

MINUTES ARE IN DRAFT FORM UNTIL APPROVED AT NEXT MEETING 8 May 2024

**MINUTES of the MEETING of GORSEINON TOWN COUNCIL, held on WEDNESDAY
3 April 2024 at Ty Newydd Community Centre, 17 West St. GORSEINON, at 6pm**

Present, Cllrs (Chmn) C Rabiotti , S Rawle, A Thomas, A Crowley, Town Clerk, Pam Morgan, P Griffiths, M Curtice, I Walters. Katie Jones. J Crowley. J Clayfield

140. APOLOGIES received from Cllrs M Phillips, A Stevens, J Curtice, N Matthews, K Jones

141. MAYORS ANNOUNCEMENTS. Clerk advised the Mayor had attended the following Events in February/March ;

- a. Clerk had secured a quote for a Fire escape to be constructed for the top floor office of the building. He and Cllr A Crowley had met Officers of Swansea Council on 7th Sept to discuss the positioning of the spiral staircase on the Library land adjacent. Library staff expressed concern about vandals climbing the stairs onto the roof of library and an alternative design was requested. Fire escape approved in principle by Swansea Council and awaiting further site visit to determine design.
- b. Request had been received to acquire the recently published portrait of the Monarch to put up in public buildings. Orders had been placed.
- c. Llchwyr TC Cawl A Chan on Fri March 15th 6.30 for 7 at Welfare Hall Loughor. Deputy had represented the Council in Mayors absence.
- d. David Brown Llchwyr Art group cheque presentation took place in front of Council Members.
- e. Mayor/deputy had attended the official opening of the Estylle Hair Salon in Gorseinon on 30 March 2024.
- f. Mayor thanks Andrew Crowley and Sue Rowle for attending Loughor Councils' Cawl a Chan event in his place.

142. POLICE MEETING

- a. 01/03/24 – 31/3/24 there were 115 occurrences reported in Gorseinon. 18 of these occurrences were occurrences of antisocial behaviour around ASDA, High Street, Park road and Tai Kitchen premises. Police were liaising with owner to install new shopfront to help address issues from youths and front door problems. Furthermore 21 of the occurrences were crimes of violence. There were 0 dwelling burglaries. This shows a reduction in the total amount of occurrences from the same period last year

Penyrheol had 56 reported occurrences, and 10 of these occurrences were crimes of violence, There were 0 cases of antisocial behaviour. The number of total occurrences has seen a slight decrease from occurrences last year during the same period.

Police were asked to investigate the damage and unauthorised parking of vans by the Fairground personnel on the grassed areas at bottom of Lime street. The vehicles had now been successfully removed.

143. COUNCIL PROTOCOL FOR MAYOR/DEPUTY

a. Clerk had previously distributed draft document outlining the protocol for the Town Council Mayor and Deputy. Members briefly discussed the new documents and approved their adoption as Council policy for the future.

b. Members discussed the nominations for positions of Mayor and Deputy Mayor for 2024/5 to be forwarded to the Annual meeting on May 8th for consideration and approval.

Cllr Sue Rawle was nominated as Mayor for 2024/5. The following Cllrs were eligible under the 5 year rule, for consideration for Deputy for 2024/5

Cllr Joe Clayfield	He did not wish to be considered this year
Cllr Andrew Crowley	He had submitted a letter expressing his interest in the position.
Cllr Andrew Thomas.	He indicated verbally his interest in the position of Deputy for 2024/5.

Members discussed the Standing Order rules, which the Clerk was asked to clarify and which are reproduced below from the 2021 May 26th AGM Min 5.

STANDING ORDERS. The Clerk last year distributed copies of the updated Standing Orders under which the Council operates. Members agreed to approve the Standing Orders for the Municipal year 2021/22 with one amendment, and also approved the Code of Conduct for Members of the Council. It was agreed that in order to be considered for the position of Mayor/Deputy in future, Councillors should have a minimum of 5 years service rather than the 4 currently in place. If there are then more than one candidate for consideration, **(and they have the same years of seniority)**, selection would be made alphabetically, going down the eligible candidate list. This revised rule would now tie in with the current 5 year term of newly

elected councillors , and would be applicable for the 2021/22 year and subsequent elections.

