

**Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Pontardawe Town Council held on Monday 10th March
2014,
at ARCH Hall, Cefn Llan Road, Pontardawe commencing at 6.45pm**

9452. Present Councillors Ms S Northcott (presiding), Mrs J Bowen, V Hotten, H Pickrell, Mrs L Purcell, D Harris, D B Thomas, Mrs E Puzey, G Davies, H Evans, B Williams.
Youth Representatives – Harri Evans – Mason

Apologies: Councillor A Nicholson, Ms R Lewis, M Thomas and P Williams.

9453. Disclosure of Personal and Pecuniary interests:

Councillors Ms S Northcott, Mrs J Bowen, G Davies and V Hotten declared an interest in the Pontardawe and District Youth Facility. Councillor L Purcell declared an interest in Planning. Councillor B Williams declared an interest in discussions on the 'Riverside' project in Pontardawe and Councillor Mrs J Bowen and D B Thomas declared an interest in any discussion on the Trebanos Park WREN grant application.

Resolved this be noted.

9454. Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on the 10th February 2014:

Resolved that the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 10th February 2014, having been read and confirmed as a true record, be accepted by Council.

9455. Barrie Jones a representative of the Alltwen Bowls Club addressed Council: Mr Jones explained that Alltwen and Pontardawe Bowls club currently played on the Outdoor Bowls green at George V Park in Pontardawe. The bowls green was currently maintained by Neath Port Talbot Council, however due to the austerity measures the County Borough would not continue to maintain the green past 31st March 2014.

The options for the club were to take over maintenance themselves, hire an outside contractor or to enter into a contract with the County Borough and pay for them to maintain the green. Due to financial constraints it was decided to enter into a contract with the County Borough for the ground maintenance at a cost of £2500 to £3700 per annum.

Mr Jones gave details of the clubs financial proposals for obtaining these funds but stated that they were to request a grant from Cilybebyll Community Council and Pontardawe Town Council of approx £250 each.

The plan was initially to be piloted to September 2014 (which was the end of the season) after which it would be determined if the clubs were able to continue for future years.

Resolved to be noted.

9456. Rupert Dunn from the Federation of City Farms and Community Gardens: Mr Dunn provided background information on the charity together with details of the assistance

available to the general public on obtaining land for allotments, community growing and garden share schemes. He explained that there were a number of ways that the organization would be in a position to liaise with the Town Council and the County Borough to determine what land was available and suitable for allotments and to provide assistance in leasing land and organizing allotments.

It was determined that help was required by professionals to determine what land was available and that the Clerk and County Borough Member would be in a position to put together an initial list after which it would be a good idea for the areas to be reviewed by Rupert or a colleague.

Rupert was thanked for attending the meeting and was advised that the Council would be in touch once initial investigations had been completed.

Resolved to be noted.

9457. Matters raised by members of the public: None.

Resolved to be noted.

9458. Police Matters: The Clerk provided the following information:

Trebanos:

Total Crime for February 2014 – 1 instance of anti social behavior – The next PACT meeting was to be held on the 3rd April 2014 at 6.30pm at Trebanos Hall.

Pact Priorities were – Anti Social Behaviour, Fly tipping, Access and parking at the canal, General Parking and parking permits and instances of obstruction.

Pontardawe:

Total Crime for January 2014 –32 (2 Burglary, 14 Anti- social behavior, 1 violent crime, 4 public disorder, 2 shoplifting, 3 criminal damage, 2 drugs and 4 other theft)

The next PACT meeting was to be held on the 17th April 2014 at the Cross Community Centre commencing at 6.30pm.

Pact Priorities were – HGV Obstruction, Concerns over the removal of school crossing patrols, broken glass at Dynevor Terrace and noise during the 'Springfest'.

Harri confirmed that he and Dylan had been invited by the Pontardawe PCSO to co-chair the new youth PACT meetings.

Resolved to be noted.

9459. Pontardawe & District Youth Facility: Councillors Ms S Northcott, V Hotten G Davies and Mrs J Bowen expressed an interest.

Council was advised that the Pontardawe and District Youth Facility had received financial assistance of £3500 for this fiscal year to date.

