MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE GORSEINON TOWN COUNCIL. HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 10th March 2010 at THE INSTITUTE, GORSEINON, COMMENCING AT 7pm.

Present; V Bruno (Chmn), , M Curtice, M Preece, D Lewis, C Parsons, , G Evans, J Dunckley, H Payne, Cllr J Williams, C Freeman, J Curtice, S Cannon

251. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST. None received. Members completed the schedule of Members interest.

252. APOLOGIES received from Cllr K Jones.


The Chairman reopened discussion from the March 3rd meeting to finalise the debate on the item. Members further discussed the draft Charter that had been distributed previously. Council discussed the definition of Charter and the purpose of the document. Concern was expressed that the document was too general at present. It was resolved that;

• The principle and broad heads of agreement of a working document between both organisations was agreed, in order to formalise future working relationships. The general principles were agreed for signing.
• Officers were to work up the details of the document, to be contained in the Appendices to the Charter.
• The final detailed wording was to be brought before the Town Council for approval and signing of the completed final document.

Members voted on the above 9 votes for, 3 against (Cllr M Preece, J Dunckley, D Lewis), and the item was passed.

The Clerk then tabled a revised wording for minute 250c which had been debated at the March 3rd meeting following representations from Cllr M Curtice and the Chairman. Following discussion on the matters involved Members agreed to reword the minute as is shown in 253 (c,d) below;

Minute 250c CHARTER WITH TOWN COUNCIL AND GORSEINON DEVELOPMENT TRUST

a. The Clerk had distributed a copy of the draft heads of agreement for the Charter between the Council and the Gorseinon Development Trust. The details of the Charter were still to be agreed, but the Charter was intended to clarify future working arrangements between both organisations.

b. Members discussed the principles involved, and raised concerns that the detail of the accompanying appendices were not enclosed. The Clerk outlined that whilst there appeared to be general support for a working charter to be produced to formalise future relationships between both Organisations, Members wanted to see the detailed arrangements and costings before signing any final document.


A discussion took place on the Charter to be set up between Gorseinon Town Council and the Canolfan, Gorseinon. Cllr Gill Evans suggested that as the Clerk was costing us £18 hour nett it would be a cheaper option to use the staff at the Canolfan at a rate of only £10 hour to alleviate some of the administrative workload of the Clerk. Cllr Curtice then asked why was he taking photographs at Mayoral visits at a cost of £18 per hour to the Council. He also asked if the Clerk was spending 4 hours per month at our Council meeting, where were the other hours going, and were meetings taking place that Members were unaware of. Cllr Curtice was asked to withdraw the question but declined.

The Chairman then proposed that Cllr M Curtice be ejected from the meeting, for being disruptive, continuing to raise non agenda items, and questioning the authority of the Chairman. The Chairman asked for a vote from the meeting, but as nobody responded to support the proposal, he closed the meeting before the completion of business at 8.15pm.
Following agreement over the revised wording, Members did agree the need to stick to items on the agenda in future and to the Clerks proposal that a training session for Members on Council procedure was required, and that One Voice Wales would be asked to convene a meeting in the future, at a cost of around £16.00 per member, with the training to be held in Gorseinon. The training session was to be arranged as soon as possible.

d. Additional wording tabled by the Chairman to be attached to Minute 250c (March 3 2010) following clarification on March 10th 2010;

1. Cllr Malcolm Curtice expressed a non agenda item re the brass band competition. He used the words “the brass band was not my idea, Kelvin Jones (CEO) in the Regeneration Trust asked me to propose it.”

( Response - At March 10 meeting Cllr M C indicated that Kelvin Jones had sent a letter to the Council asking for support to put a brass band competition on in Gorseinon. MC had agreed to cost the proposal following Council support. Meeting agreed it was Kelvin Jones initial idea to propose the competition).

2. Cllr Malcolm Curtice expressed a non agenda item re the Mayoral chain, and the legality of a meeting if the chain was not worn.

