

MINUTES ARE IN DRAFT FORM UNTIL APPROVED AT NEXT MEETING 2 Oct 2024

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

Present, Cllrs (Chmn) S Rawle, A Crowley, Pam Morgan, P Griffiths, M Curtice, J Curtice,
Andrew Thomas, Ken Jones, N Matthews, Town Clerk, Asst Town Clerk New Cllr PHIL
EYERS

52. APOLOGIES from Cllrs, A Stevens, M Phillips J Clayfield , J Crowley, Katie Jones

Clerk reported that he had received in writing on May 14th a letter of resignation from former Cllr Carlo Rabaiotti. Members noted the letter and contents and approved the formal advertising of the vacancy once approved by Swansea Council. As a request for an election had now been received following the advert the Town Council would now proceed to an election to appoint a new Cllr for Penyrheol , and cost of election to be born by Town Council. The election took place on Aug 8th and Polling cards were be distributed by post. The successful applicant was Cllr Phil Eyers who now attended his first meeting.

53. MAYORS ANNOUNCEMENTS. Clerk advised Mayor had attended the following Events

JULY

- 3rd Llwhwr Art Group Institute
- 6th Summer Reading Challenge Launch Gorseinon Library
- 27th New Bees Community Group Boot Sale New Lodge
- 31st Pop up Cafe New Lodge

AUGUST

- 13th Arline Davies 90th birthday Movement for Health New Lodge
- 29th Ministerial visit 4pm St Catherines church – from Adrian (Vicar)
- 27th New Bees boot sale
- 31st Pop up café New Lodge.

Upcoming Events

Nov 18th Institute 12-3 Xmas stress buster hub by local PCSOs. Clerk explained the details from the LACS.

Christmas St Michaelmas fare Pembroke invite has been sent to current Mayor and consort.

- a. Mayor welcomed the newly appointed Asst Clerk, Mr David Walters to his first meeting following successful interview in July. He officially took up his post on Sept 1 2024.

54. To receive a report on Police Matters within Gorseinon and Penyrheol.

No Police presence or reports submitted.

55. PUBLIC Session for Public to raise items of local relevance during 15 minute session.

A local resident, Julie Wright, reporting that fly tipping and evidence of external construction to the rear of the Station Hotel Pub. 24 – 26 High St. The rear area of the property has been blocked because of this activity. Julie Wright conformation this will be reported to the relevant department. Councillor JC replied that yes, Planning will be informed through the GTC.

Planning application sent through GTC for change of use over to apartments. GTC objected, but this has gone through since that time. The building works appear to have started according to Julie Wright. Council to check the planning consent which had been for only internal works. Councillor J. Curtice reported this appeared to be external work. This would indicate they are in breach of planning consent.

There is currently no access to the rear because of the amount of material there. and trench work indicating there is outside work commencing.

Councillor PE asked for clarity around who informs the Local Council about any issues in planning consent. Clerk explained the process of objections that the local Council can make to any planning applications. Julie enquired how long it would be for her to have a response from the county Councilor members. As soon as they get a response from planning, they would let her know.

56. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a. The Clerk presented the July 10 2024 minutes (which had been distributed previously) for approval, which were approved (Prop J Curtice, sec Cllr A Crowley).
- b. The Clerk presented the July 17 2024 minutes (which had been distributed previously) for approval, which were approved (Prop J Curtice, sec Cllr A Crowley).
- c. The Clerk presented the July 17 2024 Xmas parade minutes (which had been distributed previously) for approval, which were approved (Prop J Curtice, sec Cllr A Crowley).

57. MEMBER REPORTS on Local Matters from Town and County Cllrs ;

a. County Councillor reports

Cllr Jan Curtice reported that regeneration and new places are opening across the City, including buildings such as The Old Palace Theatre opening with office spaces being already being filled.

The Pop up cafe's are being attended well. Melin Mynach plan to extend the pump track subject to funding/ grants being received.

b. Town Council reports ;

Cllr Malcolm Curtice; A new shop opened on high St called white rabbit has opened. Lower Gorseinon- architect is currently designing layouts for the project, Suggestions of steel frame half circle design reflecting the tin and steel work done historically.

Cllr Pat Griffiths; New seat on the wall by the Bug needs repairing.

Cllr Pam Morgan; Pop up cafe has been well attended, Thanks to Cllr Jan Curtice with all her cakes and coffee.

Cllr Phil Eyres; Remaining Sign work to be done to remove covering on MPs plaque outside Ty Newydd.

Cllr Ken Jones highlighted some lights in Argyll Gardens not working. He was asked to identify the lampstandard specific numbers.

Cllr Andrew Crowley; Attended Arleen Davies 90th Birthday, photos taken.

Lorries parking outside Aldi creating issues.

AGM for Gorseinon Institute concerned about the finances there and their energy costs.

Within One Voice Wales, Andrew was appointed to be the Area Representative.

Feedback from few local people, who have mentioned to have more council notice boards.

Funding available if shops are linked in with additional activities promoting their work, such as lantern workshops taking place on their premises. More information to follow.

