

Minutes of the Grovesend & Waungron
Community Council Meeting held on
Tuesday, 5th May, 2015

Present: Mrs. C. Knox, Chair
Mr. W.B. Davies
Mr. M. Jones
Mr. L. Jones
Mr. W.D. Merriman
Mrs. S. Morgan
Mr. H. Bates
Mr. J. John
Mr. A. Hamilton
Councillor D. Cole
Councillor Mrs. J. Curtice
Mr. J.I. Burge (Secretary)
2 Members of the 3 Youths of the village

1953. Apologies for absence.

Apologies for absence were received from Mr. B. Williams and Mrs. T. Morgan.

1954. Disclosures of personal interest.

None.

1955. Minutes of the meeting held on 7th April, 2015.

Approved.

1956. Matters arising from the minutes.

Minute 1944: Presentation by youth petitioners regarding the cost of school transportation to Pontarddulais Comprehensive. The Secretary advised Members that he had been in touch with Cllr J. Raynor, Cabinet Member for Education, to seek her help and assistance to obtain a copy of the current safe route to school risk assessment and to ask for a review of the walking route to take place, however, Cllr. Raynor had been most unhelpful and obstructive and responded to say that she was too busy dealing with other more important matters. As a result of the uncooperativeness of Cllr Raynor he had no other option that to submit a formal freedom of information request to the Council to release the current risk assessment. The Secretary advised that Swansea had 20 working days to provide the requested information. Members expressed their disappointment at the lack of engagement by the Cabinet Member to what is an important safeguarding matter.

Minute 1946 (1941 (iv)): Fencing around the park. Mr. A. Hamilton provided the Secretary with a written quote from Ark Fencing for the installation of a 35m fence and gate at a cost of £2750+VAT. Mr. B. Davies

informed Members that he had recently met with Mr. Richard Davies of Swansea Council who advised him that external grants were available to voluntary organisations such as “a friends of” group to allow for the maintenance and improvement of public parks. Mr. Davies provided a template constitution for such a group for the Secretary to copy and circulate to all Members. It was suggested that Members read the document and a further discussion on setting up such a group take place at the next meeting.

1957. Local Members Report.

Councillor D. Cole reported on the following:

- (i) Latest statistics provided by the Police for crime in the area revealed that in February there were 3 reported incidents, 1 in March and a further 1 in April;
- (ii) He had received a complaint regarding the use of Round-up to kill weeds on public footpaths. Advice was currently being sought from Swansea Council Officers regarding its toxicity before responding accordingly;
- (iii) More fly-tipping has taken place at the far end of Station Road;
- (iv) He had visited the owners of Ty Siriol in Waungron regarding the height of their hedge fronting the main road. Reassurance had been given that the hedge would be cut back in the autumn. Cllr Cole informed Members that he had also spoken to the owners regarding previous complaints of the smell from the pig farm who had agreed to remove the waste on a weekly basis.

Councillor Mrs. J. Curtice reported on the following:

- (v) Following a large number of complaints, the Council’s policy regarding the issuing of disabled blue badges had been overturned and a revised scheme would be introduced shortly;
- (vi) She had approached the Cabinet Member with responsibility for highways regarding the request for zigzag lines to be placed outside Pengelli School. The Cabinet Member agreed to look into the issue and get back to Cllr. Curtice;
- (vii) There had been a problem with the receipt of a small number of polling cards for the forthcoming general election. Members were reminded that polling cards were not necessary to enable voting to take place. The advice to those that had not received a polling card was to attend their local polling station as normal, providing they had registered to vote;
- (viii) Swansea Council had completed the purchase of Oceana, the former nightclub, on the Kingsway. The building will be remodelled as part of the Kingsway redevelopment scheme.

1958. Ten-minute Public Questions.

- (i) Mr. L. Holloway was present as an observer to the Community Council proceedings. Mr. Holloway advised Members that the Highway Code

said that no parking should take place within 10m of a junction (in reference to Minute 1946 regarding parking at the junction of Coalbrook Rd/Plas Rd.) Mr. D. Merriman responded that the Police seemed to ignore this as no bookings had taken place.

