

Minutes of the Grovesend & Waungron Community Council Meeting held on

Tuesday, 6th November, 2012

Present:

Mr. J. John, Chairman

Mr. M. Jones

Mrs. S. Morgan

Mr. W.B. Davies

Mr. A. Hamilton

Mr. H. Bates

Mrs. C. Knox

Mr. D. Merriman

Mr. L. Jones

Mr. B. Williams

Mr. J.I. Burge (Secretary)

Councillor D. Cole

Councillor Mrs. J. Curtice

No members of the public present

The Chairman commenced the meeting by informing Members of the news that Mrs. Margaret Williams, Waungron, had recently passed away. Whilst Mrs. Williams had not been a Member of the Community Council she attended most, if not all, meetings each month and would be sadly missed.

As a mark of respect for Mrs. Williams, Members stood for a minute's silence.

1650. Apologies for absence.

Apologies for absence were received from Mrs. T. Rees. Mrs. C. Knox informed Members that Mrs. Rees was currently recovering in hospital. Members asked that their best wishes be conveyed to Mrs. Rees for a speedy recovery.

1651. Disclosures of personal interest.

Mr. H. Bates informed Members that he had spoken to Mr. Patrick Arran, the Monitoring Officer, at Swansea Council, to seek clarity over the Code of Conduct for Members and requirement to declare an interest. Mr. Bates explained that the available guidance was currently confusing and contradictory and therefore he was waiting firm advice from the Monitoring Officer as to his own position as a Trustee of the Welfare Hall.

Mr. Merriman mentioned that he felt his position as a Governor at Pengelli Primary School

did not require him to declare a personal interest as he was appointed via the LEA which is a body outside of the school and Community Council.

Several Members expressed their own opinions; including how a balanced common sense approach needed to be taken, and to avoid any form of public criticism declaring any form of interest was safer than not at all.

The Secretary reminded Members of what he had said many times previous that a declaration was a personal choice and whilst it could be recommended to Members, or they can be reminded of their obligation, it was entirely their own choice whether to declare an interest. If however, Members do declare an interest, the Community Council's own Standing Orders requires that Member to leave the room whilst the item is being discussed.

1652. Minutes of the meeting held on 9th October, 2012.

Approved.

1653. Matters arising from the minutes.

1643 Mr. J. John informed Members that a remembrance service had been arranged for Thursday, 8th November at Mount Pleasant Church. Participating will be the Royal British Legion and Pengelli School children. The Vicar from Pontarddulais would lead the service. The Legion would provide a wreath.

A discussion took place regarding the venue of the service and how there was a conflict with a current booking for the welfare hall preventing the service taking place at the usual venue.

Resolved: i) That a £20 donation be made to the Royal British Legion for the wreath, and ii) That future remembrance services should return to the welfare hall where they have been held for many years.

1649(i) The Secretary reported that the Highways Department had cleared out the ditch at the bottom of the grassed area by the entrance to the Meadgate estate.

Mr. W.B. Davies informed Members that there was still a substantial amount of water pouring off the grassed area and onto the main road. A concern that this will freeze in the coming months and pose a danger.

Mr. D. Merriman responded by saying that the water was emanating from a natural spring in the ground. This spring didn't feed into the ditch so will continue to run onto the main road.

A discussion took place regarding the need to create a new ditch to link the flowing spring water into the existing soak away ditch that the Highways Department maintain.

Resolved: That Mr. A. Hamilton be contracted to carry out the work to divert the spring water into the existing ditch at a cost of up to £200 for any work required.

1649(ii) The Secretary reported that he had received a response from Pengelli AFC regarding vehicles exiting from Box Road the wrong way. The response made a request for further signage to be erected so drivers were aware of the one-way system.

Members felt that there were enough signs in existence and that most, if not all, users of the park/field already knew the road was one way.

1649(iii) The Secretary informed Members that he had received the results from the Traffic Section at Swansea Council of the recent survey undertaken. The survey revealed that the average speed on Coalbrook Road travelling out of Grovesend toward Penyrheol was 33mph, whilst travelling in to Grovesend was 31mph. The average speed on High Street travelling out of Grovesend toward Pontarddulais was 28mph, whilst travelling in to Grovesend was 26mph.

The County Roadsafety Officer had said that such readings do not qualify for any pedestrian crossings or permanent speed cameras, but he would ask for the mobile speed unit to be deployed to the area.

Mr. W.B. Davies responded by saying that the surveys were not carried out properly over the correct period of time and were not undertaken in the same locations as they were previously.

1649(iv) The Secretary informed Members that he had received a response from the Environment Department at Swansea Council to the request for the placement of litter bins around the village. Three new bins would be placed: Near the park/playground, top of the pedestrian entrance to Pengelli Primary on New Road and on the main road in Waungron.

There is no current timescale for the new bins; however, they should be in place within the next few months.

1654. Local Members Report.

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

i) The amended planning application for 33 Station Road, Grovesend had recently been approved. The owner now has 12 months to carry out the corrective works;

ii) New criteria had been put together regarding the selection of a new site and location for gypsies/travellers in Swansea. There would be independent involvement outside of Swansea Council. Identification should take place by May, 2013.

iii) There were concerns with the latest introduction of the new rapid response units within the fire service. The Fire Brigade Union are claiming that these new units are putting people's lives at risk, whilst the Fire Service claim that these are improvements to the efficiency of the whole service.

