

**THESE MINUTES ARE IN DRAFT FORM UNTIL APPROVED AT NEXT MEETING Feb 1 2023**

**MINUTES of the MEETING of GORSEINON TOWN COUNCIL, held on WEDNESDAY  
11<sup>th</sup> Jan 2023 at Ty Newydd Community Centre, 17 West St. GORSEINON, at 6pm**

**Present,** Cllrs Ken Jones(Chmn), M Curtice, P Griffiths, Pam Morgan, A Stevens, J Curtice, N Matthews,  
A Crowley, M Phillips, A Thomas.

**113. APOLOGIES** were received from Cllrs, Sue Rawle, Joanne Crowley, Carlo Rabaiotti, Joe Clayfield

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

- a) West St Gym concert Dec 15<sup>th</sup> 2022
- b) A number of xmas carol concerts through December.

**115.** Presentation from sponsors of the April 2023 **BRISCO fun run**. Councillors received a presentation from the organisers of the April 30 2023 Brisco fun run, "Front runner events" David Jewell (owner) outlined the background to the company with 10 years experience of organising major local events, including Llanelli and Swansea half marathons. Nick (Operations manager) outlined the route, road closures and sponsorship proposals.. They would also be arranging a 2k fun run for kids as part of the event. The intention was to bring back a much loved race with much community involvement, and supporting local charities. There would potentially be up to 1000 participants , paying £20 each to enter.

**116.POLICE MEETING.** The Police were not represented at the meeting, and had not provided any statistics as requested. Cllr A Crowley did praise local police for recently dealing with a group of 10 youth in the Somerfield car park. The 10 individuals were known and had been dealt with efficiently for their antisocial behaviour.

**117. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- a. The Clerk presented the 7<sup>th</sup> December 2022 minutes (which had been distributed previously) for approval. They were approved with no amendments. (Prop by M Curtice, sec Cllr J Curtice).

**118.PUBLIC SESSION.** Members had previously received representations from a keep fit group for seniors that had lost the trainer facility and as a consequence numbers had fallen dramatically at the Penyrheol facility. Cllr J Curtice had advised that Cllr Rob Smith (Loughor) was looking at the matter, and they would be welcomed back at The Welfare Hall, but they needed to secure a suitable organiser . Their trainer at Penyrheol was offering to amend event times but there was need to have medical supervision present for the event.

**119.MEMBER REPORTS** on Local Matters from Town and County Councillors

- a. **Cllr Matthews** reported that 300 Xmas hampers had been distributed via MPs office in Clydach and Gorseinon 22<sup>nd</sup> December and thanked the Council for use of the Hall for packing the parcels.
- b. **Cllr A Stevens** summarised the budget discussions ongoing at Swansea Council, and outlined difficult discussions on car park charges.  
AS was asked to chase up the funding for repairs to the town clock in West Street.  
Cllr A Stevens reported on the success of the lighting up of the **xmas tree** on the green at Chestnut Avenue Penyrheol on 30<sup>th</sup> November, which had been well attended and proved a great success , with the support of the local church after the tree light up, coffee and mince pies.

AS reported 2 additional defibrulators had been provided at the Canolfan and Gym next to 3Ms Roundabout on Gorseinon road.

