

**MINUTES ARE IN DRAFT FORM UNTIL APPROVED AT NEXT MEETING 7<sup>th</sup> February 2024**

**MINUTES of the MEETING of GORSEINON TOWN COUNCIL, held on WEDNESDAY**

**3rd January 2024 at Ty Newydd Community Centre, 17 West St. GORSEINON, at 6pm**

**Present,** Cllrs (Chmn) C Rabiaotti, P Griffiths, A Thomas, S Rawle, A Crowley, J Crowley, Town Clerk, Pam Morgan, Ken Jones, A Stevens, I Walters, PCSO Sue Herbert, PCSO Clare Turner PCSO Mike Griffiths, P Griffiths.

**85. APOLOGIES** received from Cllrs M Phillips, J Clayfield,, N Mathews, M Curtice,,Katie Jones

**86 MAYORS ANNOUNCEMENTS.** Clerk advised the Mayor had attended the following events ;

- a. Roma chip shop 50 years anniversary party, the St Johns Carol service and raffle, 100<sup>th</sup> birthday, **Penyrheol** and the St Catherines Carol Service.
- b. The Mayor also attended various groups throughout December include the Forget me not group based in the New Lodge, the Moving forward Bereavement group, and the Movement for health group.
- c. The Mayor also participated in the delivery of Christmas Hampers
- d. The Mayor made the decision to cancel the annual Christmas decoration contest due to concerns over allocation of the prize money among other concerns. Further decoration contests are not cancelled however it was made clear by the Mayor that the Council should outline a more organised event for next Christmas.

**87. POLICE MEETING**

The Gorseinon Police introduced their new PCSO Mike Griffiths between 1/12/23- 31/12/23 Gorseinon Police reported 69 occurrences in the Gorseinon area. This is down from 82 in the same period last year. Of the 69 occurrences 14 were violent crimes. There were 0 dwelling burglaries. Around ASDA there were 4 cases of Antisocial Behaviour, the perpetrators responsible have been identified by Gorseinon Police.

The main perpetrators of the sporadic Antisocial Behaviour incidents have been identified and restrictions on their movements have been placed on them by the Justice system. Police report that this has already improved their statistics. In relation to the reports of Antisocial Behaviour in and around Argyll Gardens the police have met with local councillors and there will be further updates at the next meeting.

In Penyrheol, Gorseinon Police reported 49 occurrences, 3 of these occurrences were Antisocial Behaviour reports and 17 were violent crimes. This is down from 39 violent crimes in the same period last year. There has been proactive police action around the burglary on Gowerview road. Evidence has been found that has led to an arrest and a prosecution is to follow dependant on test results.

The Council discussed the possibility of removing the crab apple tree near the bus station due to the incidents of apples being thrown around the bus station. Furthermore, the police advised that lighting of Argyll may reduce Antisocial Behaviour in the area.

#### **88. COUNCIL PROTOCOL FOR MAYOR/DEPUTY**

Clerk had previously distributed draft document outlining the protocol for the Town Council Mayor and Deputy. Members briefly discussed the new document and referred discussion to next meeting for comments to be incorporated.

#### **89. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- a. The Clerk presented the December 6th 2023 minutes (which had been distributed previously) for approval, and which were approved with no amendments. (Prop A Thomas, sec A Crowley).
- b. The Clerk presented the December 6<sup>th</sup> Finance meeting 2023 minutes (which had been distributed previously) for approval, and which were approved with no amendments. (Prop A Thomas, sec A Crowley).

**90. PUBLIC SESSION.** No Members of the public were present.

#### **91. MEMBER REPORTS on Local Matters from Town and County Councillors ;**

a. **Cllr Andrew Stevens** has secured £40k in funding from Swansea council to extend the cycle track from the Llwhchr Workman's club to the cycle track in Kingsbridge. A portion these funds will also go towards resurfacing the council owned area near the workman's club. Cllr A Stevens appealed to the council to also contribute money towards this project. Gorseinon council was in consensus that this project is a worthwhile endeavour and agreed to match the £40k given by Swansea Council. The Clerk enquired about the specifics of the project; however, Cllr Stevens was waiting for an exact figure for the projects budget before committing to a plan. Cllr A Stevens asked the Gorseinon Council for input on the project to which the council agreed that Gorseinons industrial heritage should be at the forefront of the project, and that the project should highlight this heritage. The Clerk made Cllr A Stevens aware of a past plan that was not completed for the same area that could be called upon if needed. Additionally, Cllr A Stevens made the Clerk aware of the eligibility of Gorseinon Community Centre for the rural development initiative grant which helps fund solar panelling and batteries for buildings in rural wards.

b. **Cllr S Rawle** attended a wellbeing for men group with Cllr A Crowley. The group expressed a high amount of interest in Cllr Rawles archival work for the council, and asked if she would be willing to give a talk to the group. The talk is set to take place next month.

c. **Cllr A Thomas** was informed that Parc-y-werin was not properly built to facilitate the excess of water that fills the bottom of the park. Swansea council has begin looking into a way for the parc to be updated to drain the water correctly.

d. **Cllr Andrew Crowley** attended the moving forward group meetings. He also outlined his attendance to the St Andrews carol meet alongside Cllr Sue Rawle. Furthermore, Cllr A Crowley has met with a local pharmacy to discuss the promotion of various local health resources available to community members. Additionally, Cllr Crowley has discussed with I Walters ideas for improving the mayors diary, newsletter and ways for making the councils presence known.

e. **Cllr Rabaiotti** gave his thanks to Swansea Council for their fast collection of rubbish that had accumulated at St Cathrines. He highlighted that within 3 hours of the complaint being submitted the council arrived and collected the bins on Christmas eve. Cllr Rabaiotti reported that the

Movement for Health group has moved to the Gorseinon Catholic Church and due to the success of the group Cllr Rabaiotti asked the council if they would consider making a donation to help cover hiring costs.

f. **Cllr Jan Curtice** informed the council of the success of the Christmas food initiative that she and Cllr A Stevens assisted with. The event served more than 500 meals. Cllr Jan Curtice also inquired about the Christmas High street lights and asked if a quote could be obtained for further hire of the lights. Cllr Curtice also complained that Albus' café windows are in disrepair and pose a safety hazard to those walking past.

g. **Cllr Ken Jones** informed the council of an upcoming 100<sup>th</sup> birthday for Mrs Margaret Davies and reminded the Council that new plaques need to be sourced for further 100<sup>th</sup> birthdays.

