

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

8931. Present Councillor B Williams (presiding), D Harris, D B Thomas, Mrs E Puzey, V Hotten, H Pickrell, Mrs J Bowen, Mrs L Purcell, Ms S Northcott, A Nicholson, H Evans, M Thomas, Ms R Lewis.

Apologies: Councillors P Williams and M James.

8932. Disclosure of Personal and Pecuniary Interest: Councillor Mrs L Purcell and Ms R Lewis declared an interest in any Planning discussions, Councillor Ms S Northcott, A Nicholson and Mrs J Bowen declared an interest in any discussion on the Pontardawe and District Youth Club.

8933. Minutes of the Ordinary Council meeting on the 9th July 2012:

Resolved that the minutes of the Ordinary meeting held on the 9th July 2012, having been read and confirmed as a true record, be accepted by Council with the following amendment. Councillor Hotten wished the following stated in the minutes.

That he stated in the July meeting that the candidates were not made aware of the continuation of the Co-Option vote from the June to the July Meeting and in his opinion the use of the casting vote in the July meeting was unclear.

8934. Matters raised by Members of the Public: Rob Fellows provided details of the current position regarding the transportation of the wind turbines to Mynydd y Betws Wind Farm. He stated that due to a shipping issue the first transports would be delayed. He also explained that the Clerk would be made aware of the amended timescales and that communication with the general public was being carried out by leaflet to local residents, posters, road signs, newspaper articles, a designated hotline and with details on the Wind farm Web site.

Resolved to be noted.

8935. Presentation Jean Francois Dulong re CoRE funding: Jean Francois provided a report following his initial consultation with children and parents at Trebanos Park during the summer holidays. The consultation clearly showed a need for additional equipment at the Park and his recommendation was that the land adjacent to the current shelter be utilised to add to the play equipment in the park. He also confirmed that he would contact the local primary school to obtain their input to the discussion in order to create a sense of ownership. Council Members also requested that the CCTV cameras be reviewed to ensure sufficient resolution. Council Members thanked Jean Francois for the work carried out on Councils behalf on this project.

Resolved that the Council agreed to pursuing grant funding through groundworks to improve Trebanos Park and also to utilising the land adjacent

to the shelter for the project. The Clerk was also asked to determine if the resolution of the CCTV cameras could be improved.

8936. Presentation by Brian Warlow re the work of the local Credit

Union: Brian provided a comprehensive review of the work of the Neath Port Talbot Credit Union in this area. He explained that the Credit Union had been operating for over seven years. It was a financial co- option owned by the shareholders with the safeguards awarded by the Financial Services Compensation scheme to individual investors and would be offering new products and services such as online application forms, ISAs and pre loaded debit cards shortly.

Brian also requested that the local Credit Union be considered for a grant to assist in the publicity of the Pontardawe savings point at the Library on Saturdays.

Council confirmed its support for the Credit Union and offered their thanks to Brian. Councillor Hotten also offered free advertising space in the Community Magazine.

Resolved that a Finance meeting be held at 6.00pm on the 17th September 2012 to discuss the Credit Union proposals. It was also agreed that the Town Council website include a link to the web site of the Credit Union.

8937. Mynydd y Betws Wind Farm Traffic: Council was advised that unfortunately the Abnormal loads Officer was not available to attend this meeting and also that without his input Inspector Thomas would be unable to answer specific questions, however as Councillor Purcell had attended numerous meetings in relation to this topic she provided feedback on specific questions that had been raised by Council on previous occasions:

- David Griffiths Head of Engineering had stated that all the relevant structures had been checked and would support the weight of the transport. This had also been confirmed by the Chief Executive of Neath Port Talbot Council.
- Pavements would be closed to pedestrians during transit due to overhang on the transporters.
- One transport each morning and one transport most afternoons were expected for approximately two months.
- The loads would leave Swansea docks after 9 am each day and would arrive on site no later than 3.00pm.
- Convoys could not be stopped once they had left the docks.
- Police outriders would have radio contact with headquarters and would be made aware of other Emergency vehicles.
- Two Commercial breakdown services (one based in Fforestfach and one in Llanelli) would ensure recover within one hour in the event of breakdown.
- A tractor unit onsite would assist with moving the load from a pinch point to a straight section of road if necessary.

