

MINUTES IN DRAFT FORM UNTIL APPROVED AT NEXT MEETING 6 Nov 24

MINUTES of the MEETING of GORSEINON TOWN COUNCIL, held on WED 2 October 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, Town Clerk, Asst Town Clerk, P Eyers, M Phillips, A Stevens

64. APOLOGIES from Cllrs, J Clayfield , J Crowley, Katie Jones, N Matthews

65. MAYORS ANNOUNCEMENTS.Clerk advised Mayor had/would attended the following ;

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

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

Sept 17 St Catherines Mothers Union- History talk / Sept 26 Penuel chapel talk

Sept 24th Service St Catherines church/ Sept 27 Macmillan coffee morning

St Johns carol service Sun 1 Dec 5.30@St Davids /St Catherines harvest service 10am Sun 13 Oct.

Mayor expecting John Lewis invite.

66.To receive a report on **Police Matters** within Gorseinon and Penyrheol. No Police presence but brief reports submitted. New Police chief Antonia Lambley.

1 Sept – 30 Sept Gorseinon beat

64 occurrences, 9 ASB, 10 violence against person, no dwelling burglaries

67.PUBLIC Session for Public to raise items of local relevance during 15 minute session. No issues raised.

68. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. The Clerk presented the Sept 4 2024 minutes (which had been distributed previously) for approval, which were approved (Prop M Curtice, sec Cllr A Thomas). Gorseinon car scheme had advised that there was no issue with finances as inferred in the minutes.

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

a. County Councillor reports

Cllr Stevens (Update on new extension for Pumptrack/skateboard at Melyn Mynach as result of new funding) Councillors Update on new funding has been secured for extension of skate parks and additional funding for and work with KERVE designing and administrating the new skate parks across Swansea. Local Council are keen to be involved. They are aware and there may be potential to identify funding streams to provide an increase in the skating provision. MC asked for discussion and a commitment amount from GTC.

The pump track was Originally funded through 'Grant Aid'. Contribution from GTC has helped previously, discussion continued around existing commitments by GTC (40k) for this financial year. A stated funding would likely be needed in the next financial year.

AC added that POBL are offering smaller grants which may be of use. Clerk, stated once we know the amounts needed in the last financial commitment.

AS stated, the tendering process would be different on this occasion as KERVE are already commissioned. Although GTC would be involved in design stage.

Discussion around amounts offered by GTC. AS passed the decision over to GTC members as to the amount for GTC to contribute. C Marcha asked if stated we would need to see the project before committing.

AC stated we should look at the precept covering the costs and to be mindful of that when planning.

We are halfway through the year, final tranche allowing for six months of expenditure, remaining amount in funds GTC is currently £220,000.

MC could we split the funds half this year and half next year.

AS the pump track plans is smaller than the funds that we have and need extra 40-50k to complete the project.

MP reiterated that we should look at the project before committing.

AC the precept amount would not be a hit on the community. Proof that this money or increase in precept would be justified.

AS- 185000, could we commit to 20k and not increase the precept?

Clerk- Projections show that at end of this financial year we should have 150k in reserves. We must retain around 6-10 months in reserve. Currently charge each resident. £42, with a total of £140000 on precept.

AS we need to justify the precept and what are people in the community getting for my contribution.

JC – when Swansea did not put up the precept in line with inflation then when it does have to be increased then it is a dramatic increase. Agreed we need to be cautious but accountable with proof of major projects. Clerk stated we need to give the contractors a figure to work with.

AS could we have a confirmation of a confirmed amount from FTC as an in-principal amount. **Vote proposed by members to fund for MC proposed 50k into the project. Unanimously agreed by members.**

AS – a grant available from economic scheme with Swansea to go towards lantern parade. Application form sent to LTC and GTC Clerks. This is part of SPF funding streams. Up to 7k.

Also, AS investment into roads is increasing and this can go towards GTC roads, especially Lime St.

Brisco Fun Run

Also, AS Morgans army – Charity for children’s cancer. Recent meeting an idea came from that the event should be fully for children’s cancer charity 50% for them and 50% for something for the community. Fronrunner will stay onboard for next year and organising for at least next year.

defibrillator needs to be placed on a post as it is overgrown. Heol Dylan?, corner.

Cllr JC niece is happy to offer her Wool shop to hold lantern workshops.

b. Town Councillors reports;

Cllr MP – Fairground lorry was causing an obstruction, damaging the green grass area bottom Lime street. Needs to be moved. caravan outside residents’ houses. Anti-social behaviour has increased around and inside Asda recently. Meeting with new police community officers soon. There is a scheme police are running where they have access to a plane which can identify and track offenders on bikes and follow to their homes and they can prosecute offenders in the area.

AC – attending coffee mornings etc., someone demolished wall on ‘heol crebach’ and left the scene. Attended Level 9 safeguarding training.

Planning for Laundrette next to Roma has applied for change of use. Concerns by members of selling vapes. Signage etc.

KJ – mention last week street lights outside scouts are not working and it is dark in the morning when they are not working.

Memorial Clock - all the face was renewed a few years ago.

PG – approach about Ebenezer chapel church down by her, potential flats suggested but not flats. Clerk showed members the plans for conversion of the church.

PM stated the food bank is tomorrow, thur 3rd Oct..

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.

70. 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 from community - financial year 2024/5

Chromamusic community group, Parc Werin VAT order for equipment

Parc Y Werin Bowls club response. Email received from Parc Y Werin Bowls club asking for response to queries raised about their members comments re the Council. It was discussed further and Clerk instructed to reply further and ask

for financial accounts.

Response received from John Phillips, grant aid, enquired about allegations towards the bowls club. Discussion around clearing up the confusion/ misinterpretation in the email to and from council. Chair - Agreed this may be a misunderstanding. Council agreed that accounts do need to be provided when grant are requested. Requested that they reapply with accounts and what they want.