Council was also advised that the self funding groups (Engage and Xroads) were still utilising the facility and that the general youth club was generally well attended.

Resolved to be noted.

9460. Out of School activities brochure: The Clerk confirmed that a meeting of the partners was due to take place on the 20th March 2014.

Resolved Council would be kept up to date with developments.

9461. Planning: Councillor Purcell expressed an interest and took no part in the planning portion of the meeting.

Meeting 24th February 2014

P2014/0122 Mr Andrew Tipping, 208 Swansea Road, Trebanos, Swansea SA84BX.

Proposed Development: Two storey and single storey rear extension.

Resolved: No Objection provided there is neighbourhood notification.

P2014/0091 Mr Hickman, 17 Brynawel, Pontardawe, Swansea SA84JP.

Proposed Development: Provision of gable end to existing roof to provide living accommodation.

Resolved: No Objection provided there is neighbourhood notification.

Meeting 3rd March 2014

P2014/0199 Aggregate Industries, Bardon Hill, Coalville, Leicestershire, LE67 1TL.

Location: Cwm Nant Lleichi Quarry, Pontardawe, Swansea, SA8 4TU.

Proposed Development: Scheme under condition 54 of planning reference P2006/0853 (approved 15th April 2009) for the setting up, operation and regular convening of a site liaison committee.

Resolved: No Objection.

P2014/0208 Aggregate Industries, Bardon Hill, Coalville, Leicestershire, LE67 1TL.

Location: Cwm Nant Lleichi Quarry, Pontardawe, Swansea, SA8 4TU.

Proposed Development: Scheme under condition 55 of planning reference P2006/0853 (approved 15th April 2009) for the setting up of a technical working party.

Resolved: No Objection.

P2014/0186 Nissim Esfahani, Archiception Ltd, 231 Vauxhall Bridge Road, London, SW1V 1EH

Location: Highbury Cottage, Pontardawe Road, Pontardawe, Neath SA8 4SY.

Proposed Development: Screening option under regulation 5 of the Town and Country planning (EIA) regulations 2011.

Resolved: Due to the scale of the project and its location the Town Council would like the Environmental Impact Assessment carried out.

P2014/0047 Mr Stephan Penhale, 44 New Road, Trebanos, Pontardawe, Swansea SA8 4DL.

Location: 44 New Road, Trebanos, Pontardawe, Swansea SA8 4DL

Proposed Development: Demolition of porch and construction of three storey rear extension.

Resolved: No Objection provided there is neighbourhood notification.

P2014/0032 Simon Perry, 71 Gelligron Road, Rhyd y fro, Pontardawe, Swansea SA8 4NP

Location: 71 Gelligron Road, Rhyd y fro, Pontardawe, Swansea SA8 4NP

Proposed Development: Two Storey rear extension.

Resolved: No Objection provided there is neighbourhood notification.

Discussed in Meeting:

P2014/0151 Mr Robert Clapham, Riverside Community Outdoor Education Centre, Glantawe Riverside Park, Pontardawe, SA8 2HZ.

Location: Riverside Community Space Centre, Glantawe Riverside Park, Pontardawe, SA8 3HZ.

Proposed Development: Extension to western elevation to provide meeting room and café.

Resolved: No Objection.

9462. Finance Committee held on the 17th February 2014 - to recommend on the awarding of grants for the 2014/15 fiscal year:

The Committee was advised that £6000 was available from the budget for the 2014/15 fiscal year with an additional £1800 (£2300 available at September 2013 - £500 grant to the Pontardawe Food Bank) of funds carried forward from 2013/14. The total amount available for allocation was therefore £7800.

The Committee was aware that due to the Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council austerity measures, the Bowling Club at George V Park and the support of Christmas decorations at Pontardawe for the Christmas of 2014 may also require funding later in the year.

It was agreed that due to the possible call on funds later in the year by local organisations, or to support functions previously funded by Neath Port Talbot Council, the Town Council would limit the grants this year to National organisations, and organisations that although may assist members of the community were not based in the Pontardawe Town Council area.