- (ii) Mr. Holloway also suggested to Members that they should consider obtaining 3 quotes for any fencing work in the park given the cost involved. Mrs. C. Knox advised that the Community Council constitution provided that 3 quotes must be obtained.

1959. Planning Applications – Mrs. S. Morgan.

None received.

1960. Application for financial assistance from Pengelli Primary School.

Mrs. H. Talaat, Headteacher, was present to provide further information in regard the letter she submitted for Members consideration that was circulated in advance of the meeting. Mrs. Talaat advised that from September, 2015 Swansea Council had cut the funding to all schools for breakfast clubs to allow for just half an hour rather than a full hour. This left Pengelli with a shortfall of £1782 (reduced from £1920) in order to keep the same provision within the current financial year.

Mrs. Talaat informed Members that to continue with the full hour provision it was the intention of the school to register with the CSSIW as a child care provider. Mrs. Talaat explained that the club not only provided children with a breakfast in the morning, it also allowed parents to drop their children off at school early to enable them to go to work.

From canvassing the parents, 9 had said they would agree to pay £1 per day for 5 days a week to continue with the same provision. Currently attendance estimated between 30-50 children through the week.

Mrs. H. Talaat left the room whilst Members considered the application.

A discussion took place amongst Members whether to provide financial assistance to support the current provision. Members were mindful that whilst the positive aspect of the breakfast club provided all children with a morning meal, whereby some might not get this at home, Members had mixed views as whether public funds should be used to support the additional half-hour child care as opposed to individual parents paying this cost who choose to use this service. It was accepted by all that the current additional hour provision was a major attraction to some parents and contributed to increased pupil numbers of the school.

Resolved: Members agreed that to allow the Headteacher time to draw-up a

business plan and seek registration from the CSSIW a financial contribution of £500 be offered towards the running costs of the club which will keep it operational for the time-being.

Mrs. Talaat re-joined the meeting was informed of the decision. Mrs. Talaat explained that she was most grateful for the consideration, however, felt that in order for the club to continue to fully operate from September certainty of the full amount was needed to be found. Mrs. C. Knox suggested that Mrs. Talaat consider the offer over the next few days and advise of her decision.

1961. Secretary's Report.

The Secretary reported on the following:

- (i) A renewal quote for the Community Council's public liability insurance for 2015/16 had been received at a cost of £243.

Resolved: To renew the insurance with the current provider Zurich for a further year.

- (ii) Planning Aid Wales were holding a training workshop for Community and Town Councils on 18th May at the Civic Centre, Swansea. He had circulated details to all Members previously and had received two nominations to attend from: Mrs. C. Knox and Mrs. S. Morgan. Members agreed both to attend the event.

1952. Any other urgent business at the discretion of the Chair.

None.

Issues awaiting resolution

Issue	Key dates	Current Position	Action required by
Request for Pedestrian Crossing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Originally requested several years ago. • Followed-up: August, 2013 • Followed-up: October, 2013 • Site meeting in December, 2013 with Ward Members and Jeff Green • January, 2014 local Cllrs meeting with Jeff Green • May, 2014 funding rejected for 2014/15. • June, 2014 funding possible for 2015/16. 	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).
Installation of Zigzag lines outside Pengelli Primary School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr J. Curtice to raise with Traffic Section: February, 2015 • Agreed to follow-up: April, 2015 	Cllr. J. Curtice making enquiries as to possibility of having the lines.	Cllr. J. Curtice
Alternations to Box Road/Park entrance junction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concern expressed of vehicles exiting Box Road the wrong way: September, 2014 • Police advise they have conducted a monitoring exercise: October, 2014 • Meeting between Comm Council, Traffic Section and Police to discuss concerns: November, 2014 • Drawings received from Traffic Section with proposal to reconfigure the boulders and access area to the park: January, 2015 • Cllrs. D. Cole & J. Curtice agreed to use some of their environmental monies: February, 2015 	Awaiting action by Swansea Council.	Swansea Council