

Minutes of the Grovesend & Waungron Community Council Meeting held on

Tuesday, 8th May, 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. D. Merriman

Mr. W.B. Davies

Mr. H. Bates

Councillor D. Cole

Councillor J. Curtice

Mr. J.I. Burge (Secretary)

3 members of the public present

1583. Apologies.

Apologies for absence were received from Mr. B. Williams.

1584. Welcome/Introductions.

The Secretary welcomed and congratulated Members on their election/re-election to the Community Council. All Members signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and submitted their Register of Members Interests and agreement to abide by the Code of Practice. The Secretary reminded Members of the importance of disclosing personal interests at meetings in order that there remains confidence and transparency in the work of the Community Council.

1585. Disclosures of personal interest.

Mr. L. Jones declared an interest in Agenda item 14: Planning Applications ; and Mr. D. Merriman declared an interest in Agenda item 16: Application for financial assistance for new IT equipment from the Headteacher of Pengelli Primary School.

1586. Election of Chairperson for 2012/13.

The Secretary informed Members that the election of Chair and Vice is normally

conducted annually at the March meeting in readiness for the term of office to commence on 1st April, in line with the financial year, however, Members of the previous Community Council agreed that given the elections in May the election of Chair and Vice should take place in May following this.

One nomination for the position of Chair was received from Mr. J. John.

Resolved: That Mr. J. John be elected as Chairman for 2012/13.

1587. Election of Vice-Chairperson for 2012/13.

One nomination for the position of Vice-Chairperson was received from Mrs. C. Knox.

Resolved: That Mrs. C. Knox be elected as Vice-Chair for 2012/13.

1588. Appointment of Planning Officer.

One nomination was received from Mrs. S. Morgan.

Resolved: That Mrs. S. Morgan be appointed as Planning Officer.

1589. Appointment of Community Council Governor to Pengelli Primary School.

One nomination was received from Mr. L. Jones.

Resolved: That Mr. L. Jones be appointed as School Governor.

1590. Appointment of One Voice Wales Area Representatives.

Two nominations were received from Mr. J. John and Mr. L. Jones.

Resolved: That both Mr. J. John and Mr. L. Jones be appointed as the One Voice Wales area representatives.

1591. Appointment of One Voice Wales Training Champion.

One nomination was received from Mr. M. Jones.

Resolved: That Mr. M. Jones be appointed as the One Voice Wales Training Champion.

1592. Minutes of the meeting held on 3rd April, 2012.

Approved.

1593. Matters arising from the minutes.

1577 Mr. D. Merriman queried whether two separate parties to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee would be divisive and split the village rather than bring people together. The Chairman mentioned that the celebrations would be on different days over the extended Bank Holiday giving villagers the opportunity to attend both if they wished.

1594. Local Members Report – Councillors D. Cole & J. Curtice.

This being the first Community Council meeting since the election only a few days previous there had not been the opportunity to attend any formal Council meetings yet. The first meeting of the new Swansea Council would take place in a few days time when

the new Cabinet would be announced. The Leader of the Labour led Council would be Councillor David Phillips of Mount Pleasant and Deputy Leader would be Christine Richards of Loughor.

1595. Ten-minute Public Questions.

i) Mrs. M. Williams informed Members that the road through Waungron was badly breaking up even though it had only recently been resurfaced. It was mentioned that the road had only been blast-surfaced rather than fully resurfaced which is what was needed.

Mr. L. Jones left the room for the following discussion.

ii) Mr. J. Twigg reminded Members that he had submitted a planning application for a riding school in Waungron back in 2006 which was not supported by either the Community Council or Planning Department at Swansea Council. Mr. Twigg was unhappy that Mr. L. Jones had recently received approval for a similar application of a riding ménage at Coed Saeson Farm in spite of Mr. Twigg's planning refusal back in 2006.

The Secretary informed Mr. Twigg that the planning application submitted by Mr. Jones had not yet been considered by the Community Council as it had only been received by the Secretary a few days previously, let alone determined by the Planning Department. The application had been passed to Mrs. S. Morgan as Planning Officer for observation and consideration later in the meeting.

Mr. Twigg was reminded that one of the principal reasons for refusing his application was the location of the entrance/exit which was on a very sharp bend where visibility was impaired.

