

MINUTES ARE IN DRAFT FORM UNTIL APPROVED AT NEXT MEETING March 1 2023

**MINUTES of the MEETING of GORSEINON TOWN COUNCIL, held on WEDNESDAY
1 Feb 2023 at Ty Newydd Community Centre, 17 West St. GORSEINON, at 6pm**

Present, Cllrs Ken Jones(Chmn), M Curtice, P Griffiths, Pam Morgan, J Curtice, A Crowley, A Thomas,
S Rawle, C Rabiotti.

130. APOLOGIES were received from Cllrs J Crowley, Joe Clayfield. A Stevens, N Matthewws, M Phillips..

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

- a) cheques had been delivered to the winners of the best lit house and best dressed shopfront Xmas 2022.

132. POLICE MEETING. The Police were represented at the meeting by 2 Officers, and provided the following statistics as requested.

Gorseinon ASB (anti social behaviour)23, violent crimes 22, Criminal damage 5
Penyrheol ASB 7, Violent crimes 10,Criminal damage 1

All youngsters involved had been spoken to with their parents in attendance. High street was the focus for issues. A Multi agency walk about had liaised with shopkeepers last week, as Take Aways were the premises most affected by ASB. The Police had suggested a Shop Watch initiative linking premises was a way forward, and Paul Evans (Swansea Council) was investigating further. The reduced opening of the local youth club was deemed a retrograde step and pressure should be brought to Swansea Council to revert to the 2 evenings/week format to reduce incidents in the High street. There was a direct link between the club being open and reduced incidents of ASB in the town.

Cllr M Curtice raised concern re the fairground owners still parking HGVs on the grass at bottom of Lime street, and damaging the grass and on highway opposite Aldi. Clerk advised a complaint to the Traffic Commissioner re the parking/license could be pursued, and Police would follow up.

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.

133. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a. The Clerk presented the Jan 11 2023 minutes (which had been distributed previously) for approval. They were approved with 1 amendment, to alter figure of Xmas parcels from MPs office from 300 to 130 (Cllr N Matthews) (Proposed by J Curtice, sec Cllr A Thomas).
- b. The Clerk presented the Jan 18 2023 minutes (which had been distributed previously) for approval. They were approved with no amendments. (Proposed by M Curtice, sec Cllr J Curtice).

134. PUBLIC SESSION. No issues raised.

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

- a. **Cllr J Curtice** reported Mr Paul Tregembo had secured a grant of £750 for defibrillator 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. A Defib. was to be positioned at top of Pontardulais rd on the estate. County Members would fund purchase & Council the future maintenance. Clerk would secure purchase initially. Cllr Crowley also asked for one to installed around the Homebargains/ Somerfield/chemist area in future.
JC advised that 20 mph road traffic restrictions were to come in on 20th Sept on every road with street lights, and many complaints and chaos was anticipated as a result. Links are available on Swansea Council website..
A levelling up grant had been secured for Swansea East around the Penderyn whisky site., and a new Hilton 4 star Hotel was due next to the new Arena on the waterfront. The Sky line was coming to Swansea in March for meetings, Lagoon going ahead for 2024/25 completion, and the battery factory was also coming to Swansea , along with the Metro link.
- b. **Cllr Pat Griffiths.** 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 Screwfix Gorseinon road, by end of February.
- c. **Cllr Ken Jones** reported the fallen trees in Argyll gardens had now been cut up and removed. He reported that the condition of the rear lane adjoining Argyll Gardens was very poor after rainfall and was dangerous when covered in ice. Cllr JC would refer to highways to check drainage but the lane was privately owned, and not adopted..
- d. **Cllr A Crowley** reported on sub committee meeting regarding future production of a Town Council Newsletter.. It was hoped to produce a number of copies each year for distribution to the community, covering Future events, local history, Youth Council input, local businesses. Ideas/feedback , internet links etc. to tell the community what the Town Council does. It would be funded by County Members and Town Council and include editorial from Mayor. Council needs to look to future with a positive outlook, and promote what a successful Town Council does for its community. Lrs Crowley and Rabiaotti were taking initiative forward.

136. CLERKS REPORTS

a).A request for **financial assistance** had been previously been received from the following. Members had agreed in Feb.2022 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 Fybrosis 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 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.

Explorer scouts 25th 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.

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.

Requests received for Jan/Feb 2023 - financial year 2023/4 approved the following;

Llwchwr art group £200

Recycled Teenagers £250 (Cllrs Jan Curtice, M Curtice declared an interest and did not vote).

Grovesend brownies . Whilst initiative was supported it was felt the local community Council in Grovesend should be first source to provide financial support.

