

**MINUTES of the MEETING of GORSEINON TOWN COUNCIL, held on WEDNESDAY
13th April 2022 at Ty Newydd Community centre, 17 West St. GORSEINON, at 7pm**

Present, Chmn M Curtice, P Morgan, P Griffiths, J Curtice, , Sue Rawle, A Thomas, Ken Jones

142. APOLOGIES were received from, A Stevens, K Roberts, L A Crowley , M Thomas, Joe Clayfield,
A Crowley, J Crowley, Carlo Rabaiotti

143. MAYORS ANNOUNCEMENTS. Clerk advised the Mayor had attended the following events

- a. **Queens Jubilee update.** presentation gifts for local schools had now been purchased and would be presented to all local school children in June.
Concept of stone plaque in Argyll Gardens as memorial to Covid victims in community was discussed. Clerk had met with local stonemasons to discuss the options and likely costs of installing a memorial stone in Argyll Gardens. Members discussed the potential locations and costs. It was agreed that a slate plaque located on the front wall of the Ty Newydd centre was most suitable. Clerk was asked to explore costs and report to future meeting with draft plans. Clerk to investigate costs and report to a future meeting.
- b. **Community /Town Council elections 2022** -Draft timetable. Notice of election March 28th.
Purdah post March 16 2022 prior to May elections.
Notification of Town Councillors not seeking reelection was given to Members. 12 Councillors had been elected unopposed for May 5th elections. There were 3 unfilled vacancies and Councillors asked Clerk to advertise those vacancies as soon as possible so there would be a full membership for the AGM in late May.

The Clerk had received a letter from Swansea Council outlining procedures for the May 2022 local elections. Copies were distributed to Members present. A summary of the potential cost of the elections to the Town Council of almost £7000 was also noted. Clerk advised that the Councils were in Purdah from 16th March.

144.POLICE MEETING. The Police were not represented at the meeting and no crime figures were Reported.

145.PUBLIC FORUM. No members of the Public had raised any questions before the meeting.

146.APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a. The Clerk presented the **9th March 2022 minutes** (which had been distributed previously) for approval. They were approved with no amendments. (Prop by Cllr J Curtice seconded A Thomas)

147. MEMBER REPORTS on Local Matters from Town and County Councillors

- a.**Cllr Roberts** - Cllr Roberts had emailed Clerk re Funding for a presentation to the youth club re knife crime/violence in community. Mayor had approved cost of £250 for a seminar for local youth on dangers of knife crime, coordinated through local PCSO. Cllr Roberts had now realised cost was £500 for 2 sessions. Members discussed the costs and felt that a 50% contribution from Police was more appropriate, and that as same teenagers usually attended youth club , 2 sessions was not needed.
- b.**Cllr Jan Curtice** reported on the opening of the Swansea Arena on Oystermouth road which was a tremendous new asset for the City. She outlined plans for new city developments including a new Aquairium, next to the Arena, a ferry crossing to North Devon, a zip wire development from Kilvey Hill, and Lagoon development.
The County Council had set a small Council tax increase of 0.095 % for 2022/23, equivalent to 20p per week for a band D property.

Defibrillator training sessions being organised in coming months at various venues around the town.

c. **Cllr P Griffiths** raised concern about the access into the lower estate Chapel street area off the main Gorseinon road. Complaints had been received about exiting the residential area, and the need for a mini roundabout there. It was agreed a petition be arranged initially to lobby the Highway Authority to make a case for a mini roundabout there.

She reported a bad pothole outside the Bug on Gorseinon road, which Cllr J Curtice would report to Highways dept. She asked for any progress on removal of derelict caravan on Gwalia Terrace she had reported previously, which Cllr J Curtice would follow up.

d. **Cllr Pam Morgan** reported on the success of the Drop in Café in New Lodge and the number attending on Wednesday afternoons recently. She also noted that Welsh poppy seeds had been planted with the new daffodils in Argyll gardens. Clerk advised that as Council was in a new financial year the group could seek a grant from the Town Council to assist with hiring costs being levied from the New Lodge establishment .

e. **Cllr A Thomas** reported the Health walk was now going well, and he had recently cleaned the fitness equipment in Parc y Werin.

f. **Cllr Ken Jones** queried the number of felled trees in Argyll Gardens that were lying on the ground and not being removed. He queried if it was for biodiversity, but felt it left the area looking untidy.

g. **Cllr Sue Rawle** reported she had set up an exhibition in the Library on history of Melyn Mynach. She had been planting saplings today in Melyn Mynach, and asked for LGBT +flag to be displayed on 30 April at Ty Newydd for Swansea Pride day.

148. CLERKS REPORTS

a).A request for **financial assistance** had been previously been received from the following. Members had agreed in Feb. meeting that the grant allocation would remain in place and be distributed to worthy causes through out the year as the Covid pandemic eased. The following grants had previously been approved;

Parc y Werin Bowls club towards grounds maintenance, £500 grant approved October meeting

Parc y Werin committee for bench. £650 grant for picnic bench approved Oct meeting

Cllr Andrew Stevens Decky Memorial run. £200

Cllr Joe Clayfield local cystic Fibrosis bike ride . £200 .