Council Members accepted that a great deal of work had been put into ensuring the safety of members of the public but still had some specific concerns.

Resolved that the Clerk will advise the Police of specific concerns over the one hour recovery time, should a breakdown happen on the narrowest or most congested area of the route.

8938. Police Matters: Council was advised that in the twelve month period to March 2012 there was a 7% drop in crime. With Robbery down 7.1%, dwelling burglaries down 1.9%, thefts of motor vehicles down 15.9%, criminal damage down 16.2%, violence against the person down 8.9% and the sanction deduction rate up 0.6%.

The following information was also provided from the August PACT meetings:
Trebanos

- Resolution of the CCTV cameras was insufficient.
- The loss of the civilian resource had led to minutes not be recorded during meetings.
- Only the PCSO was available for meetings, with little input from more senior officers.

Pontardawe

- Lack of notices to advise of changes to PACT meeting dates had led to confusion amongst members of the public

It was also acknowledged that the 101 non emergency number was not currently an effective reporting tool.

Resolved That the Clerk will look into the position with regard to the CCTV resolution in Trebanos Park that Councillor Lewis will provide feedback to Council on the 101 number following her visit to the call centre. The other issues will be dealt with directly through the PACT meetings.

8939. Pontardawe and District Youth Club: Councillors Ms S Northcott, A Nicholson and Mrs J Bowen, expressed an interest.

Council was advised that for this Financial Year grants of £2700 had been paid to the Pontardawe and District Youth Club in order to support its existence. Therefore a balance of £7300 was still available for its upkeep from the budgeted figure. Council was further advised that the Youth Club was running on two nights during the week and had reduced its age range for children to 10 years in order to increase the level of participation.

Resolved that a full report will be made to Council in the next meeting following the Trustee meeting which is to be held this month.

8940. Parc Chwarae Teg: Council was advised that the new park was well attended by local young people and was an asset to the community. The Clerk confirmed that she was in the process of drawing down the grant funds and producing the end of grant reports.

Resolved to be noted.

8941. Proposed Traffic Order Herbert Street/High Street: Councillor Purcell confirmed that the proposed 'No waiting, loading and unloading at any time' order had received many objections and had been abandoned. The area was to remain no parking but with loading and unloading unaffected.

Resolved to be noted.

8942. Planning: Councillor Purcell and Lewis expressed an interest and left the meeting for the duration of the planning discussion.

Meetings held on the 16th July, 6th August and 23rd August.

P2012/0497

Applicant: Mr C Phillips, 20 Bethesda Road, Ynysmeudwy, Pontardawe SA8 4QQ.

Site location: 20 Bethesda Road, Ynysmeudwy, Pontardawe SA8 4QQ.

Proposed Development: Retention and Completion of detached dwelling and detached garage (Amendment to P2005/1548).

Resolved No objection provided there is neighbourhood notification.

P2012/0543

Applicant: GRWP GWALIA CYF, 7-13 The Kingsway, Swansea SA1 5JN.

Site location: Land at former Ynysmeudwy House, Ynysmeudwy Road, Ynysmeudwy, Pontardawe, Swansea SA8 4QD.

Proposed Development: Residential Development for 15 dwellings (Amendment to P2010/1267 in respect of a reduction in site levels).

Resolved No objection provided there is neighbourhood notification.

P2012/0541

Applicant: Mr Peter Bridgens, 10 Blaencwm Road, Llansamlet, Swansea, SA7 9TA.

Site location: Gosen Eglwys Apostolaidd, Holly Street, Pontardawe, Abertawe.

