

MINUTES ARE IN DRAFT FORM UNTIL APPROVED AT NEXT MEETING 12 July 2023

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

Present, Cllrs (Chmn) C Rabiotti, M Curtice, P Griffiths, Pam Morgan, J Curtice, A Thomas, Ken Jones, S Rawle, Katie Jones, A Stevens, M Phillips, N Matthews, PCSO Sue Herbert

Prior to the meeting starting Chris Chapman took group photos of the Councillors 2023/24 term..

24. APOLOGIES were received from Cllrs., J Crowley, Joe Clayfield, A Crowley

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

Invitation was received for all Cllrs to attend the 100 anniversary of St Johns at New Lodge on Sat Sept 30 at 6.30pm. Mayor had attended function at Institute to note 100th birthday of Gwynfa and naming of a room after her.

Mayor outlined Council traditions he wished to reinstate during his term, including protocol at civic functions, writing to new/old Mayor after term has ended, inviting consort family to inaugurations, photos of Mayors functions and promoting the role of Mayor to the community.

Mayor summarised his thoughts on Council behaviour, and asked that only one Cllr speaks at a time Mayor highlighted issues re Council staffing, and asked Cllr M Curtice to liaise with Clerk as to whether a caretaker/handy man would be appropriate in future, with a draft CV to be considered.

Future discussion would take place on how civic functions should be paid for by the Council or from Cllrs personally.

Mayor advised the date of next meeting would be 1 week later on July 12th @6pm.

26. POLICE MEETING. The Police were represented at the meeting by PCSO Sue Herbert, and the following stats were given for May 2023..

Gorseinon 109 incidents, 14 ASB (issues in Argyll Gdns and West St), 26 Crimes of violence (this included verbal threats).

In June a few assaults were being investigated,, and there were no dwelling burglaries.

In Penyrheol there were 67 incidents in May, 17 ASB (1 youth related and 16 crimes of violence).

Intelligence had advised of a potential gathering on 24 June and resources were being prepared for incidents.

Planning was being prepared for SAFER GORSEINON BUSINESS DISTRICT community watch to meet local shop owners on a regular basis, and SOUTH WALES LISTENS was a new initiative being set up to send out information from the Police to those who had been signed up following a 15 minute initial survey. A new PCSO Eleanor was starting shortly and could attend future meetings.

27. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. The Clerk presented the May 3rd 2023 minutes (which had been distributed previously) for approval, and which were approved. (Proposed by J Curtice, sec Cllr A Thomas).

b. The Clerk presented the May 3rd 2023 AGM minutes (which had been distributed previously) for approval, and which were approved. (Cllr Katie Jones and Mayor nominated to attend future youth council meetings at Penyrheol Comp) (Proposed by J Curtice, sec Cllr A Thomas).

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

29.MEMBER REPORTS on Local Matters from Town and County Councillors ;

a. It was agreed only one County Cllr would report on County Council matters in future.

Cllr A Stevens, Funding had been secured to extend the Gorseinon-Kingsbridge cycle route link. The 20 mph new traffic measures would be introduced in Sept with 20mph being the default everywhere except where 30 mph was signposted. A £3m grant had been secured to put the new signage in place within Swansea area..

A Defib. was to be positioned at top of Pontardulais rd on the estate. County Members would fund 50% purchase & Council the future maintenance. Cllr Crowley had also asked for one to be installed around the Homebargains/ Somerfield/chemist area in future.

£4k Funding had been agreed for the "Barn" off Alexandre rd, to help with ASB related problems and local youth concerns. A successful door knocking initiative with local households had been carried out by County Councillors to hear local views.

Cllr Stevens also thanked the Council for the generous funding of the Brisco Fun run at end April which was a great success, and would be held again in May 2024.

b. **Cllr Pat Griffiths.** Comments were raised about the ongoing difficulty of exiting onto the main road from the estate. She also thanked the Local Firebrigade for the prompt attendance at a recent fire in Whittington Terrace. She noted that a new road sign for Whittington Terr. had now been installed, and reported on a car accident recently on the road.

Cllr Jan Curtice advised of the date May 2019 Betty Brown award was awarded which had been requested. Cllr Griffiths noted her disgust at recent videos of fighting in Penyrheol Comp school.

c. **Cllr M Curtice** asked that bluebells be planted at the bottom of Lime st. on the green, and Lime street again. He asked that the flags be erected either side of the Notice Board at bottom of High street, and sitings were discussed. Clerk had contacted Swansea Council, and the flagpoles would be erected on Tue 13 June.

d. **Cllr S Rawle** reported she had attended the recent St Catherines 110 year celebrations on 27 May. The Vicar had advised that he would like to attend future community events, including Swansea Pride.. Swansea Pride would be held on 18 May 2024.