One Heart drummers, £200 Moving Forward Group, £250

Penyrheol amateur boxing club.£300 Eynon street allotments £300

Llchwyr Art group £300 Vision impaired west glamorgan(Gorseinon) £150

Childrens Wales Air Ambulance £250 towards the local Dafen branch of Air Ambulance

St Catherines church defibrillator crowdfunding. Agreed to help with full amount if needed.

Defibrillator for Bryngwyn estate had been requested but noted that a new one had recently

Been installed on the green within the estate. Clerk would check if a further one was still needed.

New requests received for April 2022 included the following, - financial year 2022/23

Grants applications received from community for financial year 2022/23 were approved;

Explorer scouts 25th World scout jamboree Korea 2023 - to be attended by 3 local scouts £500

Gorseinon AFC £200

Park rd gardens project £150

3 local boys now attending Ospreys under 16 training. Cllr J Curtice would check details for next meeting as to how they would be acknowledged.

b) New Childrens adventure **playground** Parc Melyn Mynach. Update from C/Cllr Jan Curtice was given with Official opening having taken place on Tue March 15 2022. Sadly reports of vandalism

had already been reported and dealt with and the culprit dealt with by Police.

- c) **Woodland Trust** had delivered 420 saplings for a wild woodland to the Clerk. They had been delivered on November 25, and were available for planting now. Potential sites were discussed further. Clerk to liaise with potential recipients.
- d) Clerk advised of tree planting that had taken place with Swansea Council for 3 New oak trees and numerous others in **Argyll gardens** including 2 Weeping willows, to try to soak up the damp conditions on the grass area, as well as 5 replacement trees in bus station, and 49 Trees at the bottom Lime street/ Heol y Mynydd. Planting had taken place in Jan/Feb 2022.

Clerk advised that the 100 Hydrangea plants had now been planted in Argyll Gardens, and a large strip of daffodils in front of them, all funded by the Town Council.
- e) Following closure Barclays bank Gorseinon Feb 1 2022, & temporary vehicle Lime st car park, Barclays Bank had requested use of Ty Newydd centre room 1 on 2 days per week for assisting the public. No financial transactions would take place. A contract had been signed and the bank staff member was now in attendance on Tuesdays and Thursdays.
- f) **Xmas lights & Xmas trees.** Locations requested for a few spare small Xmas trees in the area. Members discussed the need for enclosure of the Xmas tree circle in Argyll gardens for H&Safety requirements in future. Clerk had contacted Ogilivies for a suitable barrier but costs were prohibitive. Clerk was asked to look at cheaper options reflecting services on 4 panels NHS, Forces, soldiers, sailors, nurses and airmen.
- g) **Queens jubilee 2022.** Members had agreed to order 2000 ballpoint pens suitably inscribed from Insignia plus drinks canisters and crayon packs for infants, for presentation to local schools which had now been delivered to Clerk. Instead of beacons being lit, illuminating the community centre 9pm Thur June 2nd for Jubilee commemorations had been proposed. Drink bottles and pencilcases had been bought for other pupils for Jubilee week presentation.
- h) Clerk had discussed with Cross Engineering for the fabrication and installation of an **external stair case** for the top floor of Ty Newydd building. Detailed drawings were needed before quotes could be given.
- i). Update on extension of **cycletrack** to Pontarddulais given with work well under way.
- j) A request from Lord Lieutenants office to include our tree planting programme in Queens list of planting initiatives in UK to commemorate Jubilee had been received and Council agreed that all recent tree planting would be submitted for the National survey record.. Jubilee flags had been bought & Community centre would be illuminated for the festival.
- k) Members discussed the **Summer planting** programme submitted from Swansea Council and agreed to contribute to the 2022 sites for wild flower planting. Some reservations were raised about the wild flowers but following a meeting with Swansea Council staff/ Clerk/ Cllr Pam Morgan it was agreed the new sites and flower mixes were to be planted to create maximum impact. Quote for wild flowers 2022 was discussed and approved for payment.
- l) Clerk advised that a new **Notice Board** was ready for installing by the play ground in Gowerview road Penyrheol by the developers of the new housing site. A new Noticeboard and flagpoles had also been purchased for the Gorseinon east locality. Members agreed to the siting at the Cockle shell green area near the junction subject to the landowners approval.
Siting of new Notice board and 2 flagpoles on Gorseinon road opposite Bug public house were discussed.
- m) Fresh Creative painting boxes had now been installed in Pontarddulais road, and Council had agreed to contribute 50% of the cost at £593.28
- n) Clerk advised of new legislation coming in 2022. There was a requirement for Annual reports to be published post April 2022, and a requirement for Training plans to be produced post Nov 22. Members noted the new legislation.

