

Minutes of Ordinary Meeting of Pontardawe Town Council held on Monday 10th December 2012, at Trebanos Hall commencing at 6.45pm

9026. Present Councillor B Williams (presiding), D Harris, D B Thomas, V Hotten, Mrs J Bowen, Mrs L Purcell, Ms S Northcott, A Nicholson, H Evans, M Thomas, Ms R Lewis, G Davies, P Williams, Mrs E Puzey.

Apologies: Councillors M James and H Pickrell.

9027. Disclosure of Personal and Pecuniary Interest: Councillor Ms R Lewis and Mrs L Purcell declared an interest in any Planning discussions, Councillor Ms S Northcott, A Nicholson and Mrs J Bowen declared an interest in any discussions on the Pontardawe and District Youth Club.

Resolved to be noted.

9028. Minutes of the Ordinary Council meeting on the 12th November 2012:

Resolved that the minutes of the Ordinary meeting held on the 12th November 2012, having been read and confirmed as a true record, be accepted by Council.

9029. Trebanos Park: The Clerk confirmed that 'CCTV Camera's Wales' had met with the her, Councillor B Thomas and Paul Baker the grounds man, at the park to determine if the cameras with the view over the shelter and the refreshment stand would be sufficient, if there was an additional infrared light source. Following a review however it was determined that the cameras resolution was still insufficient and therefore the cameras would need to be replaced.

Resolved that 'CCTV Camera's Wales' would provide costs for the most effective upgraded camera, for Councils agreement.

9030. Police Matters: Council was advised of the following information:

The date of the next Trebanos PACT meeting was 7th February 2013 at Trebanos hall commencing at 6.30pm.

The PACT priorities were as follows:

- Parking/ Speeding at Swansea Road.
- Dog Fouling in Trebanos Park.

Trebanos Councillors who attended the meeting confirmed that the new signage at Trebanos Park was deterring some dog walkers and that the position would be kept under review.

The date of the next Pontardawe PACT meeting was also 7th February 2013 at 'The Cross' commencing at 6.30pm.

The PACT priorities were as follows:

- Skateboarding /Cycling and Roller Skating at Pontardawe Retail Park.

Pontardawe Councillors who attended the meeting confirmed that an individual had been arrested for a spate of burglaries in the area.

Both Trebanos and Pontardawe were now however subject to Sheep rustling; however a 'Rural Watch' scheme was in place to address.

Resolved to be noted.

9031. Pontardawe and District Youth Club: Councillors Ms S Northcott, A Nicholson and Mrs J Bowen, expressed an interest. Council was advised that to the end of November 2012 the Town Council had provided £5500 and that at that date there was £4500 still available from the budget for financial support.

Resolved to be noted.

9032. Open Meeting to include the local Assembly Members, Member of Parliament, and County Borough Councillors: The Clerk advised Council that the panel members had been invited but that no responses had been received as yet. A sample poster was reviewed by Council and it was agreed that the images and wording were suitable. The poster would however be issued bilingually.

As both the Mayor and Deputy Mayor were unable to chair the meeting a discussion took place to determine who would be invited to chair the meeting. Jason Evans was put forward as a choice with John Jones as a second choice.

Resolved that the bilingual Poster be printed and distributed, and that Councillor H Evans approach Jason Evans to determine if he would be willing to chair the meeting.

9033. Fire Risk Assessments: The Clerk confirmed that she requested three quotes from companies specialising in Fire Risk Assessments.

The Quotes, per hall were as follows:

Chubb over £400

Saint David's Fire £250

Active Fire Management £225.

Active Fire Management carried out the assessment on the 29th November 2012.

The Clerk confirmed that all three halls carried a 'Medium' risk and that the action points raised would be addressed in the next few months.

Resolved to be noted.

9034. Pontardawe Fire Station Community Meeting Room: The Clerk confirmed that the room was suitable for up to ten people and was free of charge.

Resolved that the Councillor Surgery for Pontardawe be held at the Fire station and also that some Committee meetings during 2013 also be held at the Fire Station.

9035. Children's Out of School Activities leaflet: Councillor Hotten advised Council that he was due to meet with Cwmtawe School to begin working on the leaflet shortly. He would also be discussing translation with Ysgol Gufun Ystalyfera shortly.

The Clerk confirmed that Cilybebell Community Council was interested in becoming a partner in the production of the leaflet and had invited Councillor Hotten to their meeting in January to discuss the project and the level of financial contribution we would require.

Council Members were also provided with a draft poster for their agreement.

Resolved that Councillor Hotten be given the power to discuss the financial and other contribution of Cilybebell Community Council during their meeting in January 2013, and that the Clerk arrange for bilingual posters to be printed.

9036. Christmas Tree Festival: The Clerk confirmed that she would be dressing the Christmas tree on Friday 14th December 2012 and that the festival would begin on Saturday 15th December 2012 at St Peters Church.