Proposed Development: Demolition of single storey rear extension and construction of single storey rear extension. (Amendment to P2012/0045)

Resolved No objection provided there is neighbourhood notification.

P2012/0557

Applicant: Mr Peter Lake, Woodbine Cottage, Gellifowy Road, Ynysmeudwy, Pontardawe, Swansea SA8 4QE.

Site Location: Woodbine Cottage, Gellifowy Road, Ynysmeudwy, Pontardawe, Swansea SA8 4QE.

Proposed Development: Part two storey part single storey side extension (Revision to P2012/0119).

Resolved No objection provided there is neighbourhood notification.

P2012/0567

Applicant: Mr H Davies, Perthi Gwynion Farm, Perthigwynion access road from A474, Pontardawe Road, Pontardawe, Swansea, SA84TA.

Site location: Perthi Gwynion Farm, Perthigwynion Access Road from A474 Pontardawe Road, Pontardawe, Swansea SA84TA.

Proposed Development: Erection of one 27m high wind turbine (20m to hub) with ancillary access track, hard stand, and cable run.

Resolved No objection provided transport vehicle is of a standard nature.

P2012/0565

Applicant: Mr Gianni Sansone, 4 Filton Grove, Bristol, BS7 0AJ.

Site location: Land near, 74 Swansea Road, Trebanos, Pontardawe, Swansea SA8 4BL.

Proposed Development: Detached split level dwelling.

Resolved No objection provided there is neighbourhood notification, however Council is concerned over the proximity of a very difficult junction to Graig Road which is virtually opposite.

P2012/0745

Applicant: Mr J Jones, 184 Ynysmeudwy Road, Ynysmeudwy, Pontardawe, SA8 4QJ.

Site location: 184 Ynysmeudwy Road, Ynysmeudwy, Pontardawe, SA8 4QJ.

Proposed Development: Two Storey rear extension.

Resolved No objection provided there is neighbourhood notification.

P2012/0720

Applicant: Mrs J Carney, 104 Parc Gilbertson, Rhyd y Fro, SA8 4PU.

Site location: 104 Parc Gilbertson, Rhyd y Fro, SA8 4PU.

Proposed Development: Single Storey Side extension.

Resolved No objection provided there is neighbourhood notification.

P2012/0723

Applicant: Mr I Gibson, The Farm House, Alltycham Drive, Pontardawe, SA8 4JR.

Site location: The Farm House, Alltycham Drive, Pontardawe, SA8 4JR.

Proposed Development: Sub division into dwelling (class C3) and two holiday cottages (class C3).

Resolved No objection provided there is neighbourhood notification.

Town and County Planning Act 1990

Appeal by Mrs K Yeo. Gellyfowy Fawr Farm, Gellifowy Road, Ynysmeudwy, Pontardawe SA8 4TU.

Reference APP/Y6930/A/12/218147. (P2011/1000)

Resolved that the Town Council has no addition observations.

Planning discussed in this meeting:

P2012/0783

Applicant: Mrs Leah Hopkins, Tan yr Allt Farm, Pheasant Road, Trebanos, Pontardawe, Swansea SA8 4DP.

Site Location: Tan yr Allt Farm, Pheasant Road, Trebanos, Pontardawe, Swansea SA8 4DP.

Proposed Development: Conversion and extension of existing barn into one self contained holiday unit.

Resolved that Councillor H Pickrell due to his extensive local knowledge would provide details of specific issues that should be borne in mind by the planning authority when reviewing this application.

P2011/1019

Applicant: Mrs Maria Sykes c/o Agent.

Site Location: The bungalow, Baran Road, Pontardawe, Swansea, SA8 4RR.

Proposed Development: Replacement dwelling and garage (outline)

Resolved no objection provided the building is visually compatible with the surroundings.

P2011/0512

Applicant: Mr Laurence Griffiths, Wall Colmonoy, Alloy Industrial Estate, Pontardawe, Swansea, SA8 4HL.

Site location: Wall Colmonoy, Alloy Industrial Estate, Pontardawe, Swansea, SA8 4HL.