This amendment was approved and adopted at the following meeting.

145. COUNCIL POLICY FOR SAFEGUARDING POLICIES

a. Clerk had previously distributed draft document outlining the protocol for SAFEGUARDING POLICIES for the Town Council . Members briefly discussed the new document and approved its adoption as Council policy for the future.

146. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. The Clerk presented the March 6th 2024 minutes (which had been distributed previously) for approval, which were approved with no amendments.(Prop A Thomas,sec Cllr A Crowley).

147. PUBLIC SESSION. No Members of the public were present.

148. MEMBER REPORTS on Local Matters from Town and County Cllrs ;

a. **Cllr S Rawle** attended the recent One Voice Wales conference. She reported that the common thread among all Welsh councils is the cost-of-living crisis and the move towards electronic media. Furthermore, she attended the heritage sub meeting of the conference, where she received much inspiration for how Gorseinon council can highlight our history and heritage.

b. Cllr Andrew Crowley attended and assisted ALN group. Cllr Crowley also visited the new community garden in neighbouring Council. He expressed how much he liked the project and put forward the idea of Gorseinon's own community garden which he believes will improve; skills for people, intergenerational interaction and will create a nice community area. Additionally, he has recently spoken to a local woman who is looking to start a group for young disabled children and wishes to assist her in the creation of this group.

c. On 13 Feb at Ty Newydd a Business briefing for High street occupiers had taken place organised by Cllr Nicola Matthews. The event had gone down very well.

d. Cllr M Curtice asked the council on the viability of water fountains being installed at various locations around Gorseinon. While council agreed that it was worth the investment permission from Swansea council would be needed due to location of the fountains.

e. Cllr Pam Morgan formally thanked Jan Curtice for her efforts with the pop up café and gave her thanks to Ken Jones and Nicola Mathews for their generous donation towards the operating cost of the café.

149. 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; **Food with Friends account** had now been transferred by Cllr Jan Curtice. Members agreed to fund the future ongoing hire charges at New Lodge for the Pop up Café at £300 per quarter year. Cllr Nicola Mathews allocated her personal allowance of £208 towards the new budget as well, and Cllr Ken Jones had personally given £500 towards the account.

Radio TirCoed was given a grant of £200 by the council for their assistance with the Christmas Lantern Parade. Note that in line with our new guidelines over grants being given to outside bodies a vote was held to raise the donation to Radio TirCoed to £200, over the typical £100.

Royal British Legion requested £750 for member welfare and admin costs. The council agreed that in line with our new guidelines a donation of £200 would be given.

Explorer Scouts members have been selected for a trip abroad and requested financial support to send 2 members. Due to the volunteer nature of this group the council agreed to give £200.

West street Gymnasium members have requested financial support for a trip abroad they have been selected for. However due to West Street Gymnasiums nature as a private business the council cannot support them. The Clerk will advise the parents of the children going to reply as community members, and funding of £200 can be awarded to the Falcon Club representing those attending the event in late April..

- a. Grants applications received from community - financial year 2023/4
Eisteddfod 2024 Margam Park support to be decided.
Institute Llchwyr Art Group £200
One Heart drummers were seeking a new venue for their practicing in the Community, the council will advise that both the Catholic church and TheLlchwyr Workmas club have appropriate venues to rent.
Sightlife group £200. St Catherines Coffee morning group £200
Loughor Rovers for upgrade of football facility New Lodge. On hold following invite to attend future meeting to discuss in detail.

2 Explorer scouts

Radio Tircoed for support at Xmas Parades

Royal British Legion requested funding for future admin for the division.

b. Ty Newydd Fire escape meeting had taken place with Library staff. They were concerned about access to roof of building and asked for an amended design initially, which was being drawn up by fabricators. Following the latest meeting with Fabricators in March an amended design and quote had now been received, which was accepted for implementation asap.