The Council Newsletter was under preparation and Members agreed to the funding of the publication/printing and distribution costs.

e. **Cllr A Thomas** reported recent vandalism to the seat of the Zip Wire in Parc y Werin. Swansea Council would repair it this time but future damage would have to be funded by the Town Council.

f. **Cllr Ken Jones** had generously contributed a cheque for £1500 to the Council as follows; £500 towards the Food with Friend budget, £500 towards Cllr Sue Rawles LGBT+ account and £500 towards the Decky Memorial fund organised by Cllr Stevens. Members applauded his generosity.

Cllr Jones noted how good the floral displays were this year, and noted a number of the damaged and vandalised trees around the town appeared to be resprouting.

g. **Cllr Pam Morgan** note the Pop Up Café was thriving every Wed in the New Lodge. Donations had been forthcoming and half a ton of food supplies had recently been received from the Tesco store collection.

30. 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 were 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 Matthews allocated her personal allowance of £208 towards the new budget as well, and Cllr Ken Jones had personally given £500 towards the account.
- b. Chairman and Clerk asked Members to come up with a list of potential future projects (short/medium and long term) that the Town Council could build into a future capital programme. A spreadsheet was distributed for Members to complete.
- c. New Defibrulators on housing estate off Pontarddulais rd / “Well” chemists, Homebargains site had now been delivered, and would be installed shortly. Clerk would contact Henry Gilbert to arrange installation. (henry@heartbeattrustuk.co.uk)
- 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. A large number had been delivered to Penyrheol junior school for their use. Clerk had also purchased a few rooted xmas trees for planting on sites that Members choose.
- d. 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..
- e. Clerk advised Council that the new **Active travel** route between Penllergaer and Gorseinon was now well 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. Cllr Stevens had advised the route was to be extended from Gorseinon to Kingsbridge following funding approval.
- f. Flagpoles on High street adjoining Notice Board would shortly be erected and new flags would be ordered for the flagpoles..
- g. Blocked drain Ty Newydd had now been fixed by contractors.
Clerk distributed a schedule of defibrulators around the community for members to update and to incorporate into future publications.
Clerk advised that the contract for use of the top floor of Ty Newydd had now been signed by the MPs office for period July 1 to June 30 2024.
- h. Cllr Matthews had been discussing future sponsorship of the floral displays with Red Kite solicitors. Red Kite had donated £800 towards the marquis for the recent Brisco Fun Run.
- i. Clerk reported he had received updated model Standing Orders from One Voice Wales in incorporating latest legislation. Following discussion Members adopted the updated Model Orders for the Town Council.
- j. Clerk reported the final cost of works for the new xmas tree installation in Chestnut Avenue Penyrheol. It had been agreed that C/Cllrs would fund 50% in year 1 and the Town Council fund all future xmas tree costs for the site.

31. REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES.

1. Meeting received reports from the Council's Representatives on Outside Bodies/upcoming meetings . Clerk summarised outcome of following meetings already held.
 - a. One Voice Wales area meeting Thur May 11th 7pm via Zoom.
 - b. One Voice Wales Innovative Practice conference Builth Wells July 5, 1 Delegate plus Clerk to attend.
 - c. LGBT+ Conference Cardiff July 19 2023. Cllr S Rawle attending on behalf of Council..
 - d. Community Council forum Guildhall/Microsoft teams Wed 21 June 7pm Guildhall

32.CORRESPONDENCE;

- a. One Voice Wales training courses were outlined in June 2023.
- b. Active travel route Penllergaer-Gorseinon was discussed further, noting the complaints being received from local residents.
- c. The Good Councillors guide to Employment and Guide to Town & Community Council elections had been received and were Noted

33.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 7th June 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. Members noted that Clerk had submitted accounts to DCK Beavers for formalising for financial year 2022/23. Accounts had been approved and had been submitted to internal Auditors. Internal Auditor had subsequently signed off the 2022/23 accounts and signed off the Annual statement. Clerk summarised the Auditors comments in the Annual statement. Annual statement 2022/23 was approved by Councillors, and signed off for submission to external auditor at Welsh Govt..
- c. 2023/4 Business rates Ty Newydd. Grant had now increase from 50% to 75% from Welsh Govt.
- d. Conclusion of 2021/22 Full Audit by Welsh Govt (year 1 of 3 year Welsh Audit) had been received and signed off by External auditors . Report and recommendations were Noted.