The requests under review were as follows:

- **Alzheimer's Society** - Awarded £50.00
- **Marie Curie Nurses in Neath Port Talbot** – Awarded £50.00
- **Bobarth Children's Therapy Centre** – Awarded £50.00
- **Hafan Cymru** – Awarded £50.00
- **Shelter Cymru** – Awarded £50.00
- **Teen Cancer Trust** – Awarded £50.00
- **The Stroke Association** – Awarded £50.00
- **Neath Shopmobility** – Awarded £50.00
- **Swansea Bay Awards** – Awarded £50.00
- **Urdd Gobaith Cymru** – Awarded £100.00

- **Eisteddfod Genedlaethol Cymru** – Awarded £100.00

The requests from local groups were as follows:

- **Pontardawe Art Club** – The Club was based in Ynysmeudwy Hall and requested assistance to continue to organise the club together with the provision of demonstrations by professional artists. – Awarded £100.00
- **St Peters Flower Festival** – The festival was to be held at St Peters Church from the 15th to the 17th August 2014 – Awarded £100.00
- **Menter Iaith** – Assistance required to continue the Gwyl y Gwach Festival, which has been held in Pontardawe for five years. The Festival was to take place from the 10th July 2014, for the weekend and promoted Welsh music, comedy and Family fun. – Awarded £400.00 however the committee would like Menter Iaith to undertake additional promotion of the festival bilingually as a number of the Councillors were unaware of the event.
- **Pontardawe Chamber of Commerce**: The Committee was advised that the Chamber of Commerce would like grant assistance of £2000 to assist with the Summerfest, in addition to the funds being provided by the Chamber of Commerce and the local publicans. Following the withdrawal of grant aid by Neath Port Talbot Council it was decided that the heart of the festival was the Parade and therefore assistance was required to support exciting acts for this proportion of festival. The land train would not this year be provided due to the reduction in the funding. – Awarded £2000.00. (The Chamber of Commerce also confirmed that following the festival the Town Council would be provided with details of how the grant was utilised)

The following requests were also received:

- **Pontardawe Proms** – There was no request for funding at this time as the hope was that the event could be managed without a funding request. The committee did however comment that the 2014 event had been delightful and that Council Members should attend to support the 2014 event if possible.
- **Ynysmeudwy AFC** - A request was received for a £200.00 grant to provide insulation for the changing rooms however the Committee was also advised that the organisation was actively pursuing funding for a club house at the site which would make the insulation of the current changing rooms superfluous. There was also the possibility that grant aid would be requested from the Town Council to third party fund should the main grant funding be successful.

It was therefore agreed that the Clerk contact the organisation to determine if they still wished to pursue the £200.00 as this would prevent any additional grants for the main club house.

- **Alltwn School**: Grant aid to purchase cloakroom trolleys – The committee suggested the School contact Cilybebyll Community Council with the grant request as the school was situated within their area.

- **Interplay:** The charity providing play opportunities for children with special needs requested grant funding but did not respond with additional information on funding, locations etc and was therefore not considered.

Councillor Harris confirmed that the Gwyl y Gwach Festival, was advertised by bilingual posters and that Alun Pugh from Menter Iaith was to attend the next ordinary meeting of Council in April 2014 to give an update on the work carried out by Menter Iaith

The grants given are in the interest of, and will bring direct benefit to, this area or any part of it, or all, or some of its inhabitants.

Resolved that the recommendation be ratified.

9463. Finance Committee held on the 17th February 2014 - To review the financial support offered to the Pontardawe and District Youth Facility for the 2014/15 Fiscal Year:

The Clerk confirmed that the Youth Club was still organised by PC Mark Jones and for February and March 2014 was to be held once a week on either a Monday or Friday. She confirmed that the Trustees were monitoring numbers and that attendance had been rising over the last two weeks with seventeen children attending the previous week.

The Financial contribution by the Town Council for the 2013/14 fiscal year was £3500 with the balance for the funds to support the facility from the self funding groups (Engage and Xroads) and funds from 'Little Steps' for use of the car park.

The Self funding groups and car park rental were currently providing income of approx £4000 per term with the cost of the facility in the last accounts to the 30/6/13 being £12397.

