

MINUTES OF THE GORSEINON TOWN COUNCIL FINANCE MEETING HELD ON

WED. 8th Jan 2025 at the Ty Newydd Community Centre 17 West St. GORSEINON, commencing at 7pm.

Present; Present, Cllrs (Chmn), J Curtice. Pam Morgan, P Griffiths, Ken Jones, P Eyers, M Curtice., A Stevens, M Phillips, J Clayfield, ,Town Clerk, Asst Town Clerk

Cllr Rawle was ill, so Council appointed Cllr Jan Curtice to chair the meeting in her absence.

127. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST. None raised initially.

128. APOLOGIES were received from Cllrs, Sue Rawle, Cllrs, J Crowley, Katie Jones, A Crowley, N Matthews, A Thomas

129. Clerk reminded Members of the Town Councils revised 5 year priorities which were discussed and reconfirmed .

GORSEINON TOWN COUNCIL 5 YEAR PRIORITIES 2022-27

- a. Explore opportunities to acquire / lease a **new multi user base** for the Town Council and community groups, that meets the Town Councils needs and is both accessible and affordable for all residents of Gorseinon / Penyrheol wards.
 - b. Aim to improve **communication** with local residents and groups, work with local partnerships, and represent views of the community. as well as better explaining what the Town Councils role is, and what can be done for the local community.
 - c. Deliver projects for the area that will engender and strengthen both **pride and respect** in the communities of Gorseinon and Penyrheol.
 - d. Deliver projects that will improve the **physical appearance** and environment of our town center & residential suburbs.
 - e. **Support** worthy community groups / local initiatives and community projects, focused on sporting/social and cultural activities, particularly for the youth/elderly of the area.
 - f. The Town Council should aim to champion **diversity**, and **Well Being** in all its forms, within the local community.
- 130.** Members then discussed in detail and approved the **Draft 2025/6 budget as enclosed, totalling £260000.** Priorities were discussed, and the main changes were agreed as follows;
Discussion around park benches agreed to rethink the funding of the benches previously proposed for that area. A Stevens proposed a consultation around this with local people. Potential for funding to come from another source and funds go towards supporting Gorseinon fun run. Mayors dinner discussed and potentially consider for future meetings.
The **landscaping of the grassed area at the bottom of Lime street** was discussed and supported, but a Scheme needed to be drawn up initially and costed to establish costs and likely support from surrounding businesses and pub. £40k to be contributed towards the **new junior BMX track** at Melin Mynach. Swansea Council are contributing 110k towards this scheme.
Council grant budget to be increased to £9k per annum to assist local clubs and organisations. Continued Financial support be given to the Brisco fun run in 2025.
Discussion agreed more to consider more diverse grants and possibly lower the grant amount.
Increase to 9k agreed, but with a caveat that this does not mean council should use all of the 9k but have it available if needed. Clerk explained the process and rules around grant applications.
Cllr P Eyers asked if more groups could be considered in the community possibly promoting that grants are available to more groups. Assistant Clerk this information sharing could be considered as part of his role.
Clerk went through other commitments under grants, members agreed to increase the budget for grants to 9k.

The Large projects discussed amongst councillors, including the 40k going towards green area at the bottom of Lime St and the skatepark. All councillors discussed the large commitments for this year and confirmed their commitments. Various lights had fallen during the Christmas period. Clerk had complained to the company responsible around potential damage and as they are leased. Clerk confirmed there was no cost to the GTC. Awaiting response, around concerns about installation risks. Company have stated they have had issues around this across Wales during that period. Awaiting further information from the company. Lease is up in one year so can be reviewed. Clerk confirmed that the Sails in Argyll Gardens have been bought outright and are maintained by Lighthouse Electrical. They will not be renewed at this time.

Gorseinon fun run. Is now in the process of being taken over by Morgan's Army as of next year. Cllr A Stevens enquired if Potentially GTC could contribute more towards such a large event. Stating the importance of the event to the local community. This is a great PR opportunity for Gorseinon and especially as we contribute so much to other large events such as the lantern parade? Discussions agreed potentially taking funds from other discussed points such as the benches at chestnut avenue, as well as, potentially funds from miscellaneous and any savings in the costs of the installation of the new fire escape could potentially be transferred in to increasing GTC financially supporting Gorseinon Fun Run. On that basis an initial increase to 3k was proposed and agreed.

Update from Clerk around the GTC prior commitment to supporting the new community centre in the Pobl scheme in Penyrheol. As at the scheme approaches its last phase our previous commitment to supporting is now to be reviewed. Discussions invited as to how much we would want to support financially the project. Cllr J Curtice mentioned it might be started as a business and councillors may want to reconsider on this basis. Further information required.

Funding be allocated for a new fire escape for the top floor at Ty Newydd community centre.

131. Clerk explained an approach and encouraged Cllr's attending to consider five year plans around large schemes and plan funds and precepts accordingly. Stevens agreed. Cllr J. Curtice potentially looking at improving Argyll gardens as a future planning in conjunction with events like the lantern parade.

Programme agreed at £260000.00

Members discussed the proposal from the Clerk around the options of increase in the precept for the coming year. Members suggested option C but with a caveat of reducing it slightly from 6% to 5.99%, still remaining an increase on the previous year.

Following on from approving the budget, Members discussed the **2025/6 precept. It was Resolved to set a precept of £158449 (Option C) in order to deliver the stated projects in the community**, and the Clerk was instructed to notify Swansea Council accordingly. The proposed programme for 2025/6 was £260000 so the shortfall would be drawn from Council reserves. The precept equates to a figure per household for 2025/6 of **£46.92** per household per annum an increase of 5.99% (proposed Cllr Jan Curtice, seconded Cllr M Curtice, agreed by all Members present).

THE MEETING ENDED AT 8.25pm

Chairman.....