## **92. CLERKS REPORTS**

a. Members had agreed in Feb.2023 meeting that the grant allocation would remain in place and be distributed to worthy causes throughout the year as the Covid pandemic eased. The following grants had been approved;

(**West Glamorgan visually impaired group**) appealed to the council for assistance with their rental costs of £20 monthly at the Institute. The council agreed upon a onetime grant of £200.

**The Moving forward group** appealed to the Council for assistance with their rental costs of the Catholic Church. The council agreed upon a onetime grant of £200.

b. The Clerk informed the council on the ending of the contract for the High Street Christmas lights. The Clerk presented the options to the council as follows: renew the contract with the same lights, ask for a catalogue of new light fixtures or to extend the contract. Cllr Jan Curtice asked the clerk to inquire into a quote for a 2-year extension of the contract, a decision will therefore be made at a later date.

c. I Walters raised the issue of a formalised mayors diary. The diary would serve as an account of all events that councillors participated in throughout the year. This account would then serve as the foundation for the newsletter and other promotional material. The specifics of the diary are to be formalised by the February council meeting.

d.Cllr C Rabaiotti wanted the youth council programme to be formalised and expanded. I Walters will contact teachers at Gorseinon Collage to enquire about interest in such a project.

e. Future training programmes from One Voice Wales was outlined for those Members that wished to participate.

## **93. REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES.**

Meeting received reports from the Council's Representatives on Outside Bodies/upcoming meetings . Clerk summarised outcome of following meetings already held.

**94.CORRESPONDENCE;** None reported

## 95.ACCOUNTS

- a. Committee received the Income / Receipts summary statement from the Clerk and approved the payment of the following outstanding cheques for the ACCOUNTS dated 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2024 (proposed A Thomas seconded P Morgan). After the meeting the cheques were signed by 2 authorised signatures having examined all relevant receipts. Clerk advised members on current Council spend against targets, and advice from external auditors to review charges annually.
- b. Members noted that Clerk had approved DCK Beavers for formalising for financial year 2023/4.
- c. 2023/4 Business rates Ty Newydd. Grant had still increased from 50% to 75% from WAG.

## 96.PLANNING MATTERS. (MEETING January 3 2024)

Committee was asked to consider and make recommendations on the following planning applications received from Swansea County Council as the Local Planning Authority; Members were advised that all applications could be viewed on [Swansea.gov.uk/planning](https://swansea.gov.uk/planning) prior to meeting.

### a. NO OBJECTIONS;

2023/2554 102 Lime st Gorseinon, Single storey rear extn, 1<sup>st</sup> floor side extn, new access/parking

2023/2126 2 Pontardulais rd,/85 High st Gorseinon Change of use offices to flats  
Approved 6 Dec

2023/2561/adv Fascia and side wall signs 105-6 High Street Gorseinon

2023/2590/Ful Conversion 1<sup>st</sup> floor flat to 2 self contained flats ,Station hotel 17 High st.  
Gorseinon

2023/2627 44 dwellings Pencefnarda rd Penyrheol. Variation cond 2 ( add photovoltaic panels and heat pumps)

2023/2629 72 High St Gorseinon, Replacement shopfront

### b. Notification of **APPROVALS** by Local Planning Authority. For information

2023/2105 68 Six Mills Ave Conversion garage to residential use approved 11 dec.

### c. Notification of **REFUSALS** by Local Planning Authority. For information

### d. Notification of **Appeals** by Local Planning Authority;

2023/ 1860 1 Saron Close, Penyrheol Side rear extension

**APPENDIX A GORSEINON TOWN COUNCIL EXPENDITURE Dec 31 2023**

Name	Net	VAT	Total (£)
HMRC Tax NI			DD 737.84
Stationery/Hall supplies/xmas chocs			DD 90.20
Monthly HSBC Hall mortgage			DD 688.12
Monthly HSBC overpayment			DD 117.79
Hall business rates suite 1			DD 41.00
Hall business rates suite 2			DD 26.00
E.on gas hall			DD 112.45
BGas electric Hall			DD 60.96
Bank Charges Dec			DD 11.00
Good housekeeping cleaning Nov/Dec			
Clerk travelling Dec			DD 114.4
CCS grasscutting BMX track			DD 769.00
BT MPs office	459	92.81	DD 551.81
Gower Lions grants 100x2			Chq 200.00
Food supplies Cllr J Curtice			DD 300.00
Radio tircoed			
Xmas best lit house/shop 2x100			Chq 200.00

<b>CREDIT</b>			
CCS Precept 3			45248.00
Tinitus hire Dec			100.00
IPSA OFFICE FEE			1500.00
Red Kite solicitors			1000.00
Refund Penyrheol xmas tree install 2022			1700.00
Rebecca Evans wreath			30.00

<b>Gorseinon town council bank reconciliation Dec 31 2023</b>			
Current account			11587.00
Treasurers account			165691.00
<b>Current balance</b>			<b>177278.00</b>
Mortgage balance			- 65602.00

Meeting closed at 7.30pm.....Chairman.....