

GORSEINON TOWN COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT 2021/22

1. The Council
2. Councillors
3. Committees
4. Contact details
5. Income/precept
6. Running costs/budget
7. Annual Audit 2020/21
8. External audit report 2020/21
9. Key Council objectives
10. Contacting/liaison with community
11. Achievements to date - key successes

1. **THE COUNCIL.** Gorseinon Town Council was originally established in 1986 as Gorseinon Community Council . With the establishment of a Town Mayor in 1996 it became a Town Council. The area covers the communities of Gorseinon and Penyrheol with a population of around 11000 people. Located 6 miles NW of Swansea, and to the north of the Gower coast and beaches, it embraces both urban and rural settings, has a shopping centre and surrounding business and commercial developments. With local colleges, comprehensive and primary schools the area is both accessible to the City centre and local M4 motorway network and has a rapidly growing population.
2. **COUNCILLORS.** The Town Council comprises 15 unpaid local residents, that make up the Council, elected in May 2022 and serving for a 5 year term The area comprises 4 wards as follows and members represent the electorate within those wards.. The Council employs a Full time Town Clerk , the only employee.

Penyrheol	Cllrs Joe Clayfield, Jan Curtice, Andrew Stevens, Carlo Rabiotti, Gail John
Gorseinon Central	Cllrs Sue Rawle, Ken Jones. Joanne Crowley
Gorseinon East	Cllrs Malcolm Curtice, Pam Morgan, Pat Griffiths, Andrew Crowley
Gorseinon West	Cllrs Andrew Thomas, Nicola Matthews, Marsha Phillips

3.COMMITTEES. The main Council meets once a month on the 1st Wednesday of every month. Planning committee starts at 6:30 pm with the main Council commencing at 7pm, the meetings are chaired by the Town Mayor. Council committees are as follows; main Council, Planning sub committee, Finance Committee, Personnel sub committee, Hall management committee, Web site committee, Xmas parade committee, Youth Council, Arbitration committee and History and local archives committee.

4.CONTACT. people wishing to contact the Council can write to the Clerk ; Mr. John Millard 39 Gorseinon road, Penllergaer Swansea SA49AE or via email clerk@gorseinontowncouncil.gov.uk or by telephone 01792 895690. Individual Councillors can be contacted via their emails or via their telephone numbers. Members of the public are able to attend the monthly council meeting held at Ty Newydd community centre 17 West St Gorseinon SA44AA and during a 15 minute session put questions of local relevance to the meeting.

5.INCOME. The Town Councils main sources of income are from the precept levied on properties within the community , grant aid and rental generated by the hiring of rooms in the Ty Newydd community centre.

6. BUDGET. The annual budget is set at a finance meeting held in January each year and the budget is approved by full Council. The precept is advised to Swansea council who pay the levied precepts in three instalments at the end of April August and December each year. The town councils budgetary programme is set out on the Town Council website, www.gorseinontowncouncil.gov.uk.

7. ANNUAL internal and external AUDIT. The Town Council accounts are finalised by external accountants each year and information is forwarded to the Councils internal auditors for scrutiny the internal auditors provide a summary report which is submitted to Council for its approval, normally in June each year. Once approved the internal audit is submitted to the external auditors within the Welsh Assembly Government for scrutiny, and approval. A copy of the external auditors account is available for scrutiny annually. Once the auditors report is published, public notices are placed in notice boards around the community indicating when the report can be viewed in the Clerks office.

8.KEY COUNCIL OBJECTIVES. Key Council objectives are determined at the Annual General meeting in May every year, and the current 5 stated objectives of the Council are as follows ;

- a. To promote new uses for the community centre for community groups that meet the Town Councils objectives and are both accessible, and affordable for all residents of the Gorseinon / Penyrheol wards.
- b. Aim to improve communication with local residents and groups, work with local partnerships, and represent the views of the community, as well as better explaining what the Town Councils role is and what can be done for the local community
- c. Deliver projects for the area that will engender and strengthen both pride and respect in the communities of Gorseinon and Penyrheol and deliver projects that will improve the physical appearance and environment of our town centre and district suburbs.
- d. Support worthy community groups / local initiatives and community projects focused on sporting / social and cultural activities particularly for the youth and elderly of the area

9. KEY COUNCIL PROGRAMMES 2022/23 . Key objectives for the coming financial year 22/23 are tied in with our five year priorities.