- c. **Cllr Pam Morgan** noted the Pop up café was well attended and the Foodbank at St Catherines was as busy as ever on Thursdays. She noted that £100 had been approved by Town Council to pay for the rent for the café from the Club owners, and Cllr JC had forwarded it to the New Lodge.
- d. **Cllr J Curtice** reported Mr Paul Tregembo had secured a grant of £750 for defibrulator around St Catherines church recently, and had asked to pass the fund to the Town Council to organise its installation in the local area. JC had checked with Surgery where to install the defib. Clerk confirmed the casing had now been bought and delivered.  
JC reported the Lantern Parade was a success despite the adverse weather. She thanked the Clerk for his efforts in organising the event. She reported on the Swansea Council homeless meal at the Brangwyn for 600 people sponsored by the Guildhall caterers held recently., and noted that her charity event as former Fire Authority Chair had been held at St Catherines church on Dec 13 December with firefighters and Decky memorial as named charities.  
JC reported a request for a **defibrulator** to be placed on the housing estate at end of Pontarddulais Road (Toy town). County Members would fund the purchase and installation with the Town Council funding future maintenance. One local had offered to install on their boundary wall, otherwise locate on local pillar/post.
- e. **Cllr M Curtice** advised that the **Remembrance Parade** was now back on subject to C/Cllrs contributing to any road closure costs. He noted the clock on West St Memorial site still not working properly. Cllr A Stevens advised it had been reported and was due for repair as part of the funding from the Swansea Council Covid recovery Fund.  
He reported that the **Zion chapel in High street** was now closed and suggested the Town Council look at purchasing the building for community use if it comes to the market  
He reported a tree near the Bug had been snapped in two recently, and asked County Members if there was any news about redevelopment of the Old Boys school in central Gorseinon, which there was not at present.
- f. **Cllr Pat Griffiths** thanked Cllr Stevens for securing the removal of the derelict caravan from the road on Gwalia terrace which had been on the road for many years, and was an eyesore.. Comments were raised about the ongoing difficulty of exiting onto the main road from the estate...  
PG reported that Greggs would be moving to new location next to Farmfoods Gorseinon road, by end of February.
- g. **Cllr Ken Jones** reported the fallen trees in Argyll gardens had now been cut up and removed.  
He reported a case of vandalism of a mini car in the High street recently overnight which had been picked up on CCTV cameras opposite Sainsburys.
- h. **Cllr A Crowley** reported complaints about mess bin men were leaving on road after collecting their rubbish.
- i. **Cllr A Thomas** had received complaints from local junior school that the playground in Parc Y Werin was often unusable due to flooding. Cllr Stevens would ask CCS to investigate again.

## 120. 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  
Llwchwr 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 defibrulator crowdfunding. Agreed to help with full amount if needed.  
Defibrulator for Bryngwyn estate had been requested but noted that a new one had recently  
Been installed on the green within the estate.

Explorer scouts 25<sup>th</sup> World scout jamboree Korea 2023 - to be attended by 3 local scouts  
Gorseinon AFC

Mr Hugh Quick over 60s cricket world cup Australia Sept 2022. £250 approved. Clerk reported a thank you letter had been received from Mr Quick promising to give a presentation following the trip.

Jubilee party at Llys Werin. £100 approved

Parc Y Werin bowls club. £350 approved

( Cllr Marsha Phillips had declared an interest and did not participate in discussion/vote)

Decky Memorial match Sun Aug 28.£250

Chromamusic community formed 2021 based St Catherine church hall. £200 agreed

New scrabble group Gorseinon Institute. More information requested

Loughor Events committee – xmas tree . £100 agreed

New community Halls funding opportunity from Welsh Govt CADW was noted.

West St Gym £250 awarded

One Heart Drummers (St Catherines) awarded £200.

**Garden project Park rd complex.** Members agreed a donation of £200.

**Brisco fun run** was explained by Cllr Stevens , and was programmed for end April 2023. The Town Council had previously agreed to be a major sponsor of the annual event and Members agreed to make a substantial contribution. The exact figure would be finalised at the Budget meeting in January once detailed costings were known.

**Mr Hugh Quick** had submitted a letter thanking Council for financial support of his trip to Australia in September to represent Wales cricket seniors. Members applauded his efforts and success in representing the Country. Cllr Stevens would put acknowledgement on Facebook.

Visually impaired group Gorseinon Institute . Approved £100

Moving Forward group ( Monday mornings at Ty Newydd centre.) Approved £300.

Clerk reported that POBL had funded the groups hall hire fees for 2023 at a cost of £260.