- o) Clerk reported that Swansea Council had confirmed that they owned the footpath lane at the side of Ty Newydd to the car park. Requests had been made to Cllr Roberts to have it better lit at night.
- p) Ty Newydd business rates 2022/23. 50% business rate relief had been successfully applied following submission for a reduction by the Clerk.
- q) License agreements with Swansea Council for tree installation on green off Gower view rd. were outlined and approved
- r) Clerk advised that British Gas were no longer providing business gas contracts for businesses from May 2022. A new service contract for Ty Newydd building would have to be secured.
- s) Clerk reported Invoice from Swansea Council for grass cutting BMX track Melyn Mynach for 2022/23 at a cost of £669. Members agreed to renew the contract for 22/23.

149. REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES.

- a) Meeting with Llchwyr ATC squadron on Monday March 14 to discuss parade through town following Freedom of Town awarded to the squadron in February. Parade arrangements had been made for 18 June 2022 .

150. CORRESPONDENCE;

- a. A request had been received from a resident of Bryngwyn estate to install a defibrillator in the local area. Members discussed the siting of other defibs and agreed to support the additional equipment if needed, as a new one had been installed in the last week.

151. ACCOUNTS

- a. Committee received the Income / Receipts summary statement from the Clerk and considered and approved the payment of the following outstanding cheques for the ACCOUNTS dated 13th April 2022 (proposed J Curtice seconded A Thomas). After the meeting the cheques were signed by 2 authorised signatures having examined all relevant receipts. Clerk advised members on current Council spend against programmed targets.
- b. **National wage award 2021 /2022.** Clerk reported on notification from One voice Wales that after protracted negotiations the National Association local councils had settled on the wage award for 2021/ 2022 at 1.75%. Pay award was to be backdated for all staff from April 1 2021. Council agreed to adopt the recommendations and apply to Clerks contract.
- c. Clerk reported the submission of the **2021/22 accounts** to the Accountants for scrutiny. Members accepted the end of year statements for submission.

152. PLANNING MATTERS.

- a. To consider and make recommendations on the following planning applications received from Swansea City and County Council as the Local Planning Authority; None received in March.
- b. Notification of **APPROVALS** by Local Planning Authority. For information

2021/3001 Pencefnarda farm , Pencfnarda rd, Penyrheol. Discharge cond 3(tree protection) , 8(phased scheme) 17 Landscaping, of pp 20202357 granted Sept 2021.

2022/0220 24 Mydham Lane , Single storey rear extension . Approved 9 March 2022.

2022/0304 18 Brynhyfryd, Detached outbuilding. Approved 17 March 2022

- c. Notification of **REFUSALS** by Local Planning Authority. None received in March
 d. Notification of **Appeals** by Local Planning Authority; None received in March
 e. Enforcement matters.

APPENDIX A GORSEINON TOWN COUNCIL EXPENDITURE **March 31 2022**

Name	particulars	Net	VAT	Total
Inland Revenue / tax/Employers NI salary				DD 716.70
Stationary/ cleaning supplies		106.47	3.49	DD 109.96
2021 wage award 1.75%				DD576.00
Monthly HSBC mortgage				DD 521.65
Monthly mortgage overpayment				DD 117.79
Good housekeeping Wales maintenance clean				DD 270.00
Feb/March/April mileage				DD 135.85
Stationery/ supplies Hall/ Microsoft 365 annual membership				DD 89.02
Office admin Sept 21- March 31 2022 (6 months)				DD 282.00
Home as office costs 6 months Sept 21- March 31 2022 (6 months)				DD 355.00
Swansea council rates 17 west St Suite 1 restarts 1 apr 2022 50% reduction				DD 76.00
Swansea council rates 17 west St Suite 2 restarts 1 apr 2022 50% reduction				DD 49.00
Npower Eon gas monthly				DD 56.00
B Gas electric monthly				DD 80.03
Jubilee sports bottles		1405.00	281.00	DD1686.00
Jubilee infants pencil tubes		525.00	131.00	DD 666.00
Tree planting Argyll gardens /47 new trees Lime st/Heol Mynydd				DD 13831.00
Lighthouse electricalxmas light repairs&Replacing catenary wire Argyll gardens	2200.00		440.00	DD2640.00
Lighthouse electrical xmas light install/dismantle	3000.00		600.00	DD3600.00
CCS Melyn Mynach playground				DD 20230.00
CREDIT				
VAT reclaim				5768.92
Tinitus hire March				75.00
IPSA MPs office				1500.00
Barclays bank room 1 hire				173.33

GORSEINON TOWN COUNCIL BANK RECONCILIATION **March 31 2022**

Current account Mar 31 2022	£ 14439.45
Treasurers account Mar 31 2022	
£120218.79	
Mortgage balance Mar 31 2022	£ 73729.14

Meeting closed at 8.45pm.....Chairman.....