( Response - At March 10 meeting Cllr M C agreed to withdraw the statement initially made).

3. Cllr Malcolm Curtice expressed a non agenda item that the Clerk was being asked to attend secret meetings by the Chair.

( Response - At March 10 meeting Cllr M C agreed he had made the statement).

4. Cllr Malcolm Curtice expressed a non agenda item that the Clerk was being used as an £18 per hr photographer at the behest of the Chair.

( Response - At March 10 meeting Cllr M C agreed he had made the statement).

5. Cllr Malcolm Curtice when a fellow councillor (Howard Payne) raised a point of order stated “here we go, point of order off again”.

( Response - At March 10 meeting Cllr M C agreed he had made the statement).

6. Cllr Malcolm Curtice failed to respond to the chairs request for order.

254 CLERKS MATTERS.

a. Trinity street parking restrictions. Clerk confirmed he had written to the Highways Authority and was awaiting a reply for a meeting with the Highways Director to discuss a range of highway matters, of which the removal of lines in Trinity street would be one of the agenda items. There was not an overwhelming mandate from the Trinity street residents for one course of action, despite the receipt of the petition to remove the yellow lines. Members agreed therefore to await the Chairmans / Clerks meeting to be advised on a future course of action options. (Note Cllr M Curtice abstained from the vote).

(Note meeting subsequently arranged for Tue April 2 2010)

b. Clerk reported letter from Director Education confirming the trees at the rear of the Barn in Alexandre rd had been cleared to facilitate a car park for the adjoining youth club facilities, and to deal with wet ground conditions. Members confirmed access to the youth club was needed via the car park which was often shut at night. Clerk was asked to write to Director of Education to ask for a detailed plan of what is being proposed, whether there was an opportunity to discuss / revise proposals and the timing of the proposed works.

c. Clerk reported receipt of a request to run an event on behalf of the Mayors charity for the MS centre in Morriston on May Bank holiday 2010, at the Canolfan. Whilst the event was supported members indicated there had been no funding for local organisations in 2009/10, and regrettably no financial support was available at present.

d. The Clerk reported the renewal of membership to SCVS at a cost of £5.00 Members confirmed the Council would remain a member for the coming year.
e. Clerk advised that the next Community Council forum was on Tuesday March 16th 2010 at 5pm in County Hall.

f. Clerk advised members of the confirmation of the Diversion of footpaths 15, 16 and 103 (Pontlliw, Grovesend, Gorseinon) as had been advised by Swansea Council legal dept. Following discussion over the route, No objections were raised to the proposed diversion, subject to the Clerk writing to receive confirmation that the revised route along the river would have an unobstructed link back to the old railway line/cycle path adjoining the new route, and there would be no missing section for pedestrians.

g. Clerk distributed written update statement by Welsh Assembly Government on Town and Community Councils, highlighting the important role Community / Town Councils performed within local communities and the new legislation being introduced to facilitate this role.

h. Clerk reported annual membership of One Voice Wales at a cost of £940.00 (2009 £910.00) based upon 3839 chargeable dwellings from valuation list not electoral register. (+3.3%). Members agreed to renew the membership 7 votes for and 3 against (Cllrs D Lewis, M Curtice J Dunckley), Cllr M Preece abstained.

i. Clerk distributed the Xmas panel competition features from Blacheres, which Cllr J Curtice had given to Penyrheol school. Cllr J Williams was to forward the remaining pack to Gorseinon Infants. Both schools would be asked to run competitions for Xmas 2010.

Cllr C Freeman took the opportunity to congratulate Cllr John Williams on the recently announced Inspection results for Gorseinon school which were very good. The Clerk was asked to write to the headmistress to congratulate the school Governors and staff for the results.

j. Clerk had been asked to raise a recent article in the Evening post from the Plaid Cymru representatives on the Town Council, which was regarding the activities of the ruling party on Swansea Council. Members discussed the article and accepted there was nothing wrong with individuals writing articles, as long as they specified they were expressing their personal views and not that of the Town Council. It was understood and accepted that any breach of conduct by any Councillor should not be brought to the Council, but dealt with via the Standards Committee or Ombudsman route.