Resolved to be noted.

9037. Planning: Councillor Purcell and Lewis expressed an interest and took no part in the discussions.

P2012/1047

Applicant: Mr Paul Gregory, 147 Graig Road, Godrergrraig.

Site Location: Land at Commercial Road, Rhyd y Fro, Pontardawe.

Proposed Development: Detached building for storage and sale of agricultural products.

Resolved Objection due to safety concerns over access and road layout.

9038. Policy and Resources committee meeting held on the 20th November 2012:

Energy Review

The Clerk confirmed that Trebanos Hall had significantly higher energy costs than the halls at either ARCH or Ynysmeudwy and that following an Energy Performance Review it was determined that the issue was due to the type of heating system.

Councillor Brian Thomas confirmed that the Hall Management Committee was aware of the issue and that action was being taken to limit the fuel costs at the hall by utilising smaller rooms and not heating the area unnecessarily

The Clerk also confirmed that a more favourable gas contract has been negotiated which had reduced the costs in the short term

The committee therefore recommended that the heating at Trebanos Hall be considered a longer term goal, with funding options and types of heating systems reviewed over the next few years.

Dampness

The Clerk confirmed that remedial work had been carried out on the damp in the toilets and that the position would continue to be monitored.

Curtains

The Clerk confirmed that rail for the curtains was now not functional, but that replacement costs were expensive and that given budgetary constraints it would be difficult to justify the expenditure.

Councillor Thomas however confirmed that the Hall Management Committee were very keen to replace both the curtain and the rail and would be willing to fund the replacement through their own funds.

The Committee therefore recommended that if the Hall Committee wished to replace the rail and curtains they utilise their own funds but should liaise with the Clerk to ensure that the replacement is in accordance with current regulations.

Resolved that the Committee recommendations be ratified.

9039. ARCH Hall Lighting: The Clerk advised Council that the strip lighting at ARCH hall now required replacement. In accordance with Standing orders she had requested three quotes:

These were as follows:

A&B Electrics Limited - £574 + Vat

Express Electrical - £576 + Vat

GKM Electrical - £706.32 in total.

Resolved that A&B Electrics be employed to replace the lights at ARCH.

9040. Review Change for the better programme at Abertawe Bro

Morgannwg: Councillor Purcell who had attended a meeting giving details of the plans gave an overview of the proposals and confirmed that there would be no formal consultation; however, stakeholder could until the 19th December 2012 give informal views. The general consensus was that there was a need for 'joined up services' prior to centralisation.

Resolved to be noted.

9041. Accounts Schedule 283 totalling £13248.59.

Resolved to be agreed under financial regulations.

9042. Marine and Conservation Zones: Council was made aware of the 'Next Steps following consultation'.

Resolved to be noted.

9043. Atlantic Array Offshore Wind Farm: The Clerk provided details of changes to the original time scales.

Resolved to be noted.

9044. Remembrance Service at St David's Church, Ystalyfera: Council were advised that a service was to be held at St David's Church, Ystalyfera on the 12th December 2012 at 7.00pm.

Resolved to be noted.

9045. Footpath at Waun Gron: Council was advised that a request had been made by a resident of Waun Gron, whose property was situated adjacent to the beginning of the footpath to Cwmdu Glen, to extinguish the footpath as it was used very little and the path was steep and seemed unmaintained.

Council discussed the matter in full but decided that as there was a plan in progress to allow Neath Port Talbot Council to manage both their land and the Town Councils land, they would not be agreeable to the path being extinguished or permanently closed at this time.

Resolved to be noted.

9046. Request received re derelict properties in Holly Street: Council was advised that a resident of Holly Street wished the two derelict properties in the street addressed.

Resolved that Councillor Mrs L Purcell will pursue the issue of 2 Holly Street with Neath Port Talbot Council, and that the Clerk will write to Neath Port Talbot Council with regard to the property adjacent to the Art Centre.

9047. Letter re South Wales Fire and Rescue Strategic Improvement Plan for 2012/13: Council was advised of the contents.

Resolved to be noted.

9048. Notice from APOGEE re office photocopier: The Clerk advised Council that the lease for the current photocopier was due to expire and that she had been contacted by the company offering to replace the current photocopier with a new model at no extra cost. They also confirmed that there would be no increase to the current quarterly spend following receipt of the new photocopier.

Resolved that the new lease is agreed.

9049. Urgent Road Safety Matters:

- A request for details of the criteria used to deny a crossing adjacent to the Primary Heath Centre in Pontardawe.
- That the crash barriers that were removed due to the Mynydd y Betws Wind Farm construction traffic be reinstated as soon as the large transports had been completed.

Resolved that the Clerk advise Neath Port Talbot Council.

9050. Date of the next meeting: The date of the next meeting is due to be held at 6.45pm on the 14th January 2013 at Ynysmeudwy Hall.

Signed

Dated.....