Firstly to promote greater use of the Ty Newydd community centre for community groups .

Secondly to improve liaison and communication with the local community by means of a new website and newsletters and social media promotion .

Thirdly delivering projects to improve the pride in the community, including final completion of the new children's play area at Park Melyn Mynach.

Continued upgrade of local playgrounds and parks Further extension of the tree planting initiatives in the community .

New Christmas tree installations in Argyle gardens Gorseinon and Gower view Rd green area in Penyrheol.

Organising the annual Remembrance service and Christmas Parade.

Providing new notice boards in the Gorseinon east and Penyrheol community areas.

Further extension of the defibrillators across all areas of the community.

Continuing with the summer baskets and flowers within the main shopping areas and main thoroughfares in the town, and supporting Local "Friends of Parks " groups..

Extending the wildflower planting programme right across the community.

Further extension of benches in key locations in the town, and completing local cycle routes in the area..

Upgrading the bus station with further planting tree planting initiatives

Reinstatement of the Christmas Lantern parade and Remembrance service events within the community, and installing Xmas decorations around the town.

Continuing to provide financial support for local clubs through the grants programme run by the Town Council.

Working with local youth , to improve relationships and facilities for them in the community. (Youth Council being set up).

Helping to support and promote the viability and vitality of local shops and businesses in the Town.

9. COMMUNITY LIAISON. The Council can be contacted either formally through contacting the Town Clerk or by contacting any of the 15 local community Councillors in individual wards . Any issues raised by the general public will be reported and discussed at our monthly meetings and the public are welcome to attend the monthly council meetings and put issues to councillors during a 15 minute public session. the Council has its own website and Facebook page where issues of local concern can be raised.

10.KEY SUCCESSES. Since its inception in 1986 the Council has been seeking to acquire its own headquarters. Purchase of the Ty Newydd community centre at 17 West Street in December 2016 has provided a key facility for local groups to gather and to also accommodate the offices of the MP for Gower Tonia Antoniazzi. Physical developments funded by the Town Council in the last few years have included upgrade to a number of childrens play areas in both Gorseinon and Penyrheol and the development of the fantastic facilities at Park Melyn Mynach including skate park, BMX track and new childrens playground which have been achieved by means of successful grant applications to outside organisations . Upgrade of local parks, cycle routes in and around the community and provision of park benches has been achieved, and environmental upgrades to improve the appearance of the town have included summer planting, winter planting , wildflower planting and extensive new tree planting initiatives which have been submitted to the Queens jubilee tree planting initiative in summer 2022. The funding of new lampstandards in the High street has facilitated new Christmas lights in the shopping centre, the focus of which is the annual Christmas Parade.

The Town Council has funded and implemented numerous new defibrillators around both Gorseinon and Penyrheol/Grovesend within the last five years and is now one of the best provided communities within the County of Swansea for such equipment.

1. A Training plan was presented to the Annual General meeting of the Council on May 18 2022, and approved for implementation by the Clerk during the first 6 months of the new Council.
2. Whilst 12 of the new intake had received Councillor training previously, other new Members were also offered the range of training needed, provided by Swansea Council and One Voice Wales (OVW) training programmes, both by remote access and via in person individual and group sessions.
3. The courses offered included the following and level of importance is listed.
 - a. Code of Conduct **Essential** for all Members (Venue Swansea Council/OVW)
 - b. Role of Councillors/Council meeting **Essential**(venue Swansea Council/OVW)
 - c. Council as Employer
 - d. Finance training (Chairman/vice chair)
 - e. Community liaison
 - f. IT training
 - g. Charing meetings
 - h. Health & Safety(module 7)
 - i. Equality & Diversity (module 14)
4. The Town Clerk is offered appropriate training courses and conferences from One Voice Wales organisation and SLCC (Society of Local \council Clerks).
5. Any Town Councillor that requests additional training in any related topic will be supported if courses/training is available.

Approved at AGM May 18 2022

Chairman