

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

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

Present, Cllrs (Chmn) C Rabiotti, P Griffiths, Pam Morgan, A Thomas, S Rawle, A Crowley, M Curtice,
N Matthews. Joe Clayfield 1 Member public

46. APOLOGIES were received from Cllrs M Phillips, K Jones, J Curtice, Katie Jones, J Crowley,
A Stevens

47. MAYORS ANNOUNCEMENTS. Clerk advised the Mayor had attended the following events ;

a. Invitation had been received for all Cllrs to attend the 100th anniversary of St Johns at
New Lodge on Sat Sept 30 . Members had attended to celebrate the 100 anniversary of
the group and deputy Cllr Sue Rawle presented a bouquet of flowers to the group.

b. Winter/xmas initiative –hot meals suggestion was submitted from PCSO Elinor Pearce,
who was looking for a suitable venue. Members suggested the St Catherines church
Hall, and would notify her. A grant would be considered once a venue was secured.

c. Rules on installing Town Mayor were clarified by the Chairman, who wanted the
following introduced in future;
Photographs of the investment / A letter be sent to the new incoming Mayor , and past
Mayor , as well as Former Town Mayors badges be sought,
Members agreed the proposed future changes to protocol

d. Clerk had secured a quote for a Fire escape to be constructed for the top floor office
of the building. He and Cllr A Crowley had met Officers of Swansea Council on 7th
Sept to discuss the positioning of the spiral staircase on the Library land adjacent.
Library staff expressed concern about vandals climbing the stairs onto the roof of library
and an alternative design was requested.

e. Newsletter . Cllr Andrew Crowley had produced a first draft of a Newsletter , and would
now take matter forward and report to next meeting.

f. Mayor to attend 90th birthday celebrations for 2 residents of Llys Gwalia on 5th October.
Mrs Rosemary Jones and Mr Alfryn Williams.

48. POLICE MEETING

Between 1/9/23- 30/9/23 there have been 79 reported occurrences for the Gorseinon Beat com-
pared with 78 for the same period last year.

There have been 10 Anti-Social Behaviour occurrences compared to 14 for the same period last year.
The bulk of these reports relate to vehicle related nuisance at the Car Park in Lime Street. A plan is
being set up to tackle this problem with an Environmental Visual Assessment already having been

conducted by a Crime Tactical Reduction Adviser. Once the report is received, we will share those findings with relevant partners and agencies to discuss. As a result of a resident survey conducted in the locality a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme is in the process of being set up.

14 occurrences have been classified in accordance with Home Office counting rules as crimes of violence compared with 18 occurrences within the same period last year with no reports of any domestic burglaries the same as last year.

In general, we have seen a reduction in demand at the Bus Station and had no concerns expressed by First Cymru who are continuing to operate in the area without any disruption to their services. We are aware of damage being caused at the public toilets and are investigating these occurrences. There has been an increase in youth related activities in the area with Evolve (Youth Activities) continuing to run on a weekly basis with high numbers of attendees (over 50 attendees). Police are working with staff at the centre to ensure that no disruption is caused to local residents.

In addition, KICKS Swansea City Football Club Foundation, which is sponsored by the Police Crime Commissioner, have run their initial session which attracted over 80 participants. These events will take place on a weekly basis at The Barn on a Tuesday evening with additional sessions being considered to cope with demand.

Furthermore, Boardability Skateboarding events, which are being supported by the Ward Councilors, are up and running. All initiatives are assisting in diverting youths away from ASB and into something constructive, fitting firmly within our prevention and diversion strategy.

National Safer Business Week commences on 16th October, and we are looking to carry out some initiatives with local businesses to build trust and confidence with the Police and wider community.

Go Safe Camera partnership have been operating in Heol y Mynydd in relation to speeding vehicles.

Regarding Penyrheol there have been 47 occurrences in the last month compared to 53 the previous year.

There have been 4 Anti-Social Behaviour occurrences which is comparable with last September.

16 occurrences have been classified in accordance with Home Office counting rules as crimes of violence compared with 15 occurrences within the same period last year with no reports of any domestic burglaries the same as last year.

There are no current crime trends in the Penyrheol area which are of concern.

49. COUNCIL PROTOCOL FOR MAYOR/DEPUTY

Clerk had distributed draft document outlining the protocol for the Town Council Mayor and Deputy. Members discussed the new document and referred discussion to next meeting for comments to be incorporated.

50. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a. The Clerk presented the Sept 6 2023 minutes (which had been distributed previously) for approval, and which were approved without amendments. (Prop A Thomas, sec Cllr S Rawle).

51. PUBLIC SESSION. 1 Member of the public was present.

- a. 20mph speed limit was introduced in Wales on Sept 17 2023. Clerk had received briefing note from Highways dept which had been distributed to all Cllrs to brief them on likely questions being asked by Public over new speed limits being introduced ..
- b. Member of public raised questions about car vandalism in Lime st car park. Clerk referred to the written report from Police about recent incident of damage to property and outlined what action Police were intending to take as well as setting up Neighbourhood watch for the residents. Concerns about the new 20mph signage along Gorseinon road were also highlighted.