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 Feb 2nd 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 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 had discussed if initiatives

should continue in Argyll Gardens with the vandalism happening.

- f) Clerk reported the advertising literature from Swansea Council for the former school in High street, that went to **auction** on December 15th. 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..
- g) 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.
26 Beech Crescent
 - b. The best dressed shopfront in the town at Xmas. It was agreed to donate £100 to the Share charity shop in High street.
- h).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/ cycleroute between both communities..Many complaints had been received about the traffic delays being caused by the roadworks.
- i) **Remembrance** service committee was discussed following comments received from Llwhchwr 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. Clerk was still awaiting letter from British Legion.
- j) **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. Agreed to focus on primary school children only..
- k) **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.
- l) 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.
- m) 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.
- n) A quotation from Swansea Council Parks for summer 2023 **wild flowers** was received . which was discussed and approved. A site meeting was requested to finalise sites and mixes for the Summer.
- o) A request has been received from Rachel Cole LAC to use Ty Newydd as a centre for Mens wellbeing coffee session. Request was to use free of charge which Members declined. Clerk would notify LAC that whilst initiative was supported, a charge for hire would have to be made. It was felt the Pop in café on Wednesdays at New Lodge was already underway

and would be a suitable venue initially .

Members were advised that the Penllergaer Valley woods volunteers had booked the Hall for Training and would be booking again shortly.

- p) Garage Purchase at rear of Ty Newydd. The owner of the 2 garages at rear of Hall was now willing to sell, as he was intending to retire. Members discussed the option to buy one or two units, as additional storage was needed for Xmas lights in particular. It was agreed to survey the basement initially to see if more space could be generated in house, and then decide following a valuation, whether a bid should be made to the owner for one garage. Concerns were raised about level of expenditure of public money in current climate.

137. REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES.

- a) Clerk reported on the One Voice Wales area meeting held remotely on 16th January. Clerk and Cllr M Curtice attended. Clerk summarised the presentation by Police trainer on cyber security.

138. CORRESPONDENCE;

- a. One Voice Wales training courses were outlined in Feb 2023 – March 2023.

139. 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 1st Feb 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.

Members discussed the cost of installing Xmas trees on 2 sites in 2022, and asked that in future other cheaper options be explored as well as current supplier.

- b. Members noted that Swansea Council had been advised of the precept from Gorseinon TC for financial year 2023/4 of £135744, equating to £42 per household per annum.

140. PLANNING MATTERS. (MEETING Feb 1 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/ 2975 Res Dev. Land west Gower View rd development by POBL/Coastal Hsg .
Extension time for planning reserved matters 2019/0911 . Vary conditions
10.11.17

2022/ 2976 Construction 144 houses, Land west Gower View rd development by
POBL/Coastal Hsg Vary cond4 for planning reserved matters 2019/0911 .

2023/0019 Unit D J47 retail park. 2 new extractor vents, Air conditioning units

2023/0020 Unit D J47 retail park. 2 new int illuminated fascia signs/1 internal Screen

Clerk had received Advance Notice from the Agents, of the proposed large rear extension for storage at Bako Wales, Gorseinon road, Gorseinon . Detailed comments would be made once the formal planning application was submitted.

- b. Notification of **APPROVALS** by Local Planning Authority. For information, and Noted **2022/1703/Ful Change of use of Childrens nursery to Vets surgery. Approved 23 Jan 2023**
- c. Notification of **REFUSALS** by Local Planning Authority. None received.
- d. Notification of **Appeals** by Local Planning Authority; None received in January.
- e. Enforcement matters. No items raised.

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

Name	particulars	Net	VAT	Total
Stationary/ cleaning & toiletry supplies/ stamps / Xmas workshop supplies				DD 44.96
Monthly HSBC mortgage New rate from £576.19 to £639.46 from Feb 23				DD 639.46
Monthly mortgage overpayment				DD 117.79
Good housekeeping Wales maintenance clean Dec /Jan				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 Jan/Feb				DD 102.70
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?
Xmas competition awards 2x £100				200.00
Western Power electric bus station				25.00?
CCS wildflowers 2022				625.00
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?
Centregreat xmas light installation		3080	616	3696.00
BT MPs office		531.9	106.38	638.28
CREDIT				
Tinitus hire Jan				100.00

GORSEINON TOWN COUNCIL BANK RECONCILIATION **Jan 31 2023**

Current account	Jan 31 2023	£ + 6653
Treasurers account	Jan 31 2023	£ +135022
Current balance		£ + 141675
Mortgage balance	Jan 31 2023	£ - 69490

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