

MINUTES ARE IN DRAFT FORM UNTIL APPROVED AT NEXT MEETING 7 March 2024

**MINUTES of the MEETING of GORSEINON TOWN COUNCIL, held on WEDNESDAY
7 February 2024 at Ty Newydd Community Centre, 17 West St. GORSEINON, at 6pm**

Present, Cllrs (Chmn) C Rabiotti, A Thomas, S Rawle, A Crowley, N Matthews.
M Curtice, J Curtice, Town Clerk, Katie Jones, J Crowley, J Clayfield, Ken Jones, I Walters, PCSO Elena Pearce, PCSO Owain Jones, Jeff Bowen (Good News for Everyone)

101. Prior to meeting starting Cllr Jeff Bowen presented the Town Mayor with a bible on behalf of the Good News for Everyone group (formerly Gideons).

APOLOGIES received from Cllrs M Phillips, A Stevens, P Griffiths, Pam Morgan

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

- a. Mayor had attended the 90th birthday of Mrs Elizabeth Morgan on Feb 5th Pencefnarda road Penyrheol.
- 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. 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. Fire escape approved in principle by Swansea Council and awaiting further site visit to determine design.
- d. Request had been received to acquire the recently published portrait of the Monarch to put up in public buildings.
- e. The Mayor announces that he will be preoccupied for much of March and in his absence the Deputy Sue Rowle and Councillor Andrew Crowley will attend events in his place.
- f. On the 7th of February the Mayor spoke with the Sightlife group who expressed in interest in supporting the development of the council's website through advising the accessibility of the website.
- g. In order to reduce paper waste, the Mayor will now allow for all future council monthly meeting agendas to be delivered electronically.
- h. The Mayor attended a showcase of the Gorseinon Fire Service's new flood rescue equipment which will allow for them to assist with flood rescue and water based emergency.

103. POLICE MEETING

Between 31/12/23 – 31/1/24 there were 81 occurrences reported in Gorseinon. 16 of these occurrences were occurrences of antisocial behaviour around ASDA. The police report they are working with organisations to lower this statistic. Furthermore 9 of the 81 occurrences were crimes of violence. There were 0 dwelling burglaries reported. This shows a reduction in the total amount of occurrences from the same period last year, where 125 occurrences were reported.

Penyrheol had 39 reported occurrences. 13 of these occurrences were crimes of violence, however police report that several of these occurrences are related to an ongoing neighbour dispute that the police are actively investigating. There were 0 cases of antisocial behaviour. The number of total occurrences has seen a decrease from 47 occurrences last year during the same period.

The police reported that a large number of their calls have been related to the ongoing antisocial behaviour around the bus station. The volume of these calls has restricted the police's ability to respond to other reports. To combat the occurrences the police have installed 4 cameras around the bus station to identify the perpetrators. To assist with this Gorseinon Council has arranged for the installation of lights that will illuminate Argyll Gardens during the night time.

104. COUNCIL PROTOCOL FOR MAYOR/DEPUTY

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

105. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a. The Clerk presented the Jan 3 2024 minutes (which had been distributed previously) for approval, and which were approved with no amendments.(Prop A Thomas, sec Cllr A Crowley).
- b. The Clerk presented the Jan 3 Finance 2024 minutes (which had been distributed previously) for approval, and which were approved with no amendments. The requested precept for 2024/5 had been forwarded to Swansea Council(Prop A Thomas, sec Cllr A Crowley).