The Committee suggested the £10,000 budget remain as support for the Pontardawe and District Youth Facility for the 2014/15 fiscal year and that the Clerk continue to provide regular updates on the financial support provided.

Resolved that the recommendation be ratified.

9464. Policy and Resources Committee held on the 17th February 2014 - 'Time to Change Organisational Pledge' Action plan:

The committee discussed the matter in full and determined the following action should be taken to develop the plan:

The Committee recommended the Clerk obtain the following information:

- Determine what support was available in Pontardawe to support those with mental health issues from Charities and other support organisations.
- Obtain information/ leaflets from the support network to distribute to the Community Halls and to add to the Town Council's web site.
- Review the Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council 'ACORN' Scheme.
- Obtain the 'Time for Change' pack.
- Once the action plan has been completed formally 'sign the pledge' at a Council Meeting
- Appoint a 'MIND' Champion (Councillor Sue Northcott volunteered) to oversee the plan.

Resolved that the recommendations be ratified.

9465. Policy and Resources Committee held on the 17th February 2014 – Welsh Assembly Government draft Planning Wales Bill consultation:

The Committee Members were provided with the consultation documents prior to the meeting and asked to provide details of any issues at the meeting.

It was determined that the document was rather high level and provided only the framework rather than the detail on implementation of the revised plans. They also commented that the intention was to alter the culture of planning which was difficult to legislate for.

The Committee did state that the Welsh Assembly Government should be informed that additional guidance would be required and a formal procedure developed for two way communication between the planning authorities and Town and Community Councils, for any consultation to be effective.

They were also concerned that the appeal procedure would be addressed at a high level, at the Welsh Assembly Government and not with the Local Planning Authority, who had the knowledge of the impact of developments on local communities.

Resolved that the recommendations be ratified.

9466. Policy and Resources Committee held on the 24th February 2014 – Open meeting questions: Council was given an overview of the evening that took place on the 6th March 2014 and agreed that the evening was beneficial but still required changes to ensure that it was an effective forum. A number of ideas and views were provided however it was agreed that a Development meeting would need to be scheduled shortly to discuss the meeting, its positives and negatives and to determine any changes to be made.

Resolved that a Development meeting be scheduled in the next few months to discuss the Open meeting and possible changes for next year.

9467. Trebanos Park WREN Grant application – Council was advised that to improve the play equipment at Trebanos Park a £50,000 WREN Grant could be applied for. WREN would however require an 11% contribution from the Town Council. The £5500 could be withdrawn from General Funds during 2014/15 however Council would need to be happy to add this amount to the precept for 2015/16 if necessary.

Resolved that £5500 be allocated from General funds as third party funding for a possible £50,000 WREN Grant for Trebanos Park.

9468. Electrical maintenance at Ynysmeudwy and Arch Halls – The Clerk advised Council that additional electrical maintenance was required at the halls to comply with the Fire Risk Assessments. A quote had been received from A&B Electrics to complete the tasks required which totalled £641.00 plus VAT for the work at Ynysmeudwy and £195.00 plus VAT for the work at ARCH

Resolved that the Clerk request A&B Electrics complete the work required.

9469. County Borough Council/ Community Council liaison committee – Councillors Bob Williams and Sue Northcott attended the meeting. They advised Council that the Charter Agreement was in progress and developments would be advised shortly.

Resolved to be noted.

9470. Tata Steel Consultation Document – Councillor Nicholson was not at the meeting but had confirmed that he had reviewed the documentation and had found no causes for concern. Councillor Evans was also to attend the ‘Open Forum meeting’ with Tata Steel on behalf of Council.

Resolved to be noted.

9471. Town Council Office Cleaning: The Clerk stated that the Office Cleaner who was contracted for one hour a week at £8.80 had resigned due to new work commitments and that as a temporary solution Mrs A D Howells had attended to the cleaning due to a lack of suitable candidates. Councillor Purcell did however suggest a permanent cleaner who may wish to take on the position.

Resolved that Mrs Howells be accepted as temporary cleaner until a permanent replacement is employed.

