

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Pontardawe Town Council held on the 11th April 2016 at Ynysmeudwy Hall, Old Road, Ynysmeudwy, commencing at 6.45pm.

10161. Present: Councillor D B Thomas (presiding), Mrs J Bowen, G Davies, P Williams, Ms S Northcott, A Nicholson, B Williams, Mrs L Purcell, Mrs E Puzey, V Hotten and Ms C Ford.

Youth Representatives: Harri Evans-Mason.

Apologies: Councillor Mrs R Phillips (Currently on Maternity Leave), D Harris, H Evans, M James, H Pickrell and T Huchins.

10162. Disclosure of Personal and Pecuniary interests: Councillors Mrs J Bowen, A Nicholson, Ms S Northcott, V Hotten and G Davies expressed an interest in the Pontardawe and District Youth Facility as they are Trustees.

10163. Minutes of the Ordinary meeting held on the 14th March 2016:

Resolved that the minutes of the Ordinary meeting held on the 14th March 2016, having been read and confirmed as a true record, be accepted by Council, with the following amendments:

- 10142. Councillor Purcell wished the wording made clearer. The issues with the 101 number was not related in any way to the funding being secured by Sergeant James for initiatives to tackle anti social behaviour and underage drinking in Pontardawe.
- 10145. The word weary should be replaced by wary.

10164. Bilingual Meeting: The meeting was bilingual with full Welsh translation. Council thanked the translator for her attendance.

Resolved to be noted.

10165. Matters raised by Members of the Public: A number of issues were raised on Cwmdu Glen, which had all been discussed in previous meetings. Dr Jones reiterated his previous concerns.

Resolved to be noted.

10166. Sergeant Jayne James: Sergeant James advised Council that she was in the process of bidding for funding to create a CAP 'Community Action Partnership' in the area. The funding was sourced from large retail organisations. The scheme would bring together all the relevant partners to address the issue of underage drinking and had been successful in English Towns. If the funds are secured, then Pontardawe will be only the second community in Wales to operate the scheme.

Sergeant James confirmed that the CAP Scheme also engaged with the Youth in order to address issues faced by the lack of amenities in their areas.

With regard to speeding issues outside various schools in the area it seemed to be that 'Anti social' driving was an issue rather than purely speeding and therefore a project was being set up to address the particular problem. Sergeant James confirmed that surveys were to be completed by local residents which would assist with the setting up of the project.

Sergeant James requested that Councillors advise their constituents to continue to contact the Police via the 101 number as these statistics were vital for securing funding to set up future projects. It was also important that any surveys were completed and returned to assist the Police with their funding requests.

Overall however Sergeant James wished to confirm that Pontardawe and Trebanos were very low crime areas.

10167. Police Matters:

The following information was provided:

Trebanos – The next PACT meeting was due to be held on the 28th April 2016 at Trebanos Hall commencing at 6.30 pm.

Pontardawe – The next PACT meeting was due to be held on the 14th April 2016 at Pontardawe Art Centre commencing at 6.30pm

There were no further statistics and the PACT priorities remained the same.

PCSO Jenkins had been contacted and had identified that the December PACT meeting had been disrupted due to an event at the Art Centre but she doubted that the circumstances would be repeated. She would however bear the Council's concerns in mind when booking future venues.

Resolved to be noted.

10168. Pontardawe and District Youth Facility: Councillors A Nicholson, Ms S Northcott, Mrs J Bowen, V Hotten and G Davies expressed an interest.

Council was advised that the building had been handed back to Neath Port Talbot Council on the 31st March 2016. The final accounts were now in the process of being settled.

Additional funds were likely to be required from the Town Council prior to closure.

Councillor Bowen requested that Council offer their thanks to the Trustees and the Company Secretary for their work in ensuring the survival of the Pontardawe Youth Club and for the Company Secretaries work in closing down the Company and Charity.

The Youth Club was settled at Ynysmeudwy Hall and was to conduct a litter pick at the adjacent park shortly in order to assist the community.

Resolved to be noted.

10169. Pelican/ Zebra Crossing: Council was advised that the Clerk had secured funding of £1000 towards the cost of the Crossing Patrol Officer from Cwmtawe School that would be reviewed annually. She had also returned the SLA to the County Borough to arrange for the employment of a crossing patrol officer in accordance with the powers awarded to her at the last meeting.

Resolved that the Clerk will obtain time scales for the employment of a crossing patrol officer for Swansea Road.