Cllr Nicola Matthews; McMillans coffee morning on 27th New Lodge.

Recently a member set off the building alarm. Risk assessment done recently and there are issues.

Clerk explained the policy applying to Barclays hiring the small front room and need for staff presence in building whilst they were occupying room. Discussions are ongoing.

Cllr Andrew Thomas; Complaints around pigeons at bottom end of Kingsbridge. Event going on Parc y Werin this weekend. A brass band will be there. It's on Saturday morning 10-12pm. Glass pints being used and left outside down by the Gip (Station Hotel) and the Bug causing concern from locals.

Clerk;

Barclays update - Using the building and having more physical presence while they are there. Cover needed while they are there as they cannot be the only person in the building. No longer allowed to take responsibility for the keyholders.

Discussion 9-5 Tues and Thurs, they could change to a Wednesday. There is a presence in the building. Assistant Clerk will be able to cover this period during the coming weeks and months.

58. CLERKS REPORTS Members had agreed in Feb.2024 meeting that grant allocations would remain in place and be distributed to worthy causes throughout the year . Mayor asked that at the Jan 2025 budget meeting the Council reviews its budget allocation for worthy local groups.

a. Grants applications received from community - financial year 2023/4
Application for May 2024 3Ms Road Runners were granted £200.

New application for June ;

Loughor events committee Lighting up Xmas Fri 29 Nov. No funds allocated.

Thursday Talkie Thursdays £200 allocated.

Chris Chapman photographer £150 (Jan 25 2024)

July 2024 a. Moving Forward group. Resolved grant £200

- b. Brisco Fun Run 2025 . Members discussed support for the Fun run , scheduled for April 2025. It had been a great success in 2024 and the Council would seek opportunities to support the event. VAT reclaiming through the Council would be examined and the financial support discussed if the Town Council profile was raised further.

Sept 4 applications

ALN Connect (families with disabled children), (Andrew C declared he had a vested interest in ALC connect) Grant £300 agreed

Movement for health. Clerk read letter...from July 12th. Update the activities have included pool party's etc, social connection has been supported well from families supporting each other. Money to fund room and provisions for parents etc. Big Piece recently on Swansea Bay News . Donation - £300 Proposed - Malcolm Curtis, S - Andrew Crowley

New Bees community Team,

Catherine Black from the local fund-raising team, meeting every Saturday at The Lodge, contributions from local supermarkets. Spreading the word about the boot sale event held every Saturday. £8000 raised since Feb. 2024, these events have raised funds for families such as Eva Rays, who received £3000 recently and the family will receive £3000 coming to support them soon.

JC commented that £2800 raised at recent event at The Lodge.

To support this across the UK, buildings will be lit up in blue lights. Members agreed that community building will be lit up blue in support of this on Sept. 23rd .

Grant £300 agreed. AC asked about also 'Neighbourly' that works with supermarkets which donates to groups. The bees get a lot of return stock from them

The Gorseinon Bowls Club requesting a financial contribution to their club.

Councillor PE stated that the condition of the top rink was poor. Clerk discussed previous contributions and members decided to ask for a copy of their accounts as part of our decision making and a clearer idea of what the work to improve the club will be?

Gorseinon car scheme awarded £200

b. **Environmental scheme Railway Terrace** site meeting 23 July with architect. Clerk updates councillors on £100,000 budget for draft scheme for the whole scheme. Councillors' comments around design features included possibly suggesting a stainless-steel feature where the current wall is, and/or railway line across road. Architect to produce Draft for comments.

c. Update on work to clock chimes, old Council building West Street.

Councillor A Stevens and Jonathan Hatherway senior economic coordinator at Caredig have given permission to access the building. Clock is working but chimes need fixing. After the horologist for the Swansea area had retired, without a replacement, commissions have gone to Smiths of Derby to take up works/repairs designing. Councillor Mathews(Morrison ward) is also looking to erect a clock in Llansamlet at the same time as Gorseinon.

d. Xmas parade date confirmed Thur Nov 28 2024. Next meeting Sept 11th 11am Welfare Hall. Next meeting at welfare 11th sept at 11am with Loughor town council representatives. Three representatives from GTC will attend with the Clerk.

e. Fire escape Ty Newydd centre. Design and quote following new site meeting. Commitment has been given from council in principle for the fire escape to go ahead with an agreement with Gorseinon Library as it will sit on their land. The library design is still in discussion. Looking to agree a scheme which meets their needs which avoids access by young people, causing a risk of harm. The design must meet access requirements to the library. Discussions are ongoing with the library.

f. Letter Gorseinon car scheme .

Gorseinon comm car scheme. - recently having to considering closing down the scheme. Damage to cars and 20mph restrictions have had a negative effect. Looking for volunteers. Financial difficulties, financial support was requested and volunteers needed. Possibly Tonia could visit to promote. LAC could suggest/Promote on social media pages. £200 awarded.

g. **Resilient Swansea launch-** workshops during September for community leaders. Swansea council setting up workshops for community leaders

59. Assistant Clerk / Information officer appointment Sept 1 David Walters – work programme

Clerk introduced the Assistant Clerk. discussion with councillors around website design and content. Ass. Clerk suggested to members that the current VisionICT website was not meeting the needs of the council or community. It was agreed that a more user friendly and interactive experience for local people would attract more local people to use our Website.