34.PLANNING MATTERS. (MEETING June 7 2023)

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 the meeting.

- a. **NO OBJECTIONS** were raised to the following applications;
2023/1015 102 Lime st Gorseinon Single storey rear extn. 1st floor side extn, new access/parking
2023/1023 First floor rear extension 118 Frampton rd Penyrheol
2023/1154 Spooners Huts, Park rd Gorseinon. Pre app for 4 detached dwellings
- b. Notification of **APPROVALS** by Local Planning Authority. For information
2023/0588 12 Heol Gwili,, Garden room approved 4 May 2023
2023/0703 24 Mydham Lane Penyrheol. Discharge cond4 (ecol enhancement of pp 2022/220)

2023/0485 Signage. (4 High Street Gorseinon Approved 11 May 2023
 2023/0926PRE 54 Princess st Gorseinon 2 storey rear extension. Application would be supported
 2023/0648 89 High street Gors. Change Use estate agents 1st floor office to 2 bed flat. Cert Lawful
 Use approved 18 May 2023
 2023/0718 61 High st Gorseinon .Change use flat to stores above shop Approved 25 May 2023
 2023/0660 Change Use vets to hair/beauty salon 50 Alexandre rd Gors. Approved 25 May 2023
 2023/0586 Single storey rear extension 15 Pencefnarda rd Penyrheol. Approved 25 May 2023

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

2023/0881pre 17 Mydham Lane Penyrheol, increased ridge height/ extension Negative response
 2023/0647 2 Pontarddulais rd Gors. Change Use of 1st floor office to 1 bed flat. Refused 18 May
 2023/0592 Change use vets to residential apartment 50 Alexandre rd. Refused 15 May 2023.

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

e. Enforcement matters.

APPENDIX A GORSEINON TOWN COUNCIL EXPENDITURE 7.40 May 31 2023

Name	Net	VAT	Total (£)
HMRC Tax 470.18 NI 154.83			DD 625.01
Stationery/Hall supplies/stamps// drainage clearance £70 /Hall keys Refund hall hiring £20 /Audit postage/A4 paper	145.92	0.95	DD 146.87
Monthly HSBC Hall mortgage			DD 639.46
Monthly HSBC overpayment			DD 117.79
Hall business rates suite 1			DD 41.00
Hall business rates suite 2			DD 26.00
Npower gas hall			DD 56.00
BGas electric Hall			DD 97.40
Bank Charges			DD 8.00
Clerk travelling May			DD 130.65
Good housekeeping hall cleaning April and May			DD 270.00
Vision ICT	65.00	13.00	DD 78.00
LGBT+ conference Cardiff July 19 Cllr S Rawle	225.00	45.00	DD 270.00
DCK Accounting 2022/23accounts	530	106	DD 636.00
Agora business – risk assessment papers			DD 44.95
Welsh water nov 22 – April 1 2023			DD 125.22
OVW Conference July 2No representatives			DD 120.00
Auditing solutions 2022/23 internal audit fee	480	96	DD 576.00

CREDIT		
Tinitus hire May		100.00

Gorseinon town council bank reconciliation May 31 2023		
Current account		7340.00
Treasurers account		142768.00
Current balance (precept 2 Aug and precept 3 dec not included)		150108.00
Mortgage balance		- 68033.00

County Members funding of new Xmas tree Chestnut Ave year 1 (GTC to bear future costs)

Western power electric xmas tree Chestnut Ave		20.00
CCS License fee xmas tree /surveyors fee 50x2 Gowerview rd	DD	100.00
CCs License fee for xmas tree base and surveyors fee	DD	50.00
CCS sleeve installation Chestnut Ave xmas tree	DD	2950.00
Collect/remove 1 xmas tree J Stevens 50%		360.00
Lighthouse electric xmas lights & installations 10%	(Overall 6432.00)	3216.00
Knight Brenchley xmas tree barriers	(overall 460.00)	300.00
1 Xmas tree Chestnut Ave		367.20
Westempower installation infrastructure		

Total County Members contribution £7363.00 50% apportion £3700

Meeting closed at 7.40pm.....Chairman.....