10170. Cwmdu:

The Clerk confirmed that the report from the Neath Port Talbot Council Engineers on the closed section of the path and the Boundary Report had not yet been received. She had also arranged for a quote to address the trees on the top section of path from the waterfall to Rhyd y Fro. Unfortunately the Town Council's ground staff was unable to address the large trees in Cwmdu and therefore outside contractor were required. The cost was at least £1000 for the trees adjacent to the path with additional funds required to cut the trees currently in the river.

Resolved that the Town Council will be kept up to date with developments.

10171. Community Halls:

Trebanos Hall – The heating system was now operating well and the invoice to the suppliers had been paid.

ARCH Hall & Ynysmeudwy Hall – MPN windows had replaced the windows at ARCH and were in the process of arranging a convenient date to change the windows at Ynysmeudwy Hall.

Unfortunately the roof at ARCH had developed a leak adjacent to the area replaced previously. The Clerk had arranged for a qualified roofer to review the issue as an emergency.

Resolved that Council will be kept informed of developments.

10172. Pwllfawatkin meeting: Councillor Purcell confirmed that four way traffic signals would be placed at the site.

Resolved to be noted.

10173. Planning:

P2016/0235

Applicants name: Tracs Care Ltd, Copper Court, Phoenix Way, Llansamlet, Swansea, SA7 9EH

Site Location: 3 Commercial Road, Rhyd y Fro, Swansea SA8 4SL.

Proposed Development: Change of use from dwelling house (Class C3) to care home for 7 people (Class C2) Removal of existing conservatory and replacement with single storey rear extension, conversion of existing integral garages to living accommodation plus external alterations including alteration to and addition of windows and doors and installation of railings to enclose raised platform area.

Resolved No objection provided there is neighbourhood notification.

P2016/1066

Applicants name: Mr Richard Evans, Gellilwca, Fawr Farm, Gwrhyd Road, Pontardawe, Swansea. SA8 4TP.

Site Location: Gellilwca Fawr Farm, Gwrhyd Road, Pontardawe, Swansea, SA8 4TP.

Proposed Development: Construction of detached building for use as a horse riding arena for the schooling of horses.

Resolved No Objection provided there is neighbourhood notification.

P2016/0213

Applicants name: Mrs S Davies, 27 Gelligron Road, Pontardawe, Swansea, SA8 4LU.

Site Location: 27 Gelligron Road, Pontardawe, Swansea, SA8 4LU.

Proposed Development: Demolition of existing single storey rear extensions and construction of two storey rear extension.

Resolved No Objection provided there is neighbourhood notification.

P2016/0257

Applicants name: Mrs Beata Fonferko Shadrach, Llwyn Helyg, Vicarage Drive, Pontardawe, Swansea, SA8 4PB.

Site Location: Llwyn Helyg, Vicarage Drive, Pontardawe, Swansea, SA8 4PB.

Proposed Development: Work to 2 beech trees comprising of the reduction of one limb over driveway by up to 3m (Tree-T8), and remove decayed limb over driveway (Tree- T9) both Beech Trees are covered by T205/G1 (Group order)

Resolved No Objection.

P2016/0121

Applicants name: Mrs Farah Hussain, 7 Greenbank Avenue West, Bristol, BS5 EP.

Site Location: 117 Swansea Road, Trebanos, Pontardawe, Swansea, SA8 4BN.

Proposed Development: Retention and completion of change of use of an Office to 3 self contained flats (previously approved under planning permission P2012/0836) plus new wall / fence and engineering works to create off street car parking.

Resolved No Objection provided there is neighbourhood notification.

P2016/0265

Applicants name: Mr & Mrs Pearson, 129 Heol y Llwynau, Trebanos, Pontardawe, Swansea, SA8 4EB.

Site Location: 129 Heol y Llwynau, Trebanos, Pontardawe, Swansea, SA8 4DB.

Proposed Development: Single storey rear extension.

Resolved No Objection provided there is neighbourhood notification.

P2016/ 0246

Applicants name: Mr Stuart Thomas, 13B Rectory Road, Canton, Cardiff CF5 1QL.

Site Location: Land at Compass Row, James Street, Pontardawe, Swansea, SA8 4LS.

Proposed Development: Detached split level dwelling, with associated access and off street parking (Amendment to Planning permission P2015/0623 approved on 4.12.15)

Resolved No additional comments.