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

d **Summer wildflower** planting scheme was agreed for 2024. sites were to be discussed with CCS.

e. Clerk updated Members on grant application for installation of **Solar panels** on roof of Ty Newydd centre. A grant of £25000 had been applied for.

f. New plaques/badges for presentations were being sought.

g. Builders of the BMX track Parc Melyn Mynach had offered to carry out a maintenance visit which was agreed.

h. Xmas parade date confirmed Thur Nov 28 2024, because the sleigh had to be booked early with CCS..

i. Clerk reported the Remuneration Panel 2024/5 recommendations – No change was highlighted for Community and Town Councils.

150. Assistant Clerks report. Asst/Clerk reported on the following matters;

a. Content of the newsletter was discussed. The agreement was made that in order to include everything the council wanted the newsletter would be expanded to a 4 page leaflet. Content including, council spending, council member photos, signposting of community groups and upcoming/past council projects.

b. A Ty Newydd committee will be created to allow for more nuanced discussion over the management and maintenance of the building due to time constraints of the main monthly meeting.

c. No contact has been received by Gorseinon College on the topic of youth council. Assistant Clerk will chase the issue.

151. 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.

Mon 4 March CCS forum Guildhall 5pm . Presentations received on Swansea Councils role re climate initiatives locally and briefing re Monitoring officers role.

One Voice Wales National awards conference wed 27 March 2024 Builth Wells . Clerk had booked places for Members to attend.

152.CORRESPONDENCE;

a. Clerk reported Notice from CCS regarding commercial waste disposal from April 2024 re the new legislation. Members discussed the initiative and costs and decided they would segregate waste within the building and dispose of it at the local Amenity site, rather than arrange a formal collection, as so little waste is generated within the building. New kitchen bins had now been acquired by the Clerk to meet new legislation, for users to utilise accordingly.

153. 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 3rd April 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 now submitted accounts to DCK Beavers for formalising for financial year 2024/5.

c. Clerk reported change to the Business support grant for 2024/5 with the grant falling from 75% to 45% for business premises. Clerk would apply for the reduced rate for Ty Newydd.

152.PLANNING MATTERS. (MEETING April 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;

a. To consider and make recommendations on the following planning applications received from Swansea City and County Council as the Local Planning Authority;

2024/0240 Internal fascia sign 17 Pontarddulais road Gorseinn
2024/0372 2 New Condensers on flat roof 117 High st. Gorseinon
2024/0405 Single storey rear extension 68 Park rd Gorseinon
2024/0418 New shopfront 2 Pontarddulais rd/ 89 High St Gorseinon
2024/0373 62 Alexandre rd Gorseinon Single story rear extension
2024/0458 New Vets Princess street, Car Park.

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

2022/2489/S73 Residential Pobl off Gower View rd Penyrheol. (extend time for reserved matters to allow additional uses of community centre, for A3 (café) and D1 Non residential community uses eg health centre, clinic, day nursery, creche, training etc Approved March 6 2024.
2024/0181 1 Frampton rd Penyrheol Retention of replacement shopfront Approved 14 March
2024/0240 17 Pontarddulais road Gorseinon Fascia sign. Appr 22 Mar 2024
2024/0452/Pre pre app single storey rear extension 135 Frampton rd Penyrheol.

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

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

2023/0428 dwelling Land adj 8 Clos Tyrffynon Gorseinon start date 6 March 2024

EXPENDITURE MARCH 31 2024. GORSEINON TOWN COUNCIL

	Net	VAT	Total (£)
HMRC Tax NI			DD 658.74
Stationery/Hall supplies/			DD 89.07
Good housekeeping cleaning jan feb 24			DD 270.00
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
Corona energy gas/electric Hall			DD 200.00
60 litre recycling bins for TY Newydd for new legislation	206.72	41.34	DD 248.06
Bank Charges			DD 10.00
Radio Tircoed			DD 200.00
Clerk travelling			DD 79.30

GORSEINON TOWN COUNCIL EXPENDITURE MARCH 31 2024

CREDIT		
IPSA		1500.00
VAT refund 2023/4		8872.35
Tinitus hire Feb 2024		100.00
Gorseinon town council bank reconciliation March 31 2024		
Current account		12095.77
Treasurers account		140411.80
Current balance at end year (plus future precepts in April Aug Dec 2024)		152507.57
Mortgage balance		64531.49

Meeting closed at 7.50pm.....Chairman.....