

**Minutes of the Grovesend & Waungron  
Community Council Meeting held on  
Tuesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> February, 2015**

**Present:** Mrs. C. Knox, Chair  
Mr. B. Williams  
Mr. W.B. Davies  
Mr. D. Merriman  
Mr. P.A. Hamilton  
Mr. M. Jones  
Mrs. S. Morgan  
Mrs. T. Morgan  
Mr. H. Bates  
Councillor Mrs. J. Curtice  
Councillor D. Cole  
Mr. J.I. Burge (Secretary)

**1920. Apologies for absence.**

Apologies for absence were received from Mr. L. Jones and Mr. J. John.

**1921. Disclosures of personal interest.**

None.

**1922. Minutes of the meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> January, 2015.**

Approved.

**1923. Matters arising from the minutes.**

Minute 1919(ii): Pavements clearing through Waungron; Mr. M. Jones informed Members that he had recently spoken to the NEET Team and the Community Payback/Probation Service who had indicated that they will be back working in the area shortly. Members noted that when they recently worked in the Gorseinon area they did a very good job.

**1924. Local Members Report.**

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

- (i) Work would shortly commence on Sion Chapel in Waungron following planning permission being granted for a house conversion;
- (ii) It had been agreed that work on reconfiguring the boulders and access area on Box Road would commence shortly which would assist vehicles exiting from the Park to drive the correct way down the one-way street. Both Councillors had agreed to use some of their environmental money to pay for the work;
- (iii) Members were given a budget update for Swansea and informed that the Council Tax rise was likely to be in the region of the upper limit of 4.8-5% for 2015/16. There was a proposal that the environmental money for individual Councillors would rise to £30k per Councillor;

- (iv) Councillor D. Cole informed Members that he had recently been appointed to the new smaller Planning Committee covering the whole of the Swansea area. One of the first applications to be considered by the Committee was for the solar panels at Pencefnarda Farm. This application was rejected on the basis of it interfering with the residents' visual amenity of the area.

**1925. Ten-minute Public Questions.**

None present.

**1926. Planning Applications.**

None received.

**1927. Application for financial assistance from Teenage Cancer Trust.**

A letter requesting financial assistance from the Teenage Cancer Trust was noted by Members.

**1928. Secretary's Report.**

The Secretary reported on the following:

- (i) The renewal notice had been received from One Voice Wales for 2015/16 membership. The cost of membership was £131.  
**Resolved:** Members agreed that the service was well worth the cost and agreed to renew its membership for a further year.
- (ii) The renewal notice had been received from Swansea Council Parks Department for the grass cutting contract for Box Road/Pentre Road. The cost of renewing the contract was £539 for 7 cuts per year, a £10 increase from 2014/15.  
**Resolved:** Following an 8:1 vote Members agreed to renew the contract for a further year.
- (iii) The Secretary advised Members that earlier that afternoon Leighton Andrews, the Welsh Government Minister for Local Government, had released a White Paper setting out his proposals to reform local government. Although there had been little time to digest the paper, the Secretary had attempted to extract some of the detail relating to the proposals affecting Community Councils:
- That Principal Councils would conduct a review of all Community & Town Councils with a view to reducing the overall number by no later than 2022. Currently there are 735 across Wales. It is not clear whether the review must be completed by 2022 or completed sooner and the enlarged new Councils in place by this date. It effectively means small council's such as Grovesend have about 5 years of life left in them, likely to be just one more term of office after the 2017 elections;
  - Community/Town Councils with a budget of £200k or more will be

subject to a competency test by the principal council. If a council passes this test then extra powers will be given to them. Those that fail are likely to be made to amalgamate/merge with other larger councils;

- Area Boards are to be created which will be made up of representatives from Principal Councils, the new Community/Town Councils, voluntary sector representatives and other local/regional organisations. The new Area Boards will have a more reaching remit and include responsibility for certain aspects of education and social care and possibly small scale planning applications;
- Consideration is being given in the paper to preventing an individual serving on more than one Council. This would affect people like County Councillors who might be on both Swansea Council and a Town/Community Council simultaneously. The paper suggests there is too much of a conflict of interest between the roles;
- There is the recommendation that members of the public will have the right to attend Council meetings, speak and record discussions on whatever device they wish, such as a mobile phone.

**1929. Any other urgent business at the discretion of the Chair.**

- (i) Mr. A. Hamilton advised Members that he had looked into the cost of purchasing a Christmas tree for permanently placing in the park, and depending on size and variety was between £190-£220 for a 10-12 foot tree. He alerted Members though to the cost of the installation of a power supply to light the tree at an additional cost likely to run into several hundred pounds.

**Resolved:** Members agreed in principle to the purchase of a permanent tree. Mr. A. Hamilton would obtain more definitive costs for connecting a power supply from the supplier and report back.

- (ii) Mr. B. Davies informed Members of a growing problem of parking at the Tyrisha Road entrance to Pengelli Primary School. On occasions some cars were double parking making it almost impossible for other vehicles to pass.

**Resolved:** Cllr D. Cole agreed to speak with the local PCSO to ask if he would visit the area and either speak to some of the offending motorists or issue some fines. Cllr Mrs. J. Curtice advised that she would enquire with the Traffic Section over the possibility of zig zag lines being placed on this stretch of road and at the entrance on Station Road.

- (iii) Mr. D. Merriman informed Members that the issues with the Welfare Club/Hall were ongoing and that the electricity bill remained

outstanding. He had met with CISWO recently who had suggested a friends of the village hall group be created to steer and stimulate the use of the hall. This group would then be eligible to apply for grants to maintain the hall. CISWO were concerned that without a ‘wetside’ supporting the welfare hall it would become unsustainable. The Trustees were hopeful that once the issues regarding the electricity bill was resolved they would make one further attempt to advertise the wetside as a going concern.

- (iv) Mrs. S. Morgan reported to Members that the junction at Coalbrook Road/Plas Road was frequently being blocked by cars parking too close to the junction entrance. This was causing difficulties for buses and large vehicles turning into the junction. A question was raised whether the buses should be re-routed down High Street instead as they use to travel previously. Cllr D. Cole suggested that a further discussion takes place at the next meeting to allow Members to take some soundings from residents and users of the bus service. Mrs. S. Morgan suggested that the yellow lines should be extended further down into Plas Road as they were previously. Cllr. D. Cole agreed to speak to the local PCSO and ask that he monitor the junction and take some enforcement action if necessary.

Mr. H. Bates gave his apologies in advance for the March meeting.

### **Issues awaiting resolution**

<b>Issue</b>	<b>Key dates</b>	<b>Current Position</b>	<b>Action required by</b>
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> <li>• May, 2014 funding rejected for 2014/15.</li> <li>• June, 2014 funding possible for 2015/16.</li> </ul>	Welsh Government advised that funding via Safe Routes to School was likely to be made available during 2015/16.	Welsh Government; Traffic Section, Swansea Council (Jeff Green).