

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Pontardawe Town Council held on Monday 11th of April 2011 at Trebanos Community Hall commencing at 6:45p.m

8501. Present: Councillor Mrs J Bowen (presiding), Mrs E Puzey, Mrs L Purcell, AE Williams, DB Thomas, D Harris, H Pickrell, V Thomas, S Northcott, A Nicholson, B Williams.

Apologies: Councillor M James, Mrs C Lanbourne, H Evans.

8502. Disclosure of personal and pecuniary interest: None

8503. Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on the 14th of March 2011.

Resolved that the minutes of the meeting having been read and confirmed as a true record, be accepted by the Council, with the following amendments. Minute number 8480. A Policy and Resources committee was called and not a Finance committee. Also Minute number 8496, should read Forge Fach and not Fforest Fach.

8504. Presentation by Environment Agency Wales: A presentation was given in regard to prevention and flood defence procedures for the wider Pontardawe area.

Resolved that Councillor A Nicholson & DB Thomas names be put forward to the Environment Agency as initial contacts for flood warnings in the area. It was also agreed that should any member have a comment with regard to the proposals, then they provide the Clerk with details. The Clerk will liaise with the Environment Agency.

8505. Police Matters: Council was informed that a 'Cycle Smart day' would take place on the 27th of April 2011.

Council was also informed that due to a lack of finance Pontardawe police station was now unmanned. The Council expressed concern over the closure, and the time it would take to respond to incidents in the area. Council also expressed dismay over the lack of communication from the police over such matters.

Resolved that the Clerk is to invite the new Chief Constable to a Town Council meeting to discuss the list of concerns from Councillors.

8506. Local Cyclists: PCSO Mark Jones, on behalf of the Pontardawe and District Youth Facility requested that the Town Council fund the purchase of cycle lights and bells for attendees of the 'Cycle Smart' scheme at a cost of £151, in total. The scheme was part of a crime prevention measure, to prevent illegal cycles being used on public highways.

Resolved that the grant of funds be made.

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

Expenditure authorised under Local Government Rating Act 1997 S31

8507. Ynysderw road, Pontardawe: As Councillor James was absent from the meeting, no further update on this matter was available.

Resolved to be monitored.

8508. Car Parking Charges at Pontardawe: Council was informed that the proposed introduction of car parking charges in Pontardawe had been postponed.

Resolved to monitor developments.

8509. Councillor M Thomas: Council was advised that Councillor Mel Thomas had returned home from hospital.

Resolved to be noted.

8510. Hanging Basket Scheme – Summer 2011: The Clerk confirmed that five hanging basket brackets had been ordered and once completed, that one would be placed at the Tamarind restaurant. The new bracket would be placed by the contractors when checking the brackets prior to the replacement of the winter baskets by summer baskets. The replacement was to take place in May.

Resolved to be noted.

8511. Ynysymond Road, Pontardawe: The Clerk informed Council that despite two letters being sent there had been no response.

Resolved that the Clerk will telephone the company.

8512. Cefn Llan Resident Association, Application for grants for the new playground: Council was advised that Paul Hinder of Neath Port Talbot Council was in the process of applying for grants and was negotiating with NPT Homes on behalf of the Town Council. Council was informed that the People and Places grant funders had agreed the outline and a full application was in the process of being written.

Resolved that Council be kept up to date with developments.

8513. Teenage Shelter at Trebanos Park: Council was advised that the Teenage shelter was being routinely used by the teenagers in the area and that PCSO Singh was to carry out bike

security work at the shelter shortly. There had however been a request from the grounds man for an additional litter bin for that area.

Resolved that an additional litter bin be included as an item in the Trebanos Park Plan.

Expenditure authorised under the Local Government (Misc prov) Act 1976 s 19

8514. WIFI at Trebanos Hall: The Clerk advised Council that the Hall committee were able to arrange for telephone line and internet connectivity. The Town Council only needed to provide them with the permission.