Proposed Development: Four single storey extensions to factory, two storey extension and canopy to office, pitched roof and alterations to external elevations of office, external staircase, bike shelter, means of enclosure and associated works. (Amended Plans and Bat survey rec 23/8/12)

Resolved no objection.

2012/0764

Applicant: Mr Gareth Thomas, 40 Ael y Fro, Rhyd y Fro, Pontardawe, Swansea, SA8 4NS.

Site Location: 40 Ael y Fro, Rhyd y Fro, Pontardawe, Swansea, SA8 4NS.

Proposed Development: Single Storey rear extension.

Resolved No objection provided there is neighbourhood notification.

8943. Local Development Plan: Two representatives were required to attend the Stakeholder meeting on the 10th October 2012 at Pontardawe Leisure Centre.

Councillors were advised that they were also able to comment directly via the Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council web site.

Resolved that the Mayor Council Bob Williams together with the Clerk would attend the meeting.

8944. Cwmdu Glen Report: The Clerk provided Council with the following information:

- Following a full review by Awel Aman Tawe, it was determined that due to land ownership issues together with ecological sensitivity; the area would be unsuitable for a hydropower scheme.
- The land owned by the Town Council was located between the steps from James Street to Rhyd y Fro on the right hand side when viewed from Pontardawe. The area was unstable and following discussions with Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council it was agreed that the permissive path was dangerous and had been closed to the general public.
- Council was advised that due the amount of remedial work required to make this portion of the path safe, the path was currently to be closed indefinitely.
- Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council had requested that the Town Council enter into a five year management plan with the County Borough to designate the area (both the land owned by the Town Council and the land owned by the County Borough Council) a nature reserve.
- The land was in the process of being registered and a full review had been carried out by the Town Clerk together with the Councils Solicitor.
- With regard to a small portion of contested land adjacent to 'Gwynfa', the Councils Solicitor had recommended that the Town Council do not oppose the registration by the householder as the disputed land area is a steep slope with no practical use, and may indeed be a liability to the Council in the future.

Resolved that Council accept the Solicitors recommendations and not contest 'Gwynfa's' registration plan. Further that the Town Council agree to enter into the five year plan with Neath Port Talbot Council and consent to the designation of the area as a nature reserve. It was however requested that Neath Port Talbot Council consider some allotments on the Glanrhyd estate, provided the access was acceptable.

8945. Annual Return: Council was advised the at the Auditors had confirmed that they had concluded their review for the year ended 31st March 2012, and that no matters had come to their attention giving cause for concern.

Resolved that he Mayor sign the Annual Return on behalf of Council.

8946. County Borough Council/Community Councils Liaison Forum:

Councillor Northcott attended the meeting in July 2012 and reported that with regard to the Charter agreement, information was still awaited from 'One Voice Wales'.

Resolved that Councillor Nicholson will request details at the next One Voice Wales meeting.

8947. Community and Town Council payments consultation paper to be discussed in the Finance meeting on the 17th September 2012.

Resolved to be discussed in the Finance meeting at 6.00pm on the 17th September 2012.

8948. Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales draft Annual Report to be discussed in the Finance meeting on the 17th September 2012.

Resolved to be discussed in the Finance meeting at 6.00pm on the 17th September 2012.

8949. Accounts Schedule 280 totalling £23433.62

Resolved to be agreed under financial regulations.

8950. One Voice Wales – Notification of Meetings: Council was advised that agendas and meeting minutes were being received with insufficient time for Members to make arrangements to attend. In some cases the agenda was being received with only one days notice. The Clerk confirmed that she had contacted 'One Voice Wales' and had obtained their agreement to provide agendas with one weeks' notice to allow Members adequate time to make arrangements to attend.

Resolved to be noted.

8951. Town Councillors Surgeries: A request was received for Town Councillors to organise surgeries in their wards to allow members of the public to address them in person.

