

**FINAL MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF PENNARD COMMUNITY COUNCIL ENVIRONMENT  
COMMITTEE HELD ON 7th March 2023 VIA ZOOM AT 7.09 PM**

**Under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 (S.1 (7) filming and recording of meetings by the press and the public is not permitted.**

**All votes will be named votes**

**Present:** Cllr Jean Marnell (Chair), Cllr Lynda James LJ, Cllr Steve Sheriff SS, Cllr Karen Penny KP, Cllr Cari Jones CJ, Cllr Leanne Richards LR, Clerk, Community & Grants Officer and a Youth and Community Practitioner.

**Apologies:** Cllr Darran Hickery, Cllr Susan Rodaway, Cllr Will Smith, Cllr Elsbeth Rodaway Cllr Rachel Carter due to personal commitments.

**Declarations of interest, Cllr L James declared an interest at point 2**

**All votes will be named votes**

**Questions from the Public relating to items on this agenda (limited to 10 minutes)**

**1) To discuss and agree the way forward regarding the Youth Group and youth workers.**

Cllr Marnell introduced Mrs Gillian Wilde who is a lecturer in Youth Work as well as a Youth and Community Practitioner managing youth projects and training youth leaders from grades 3 to 7. She gave a very useful address where she explained the level of qualified individuals we should be looking to run our youth club as well as providing outreach services to the young people in the community. She agreed to send some useful links concerning good practice to the Clerk as well as sending our advert around her network of contacts. She explained that Youth Work covers young people from 11 to 25 years old and that we may want to split our sessions accordingly, she also said she would be happy to support our Youth Leaders in ways to engage the young people in the Community.

The Community and Grants officer left the meeting at 7.29pm

Cllr James joined the meeting at 7.34pm

Mrs Wilde left the meeting at 7.36pm

**2) To discuss weed killer email from Swansea Council and decide on the way forward.**

The email from Swansea council stated that the following conditions would need to be accepted if we opted out of the routine spraying of the villages.

- **Any complaint received over weed growth will be responded to on basis that the Ward Member has opted out. This includes any general comments about reputation and tourism.**
- Opt out is not technically glyphosate free, it will still need to be used for control of Japanese knotweed and other invasive weeds as well as areas such as housing, parks, cemeteries and private contracts. These are outside of the highways programme.
- Opt out will mean the Highways routine spraying programme will not visit and **no other alternative** will be used, these have been trialled in the past and are not effective.
- If any damage or safety issues arise, then Glyphosate may be used without notice if hand methods are unsuitable.
- Opting back in – if this happens no additional resources will be allocated to bring back to standard unless paid for and even then, it could be considerable time to do so.
- Significant caution to be observed regarding comments relating to danger to health or other unsubstantiated statements in public communications. Glyphosate remains a licensed product.
- Parks will be unable to deliver existing wildflower schemes – It can offer cut and collect with native seeding however this is subject to suitability of the site and will not be as aesthetically appealing. This is in your gift to take up or not regardless of stance on Glyphosate.
- Any weed pulling requests of Cleansing Operations will be rejected.

- Cleansing Ward Operative Teams will need training to ensure no damage to infrastructure.
- There will be no additional CWOT resource provided to plug any gaps. Each ward is allocated the same amount of time within their wards.

This was discussed at length; it was thought that this may be a matter to take to the Gower Community Council Forum as glyphosate spraying is a problem which affects more than just our community. Teaming with other Councils and organisations was also suggested as well as writing to the Gower MS so this could be brought up as part of the Welsh Govt biodiversity programme discussions. The Clerk was asked to send round a link which gives details of what other councils around the country are doing to be pesticide free.

<https://www.pan-uk.org/pesticide-free-towns-success-stories/#:~:text=Bath%20and%20North%20East%20Somerset,weeds%20in%20the%20Council%20area>

It was also suggested that the Environment Centre may be able to help.

**3) To review the look of web site for recommendation to full council**

The look and style of the website was examined. A brief discussion took place but it was agreed to recommend the look and style of it to Full Council

**Proposed by LJ seconded by LR agreed by all with 1 abstention CJ.**

**4) To receive update on EV charging points from the Clerk**

The Clerk had contacted the installation company who explained they were only dealing with Unitary Authorities at present so would not be able to conduct a survey for around 6-12 months. Alternative installers would be explored.

**5) To discuss and decide on the Participatory Budget idea which will receive funding.**

The top idea after the bus which was already being supported was the installation of EV Charging Points, The Clerk was asked to approach the Vocaleyes platform admin to ask the question of the idea supported as to who they saw the main benefactors of these points would be, so that we could be confident that they would be used.

The next most popular idea was for a community cinema which was something the committee felt could be run at very little cost as some of the equipment was already in place. The Clerk was again asked to find out from the Vocaleyes team, if anyone had volunteered to help set up this idea.

**6) To receive update on terra cycle and cartons.**

The Clerk gave a brief outline of the problems faced by people wanting to recycle milk and juice cartons. She had spoken with the Environment Centre and passed on some information regarding funding from Tetra Pac to Councils in connection with kerbside collection which they were going to look at.

**The meeting closed at 8.25pm**