AT – stated that he had seen John Phillips and they wanted to replace the old mower as it was being scrapped.

PE – clear up whether three bowls teams are spending 9k on the greens in the coming years.

Recycled teenagers. Declaration interest from Cllrs M and J Curtice.

Members agreed to a donation of £300.

Parc Y Werin creche. Clerk advised that he had received a cheque towards purchase of outdoor tables/ Notice board which would be bought in the Town Councils name from Cath Curtice. Equipment had been ordered.

- b. Xmas parade date confirmed Thur Nov 28 2024. Xmas lantern meeting **wed Oct 8th** **@6pm** Ty Newydd .. Clerk gave update on new Laser display .
Penyrheol Xmas tree lighting up 12th December.
- c. Lighthouse electrical/ 30 road barriers/ Container?
Clerk advised that 30 road barriers had now been bought outright rather than hiring them annually for formal road closures . Clerk was in discussion with LE overuse of containers they had on their new HQ in Garden Village. Storage of both barriers and Xmas panels was being explored. Possible garage to rear of Ty Newydd may become available in November.
- d. Fire escape Ty Newydd centre. Design/quote following new site meeting with 2nd contractor. Amended plans to be drafted to meet Library concerns.
- e. Canva application update. Agreed to include councillor AC and AS and develop newsletter, posters etc.
- f. Penyrheol Comp awards evening Nov 7 2024 . Leigh Halfpenny bursary awards to be Presented by Mayor.
- g. OVW training courses Oct-Dec were outlined by Clerk.
- h. Remembrance week events invitations were discussed
Lord lieutenant., High Commissioner Mayor Loughor, Police inspector. C Ken agreed to attend the monument service for Loughor. Please confirm with KJ 10am start at St Davids. AS apologised for the 10th service. Mayor to attend at Kingsbridge cemetery in the afternoon.
- i. Update on clock chimes repair West St –
Jonathan Hathaway who is overseeing funding has communicated are commissioning a

firm have installed in copperworks, there are plans to complete installation of another clock in Morryston? and proposal to do GTC clock at the same time.

j. Environmental scheme Railway Terr 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.

k. 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.

71. Assistant Clerk / Information officer David Walters – work programme

Clerk introduced 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.

Website update, awaiting further quotes from SA1 creative, Tech Wales, VisionICT, before presenting to members. Also, gathering quotes from the same companies for dedicated Wi-Fi for GTC so we are not using Labour Wi-Fi.

10th Sept attended OVW IT Forum where there was a presentation from Detective Inspector Paul Hall from the Cyber Resilience centre - show slides, send

Canva purchase – newsletter, etc. WhatsApp

Photos for archives page from Members.

72. To receive reports from the Council's Representatives on Outside Bodies/upcoming meetings

Swansea Council Forum Sept 30 discussed arrangements for reviewing the Charter. The upcoming Open National OVW Conference Oct 16 Bwlth wells showground. 5 Councillors, including the Clerk and Ass. Clerk expressed a wish to attend.

Pembroke Fair Oct 10th.
One Voice Wales area meeting Guildhall Mon Oct 14th
Penyrheol Comp awards evening Nov 7th
Remembrance week events

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.

73 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. Clerk had attended 1 hour session with Ombudsmans dept to discuss case details on Sept 19th

74. 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 2nd October (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. Clerk had received Welsh Govt external audit 2023/4 of Town Council accounts which had been approved without issues. Public Notice advising of Public inspection had been advertised accordingly.

75. PLANNING MATTERS.

PLANNING MATTERS. (MEETING OCTOBER 2 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/ 1722 22A High st Gorseinon Replace timber shopfront with new aluminium one

2024/1776 land adj 8 Clos Tyr Eynon Gorseinon discharge cond 3 Landscaping, 4 Broadband

2024/1654 Pre app Conversion Chapel to flats , Chapel street Lower Gorseinon

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

2023/0920 6A West st Gorseinon Retention 2 upper floor flats. Decision 23 Sept Lawful.

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

2024/1289 46 High st Gorseinon Change ground floor (A1) to (Launderette. refused 9 Sept.

d. Notification of Appeals by Local Planning Authority; None reported

e. Applications withdrawn For information None reported

INCOME EXPENDITURE SEPT 2024			
Expenditure			
SALARY 001/002			
HMRC Tax NI 001/002			DD 523.03
Stationery/Hall supplies/	73.65	7.45	DD 81.1
Good housekeeping cleaning sept			DD
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 191.01
DCK accounting fees	480	96	DD 576.00
Bank Charges sept			DD 8.00
BT	496.11	99.22	DD 595.33
Clerk travelling aug sept			DD 111.15
Vision ICT training DW			DD 114
Grant ALN			DD 300.00
Grant Gors car scheme			DD 200.00
Grant movement Health			DD 300.00
Grant catherine black			DD 300.00
Chubb fireextinguishers	782	156.4	DD 938.4
Parc Werin cttee	1597.95	319.69	DD1918.14
OVW Conference fees Oct			DD 446.50
Gower frsh xmas trees x2No			
30No. Road barriers (£29each)	863.99	172.74	DD 1036.73
Festive lighting xmas	3866.57	773.32	DD 4639.89
Income			
MP office			+ 1500.00
MP Office			+ 1585.20
Prcept August no 2			+ 49830.00
Tinitus hire Sept			+125.00
Bank interest Aug			+ 276.43
Hall Hire Sept 3			+12.50
Bank reconciliation Sept 30 2024			
Current account			+9416.39
Treasurers account			+175608.75
Current balance (plus precepts Dec)			+185025.14
Mortgage balance outstanding			-62328

Meeting closed 8.02pm

Chairman.....