Resolved that a pilot be set up for a six month period whereby Town Councillors would provide an informal surgery for members of the public for thirty minutes prior to the start of the Ordinary Meeting when the Ordinary meeting was being held in their ward. The Clerk would arrange for a notice of these surgeries to be advised in the Community Magazine and would also produce a list of 'useful contact numbers' for new Members.

8952. Co- Option Request: A proposal was received from Councillor Hotten that due to confusion during the Co-Option process the entire co-option should be declared nil and void.

The Clerk however advised Council that the whole Co-Option process had been independently reviewed by the Ombudsman for Public Services in Wales and they had stated that they had no issue with the validity of the Co-Option and therefore there were no grounds for Councillor Hottens request. Councillor Hotten issued a number of statements with regard to the co-option which included his personal opinions on the issue of curriculum vitae, the chairman's casting vote and treatment of the candidates but was advised that as the regulators had already reviewed the whole process and had stated they had no issues, there were still no grounds to declare the Co-option void. The Chair then declared the position finalised and that no further discussion should take place on this matter.

Resolved to be noted.

8953. Proposal that the Town Council host and open meeting for the Neath Port Talbot County Borough Members, the local Assembly Members and the constituency Member of Parliament: Councillor Hotten proposed that the meeting be Chaired by Pontardawe Town Councils Mayor but that the Town Councillors would not be part of the panel. The intention was to allow members of the Public access to their representatives in an open meeting annually.

Resolved that the Town Clerk would arrange the meeting.

8954. Letters of Thanks: Letters of thanks were received from Arena Pontardawe re the Riverside Project, Pontardawe Art Centre and Cwmtawe School.

Resolved to be noted.

8955. Emails received re Pontardawe Festival Fireworks– A number of complaints were received from residents with regard to the Fireworks during the Pontardawe 'Summerfest'. The complaints were mainly due to lack of communication about the intention to hold a fireworks display, and the location which was close to a residential area. Council was however advised that these issues had already been discussed with the Chamber of Commerce and they would in future take these issues into account.

Resolved to be noted.

8956. Email received re Allotments: A request was made for the Town Council to review land areas that would be suitable for allotments in the area.

Resolved that the Clerk would look into the position.

8957. Email re Trebanos hanging baskets – An email was received requesting that a hanging basket scheme be extended to Trebanos Hall and Post Office.

Resolved that the Clerk will review and provide feedback to Members at the next meeting.

8958. Member and Mayor Lapel badges: A request was made to for Council Members and Mayors to received lapel badges in recognition of their service to the Community

Resolved that the Clerk will review and provide feedback to Council at the next meeting.

8959. Email re Skateboard Park for Pontardawe: An email was received requesting that Council look to develop a skateboard ramp on the pedestrian area of 'The Cross' in Pontardawe.

It was however stated that due to the proximity of busy roads and insurance considerations this would not be feasible.

Resolved to be noted.

8960. Car parking charges: Councillor Purcell advised Council that a proposal was due to be submitted to Cabinet Members at the County Borough Council to introduce car parking charges in Pontardawe. Councillor Purcell confirmed that there would be no prior consultation with the Town Council and Chamber of Trade but that the only consultation would be on the method of implementation.

Council discussed in full the effects of an introduction of charges for car parking and unanimously agreed to oppose the introduction.

Council agreed to produce a petition for submission to the County Borough and also agreed that this initiative was cross party and therefore the petition should include no Councillor names or political party insignia.

Resolved that petition forms be produced and distributed to local businesses.

8961. Urgent Road Safety Matters:

- A large tree on the corner of Tawe Terrace and the Alloy Industrial estate was causing a visual obstruction.
- A designated pedestrian crossing was required outside the Health Centre on Tawe Terrace, Pontardawe.

Resolved that Clerk will advise the proper authorities.

8962. Date of the next meeting: The date of the next meeting is due to be held at 6.45pm on the 8th October 2012 at Ynysmeudwy Hall.

Signed

Dated.....