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

- a. **Cllr N Matthews.** She advised that £4000 had been committed from County Members budget for the Boardability initiative with local youth in the youth club as outlined in Police report. New sessions in the youth club on Thursdays were now taking place. She advised Members of the recent Macmillans coffee morning, which had raised £270. The County Council was seeking potholes that needed to be filled in the local network, and officers could be advised of locations via the Swansea.gov website. She would be meeting Frontrunners to discuss the 2024 Brisco fun run event planned for 19th May 2024. The 20 mph new law was creating much discussion, and the Authority was working to bring all signage up to date in the area.
- b. **Cllr Pat Griffiths.** Commented about the need to introduce some form of recognition for local individuals who had served the community in some form.
- c. **Cllr S Rawle** reported she had attended recent coffee mornings, and was dealing with family history requests in the local library. She had presented flowers at the recent St Johns centenary event, to acknowledge the efforts of their staff over recent years. She had attended recent Macmillans coffee morning at the Institute which had raised £400.
- d. **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 was to be funded by the Town Council.
- e. **Cllr Pam Morgan** noted 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.
- f. **Cllr Andrew Crowley** outlined work on preparing a draft Newsletter for the community, and Members discussed its content, and additions that could be included. Clerk advised that he had discussed delivery with the Army Cadets in Park road who would be prepared to deliver to households locally. He was asked to liaise with developers over naming of new street name as Heol Morgan in memory of a young local boy recently bereaved.
- g. **Cllr Rabaiotti** raised issue of plaques being positioned in Ty Newydd to acknowledge efforts of locals that should be recorded in some way, to build up a local history within the building.
- h. **Cllr M Curtice** highlighted the parking of Fairground vehicles on Millers Drive, that was causing obstruction and damage also on the Green at bottom of Lime street. Agreed to report to Police and licensing Authority. Cllr Matthews confirmed that Millers drive had not been adopted. It was suggested double yellow lines would be appropriate.

53. 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 had been 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.
Decky Memorial £300 had been donated towards event costs.
Penyrheol comp 50th anniversary events seeking sponsorship. £500 had been donated by Mayor to event during the recess.

New grants approved at the meeting, and Members discussed criteria for giving grants to groups outside boundary but still helping locals. It was accepted a nominal £100 would seem appropriate in those circumstances.;

One Heart Drummers based in St Catherines church ,had asked to join the Xmas parade on Nov 30th. Members discussed a request for financial support and agreed a donation of £250.

Garden village brownies. Members discussed a request for financial support and agreed a donation of £100.

Children with additional needs. Members discussed a request for financial support and agreed a donation of £350.

An Evening of Music at New Lodge . Event would be promoted on website as requested.

- b. **Bluebells.** Clerk asked for potential location of newly acquired stock of Bluebells, and Members discussed potential sites.
- c. Chairman and Clerk had 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 had been distributed for Members to complete, and the issue was deferred until the next meeting for further ideas to be presented. Discussed ideas included benches on Grovesend end of cycletrack, a plaque on Ty Newydd to commemorate locals and events.
- d. New Defibrulators on housing estate off Pontarddlais rd / “Well” chemists, Homebargains and surgery opposite St Catherines church site had now been delivered, and had been installed . Photographs were arranged for 6th October outside surgery with the church officers who provided the defib there.
- e. Clerk advised Council that the new **Active travel** route between Penllergaer and Gorseinon was now completed to provide a dedicated footpath/cycleroute between both communities. Many complaints had been received about the traffic delays being caused by the roadworks, and the changed character of the streetscene. 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 had now been erected and 6 new flags had been received for the flagpoles.. Members discussed the flags needed in future and agreed the format of the new Town Council flag, to be council logo on white background as existing.
- g. 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.
- h. Clerk reported that initial work had started on Xmas 23 activities, with the parade set for Thur Nov 30th. A joint meeting with Loughor TC was to be held as soon as practical. Clerk summarised the work that had been done to date to start the planning. Members raised concern at the escalating costs of the event, but agreed it would continue for the community. Notice subsequently received that RedKite solicitors would sponsor the event for the next 5 Years.
- i. Remembrance week arrangements. Cadets involvement was reported. Members discussed proposed arrangements, and resolved marching parade would continue. Remembrance service at cenotaph Sat 4 Nov,, Remembrance service at church 12 November.
- j. Flagpoles High street adjoining Notice Board.. New flags had been delivered and installed retaining the existing logo and colours which had been designed by local school children. No alterations had been made to its design..

