

**Minutes of the Grovesend & Waungron
Community Council Meeting held on
Monday 12 February 2024**

Present:

Councillors
 Mr P Card (Chairperson)
 Mr L Holloway (Vice Chairperson)
 Mr M Jones
 Mrs T Hardwick
 Mr A Hamilton
 Mr I Llewelyn
 Mrs H Talaat
 Mr W Erasmus
 Mrs J Gray

Clerk
 Mrs Y Hamilton

County Councillors
 Mr A Stevens
 Mrs J Curtice

3088. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Councillors Mr J James and Mrs S Morgan and County Councillor Mrs N Matthews

3089. Disclosure of personal interest

None

3090. Welcome new Community Councillor

Mr P Card welcomed Mrs J Gray to the meeting and thanked her for wanting to join the Community Council having being duly elected without contest. Mrs J Gray gave a brief introduction of herself and the reasons why she wanted to become a Community Councillor. Members introduced themselves and welcomed her to the meeting. Mrs J Gray signed the declaration of acceptance of office.

3091. Minutes of the meeting held on 8 January 2024

The minutes were approved as a true and accurate record. This was proposed by Mr A Hamilton and seconded by Mrs T Hardwick.

Mr W Erasmus objected to the way the Councillors were addressed in the minutes and felt that all Members should be addressed as Councillors and that the County Councillors should be addressed as County Councillors throughout the minutes. **Decision:** A discussion took place and it was agreed that the Clerk would list who the Councillors and County Councillors are at the start of the minutes. The majority of the Members were happy to be addressed as Mr / Mrs as it has always been done this way and did not wish for this to be changed.

3092. Matters arising from the minutes

Previous Minute Ref	Matters arising	Current Position
2988 (ii), 3005, 3015, 3027, 3039, 3065, 3078	Action: Clerk to contact Swansea Council to see if we need permission to install a bench. Update: Councillor A Stevens informed Members that he had spoken to highways and confirmed that it would be okay to install the bench at the location, but the costs were quite high and would be over the budget we set aside. Mr W Erasmus asked if we had to use an approved contractor to install the bench. An explanation was	Update: The Clerk informed Members that the bench was due to be delivered this week and advised that Mr A Stevens had managed to negotiate the installation costs down to £450. Decision: Members agreed to the cost for installation.

	given as to why an approved contractor is required. Decision: It was agreed by all Members that we would order the bench so that it comes out of this financial year and put it in storage until a decision has been made regarding the installation and the costs.	
3046 (i), 3065, 3078	Update: Mr A Stevens informed Members that Highways will be replacing this bench and the one on Pentre Road with a standard bench.	Update: The Clerk informed Members that the bench on Pentre Road has been replaced but the one on Coalbrook Road hasn't. Action: Clerk to chase this up.
3071, 3078	Mr M Jones advised Members that the Santa Parade and Xmas Tree Light Switch took place on 2 December and was well attended. He thanked Members of the Community Council for their support at the event.	Update: The expenditure report was shared with Members.
3072, 3078	Mr L Holloway reported that following our last meeting he was nearly run over by an electric vehicle speeding out of the new housing estate. He explained that there was also a council house on the corner of New Road/Plas Road that had an overgrowing tree which was covering the street lighting. Action: Mr A Stevens would take a look at the tree and report.	Update: The housing department have been notified to cut back the said tree.

3093. Newsletter

Prior to the meeting the Clerk sent out a draft newsletter and community survey for discussion and approval with any necessary changes to be made. She provided Members with the costs for designing and printing: -

A4 Newsletters 8pp 560 off, printed colour throughout onto 150gsm silk art or similar folded 2-wire stitched and boxed suitably £362.00 zero VAT

A4 6pp Community Surveys - 560 off, printed black only onto 100gsm white bond, sections gathered and stab-stapled top left hand corner - £128.00 + VAT

She informed Members that there were currently a number of adverts included in the Newsletter who had agreed to make a donation of £50.00 per advert which would generate an income towards the costs of printing.

Mr W Erasmus asked whether we could include a section from Llys Y Tywysog Nursing Home as he had recently been to visit them and there were various activities that they were going to be involved in over the coming months. **Action:** Clerk to contact Paula from the nursing home to see if they wanted to be included in the newsletter. **Decision:** All Members approved the newsletter and the community survey with the minor amendments and for it to be sent for designing and printing at the agreed costs provided.

3094. Local Members Report

Mr Andrew Stevens and Mrs J Curtice reported on the following: -

- (i) Swansea Council was currently working through the budget. Mr W Erasmus asked what the precept was going to be but they were unable to advise due to it not yet being confirmed.
- (ii) The works on the pathway around the park was currently underway and they were additional resurfacing work being included that was not on the original plans, in-particular at the start of Box Road to the entrance into the park, and hopefully the carpark too. They were also looking at exploring the possibility of painting the fence.
- (iii) He noted that the bus service was being subsidised by Swansea Council and therefore would receive special funding which should result in a better more reliable service as it was deemed an essential route. This would be discussed in Cabinet on 15 February.
- (iv) A new bin will be placed by the cycle track in Grovesend and they are currently in talks with Pontarddulais Community Council about having one installed at the start of the cycle track by Pontarddulais.

3095. Ten-minute Public Questions

- (i) On behalf of the PTA, Pengelli Primary School Mrs H Talaat mentioned that they are organising an Easter extravaganza and has asked if we could donate Easter Eggs for the

event. **Decision:** Mr P Card proposed that we would donate £150 towards the cost of the Easter Eggs. This was seconded by Mr I Llewelyn.