Discussions with VisionICT have been initiated and the conclusions were that quotes for a new ‘wordpress’ based website would be able to meet the needs of GTC. Quotes from at least three Local and Wales based hosts will be sought in the coming weeks. These companies are all recommended as One Voice Wales and include our current provider VisonICT, who are also in the process of adopting the ‘wordpress’ base as part of their hosting service.

60.To receive reports from the Council’s Representatives on Outside Bodies/upcoming meetings

OVW area meeting July 15th Zoom / AGM and monthly meeting discussed. The upcoming Open National OVW Conference Oct 16 Bwlth wells showground. 5 Councillors, including the Clerk and Ass. Clerk expressed a wish to attend.

Audit Wales 2021/2 audit fee was currently in dispute over a fee of £2600???

This was the first full audit taken place on GTC. Clerk has requested a full explanation and breakdown of these costs. Councillors agreed and felt the fee was too much and agreed Audit Wales to provide greater detail of the charges. Clerk to update.

61 Correspondence.

Ombudsman correspondence requesting information on current case. Information is currently with the Ombudsman and they are looking at the case at this time, awaiting final report on the outcome.

62. 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 Sept 2024 (proposed J Curtice 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. Data protection fee 2024/5 was authorised for payment £35.

c. Clerk reported the Internal Auditors had now approved the 2023/4 Annual report and signed off the Annual return, which had been publicly advertised.

63. PLANNING MATTERS.

PLANNING MATTERS. (MEETING Sept 4 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;

2024/1122 Gors rugby & cricket club, 2 storey front extn, 1st floor front/side extn balcony, single storey rear extn.

2024/1294 23 Alexandre road, 2 storey side/rear extn./ single storey extn.

2024/1289 46 High Street Gors. Change Use ground floor store to launderette.

2024/1449 21 Moorland green Gorseinon Single storey rear extension

2024/1568 28 West st Gorseinon New access and vehicular crossing
2024/1601 Canolfan, Millers drive, Change Use from café to Creche/day
nursery and extension/access ramp.

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

2024/1426 6 Gwalia Close Single storey side extension. (Cert proposed
lawful use) Appr 26 July
2022/1189 Land north Pencefnarda rd, Pencefnarda farm. Discharge cond4
(ext lighting) cond 5 (env management plan) cond 13 (site waste
management) cond15 (External lighting) cond 19 (external
materials) cond 21 (vision splay) Approved Aug 1 2024
2023/2460 Pencefnarda farm development discharge cond 18 (play
equipment) Approved 2 August 2024
2024/1033 26 West St, new access approved 9 August 2024
2024/0258 8 Heol Dyfed Penyrheol, 1st floor ext over garage & garage
conversion Approved Aug 2
2024/0411. Outline Land adj 44 Penyrheol rd , new dwelling Approved 20
Aug
2024/1049 69-71 Pontardulais rd. Change Use from flat to1st floor nursery
to extend ground floor use. Approved 12 August

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

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

e. Applications withdrawn

2024/0135 DNS Solar Farm Land fronting A484 Swansea rd at Swansea
SA44LN WITHDRAWN 10 MAY 2024

INCOME EXPENDITURE JULY AUG 2024		
Expenditure		
HMRC Tax NI		DD 658.74
Stationery/Hall supplies/ weedkiller		DD 96.11
Good housekeeping cleaning July/ aug 24		DD 270.00
Monthly HSBC Hall mortgage		DD 688.12
Monthly HSBC overpayment		DD 117.79
Hall business rates suite 1 (incudes 45 discount) £61x11from June		DD 61.00
Hall business rates suite 2 (includes 45% discount)£95x11from June		DD 95.00
Corona energy gas/electric Hall		DD 2497.31
Corona energy		DD 209.34
Bank Charges July/aug		DD 11 .00 DD 10.00
BT		DD 595.33
Clerk travelling July aug		DD 118.95
Vision ICT		DD 288.00
Festive lighting deposit xmas		DD 3093.26
Hall/ Mayors functions/ birthdays		DD 155.01
Microsoft 365 2024/5		DD 79.95
Office expenses July-Sept Q3		DD 531.50
Corona energy		DD 369.54
Grant Moving forward		DD 200.00
Cllr expenses 202613 PM		DD 208.00
Grant 202848		DD 200.00
Income		
MP office		+ 1500.00
MP Office		+ 1585.20
Precept August no 2		+ 49830.00
Tinitus hire July/Aug		+125.00/75.00
Bank interest Aug		+ 247.77
Hall Hire Sept 3		+12.50
Bank reconciliation Aug 31 2024		
Current account		+4866
Treasurers account		+194331
Current balance (plus precepts Dec)		+199197
Mortgage balance outstanding		-62707

Meeting closed 8.02pm

Chairman.....