9472. Accounts Schedule 297:

Resolved to accept the schedule totaling £10454.83

9473. Letter re ‘Walk for Life’: Council was advised that the walk for life was to take place this year on the 27th April.

Resolved to be noted.

9474. Councillor Mel Thomas: The Clerk confirmed that Councillor Thomas was not able to attend meetings due to illness and confirmed that a card offering Councils best wishes for a speedy recovery had been forwarded. Council confirmed that they accepted that Councillor Thomas may not be available for more than six consecutive meetings and were happy to support him until his return

Resolved that Councillor Thomas absence will be authorized. (Excused from LGA 1972 Section 85 and 87 (1) (f))

9475. Email re Civic Pride Certificates: An email was received requesting 'Civic Pride' certificates be presented to the tree young people who recently assisted with a motorcyclist following an accident in the area. The Clerk confirmed that unfortunately the office printer was not able to produce colour documents and therefore these would need to be printed at a cost of approximately £25 each.

Resolved that Councillor Williams will produce a certificate for printing by Councillor Harris.

9476. Neath Port Talbot Corporate Improvement Plan: Councillors were provided with details prior to the meeting.

Resolved to be noted.

9477. Adjudication panel for Wales Annual Report 2012 - 13: Councillors were provided with details prior to the meeting.

Resolved to be noted.

9478. Local Government Wales Byelaws Act 2012 - Implementation: Council was provided with details prior to the meeting.

Resolved that the matter be discussed at a Policy and Resources Committee on the 17th March 2014 at 6.00pm.

9479. Letter re Dog Waste Bin at the Canal bridge, 'The Green', Trebanos: Council was advised that this dog bin was consistently overflowing and although the County Borough was emptying the bin when requested the collections were not as frequent as required. Councillor Pickrell had written to the County Borough and as a result a second bin had been placed at the site. Councillor Pickrell was however concerned that no acknowledgment had been received to his letter.

It was stated however that the local County Borough Member should be informed of any instance of failure to respond by the County Borough

Resolved to be noted.

9480. Membership of 'One Voice' Wales 2014 - 15: Council was advised that the cost was £846 for the year.

Resolved that the subscription will be paid.

9481. Swansea Canal Society: Council was advised that the Swansea Canal Society had won the 2013 Bernard Jones Memorial Award for its work to improve the Swansea Canal; they had also received personal congratulations from the Chief Executive of the Canal and River Trust.

Resolved that the Clerk will forward Congratulations from the Mayor and Councillors.

9482. Email received re Dan y Graig Road, Trebanos: Council was made aware of the difficulties being experienced at Dan y Graig Road due to the pot holes. As however the road was currently unadopted no action was to be taken to maintain the road by the County Borough.

Resolved that Council note the issue but will state that they have no authority over highway issues.

9483. Email received from Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue: The Clerk provided comprehensive details of the response times to the fire at Darren Cottages on the 28th January 2014 and confirmed that although two full size engines had been dispatched due to regulations, and smaller Rural Response vehicle had also been dispatched, which was suitable for the narrow lanes in the area.

Resolved to be noted.

9484. Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales Annual Report: The report was made available to Members prior to the meeting.

Resolved to be noted.

9485. Consultation on the Strategic School Improvement Programme: Council noted the contents but had no comment.

Resolved to be noted.

9486. Consultation re Marine and Fisheries Strategic Action Plan: Council noted the contents but had no comment.

Resolved to be noted.

9487. Urgent road safety matters: Council was advised that the Bottom Herbert Street Car Park now had 'speed ramps' to reduce the speed in the car park and to deter motorists from using the car park as a short cut to the Alloy Industrial Estate.

Other issues raised by Members:

- Parking on Pavements at Herbert Street especially by Taxi's.
- Large Pot Holes opposite Derw House in Pontardawe due to Refuse vehicles.

Resolved that the Clerk will write to Neath Port Talbot Council and A&M Taxi's.

9488. Date and time of next meeting: The date of the next Ordinary Meeting of Council will be Monday 14th April 2014 at Trebanos Hall commencing at 6.45pm. The Mayor also thanked the translator for her assistance during this bilingual meeting.

Signed **Dated**