



City and County of Swansea

Minutes of the **Scrutiny Performance Panel - Natural Environment**

Committee Room 3 - Civic Centre, Swansea

Tuesday, 22 October 2019 at 11.30 am

Present: Councillor P K Jones (Chair) Presided

Councillor(s)
E W Fitzgerald
W G Thomas

Councillor(s)
M H Jones
L J Tyler-Lloyd

Councillor(s)
I E Mann

Other Attendees

Mark Thomas	Cabinet Member – Environment & Infrastructure Management
Phil Slater	Mayals Friends and Residents Group
Caroline Slater	Mayals Friends and Residents Group
John Roach	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds

Officer(s)

Mark Wade	Head of Housing & Public Health
Tom Price	Team Leader – Pollution Control & Private Sector Housing
Brij Madahar	Scrutiny Team Leader

Apologies for Absence

Councillor(s): C Richards, B J Rowlands and M Sherwood

9 Disclosure of Personal and Prejudicial Interests.

In accordance with the Code of Conduct adopted by the City and County of Swansea, the following interests were declared:

Councillor P K Jones – prejudicial – Minute No. 5 – Member of the RSPB and withdrew from meeting as a Panel Member, but with the agreement of the Panel remained to make representations to the Panel on the subject of gull nuisance.

10 Election of Chair Pro Tem.

AGREED that Councillor M H Jones be elected Chair Pro Tem.

Councillor M H Jones (Chair Pro Tem) presided.

11 Prohibition of Whipped Votes and Declaration of Party Whips.

In accordance with the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011, no declarations of Whipped Votes or Party Whips were declared.

12 Public Questions.

There were no public questions.

13 Discussion on Public Concerns - Gull Nuisance.

Following referral by the Scrutiny Programme Committee, the Panel dealt with a public request for scrutiny in relation to concerns about gull nuisance in Swansea.

The concerns brought to the attention of scrutiny centred on the persistent nuisance experienced by residents in Mayals and behaviour of people feeding gulls, and detrimental effect on residents' well-being, health and safety within their communities.

The Panel considered the following perspectives on the issue which were discussed:

- Public concerns outlined by Mr & Mrs Slater (Mayals Friends and Residents Group).
- Report of the Cabinet Member for Environment & Infrastructure Management, Councillor Mark Thomas, which accounted for the Council's position on this matter, and contributions of the Council's Head of Housing & Public Health, Mark Wade, and Team Leader – Pollution Control & Private Sector Housing, Tom Price.
- Information from the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, and supporting views from Mr John Roach and Councillor Peter Jones

The Panel debated the issues raised, discussed possible solutions and considered what action(s) may be necessary to address the problem across Swansea. This included actions to discourage public feeding and improve food waste storage and disposal.

AGREED that the Panel write to the Cabinet Member for Environment & Infrastructure Management on its findings and recommendations on the issue of gull nuisance.

The meeting ended at 1.02 pm

Chair