Swansea

Mr. L. Jones reminded Members that this was a re-application following the unsuccessful appeal to the Welsh Government last year. Mr. Jones informed Members that he had been made a site visit and spoken with the applicant Mr. C. Morgan. The land area is approximately 5 acres with a fill depth of up to 2 meters in places. Mr. Morgan advised that it would take up to 3 years to completely fill the area. Access to the site would be via Coalbrook Road and a rough track through his scrap yard. The area will be completely covered in topsoil and grassed where animals will graze when finished.

**Observations:** This being a re-application, concern remains with Members over drainage and traffic issues throughout the village. Members felt that if there were consideration of approval of the application then the amount of tipping tonnage should be reduced as is was currently too great. Members also recommended that a timeframe for the reprofiling work is specified and monitored to ensure the applicant adheres to it.

### **1609. City & County of Swansea Community/Town Council Forum Meeting Feedback – Mr. J. John.**

Mr. John informed Members that the next meeting was in two days time at the Institute in Pontarddulais. Due to other commitments he was, however, unavailable to attend. Mr. B. Williams informed Members that he was hopeful to attend in Mr. John's absence.

### **1610. Renewal of Community Council Public Liability Insurance.**

The Secretary informed Members that the Community Councils public liability insurance was due for renewal. He had obtained a quote from a different insurance broker specialising in Community/Town Council insurance, however, it was still double the £225 quote from Zurich the current provider. The Secretary explained that the quote was the same as last year.

**Resolved:** To renew the public insurance with Zurich for a further year.

### **1611. Secretary's Report.**

The Secretary reported to Members on the following:

i) He had received a late letter requesting financial assistance from the Grovesend Cricket Club. Members noted that there had been no request for financial assistance for nearly two years.

**Resolved:** To provide £200 financial donation.

ii) A letter of thanks had been received from Mrs. Yvonne Hamilton for the financial contribution towards the Jubilee fun day at the Brynlliw. So far £2770 had been raised for Pengelli Primary School which will go towards iPads. It was hoped that the amount will reach £3000 which will be presented to the school at an assembly on 22nd June.

It was suggested that the Community Council presents their cheque of £3000 also on the same day.

iii) A training session was being held by Swansea Council for all Community/Town Councillors regarding the Code of Conduct on Monday, 9th July at 5.00pm in the Civic

Centre, Swansea.

Mr. M. Jones, Training Champion, also circulated other forthcoming training programmes from One Voice Wales, including a session in Neath on The New Councillor Induction Training. Members were encouraged to attend as many of the training sessions as possible in order to assist them with their role.

### **1612. Any Other Business.**

Several items of discussion were raised including the planting of flowers and hanging baskets around the village, a new Grovesend sign entering from the Pontarddulais direction and the tidying up of the hedges through Waungron. The Secretary suggested that given the length of the Community Council meetings, and in accordance with practice from other formal meetings, Any Other Business as a generic Agenda item should be removed from the Agenda. Important issues concerning the village should be placed formally on the Agenda to enable sufficient time for proper discussion.

**Resolved:** i) That generic Any Other Business items should be removed in favour of them being tabled formally onto the Agenda and replaced with "Any other urgent items of business at the discretion of the Chair"; ii) That the Secretary place "Enhancements to the Village" on the Agenda for the July meeting to cover some of the issues mentioned above.