- (ii) The Clerk read out a letter she had received from the Sport Club regarding organising an Easter disco for the children of the Community and would we be willing to sponsor the event. A discussion to place as to what costs would be involved and whether we wanted to sponsor the event. **Decision:** It was agreed by all that we would like to sponsor the event and to cover the cost of Easter Eggs; a DJ and a character visit. This was proposed by Mr P Card and seconded by Mr I Llewelyn.
- (iii) On behalf of the Bryn Lliw, Mr W Erasmus asked whether the Community Council could support keeping the premises open and mentioned that there were various grants available. He felt that this would be an asset to the community. Discussions took place and the members felt that this was not something that would be achievable. Mr W Erasmus proposed a letter of memorandum. This was not seconded.

3096. Planning Applications

No new planning applications received.

3097. Garden / Hanging Basket Competition

Prior to the meeting the Clerk shared a poster that had been designed by Mrs H Talaat. The following categories would be judged: - Overall Large Garden, Overall Small Garden, Vegetable Garden, Hanging Basket. Members were positive that this will be a success and come hopefully be the first of many. **Decision:** It was decided that the competition would be best judged some time in July when everything will be in full bloom and entries to be given in by 30 June. It was agreed that we would invite someone from the local garden centre to be involved with the judging.

3098. Clerk's Report

The Clerk reported on the following: -

- (i) Swansea Council has sent the Private Works contract with the new contract costs for 2024/25. The cost is £791.30. **Decision:** All Members agreed to the costs for the coming year. **Action:** Clerk to return to contract.
- (ii) She reminded Members of the joint event One Voice Wales and Planning Aid Wales will be holding on 7 March 2024 for anyone that wishes to attend.
- (iii) One Voice Wales will be holding its National Awards Conference on 27 March 2024 at Royal Welsh Showground for anyone that wishes to attend.
- (iv) She attended the Swansea Area Committee meeting on 15 January and provided an update following the meeting.
- (v) One Voice Wales has recently appointed David Collins as the Governance and Policy Practice Development Officer and will focus on supporting their internal governance structure and will be responsible for developing policy practice guidance which will be of great value to councils.
- (vi) The Welsh Local Government Association has provided funding for some free webinar training sessions on the subject of 'IT, websites and Social Media and is encouraging all the participate. The training will cover the following elements:
The benefits of interacting with communities via social media
The risks of using social media
Maintaining, developing and using a website
How to manage your information correctly.
- (vii) She reminded Members on the new Workplace Regulations that will come into force on 6 April 2024 and will mean that all businesses, public and third party sector workplaces will be require to separate key recyclable materials in the same way households already do.
- (viii) A funding request letter had been received from the Kids Cancer Charity. This was noted by Members.
- (ix) Following the changes to the Clerks hours and terms and conditions a new contract and job description was shared with Members. **Decision:** This was approved by all Members and

signed by the Chair and the Clerk.

- (x) She informed Members that she had received the invoice following the recharge by Electoral Services at a cost of £75.00. **Decision:** All Members agreed to pay the invoice.
- (xi) A financial update was provided to all Members.
- (xii) At one of our previous meetings, it was suggested that we invite the School Council from Pengelli Primary School to attend one of our meetings. **Decision:** It was agreed that we would invite them to attend our next meeting. **Action:** Clerk to send them an invitation.
- (xiii) Prior to the meeting The Clerk shared Part 1 – Theme C on the Finance and Governance Toolkit with Members and the following policies were shared: - Community Engagement Strategy; Welsh Language Measure 2011; Social Media Policy and Complaints. A discussion took place and many questions were raised in relation to the Welsh Language policy and whether or not we should be putting everything bilingually. **Decision:** It was decided that we would not adopt this policy at present and would seek further advice on guidance. Mr P Card proposed that the other policies be adopted and Mrs T Hardwick seconded this. **Action:** Clerk to get further guidance and advice regarding the Welsh Language Policy.

3099. Friends of the Park Update

Mr M Jones reported on the following: -

- (i) The works to install the new path around the park is well on its way to completion and that meetings had been taking place on how to progress with the 2nd stage. They have agreed to split this into various individual projects and will include: -picnic areas; orchid; tree planting, etc.
- (ii) He reminded Members that the Friends of the Park meet on the 2nd Tuesday of every month and all was welcome to attend.
- (iii) He informed the group that he had previously discussed Asset Funding with Members in an earlier meeting and with Friends of the Park in regards to looking at whether this could be something to explore in relation to the Bryn Lliw; however, it was noted that this not a viable proposition.

3100. Health and Safety

- (i) Mrs J Gray mentioned that one of the leaders of the Brownies Group had recently fell down a dip on the pavement on Plas Road. **Action:** Mr A Stevens agreed to take a look at the end of the meeting.

3101. Any other business at the discretion of the Chair

- (i) Mr L Holloway informed Members that D-Day 80 (commemoration/celebration of the 80th Anniversary of the D-Day landings on 6 June 1944) would be celebrated on 6 June. Throughout the UK this will be celebrated and the organisers are looking to get as many numbers of beacons lit at 9.15 p.m. on this date. This was noted by Members.
- (ii) Mrs H Talaat mentioned on behalf of some parents from school that they were concerned that the land by the side of the big blue house on Station Road was currently being utilised as a dumping site and that many lorries were going back and forth. Mr A Stevens advised that this situation is currently under review with the Council.
- (iv) Mr M Jones advised that he would follow up his contact with the probation service in relation to the programme of works that they could be involved with.

3102. Date of next meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting will take place on 11 March 2024 at the Miners Welfare Hall. Remote access is available for anyone wishing to attend remotely.