Advice was given to Mr. Twigg that if he felt the circumstances surrounding the original rejection of his application had changed that he should re-submit his application which will be considered afresh once more.

iii) Mr. S. Comley updated Members as to the proposed car park next to the Nursing Home to say that Barchester Health Care were in the process of acquiring the land for the car park and submitting a formal planning application.

1596. Planning Applications – Mrs. S. Morgan.

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

i) Application for new dwelling on plot adjacent to Brynheulog, Station Road, Grovesend.

Resolved: No objection.

ii) Application for removal and raising of roof, extension to garage and demolition and construction of new stable block, 147 Coalbrook Road, Grovesend.

Resolved: No objection, however, Members asked the Secretary to make an observation to the Planning Department that the current building was erected as a temporary build constructed of woolaway; as such the present footings may well not be suitable.

Mr. L. Jones declared an interest in the following item and left the room whilst a discussion took place.

iii) Application for erection of building to enclose existing ménage, Coed Saeson Farm, Pentre Road, Grovesend, Swansea.

Resolved: No objection.

1597. City & County of Swansea Community/Town Council Forum Meeting Feedback – Mr. J. John.

Mr. John informed Members that there had not been a meeting since the last Community Council meeting.

Mr. D. Merriman declared an interest in the following item and left the room whilst a discussion took place.

1598. Application for financial assistance for new IT equipment from the Headteacher of Pengelli Primary School.

The Secretary informed Members that it was agreed at the last Community Council meeting to carry this item over to the new Council given the potential for a large and lengthy financial commitment from the Community Council.

The request had been received from the Headteacher of Pengelli for financial assistance towards the cost of the leasing new laptops. The Secretary informed Members that he understood the Headteacher was now looking to lease around 20 Laptops at an annual charge of around £2,700.

Members were concerned that although they wished to support and assist the school as best they could, any substantial long term commitment by the Community Council could be difficult given the relatively small precept received each year.

Members discussed the option of providing a one off payment to enable the school to setup wireless throughout the School as this was something the Headteacher wished to pursue previously. Other options such as iPads and purchasing desktops direct from the suppliers were also discussed.

Resolved: Following a discussion, Members agreed for the Secretary to speak with Mrs. Loydon, Headteacher, with the suggestion that the Community Council funds the enabling of the whole school to become wireless (WiFi) and that the school could then pay for the leases of the laptops themselves. Should this not be the preferred option of the Headteacher then Members agreed to a one off donation of £3000 for the School to spend on IT equipment that would be of benefit to both the pupils and evening adult users of Pengelli.

It was suggested that the Secretary checks with One Voice Wales as whether it was permissible for the Community Council to donate such a large amount to the School prior to releasing the funds, as not to fall foul of any audit rules.

1599. Approval of Community Council accounts 2011/12.

Approved.

1600. Secretary's Report.

The Secretary reported to Members on the following:

Mr. D. Merriman and Mr. H. Bates declared an interest in the following item and left the room whilst a discussion took place.

i) He had received a late letter from Mr. J. White, Chair of the Miners Welfare Scheme Trustees, to enquire whether there was any financial assistance available towards the cost

of purchasing some of the hardware needed to setup the new coffee shop.

Resolved: Members were concerned that whilst they supported the idea of a coffee shop in principal any profits generated from it were to the benefit of individuals, therefore, felt unable to provide financial assistance.

ii) He had received an email from Mrs. J. Donald of Box Road asking whether the Community Council could include the verges alongside Box Road in the grass cutting contract for Pentre Road/Box Road with Swansea Council as they were not being maintained adequately.

Members felt that this was the responsibility of Swansea Council to maintain and as such Swansea had an obligation to cut the verge several times a year.

Resolved: That the Secretary would contact Swansea Council to request that they cut the verge.

1601. Any Other Business.

i) Mrs. C. Knox informed Members that just 10 days following the decision of the Planning Committee to refuse consent for the recycling/smelting plant at Allt-Y-Graban the site was once again full of machinery. This had now been reported to the Enforcement Section for action to be taken.

ii) Mr. J. John informed Members that a husband and wife team from Grove Farm Road had won a mixed pairs regional European golfing competition and were through to the finals in Dubai. The finals were due to take place in the next few days.

Members asked that their congratulations be passed to them both via Mr. John.