Resolved that permission be given to Trebanos Hall committee to install a line for internet access, but that all costs for both installation and ongoing connection would need to be met by the hall committee.

8515. Internet: Council was advised that with regard to the updates to the current internet, the Clerk would put together a report later in the year when all the relevant information had been collated. The Clerk also confirmed that the April edition of the newsletter had been compiled and was in the process of being translated. This would be available on the web site shortly.

Resolved to be noted.

8516. Trebanos Park: Council was advised that the Clerk would put together a report with regard to Trebanos Park and was in the process of compiling the relevant information. Council could then decide on a time scale for improvements. With regard to the small children's play area however, the Clerk confirmed that she had requested the assistance of the Neath Port Talbot Parks Department. Their inspectors had attended the site and confirmed that there was no danger present.

The Clerk also confirmed that she had negotiated with Neath Port Talbot Parks department to have Park inspections carried out under their tender agreement as this method would be more cost effective than the current arrangement with ROSPA.

Resolved that the change to the method of park inspection be agreed, and the other information noted.

8517. Local authority charter agreements: Councillor Nicholson stated that there were no updates at present, but Council would be kept up to date with developments.

Resolved to be noted.

8518. Cwm Nant Lleici Quarry Meeting: The Clerk confirmed that the meeting had been postponed until the 18th April 2011.

Resolved to be noted.

8519. Arena Project AGM: Councillor Williams confirmed that he did attend, but there was no additional information for Council

Resolved to be noted.

8520. Ynni'r Fro Programme: The Clerk confirmed that a letter had been written, but no reply had been received as yet.

Resolved to be noted.

8521. Pontardawe Old Foundry Site: Council was advised that the agents had been contacted and would advise the owners of the Councils concerns. The owners then stated that a full review of the site would take place shortly.

Resolved to be monitored.

8522. Swansea Valley Area Forum: Councillor Nicholson was unable to attend.

Resolved to be noted.

8523. Salt bins and damage to the tarmac at the Avenue Roundabout, Pontardawe: Council was advised that maintenance to the Avenue roundabout had been carried out. The County Borough had however advised the Clerk, that the salt bins would not be filled until September.

Resolved to be noted.

8524. Pontardawe and District Youth Facility Report: The Clerk read a report from the Pontardawe and District Youth facility Trustees. The report gave details of the user groups currently occupying the building and the work being carried out by the youth club. The report also stated that the funds being received from the user groups at present were sufficient for the running of the building and as a result at present additional contributions were from the Town Council, were not required. They however thanked the Town Council for their continued support, and hoped that the collaboration would continue for the future.

Resolved to be noted.

8525. Planning Committee Meeting held on the 21st March 2011:
P2010/1256

Applicants address: Mr L Phillips, 5 Ffordd Brynheulog, Pontardawe, Swansea SA84JG.

Site Location: 5, Ffordd Brynheulog, Pontardawe, Swansea, SA84JG.

Proposed Development: Single Storey rear conservatory extension.

Resolved: No objection provided there is neighbourhood notification.

P2011/0010

Applicants address: Mr L Davies, Ty y Coedcae House, Lon Y Wern, Alltwen, Pontardawe, SA8 3BL.

Site Location: Castle Hotel, High Street, Pontardawe, Swansea, SA8 4HU.

Proposed Development: Change of use of first floor from one residential unit to three self contained flats and external staircase to rear elevation.

Resolved to object to the change of usage from a mixed hereditament to commercial lettings.

P2010/1199

Applicants address: Mr R Green, The Dragons Den, 50, Heol Goffa, Llanelli SA15 3LS.

Site Location: Car Park, Ffordd Parc Ynysderw, Pontardawe, Swansea, SA84EG.

Proposed Development: Variation of condition 2 of planning permission reference P2009/0497 to allow siting of mobile hot food van for a further three years.

Resolved: No objection provided the van remains in good condition and there is no adverse effect to the local environment.