Councillor Mrs. J. Curtice was due to meet with the fire service representatives in the next few days.

1655. Ten-minute Public Questions.

None.

1656. Planning Applications – Mrs. S. Morgan.

Mrs. S. Morgan informed Members that one application had been received for three detached dwelling houses with integral garages on land adjacent to 118 Coalbrook Road, Grovesend.

Resolved: No objections, however, Members suggested that the Planning Department are reminded that there are currently several active tree preservation orders attached to this particular site.

1657. Collaborative working with neighbouring Town/Community Councils –

feedback.

Mrs. C. Knox provided feedback following the recent meeting with other neighbouring Town/Community Councils. The meeting was well received and attended. Those present felt that both Llŵchwr and Penllergaer Council's were missing out the opportunity of working together and that they once again should be invited to participate in future meetings.

Mrs. Knox reported that the group unanimously agreed that localised training for Members was a priority with hopefully the first event being delivered by Martin Caton MP's Secretary on the introduction of the forthcoming national changes to the welfare reform.

Shared experiences were discussed along with issues that affected more than one community area. Pontlliw gave an example how they were currently opposing the application for a wind farm. If approved it would mean two years of outsized lorries transporting parts of turbines through Pontlliw and Pontarddulais. This in turn would require road closures forcing traffic to take detours and have a consequential impact for the communities of Gorseinon and Grovesend.

It was agreed that future meetings would take place every three months on a rotational basis around the various communities. The next meeting was arranged for January/February in Pontarddulais.

1658. Letter from Trustees of Grovesend Miners Welfare Scheme.

Mr. H. Bates and Mr. D. Merriman declared an interest in this item and left the room whilst discussions took place.

A letter received from the trustees of the welfare hall was discussed which requested an increase in hire charges of £20 for the first hours use and £10 for each additional hour.

Following a discussion as whether the Community Council should re-located elsewhere within the village, such as Mount Pleasant Church, two proposals were put forward and voted upon. The first was to donate £50 per month for 11 months a year towards the upkeep of the welfare hall; and the second was to continue with the original 2011 agreement of £20 per month, however, to increase this to 11 months of the year.

Resolved: Members agreed to offer the Trustees a payment of £20 per month for 11 months of the year. Should this be rejected then it was agreed that future meetings were to be held at Mount Pleasant Church.

1659. Christmas Carol Service.

The Secretary suggested that with only two meetings left until the end of the year Members needed to consider whether the Community Council was once again going to have a traditional Christmas service with Mount Pleasant, or revert to a children's Christmas party at the welfare hall.

Mr. H. Bates made a verbal application on behalf of the ladies section of the miners club for financial assistance towards a Christmas party for the children.

Resolved: i) That the Community Council would once again join with Mount Pleasant Church for a combined service on Sunday, 16th December, 2012, and that the Secretary would ask the Headteacher of Pengelli Primary School if the choir could sing; ii) to donate

£200 towards the ladies section Christmas party for the children.

1660. Application for financial assistance from Mount Pleasant Chapel.

An application for finance assistance from Mount Pleasant Chapel to take the children to the Pantomime in Llanelli was discussed.

Mrs. S. Morgan informed Members that she had spoken to a representative of the church who had said that the cost of hiring a bus to Llanelli was £120 and the tickets were £80.

Resolved: To make a donation of £200.

1661. Application for financial assistance from MacMillan Cancer Support.

An application for finance assistance from MacMillan Cancer Support was discussed.

Resolved: To note the application.

1662. Application for financial assistance from Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod.

An application for finance assistance from Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod was discussed.

Resolved: To note the application.

1663. Review of the Parliamentary Constituencies in Wales 2013.

The Secretary informed Members that a short period of revised consultation was being undertaken by the Boundary Commission for Wales in respect of changes to the parliamentary constituencies. He reminded Members that the original proposals were seeking to reduce the number of Welsh MPs from 40 to 30 whilst increase the size of electorate in some areas to a recommended amount of circa 75,000 voters. The original proposals meant that Grovesend, Pontarddulais, Pontlliw, Penllergaer, Llangyfelach, Goresinon, Gowerton and Loughor would transfer to the Llanelli constituency. The revised, and new proposals being consulted on, were proposing to leave Gowerton in the current Gower and Swansea West constituency and move Penllergaer and Llangyfelach into the Swansea East constituency.

Mr. H. Bates informed Members that he had noted on the news that evening that the UK Liberal Democrat Party had announced that they had no intention of supporting such changes; therefore, there was little, if not no hope of the proposals now becoming effective.

1664. Secretary's Report.

The Secretary reported to Members on the following:

i) The application for additional car parking spaces at the Llys-Y-Tywysog Nursing Home had been rejected by Swansea Council Planning Officers as being an unjustifiable form of development in open countryside.

ii) Swansea Council were seeking applications for a vacancy on the Standards Sub-Committee. Applications must be returned to the Democratic Services Manager by 16th November, 2012.

iii) The BBC Audience Council were inviting licence-fee payers to a feedback session at the

Grand Theatre on Thursday, 15th November, 2012. The Audience Council provide direct feedback to the BBC Trust in London of the comments made by viewers regarding BBC produced material.

1665. Any Other Urgent Business at the discretion of the Chair.

None.