255. STANDING ORDERS.

Clerk had distributed the working draft for the review of the Town Councils Standing Orders, which had originally drafted in the mid eighties. The review was being done to bring the format in line with the model wording prepared by One Voice Wales. He took Councillors through the Model Standing Orders wording and highlighted the section drafted for the Town Council at the end. Members were asked to scrutinise the document prior to the next meeting, with the intention of tabling the revised Standing orders at the May 5th Annual meeting.

256. VARIOUS CORRESPONDENCE

a. Requests for funding was received from Mrs Bethan Evans of 35 Clos Tygwyn Gowerton who was seeking funding to attend a placement in Borneo this Summer to work with Orangutangs. Members discussed the requests and asked the Clerk to write to indicate the lack of funding for such requests in 2009/10.

b. 90th birthday acknowledgements 18 Jan Mr George Edward Beatrup (2 Grenfell Avenue, Penyrheol) contact 533486 Mrs Anne Ingamalls

c. Clerk confirmed the appointment of DCK Beavers as accountants to produce the 2009/10 accounts for the Audit commission.

d. Clerk reported training courses at Cwmbran run by One Voice Wales on 15 March 2010, and in Rhondda in June.

e. Clerk confirmed receipt of a letter from Mr Marlow of Eynon street regarding the loss of trees during the clearance of the Asda site off Cecil road. Members advised that there would be new trees planted as part of the landscaping of the site during its development.
REPORTS FROM COUNTY COUNCIL MEMBER.

a. Cllr Alan Jopling had now resigned and was therefore not present at meeting. Cllr Jan Curtice indicated she hoped to be able to obtain a synopsis of City and County activities from the County members at future meetings if required, which Members agreed to.

REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES.

a. Chairman asked to receive reports from the Council’s Representatives on Outside Bodies

- **Feb 10th Penyrheol Primary International Comenius evening.** Cllr Janet Curtice outlined the role the school had played in hosting an international gathering of school representatives from 6 Countries around Europe on February 10th at the school. Three of the teachers had been to a school in Norway as part of the cultural exchange. The Town Mayor had been in attendance and had exchanged plaques with the Norwegian hosts.

- **Feb 2010 PACT meeting** had been cancelled due to no Police staff being available. The Chairman raised concern regarding the lack of police attendance at Council meetings also. He had discussed this with Police staff who were being asked to attend outside designated hours. It was agreed that alternative methods of liaising with the Town Council during office hours should be explored further.

- **March 3rd 10am Lantern parade meeting Canolfan.** The working group was now meeting on the first Wednesday of each month in the Canolfan centre. The new route had been agreed for the 2010 Parade on Nov 30th with the event ending at the Canolfan. Funding arrangements were discussed, Firework locations, and new Xmas lights on the Millers avenue were being investigated.

  Cllr Janet Curtice highlighted a **Masked ball fund raising event** for the Lantern parade on June 12th 2010 at Loughor rugby Club.

- **Tuesday March 16 2010 Community Council forum Civic centre Swansea @ 5pm.** 4 Members and Clerk would attend the meeting.

- **Monday March 8 Homecoming parade for Welsh Guards. Castle Square to Guildhall steps @ 1pm.** Clerk had previously advised Members of the event that the Town Mayor was invited to.

- **One Voice Wales area committee Feb11 2010.** Cllr Bruno advised that he had been nominated and appointed to sit on the Board of SCVS Voluntary services Trustees.

ACCOUNTS. Cllr V Bruno as Chairman of the Accounts sub Committee of March 3rd 2010 confirmed that the accounts had been scrutinised and approved for payment.

The Clerk updated Members on the progress with the development of the **new web site** for the Town Council. He outlined the procedure for accessing the Public forum area of the site. He confirmed that new banners to advertise the site were needed to raise the profile of the new web site.

THE MEETING ENDED AT 9.30pm