P2011/0011

Applicants address: Wayleaves Department, Western Power Distribution, Ffynon Menter, Phoenix Way Swansea, SA7 9HW.

Site Location: Land near Perthi Gwynion Farm, Perthigwynion Access Road from A474 Pontardawe Road, Pontardawe, Swansea, SA8 4TA.

Proposed Development: Consultation under section 37 of the electricity act 1989 for provision of over head lines less than 132 kV.

Resolved: no objection.

P2010/1223

Applicants Address: Alloy Industrial Estate, Pontardawe, Swansea SA8 4EN.

Site Location: Darren House, Alloy Industrial Estate, Pontardawe, Swansea, SA8 4EN.

Proposed Development: Single Storey rear extension.

Resolved No Objection.

P2010/1252

Applicants address: Mr J Hopkins, Myrtle Hill, 11 Lloyd Street, Trebanos, Swansea SA8 4HU.

Site Location: Unit 3, 23 High Street, Pontardawe, Swansea SA8 4HU.

Proposed Development: Internally Illuminated projecting sign.

Resolved Insufficient information provided on size and shape to comment.

P2011/0274 & P2011/0273

Applicants address: Mr Andrew Gunning, Centrica Resources Ltd, Millstream, Maidenhead Road, Berkshire, SL4 5GD

Site Location: Land at Mynydd y Garth, Cwmgors, Abernant.

Proposed Development: Details to be agreed in association with condition 6 of planning permission P2010/0665 granted on 11/2/11

Proposed Development: Details to be agreed in association with condition 12 of planning

permission P2010/0665 granted on 11/2/11.

8526. Finance Meeting to discuss grants: Council agreed that this should be held on Monday the 18th of April, at 6.00pm at the Council Offices, 4 Herbert Street, Pontardawe.

Resolved to be noted.

8527. Report on Expenditure against budget to 31st March 2011 & bank reconciliation: Council was provided with a report for expenditure against budget for the period, and was informed that the historic large general reserves had, over the last two years, been reduced in accordance with the auditor's recommendations. As the precept had also not been increased for the 2011/12 year, it was important for Council to be aware that expenditure outside budget would need to be carefully monitored.

Resolved to be noted.

8528. Accounts 265 totalling £32992.98

Resolved to be agreed under financial regulations

8529. High Sherriff Award: Council was informed with regret that PCSO Mark Jones was not being considered.

Resolved to be noted.

8530. People and Arts in Neath Port Talbot – Steering Groups: Council was informed that representatives and interested parties were being sought.

Resolved to be noted.

8531. 'First' Proposed bus service changes: Council was provided with details of service cuts affecting the area and expressed dismay over the lack of concern by the bus service for the transport needs of the community.

Resolved to be noted.

8532. National Grid: Council was advised that an email had been received from a concerned resident of Holly Street. The email stated that National Grid seemed unaware of the flooding that occurred following the canal breach a number of years ago.

Resolved that the Town Clerk will contact National Grid.

8533. New Road, Ynysmeudwy: Councillor Purcell stated that a grant had been received from

the County Borough to tackle road safety in the area.

Resolved that Councillor Purcell will provide an update when available.

8534. Memorial plaque for local soldier killed in a recent conflict: A request had been made from members of the family for the Council to cover the cost of the plaque for the local soldier killed in a recent conflict. The cost was £363.

Resolved that the Council cover the cost of the memorial plaque, however, they would not be in a position to replace the plaque should it be stolen or damaged.

Expenditure authorised under War Memorials Act 1923 s1 and Local Government Act 1948 s133.

8535. Road Safety: Council was concerned at the amount of parking on Swansea Road, Trebanos.

Resolved that the Clerk will contact Neath Port Talbot highways department to request member attend the Pact meeting in Trebanos on the 16th of June.

8536. The Next Ordinary Meeting: Council was advised that the next ordinary meeting together with the Annual General Meeting would be held on the 9th May 2011.

Resolved to be noted.

Signed **Dated**