**Requests received for Dec 22/Jan 2023 - financial year 2022/23 approved the following;**

**Mr Chris Chapman** ( Happy Chappy) who takes the Town Council photos had requested financial support towards a new camera for Town Council purposes. Members agreed to a contribution of £200.

b) Clerk has renegotiated a further 12 months lease for the front room of Ty Newydd with **Barclays** Bank on Tuesdays and Thursdays . Members noted the arrangement which they supported.

c) Clerk advised he had been able to secure an additional 550 **tree whips** which were delivered on Dec 2<sup>nd</sup> from “ Dig Trees”if local groups wished to take advantage of the opportunity. There were now almost 1000 whips available for local groups. Clerk had also purchased a few rooted xmas trees for planting on sites that Members choose.

- d) Members discussed the Penyrheol xmas tree switch on which took place on 30 November and was a great success. **Clerk raised the cost of the event in its initial year, and it was agreed to apportion the initial costs 50/50 Town Council/ County Members in year one and for the Town Council to fund the event in future years.**
- e) Clerk had signed the forms with the **Pensions regulator** for a period of a further 3 years covering terms for the only employee, to ensure the Town Council remains compliant. Members noted and approved the current pension arrangements.
- f) Clerk advised of advert from Swansea Council for a **Lay member** appointment to the Governance and audit committee, which was Noted.
- g) Clerk reported the **vandalism** to the Xmas tree in Argyll Gardens on 29 December which had damaged barriers and completely broken all the festoon lights on the tree. It had been decided to switch off the tree illuminations for safety reasons for the rest of the Xmas period. This came on top of damage to the planted xmas tree which had been snapped, the willow trees which had branches ripped off, the 85 Hydrangeas stolen, and the Pyramid planter which had all its plants taken in Summer. Members discussed if initiatives should continue in Argyll Gardens with the vandalism happening.
- h) Clerk reported the advertising literature from Swansea Council for the former school in High street, that went to **auction** on December 15<sup>th</sup>. Council would be kept briefed on the sale by County Cllrs. Clerk advised the property had been sold by auction for £370000, to a builder. Members discussed how they could be involved in future plans for the site in the shopping centre..
- i) Clerk reported the **Annual Xmas competition**. Members had agreed to hold both competitions and award a prize of £100 to each winner if there were suitable nominations. Members were to check within their wards and advise the Clerk/Mayor of suitable properties for the Mayor to make the final decision.
- a. The best dressed house at Xmas. It was agreed to donate £100 to a property overlooking the Green in Chestnut Avenue, Penyrheol next to the newly installed Xmas tree.
- b. The best dressed shopfront in the town at Xmas. It was agreed to donate £100 to the charity shop in High street.
- j). Clerk advised Council that the new **Active travel** route between Penllergaer and Gorseinon was now underway over the next 26 weeks, to provide a dedicated footpath/ cyclistroute between both communities..
- k) **Remembrance** service committee was discussed following comments received from Llŵchwr Town Council. British Legion were writing to the Clerk to ask for a committee to be set up to organise the future event. It was agreed to have 3 representatives from each organisation if needed.
- l) **King Charles Coronation** May 6 2023. Members discussed if commemorative mugs were needed, or something more appropriate for youngsters. Range of options would be discussed in future meeting before May..
- m) **Training Plan** 2023 was distributed & approved as the Councils Training programme for coming year. Clerk was authorised to forward to Swansea Council monitoring officer. OVW sessions were discussed and appropriate sessions booked for members and Clerk.
- n) Clerk advised Council they had received offer for membership of **Swansea Local access forum** for coming year . Letter was Noted.

- o) Clerk had received an update from **POBL** regarding timetable for housing completions and sales on development off Gower View rd Penyrheol, and local donations from the fund set up, which was noted. New uses for the central Hub building would be submitted to CCS to reflect community desires for the building , such as café , small shop and community focus.
- p) A quotation from Swansea Council Parks for summer 2023 flower troughs etc was received in sum of £4889.5 inc vat, which was discussed and approved. The only variation was to place one of the Triangle planters from the top of Lime street to the pavement outside RJs at bottom of Lime street. Members discussed whether it was worth continuing with planter in Argyll Gardens due to vandalism, but it was agreed to try one more year initially.