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

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

- a. **Cllr N Matthews.** Reminded the Council that a business event will be held on the 13th of February. This event will allow for local businesses to explore the opportunities that the Council has available for them. She announced that there will be a police representative and asked for Council members to attend.
- b. **Cllr S Rawle** reported that she will hold an upcoming history talk with the Sightlife Group. She also attended the St Catherines Coffee mornings as a volunteer.
- c. **Cllr Andrew Crowley** reported that there have been numerous complaints over parking on double yellow lines in Penyrheol. Highways department have been notified. Additionally, Cllr Crowley informed the council of the recent neighbour dispute in Penyrheol. Police are aware of the matter. Andrew Crowley also assisted the ALN group with grant applications.
- d. **Cllr Jan Curtice** recently renegotiated the venue for her pop-up café, which she secured for the same price. The most recent pop café had a fantastic attendance. Furthermore Jan Curtice reported that Swansea Council has had numerous difficult budget meetings over the month of January.
- e. **Cllr Andrew Stevens.** The Clerk reported on Cllr Andrews behalf the following: The scheme to renovate the bottom of Lime Street has received enough funding with £40,000 coming from Swansea council, £40,000 coming from Gorseinon Town Council and £20,000 coming from County Members budget. The primary change would be around the statue located at the bottom of Lime Street. Work is awaiting designs from architects and engineers. The scheme should be delivered this financial year. Additionally, A Stevens has received a quote for lighting Argyll Gardens that comes in at £4200. The council agreed to this price and installation will soon follow.
- f. **Cllr Ken Jones.** Inquired into the clock in Gorseinon not chiming/functioning. The Clerk reported that the issue is related to Swansea Council and their economic recovery fund. Cllr Andrew Stevens has chased the issue.

108. 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.

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 - New Lodge. vent would be promoted on website as requested. Wales Air Ambulance £250

Sponsor seniors cricket world cup. Mr Hugh Quick £200

Chromamusic Community group £250

Gower & Llchwyr Lions club- Tree of Light appeal was given £100

Gower & Llchwyr Lions club- Fees for Talkie Thursdays in New Lodge £100

St Catherines church Xmas tree installation.£200 Recommend contact County members

100 year old birthday Bronwen from Penyrheol to be attended by Mayor.

Movement for Health, Brighton road Gorseinon

Dementia club New Lodge should be notified to club looking for a facility in Gorseinon.

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.;

- a. Grants applications received from community - financial year 2023/4
Eisteddfod 2024 Margam Park support to be decided.
Institute Llwehwr Art Group £200
One Heart drummers were seeking a new venue for their practicing in the Community, the council will advise that both the Catholic church and The Llwehwr Workmas club have appropriate venues to rent.
Sightlife group £200
StCatherines Coffee morning group £200
- b. **Bluebells.** Clerk asked for potential location of newly acquired stock of Bluebells, and Members discussed potential sites. Council also approved the **floral order** from CCS for 2024 season (as 2023) but noted extras may be added or deleted in due course, to reduce costs, and the 2 pyramid planters were suggested to save £1200..
- c. 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.
- d. 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, which was due in February 13 2024.
- e. Future **training programmes** from One Voice Wales was outlined for Members that wished to participate.
- f.. Revised contract with **Barclays bank** for 2024/15 had been negotiated with the Clerk and a contract for a further 12 months had been signed with hours extending from 9-5pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays.- terms
- g. **Festive Lighting** xmas panels new contract quotes 2024 had been received. Members agreed to extend the existing contract for a further 2 years.Clerk advised the 2 GTC logo panels were remaining in situ at either end of High street.
- h. Summer wildflower planting scheme was agreed for 2024.sites were to be discussed with CCS.
- i. **Calon Health CPR** Training had been offered. Cllr M Curtice asked for the Recycled Teenagers meeting in the Bug to have a training session.Clerk was asked to organise.
- j. Attendance from Cllr **Marsha Phillips** was raised as she had not attended the last 6 months of meetings. A Letter explaining her circumstances was read out and noted by Members who agreed to allow her to remain as a Councillor. Her explanation was accepted and Members agreed to allow her to remain in post until health improved.
- k. Clerk read out letter from One Voice Wales highlighting Council options for dealing with the ongoing **welfare crisis** within communities in Wales and what options could be introduced.
- l. Clerk updated Members on grant application for installation of **Solar panels** on roof of Ty Newydd centre.A grant of £25000 had been applied for.

109.Assistant Clerks report. Asst/Clerk reported on the following matters;

- a. Due to how limiting the Vision ICT website service is the Council agreed to allow the Assistant Clerk to create a new website in house.
- b. Mayors diary has been created and will now act a record of all Council members activities.
- c. The possibility of a youth council has been discussed with Gorseinon Collage. Members agreed to allow a budget of £1000 for this . Additionally it was agreed that members of this Council can be from outside of Gorseinon and Penyrheol. However, all decisions and funding must be made and used inside our local community.

