

**Minutes of the Grovesend & Waungron  
Community Council Meeting held on  
Tuesday, 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2014**

**Present:** Mrs. C. Knox, Chair  
Mr. B. Williams  
Mr. W.B. Davies  
Mr. M. Jones  
Mr. J. John  
Mr. W.D. Merriman  
Mrs. S. Morgan  
Mr. H. Bates  
Mr. L. Jones  
Councillor D. Cole  
Mr. J.I. Burge (Secretary)  
One member of the public present

**1825. Apologies for absence.**

Apologies for absence were received from Mrs. T. Morgan and Councillor Mrs. J. Curtice. Mr. A. Hamilton was absent.

**1826. Disclosures of personal interest.**

None.

**1827. Visitor: Presentation on Gower Power and proposed planning application for a solar array in Penyrheol by Mr. A. Flanagan of Gower Power.**

Mr. Flanagan advised Members that Gower Power were a new co-operative with 45 members supporting local people take ownership of natural resources for the benefit of the community.

Gower Power were looking to create two solar arrays in the area: a 1MW in Ilston and a 3.6MW in Penyrheol. A detailed planning application would be submitted following a public consultation exercise in the Penyrheol/Gorseinon area over the next few weeks. The Penyrheol site would cover an area of approximately 200 acres and cost £3.5-£4M to set the project up. Subject to planning approval it was hoped that the site would start generating electricity for sale to the national grid from April/May, 2015.

Being a co-operative, members of the public were able to buy shares in the scheme of up to £20k per person. This would then allow for voting rights and a financial return of any profit made.

The Chair thanked Mr. Flanagan for his attendance and presentation and advised that the Members would have a debate and consider the proposal fully in due course upon receipt of the formal planning application.

**1828. Minutes of the meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> February, 2014.**

Approved.

**1829. Matters arising from the minutes.**

Minute 1821(iv) signing of the Community Council Charter: Due to prior commitments it was not possible for Mr. J. John or Mr. B. Williams to attend. Other Members equally had difficulties in attending; therefore, it was noted that unfortunately no one was able to represent the Community Council.

**1830. Local Members Report.**

Councillor D. Cole reported on the following:

- i) He attended a presentation recently on the Williams report which was recommending whole scale change of local government throughout Wales reducing the number of Councils from 22. A lot of uncertainty currently existed with the Welsh Local Government Association estimating that any reorganisation could cost the taxpayer upwards of £100M;
- ii) Planting has commenced around parts of Swansea of the wild flowers. This should take place in Grovesend shortly;
- iii) The Highways team have been to Waungron and cut back a lot of the overgrown hedges. The drains, however, still need de-silting.
- iv) The Evening Post will be attending Pengelli Primary School to picture the Cabinet Member for Young People meet some of the pupils and discuss their recent letters requesting a pedestrian crossing. Members of the Community Council are welcome to attend.

**1831. Ten-minute Public Questions.**

Mr. N. Burder was present to answer any questions regarding his recently planning application discussed below.

**1832. Planning Applications: Mrs. S. Morgan, Planning Officer**

Mrs. S. Morgan advised that one application had been received from Mr. N. Burder, 219 Pentre Road for boarding kennels and cattery.

A discussion took place with questions being put to Mr. Burder by Members. Mr. Burder left the meeting prior to a decision being taken.

**Recommendation:** No objection in principle to boarding kennels and cattery subject to the use of high quality materials that will contribute to noise reduction as much as possible and that the site is screened from view from Pentre Road.

Members felt that it was not possible though to consider the car parking element of the application as no information was provided as to the precise

location of the car park. Concern was expressed regarding the need for 18 parking spaces and whether part of common land will be used and covered in tarmacadam.

### **1833. Secretary's Report.**

The Secretary reported on the following items:

- i) He had received the OVW membership subscription renewal for 2014/15 at a cost of £128.

**Resolved:** Members agreed to renew the membership for the year ahead.

- ii) He had received the Open Spaces Society membership subscription renewal for 2014/15 at a cost of £45.

**Resolved:** Members agreed to renew the membership for the year ahead.

- iii) An invitation had been received from Gorseinon Town Council for the Chairman to attend the Royal British Legion Service and Parade on Sunday, 22<sup>nd</sup> June at St. Catherine's Church.

**Resolved:** Due to a prior commitment the Chair was unable to attend. Subject to his own availability Mr. B. Williams, as Vice-Chairman, would represent the Community Council.

- iv) OVW had written to all Community/Town Councils to advise that financial regulations had recently been amended to allow for the ease and speed of invoices to be paid by local government electronically via the internet. OVW were advising each Community Council to review their current arrangements and consider amending their standing orders. The Secretary advised that he felt uncomfortable in removing the current arrangement of two signatures being required for each written cheque and that it could leave him vulnerable to any potential criticism or allegations of financial irregularities if only he had access to the Community Council finances. Therefore, he recommended that the current system requiring two signatures remained in place.

**Resolved:** Members agreed that this would leave the Secretary vulnerable to potential allegations and that having reviewed the financial arrangements of the Council the two signature rule would continue to apply.

### **1834. Any Other Urgent Business at the discretion of the Chair.**

- i) Mr. D. Merriman informed Members that interviews were taking place the following week for a new Headteacher at Pengelli Primary School.

- ii) Mrs. C. Knox advised Members that it had been reported to her that the soft play surface in the Park was severely damaged and broken-up causing children to trip and fall over as they run around.  
**Resolved:** That the Secretary would ask the Parks Section to either repair or replace the damaged surface.
- iii) Mr. D. Merriman asked whether the Secretary could request Swansea Council cut back the trees from the back area of the Park as they were desperately overgrown.  
**Resolved:** That the Secretary would report the problem to the Parks Section.
- iv) Mrs. C. Knox advised Members that Mrs. Cherry Hinton had approached her to offer a donation of £100 to the Community Council for the purchase and planting of daffodil bulbs around the village.  
**Resolved:** Members were most grateful for the donation and asked that the Secretary send a letter of thanks to Mrs. Hinton with the suggestion that pupils from Pengelli get involved with the planting in the autumn.

**Issues awaiting resolution**

Issue	Key dates	Current Position	Action required by
Request for Pedestrian Crossing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Originally requested several years ago.</li> <li>• Followed-up: August, 2013</li> <li>• Followed-up: October, 2013</li> <li>• Site meeting in December, 2013 with Ward Members and Jeff Green</li> <li>• January, 2014 local Cllrs meeting with Jeff Green</li> </ul>		Traffic Section, Swansea Council (Jeff Green)