#### **121. REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES.**

- a) Clerk reported on the forthcoming One Voice Wales area meeting to be held remotely on 16<sup>th</sup> January. Clerk and Cllr M Curtice would attend.

#### **122. CORRESPONDENCE;**

- a. Email complaints addressed at 2 Town Councillors were reported and Noted, with no action to be taken.
- b. One Voice Wales training courses were outlined in Jan 2023 – March 2023.

#### **123. 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 11<sup>th</sup> January 2023 (proposed M Curtice seconded J Curtice ). 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.
- b. Council approved appointment of DCK Beavers as accountants for coming financial year and Auditing Solutions as internal auditors.
- c. Members noted the request from Swansea Council for the precept from Gorseinon TC for financial year 2023/4. Financial matters were to be discussed at meeting on Jan 18<sup>th</sup>.

#### **124. PLANNING MATTERS. (MEETING Jan 11 2023)**

Committee was asked to consider and make recommendations on the following planning applications received from Swansea County Council as the Local Planning Authority;

- a. **NO OBJECTIONS** were raised to the following applications;

2022/ 2411 253 Frampton rd Penyrheol. Engineering works to provide retaining wall for front Garden.

2022/2997 17 Mydham Lane Penyrheol, Increase ridge height, dormer roof extension, rear balcony, Flat roof dormer to rear.

Subject to no objections from adjoining neighbours and no concerns about overlooking of adjoining properties no objections would be raised to the proposal.

2023/0023 50 Alexandre road Gorseinon, Change of use from vets surgery (D1) to residential apartment with fenestration alterations.

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

2022/2345 New signage 12 Alexandre rd Gorseinon Approved 8 Dec 2022  
 2022/2679 Single storey front extension, 4 Clos Brynafon Approved 16 Dec 2022

c. Notification of **REFUSALS** by Local Planning Authority. None received.

d. Notification of **Appeals** by Local Planning Authority; None received in December.

e. Enforcement matters. No items raised.

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

Name	particulars	Net	VAT	Total
Stationary/ cleaning & toiletry supplies/ stamps / Xmas workshop supplies				DD 228.60
Defib wall case		459	91.8	DD 550.80
Monthly HSBC mortgage New rate				DD 576.19
Monthly mortgage overpayment				DD 117.79
Good housekeeping Wales maintenance clean Dec				DD
Swansea council rates 17 west St Suite 1 restarts 1 apr 2022 50% reduction				DD 78.37
Swansea council rates 17 west St Suite 2 restarts 1 apr 2022 50% reduction				DD 47.19
travelling mileage Nov Dec				DD 127.07
Office expenses Oct- Dec 2022				DD 363.72
Npower Eon gas monthly				DD 56.00
B Gas electric monthly				DD 103.17
Bank charges				DD 10.00
Penyrheol Nov 24 by election costs from Swansea Council				up to £4000?
CCS Sleigh				DD 400.00
Western Power electric bus station				25.00?
Safestyle security marshalls Xmas parade				DD 2295.00
CCS wildflowers 2022				625.00
CCS community elections May 22				285.00
Western power electric xmas tree Chestnut Ave				20.00?
Collect/remove 2 xmas trees J Stevens 50%				360.00?
Lighthouse electric xmas lights & installations 10%				5000.00?
Knight Brenchley xmas tree barriers 50%				400.00?
One Heart drummers				200.00
Centregreat xmas light installation		3080	616	3696.00

**CREDIT**

Tinitus hire Dec	100.00
Precept 3	43840.00
Sewers group	250.00
Barclays 12 months Feb 23-24 room 1	2496.00

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

Current account Dec 30 2022	£ 5295
Treasurers account Dec 30 2022	£ +143934
Current balance	£ + 149229
Mortgage balance Dec 30 2022	£ - 69797

Meeting closed at 8.35pm.....Chairman.....