110 REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES.

Meeting received reports from the Council's Representatives on Outside Bodies/upcoming meetings . Clerk summarised outcome of following meetings already held.

One Voice Wales area meeting Mon 15 Jan 7pm via ZOOM at Ty Newydd Mon 4 March CCS forum Guildhall 5pm

One Voice Wales National awards conference wed 27 March 2024 Builth Wells .

One Voice Wales Larger Council meeting Zoom wed 14 Feb 10.30-1

111.CORRESPONDENCE; None reported

112.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 7th February 2024 (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 would shortly be submitting accounts to DCK Beavers for formalising for financial year 2024/5.

113.PLANNING MATTERS. (MEETING February 7 2024)

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 meeting.

a. NO OBJECTIONS;

2024/0148 Replacement shopfront 7 Alexandra rd Gorseinon
2024/0135 Development of national significance fronting A484/Swansea rd- Solar farm (Llwchwr TC area)
2024/0210 Pre app. 68 Park rd Gorseinon single storey rear extension
2024/0181 1 Frampton rd Penyrheol Retention shop front

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

2023/2210 1 Alexandra rd Gorseinon, Signage and Logo Specsavers Approved 5 Jan 2024
2023/2396 91 Alexandra rd Gorseinon Change of Use Ground floor Beauty saloon to part of hotel C1 Approved 9 Jan 2024
2023/ 2512 Discharge Cond 3 (ecological enhancement of appn 2023/2104 Penyrheol Comp enclosures Approved 10 Jan 2024
2023/2464 1 Saron Close "storey side extn, 1 storey rear extn, Approved 19 Jan 2024
2023/2629 72 High St Gorseinon Replacement shofront Approved 24 Jan 2024

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

2023/2590 Station hotel 17 High street Gorseinon,conversion flat and room in Public house to 2 self contained flats.
Refused 2 Feb 2024

d. Notification of Appeals by Local Planning Authority;

APPENDIX A GORSEINON TOWN COUNCIL EXPENDITURE Jan 31 2024

| Name | Net | VAT | Total (£) |
|---|---------|--------|------------|
| | | | |
| HMRC Tax NI | | | DD 737.84 |
| Stationery/Hall supplies/envelopes/printpaper/90 th birthday | | | DD 91.95 |
| Chubb hall fire extinguishers test | 179.32 | 35.86 | DD 215.18 |
| 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 /Corona energy electric Hall | | | DD 60.96 |
| Bank Charges Oct Nov Dec Jan | | | DD 9.00 |
| Good housekeeping cleaning Nov Dec | | | DD 240.00 |
| Clerk travelling Dec jan Feb | | | DD 114.4 |
| BT MPs office | 459 | 92.81 | DD 551.81 |
| Safestyle security xmas marshalls | 2113.75 | 422.75 | DD 2536.50 |

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|---|------------|-------------|------------------|
| Andrew Jones plaques | | | DD 300.00 |
| Grant Moving forward | | | DD 200.00 |
| Commercial marquis | | | DD 100.00 |
| CCS grasscutting 2023 | | | DD769.00 |
| W&J Stevens xmas tree collection/disposal x2 | 600 | 120 | DD 720.00 |
| SLCC Subs 2024 | | | DD 188.00 |
| Radio tircoed | | | |
| Vision ICT website fees | 236 | 47.2 | DD 283.20 |
| Knight brenchley barriers | 152 | 30.4 | DD182.4 |
| Knight Brenchley barriers | 180 | 36 | DD 216.00 |

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|---------------------------------|--|--|----------------|
| CREDIT | | | |
| Tinitus hire dec | | | 100.00 |
| IPSA OFFICE FEE | | | 1500.00 |
| Red Kite solicitors | | | 1000.00 |
| Barclays hire 2024/5 | | | 2250.00 |
| Rebecca Evans wreath | | | 30.00 |
| Moving forward fees 2024 | | | 220.00 |

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| Gorseinon town council bank reconciliation Jan 31 2024 | | | |
| Current account | | | |
| 11700.00 | | | |
| Treasurers account | | | |
| 157929.00 | | | |
| Current balance (precept 3 dec not included) (plus future precepts in Dec) | | | |
| 169629.00 | | | |
| Mortgage balance | | | - |
| 65257.40 | | | |

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