Consultation – Proposed changes to planning policy Wales chapter 6.

Resolved to be noted.

10174. Finance Committee held on the 22nd March 2016 – Grant Allocation 2016/17.

The Committee was advised that no request had yet been received from the Pontardawe Chamber of Commerce or from the Glantawe Lions for the 'Tree of Light'. It was also likely that due to austerity measures at the County Borough that further grant requests would be received during the year.

Eisteddfod Genedlaethol - £100.00

Urdd Eisteddford - £100.00

Teenage Cancer Trust - £50.00

Tenovus Cancer Care - £50.00

Cancer Information and Support Centre - £50.00

Wales Air Ambulance - £50.00

Alzheimers Society - £50.00

Marie Curie Nurses - £50.00

Shelter Cymru - £50.00

McMillan Cancer Support - £50.00

St Peters Flower Festival - £100.00

Pontardawe Art Club - £100.00

Heart of the Valley Show - £500.00

Neath Port Talbot Shopmobility - £100.00

Pontardawe Bowls club - £250.00

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 committee's recommendations be ratified.

10175. Finance Committee held on the 22nd March 2016 – Pontardawe Town Council investment Policy – See Appendix 1.

Resolved that the committee's recommendations be ratified. It was also requested that the Policy include a clause to review annually in February.

The Committee recommended that Council agree the Council Investment Policy.

10176. Clerks Holiday: The Clerk requested two weeks holiday from the 20th June 2016. The holiday would require cover by a deputy. She also requested three days from the 10th May 2016 to attend the Buckingham Palace Garden Party following an invitation by Gwenda Thomas AM.

Council wished to offer Gwenda Thomas AM their best wishes on her retirement.

Resolved that the holidays be agreed.

10177. Account Schedule 321:

Resolved that Account Schedule 321 totalling £8142.59 be accepted in accordance with Standing Orders.

10178. Letter received from the Local Democracy and Boundary Commission: Council was advised that the proposal would increase the representation in the Pontardawe ward to 10 Councillors with a reduction to 2 for the Rhyd y Fro ward and a reduction to 4 in the Trebanos ward. The overall number of Councillors would remain the same at 16.

Resolved to be noted.

10179. Letter received from the Alzheimers Society: The Alzheimers thanked Pontardawe Town Council for its kind donation from the Mayors fund, Glantawe Lyons and Trebanos Hall.

Resolved to be noted.

10180. City and County of Swansea Pension Fund:

Employees rate for 2016/17 Cleaners in Charge – 5.5%, Groundsman – 5.8%, Clerk - 6.5%.

Employers rate for 2016/17 - 19.7%

Resolved to be noted.

10181. Email received from Paul Egan (One Voice Wales) re the Larger Council's Conference 2016:

Council was advised that One Voice Wales wished Pontardawe Town Council to make a presentation on the way Youth Representation worked our area in order to support their drive for additional Youth Representation in Welsh Councils. Following a discussion with the Mayor it was suggested that the Clerk together with Harri Evans- Mason attend the Conference and make the presentation.

Resolved that the agreement be ratified.

10182. Footpath Grant: The Clerk confirmed that Neath Port Talbot Council would provide a footpath maintenance grant for 2016/17 of £2057.95.

Resolved to be noted.

10183. Uplands and Market Team: Council was advised that the Uplands and Market Team had originally looked into a monthly market on Herbert Street however concerns from the Chamber of Commerce over road closures meant that the request for support had been withdrawn. The Chamber of Commerce were however in favour of a market in the Car Park or outside the Art Centre.

Resolved that the Town Council will support the Chamber of Commerce with future ventures of this nature.

10184. Urgent Road Safety Matters:

- There had been an issue with a fire truck not being able to attend Francis Street in Pontardawe due to parked cars. Council were advised that double yellow lines were to be painted on the junction of Francis Street and Ynysderw Road however this issue was a problem in many areas.
- Bridge over the Tawe to Tesco was in a very bad condition
- It was confirmed that the bus stop outside the Police Station did not prohibit cars in the lay by as it was not covered by traffic regulations.

Resolved that the Fire Service be asked if they advise the County Borough of Hot Spots where parking made access difficult. The Clerk will also write to Tesco to request they maintain the bridge.

10185. Time and Date of Next Meeting: The next Ordinary meeting and AGM are due to be held at ARCH Hall on the 9th May 2016.

Signed Dated