

Minutes of the Grovesend & Waungron
Community Council Meeting held on
Tuesday 13th February 2018

Present: Mr W D Merriman, Chairman
Mr W B Davies
Mr D Gwynn
Mr A Hamilton
Mr B Moon
Mr L Jones
Mrs S Morgan
Mr M Jones
Councillor J Curtice
Councillor A Stevens
Mrs Y Hamilton (Secretary)
Mr Neil Jonah (Public Attendance)

2282. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Mr D Cole, Mrs H Talaat and Mrs C Knox.

2283. Disclosures of personal interest

None

2284. Minutes of the meeting held on 9th January 2018

Approved

2285. Matters arising from the minutes

(2274) Action: Councillor A Stevens to ask the police if they could park up in the village to monitor the speed. **Further Action:** Councillor A Stevens / Councillor J Curtice to chase this up as to date there as been no police presence.

(2281) (i) A discussion was held on the future dates of meetings of forthcoming meetings. Resolved: It was agreed that all future meeting will now be held on the 2nd Tuesday of every month.

Further Update: Following a further discussion at this meeting it was recognised that the 2nd Tuesday of every month was going to be a problem for a couple of Members. It was agreed that the meeting dates will be reverted back to the original dates and a 'Date of next meeting' will be added onto the end of every agenda going forward to ensure suitability with an option of changing the date if required.

Further Action: Secretary to contact Huw Evans, Democratic Services for clarity on decision making and report back.

2286. Local Members Report

Councillor J Curtice reported on the following: -

(i) She had received the latest crime figures for the months November 17 to January 18. The figures for Grovesend were: -

	November 17	December 17	January 18
Theft other	0	0	0
Theft from vehicle	0	0	0
Theft of vehicle	0	0	0
Damage	0	0	0
Burglary	0	0	0
Violence	0	0	0
ASB	1	0	0

It was clear from these figures that we were living in quite a safe area compared with other areas around.

Councillor A Stevens reported on the following: -

(ii) He had a meeting with Howard Thomas regarding the gabion walls. The meeting went ok and the cheapest option to cover up gabion wall would of course be a creeper. There could be a possible extension of the Gabion basket wall, then full cladding with a stone face, height can be increased to incorporate the memorials, however there could be an issue with the steps. Should any work be carried out to the steps then it would have to be dda compliant, a possible way around this would be to remove them entirely. This would only go ahead after we carry out extensive consultation with the village. H also has concerns of reworking an area that has already had a lot of financial investment. As always, they will look to implement a scheme that strikes a balance of value for money but is also aesthetically pleasing after consultation with residents living nearby, although this should have been done from the get go. This will be a long term aim with our many other outstanding commitments within the village, it will also largely depend on the outcome to the safe route to school bid.

(iii) He had a meeting with Jeff Green regarding Safe Routes to Schools Bid. Funding contribution in conjunction with Gorseinon.

Grovesend

1. High Street - Traffic calming to reduce speed of through traffic
2. Improved electronic signage
3. Reconsider speed limit on High Street – may be localised 20mph limit by pelican crossing
4. Improvements to junction of Frampton Road and Coalbrook Road
5. Dropped crossing Box Road
6. Layby for GoSafe speed enforcement

Waungron

7. Improved electronic signage
8. Pedestrian enhancement over railway bridge (part of cycle link improvements)

2287. Ten-minute Public Questions

Mr Neil Jonah attended our meeting to discuss his idea of undertaking a Low Impact Development (self-build) as per the One Planet Development criteria (TAN6 www.oneplanetcouncil.org.uk) using a wood or steel frame and in filled with modular Straw Bales, and growing a minimum of 65% of my families food organically and with any extra being sold/distributed locally to the local community/need. He explained that he believed that the impact on the local community would be a positive one with very little negative impact. He left some information for the Community Council and we thanked him for his time.

2288. Planning Applications

None

2289. Health and Safety

Mr A Hamilton informed Members that the lights were currently out on Box Road.

Action: Secretary to report this to the Highways Department

2290. Secretary's Report

The Secretary advised Members of the following: -

(i) Mr D Merriman had received a letter from the National Lottery Fund advising us that our application for a grant for funding for defibrillators was unsuccessful due to not meeting their funding priorities. It was felt amongst the Members that this was very disappointing especially as it seemed that all other applications submitted around the local councils had been approved. The Secretary also informed Members that she had contacted Cariad to ask for their advice. They confirmed that they would look at our application and get back to us as they too were unsure how other Councils applications had been approved.

Action: Secretary to put together an appeal with Members input and resend to National Lottery Fund.

(ii) She had received the One Voice Wales Membership renewal subscription fees for the year ahead at £145.00

Resolved: Members agreed to renew the subscription for a further 12-month period.

(iii) She had received a letter from the Head of Financial Services confirming that the precept had been agreed and that payment will be made by 3 equal payment of £2100 on or before 30/04/2018; 31/08/2018 and 28/12/2018.

(iv) She informed Members that she had received an email from One Voice Wales regarding the budget preparation for 2018/19 and that it is incumbent on community and town councils to consider including a sum in their budget for the likely cost of payment of allowances to councillors.

Resolved: Members agreed to opt out of receiving the proposed mandatory allowances.

(v) Following the Local Government Elections in May 2017, the Secretary

notified Members that she had received an email from the Electoral Services Team Leader advising us that a charge of £225 will be invoiced to us in April 2018.

Action: Secretary to confirm with Alison O'Hara how this figure was reached.

(vi) She reminded Members that the General Data Protection Regulation was coming into effect on 25 May 2018 which would require each Community Council to appoint a DPO. This was also discussed at the Community / Town Councils Forum where it was suggested that Swansea Council act as DPO for each Community Council. We have been asked to indicate whether we would be interested in the Authority's DPO to take on this role for all Community Councils. This would likely to incur a cost to ourselves.

Resolved: Following a discussion Members agreed that this would be beneficial for us to adopt.

Action: Secretary to inform Huw Evans, Head of Democratic Services

(vii) She had received an email from Ceri Davies, Specialist Parks & Technical Manager asking whether the Community Council wanted to continue with the wildflower planting scheme in 2018.

Resolved: Members agreed to support the scheme once again but to put a request in that the seeds planted to be more vibrant than last years.

2291. Any other urgent items of business at the discretion of the chair

(i) Mr D Gwynn asked what happens to the food waste and what happens to the waste that is separated?

Action: Councillor A Stevens to find out and report back.

(ii) Mr D Gwynn informed Members that there was a piece of road off Pentre Road at Waungron (in front of 112/114 Pentre Road) that is becoming difficult to drive over and is becoming a danger. The Council have in the past filled up a few holes with tar-mac but this has now deteriorated.

Action: Secretary to write a complaint letter to the Highways Department asking them to fix the problem.

(iii) Mr D Gwynn expressed concern about the land between Pentre Road and the main Road in Grovesend that is owned by the Welsh Government and that there a quite a few overgrown trees. He has been approached by residents in Waungron to express their concern that the trees will blow down or the branches will break.

Action: Secretary to write to the Estates Department, Welsh Government to express concerns.