- k. Annual report 2023 had been prepared by the Clerk and would be put on Council website.
- l. Ty Newydd Fire escape meeting had taken place with Library staff. They were concerned about access to roof of building and asked for an amended design initially.
- m. New user RAF Assn had met in Ty Newydd recently on Tuesdays, and would appraise if it was to be a monthly event. New WI group had also considered relocating.
- n. Members discussed recent presentation from Boundary Commission over new criteria being used for assessing number of Cllrs and revised boundaries within the Swansea area. Proposals would have Gorseinon/Penyrheol Town Council being reduced from 15 to 14 Cllrs based upon population projections for 2028. Members noted the report which had been accepted by Swansea Council and asked Clerk to offer observations that incorporating Grovesend /Waungron into the new town council area would seem logical.
- o. Cllr Matthews raised matter of Business engagement event she was hoping to host, to utilise budget available from Swansea Council. Members supported the concept and asked Cllr Matthews to take the lead on organising the event.

54. REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES.

- a. Meeting received reports from the Council's Representatives on Outside Bodies/upcoming meetings. Clerk summarised outcome of following meetings already held.
 - a. OVW AGM /area meeting Guildhall Oct 9th Zoom Guildhall
 - b. OVW Larger Council meeting Zoom Oct 11th Zoom.

55. CORRESPONDENCE;

- a. One Voice Wales training courses were outlined in Sept 2023.
- b. Active travel route Penllergaer-Gorseinon was discussed further, noting the complaints being received from local residents.

56. ACCOUNTS

- a. Committee received the Income / Receipts summary statement from the Clerk and approved the payment of the following outstanding cheques for the ACCOUNTS dated 4th October 2023 (proposed A Thomas seconded P Morgan). 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, and advice from external auditors to review charges annually.
- 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 WAG.
- d. Members considered 5 year renewal of xmas lights contract with Lighthouse electrical and confirmed acceptance of quote for £4960 pa for the scheduled works as specified.

57. PLANNING MATTERS. (MEETING October 4 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 [Swanea.gov.uk/planning](https://swanea.gov.uk/planning) prior to meeting.

NO OBJECTIONS were raised to the following applications;

- 2023/1860 1 Saron Close Penyrheol 2 storey side/rear extension , 1st floor Juliet balcony.
- 2023/1911 Gorseinon youth centre, Pontardulais rd. Fencing to segregate outdoor area.
- 2023/1966 Tabernacle church Alexandre rd Gorseinon. Change of Use to Employment agency
- 2023/1861 17 Brynteg rd , Attic bedroom, roof lights, side sun tunnel
- 2023/2066 Discharge cond 9 (landscaping) 216 Pentre rd Penyrheol (original application 22/2941)
- 2023/2056 40 Bryngwastad rd Gorseinon Single storey side extension (Proposed lawful devt)

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

2023/1466 (CLD) 20 Duffryn rd Gorseinon Single storey rear extension. Determined Is Lawful
Dated 13 Sept 2023

2023/1601 118 Frampton rd Penyrheol 1st floor rear extension. Approved 18 Sept 2023

2023/1692 17 Mydham Lane Penyrheol Raising roof , additional works Approved 25 Sept 2023.

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

d. Notification of **Appeals** by Local Planning Authority; For information

APPENDIX A GORSEINON TOWN COUNCIL EXPENDITURE Sept 30 2023

Name	Net	VAT	Total (£)
HMRC Tax NI			DD 737.84
Stationery/Hall supplies/envelopes/printer ink			DD 99.87
Hall materials/xmas supplies/toilet drainage blockage- plumbers fee Aug	158.48	17.00	DD 175.48
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
E.on gas hall			DD 112.45
BGas electric Hall			DD 60.96
Bank Charges Aug			DD 9.00
Good housekeeping cleaning			
Clerk travelling sept			DD 104.65
Grant Penyrheol comp pta			500.00
Chubb annual fire extinguisher service	156.04	31.22	DD 187.26
British Legion remembrance flags			DD 66.44
Floral decorations 2023	4074.58	814.92	DD 4889.50
Mr Flag new flags Town Council logo 6No	360	74	DD 444.00
Conference expenses Cllr S Rawle 191.02 /%00 donation transfer from Cllr Ken Jones ex Mayor			691.02
Lighthouse electrical Xmas lights 2024 quote	4800	160	4960.00
Bank charges Oct			DD 10.00
Grant Loughor Rovers for Decky Memorial event			300.00
Kingsbridge print wreath centres	87	17.4	DD 104.4
90 th birthday x2, St Johns flowers /Remembrance accessories			DD 160.35
Rent for Pop up café at New Lodge			80.00

CREDIT		
RB Legion refund		625.00
Tinitus hire Aug/		100.00
IPSA OFFICE FEE		1500.00

Gorseinon town council bank reconciliation Sept 30 2023		
Current account		11581.57
Treasurers account		149747.33
Current balance (precept 2 Aug and precept 3 dec not included) (plus future precepts in Aug/Dec)		161328.9
Mortgage balance		- 66650.80

Meeting closed at 8.00pm.....Chairman.....