

**Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on the 11th February 2013, at ARCH Hall,
Cefn Llan Road, Pontardawe, commencing at 6.45pm**

9079. Present Councillor B Williams (presiding), A Nicholson, Ms S Northcott, G Davies, D B Thomas, Mrs J Bowen, V Hotten, D Harris, Mrs E Puzey, H Evans, Ms R Lewis, M Thomas

Apologies: Councillor Mrs L Purcell and H Pickrell.

9080. Disclosure of Personal and Pecuniary Interest: Councillor Ms S Northcott, A Nicholson and Mrs J Bowen declared an interest in any discussion on the Pontardawe and District Youth Facility as they are Trustees. Councillor Mrs S Northcott, H Evans and A Nicholson declared an interest in any discussion on the proposed charge for educational travel as they have a personal interest. Councillor Mrs R Lewis declared an interest in planning discussions as she is a member of the Neath Port Talbot Council planning committee.

Resolved to be noted.

9081. Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on the 14th January 2013:

Resolved that the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on the 14th January 2013, having been read and confirmed as a true record, be accepted by Council.

9082. Matters raised by members of the public: Mrs Ranft expressed her concern over the proposal from Neath Port Talbot Council to introduce charges of £90 per term for post 16 travel to welsh medium and religious schools in the Neath Port Talbot area from the 1st September 2014 for the following reasons:

- Children in welsh medium education were already required to travel a significant distance to attend their school.
- There were few public transport links to the area where the school was situated.
- Transport for children 11yrs to 16yrs was already being provided so the additional cost to provide transport for post 16yrs olds was minimal.
- There would be additional costs to monitor the payments.
- The policy was in direct opposition to the policy to encourage young people to remain in education, and in National policies on road safety and sustainable travel.
- The policy would impact hardest on the families with the most deprived backgrounds.
- As the policy was to be applied in Neath Port Talbot only and not in neighbouring counties, the children in Neath Port Talbot opting for Welsh Language or Religious schooling would be at a disadvantage, when compared with peers in for example Powys.
- The policy was not supportive of other policies to create a federal campus and inclusive education continuum from 3yrs to 19yrs at Ystalyfera.

Resolved to be noted.

9083. ESB Representative re Mynydd y Betws Wind Farm: Council was advised by the ESB Representatives that they would be happy for any Council member to visit the site to view the work carried out and that the proposed opening of the wind farm was to take place close to the 1st April 2013.

With regard to the roundabouts and street furniture at Pontardawe, the organisation was awaiting final agreement to their plans for reinstatement from Neath Port Talbot Council which they hoped would be received in the next few weeks.

Council was also keen that in future Wind farm construction companies be encouraged to invite local school children to activities at the sites to promote an understanding of green energy.

Resolved that if any Council Members wish to visit the wind farm, then they should contact the Clerk who will arrange a visit.

9084. Trebanos Park CCTV: The Clerk confirmed that the cameras had been installed and the CCTV system serviced. She also confirmed that the method for obtaining copied images for use by the Police had also been determined.

Resolved to be noted.

9085. Police Matters: Council was advised of the following:

Trebanos PACT:

The next meeting was to be held on the 18th April 2013 at Trebanos Hall commencing at 6.30pm.

The PACT priorities remained as speeding on Swansea Road, however speed cameras were not to be installed, and the issue dog fouling at Trebanos Park, which was being monitored by the local PCSO and County Borough Member.

Pontardawe PACT:

The next meeting was to be held on the 4th April 2013 at the Cross Community Centre commencing at 6.30pm.

The PACT priorities were speeding outside Llanguick Primary School and vehicles travelling the wrong way on Quarr Road, Church Street and Dynevor Terrace.

Council was also advised that a second PCSO had been employed for the Pontardawe area.

The Clerk also confirmed that she had received an email from Chief Superintendent Julian Williams who would be attending the Council meeting on the 8th July 2013 to introduce himself.

Resolved to be noted.

9086. Pontardawe and District Youth Facility: Councillors Mrs J Bowen, A Nicholson and Ms S Northcott expressed an interest.

Council was advised that £6500 had been granted to the Youth Club to the 31st January 2013. As the budget for support was £10,000 per annum, this allowed a further £3500 to be transferred to the end of the fiscal year.

They were further advised that Engage were renting the facility five days a week during term time until Easter but hopefully the arrangement would continue for further terms.

There was also a request for additional Trustees following the resignation of Emlyn Williams who intended to step down as a Trustee at the AGM following many years as a Trustee of the project.

Councillor Gary Davies and Vince Hotten expressed an interest in becoming trustees of the Pontardawe and District Youth Facility.

Resolved to be noted.

9087. Open Meeting: The Clerk advised Council that unfortunately Byron Davies AM had been forced to withdraw from the meeting; however Gwenda Thomas AM despite the tragic death of her husband was still intent on attending as a panel member. The panel was therefore to comprise of the following Members:

Councillor Mike James

Councillor Mrs Linet Purcell

Councillor Ms Rebeca Lewis

Councillor Alex Thomas

Gwenda Thomas AM

The Clerk also confirmed that a number of questions had been received from members of the public however there was a need for the questions to be put in a format that could be forwarded to panel members in advance.

Bilingual Posters advertising the event had been placed in numerous locations and information on the event had been placed in the Community magazine by Councillor Hotten.

Resolved that Councillor V Hotten, D B Thomas and the Clerk will put together the advance question list for distribution to the panel members prior to the meeting. It was further agreed that Council Members will provide the Clerk with any other questions they would like to be included prior to the open meeting.

9088. Children's out of school activity pamphlet: Council was advised that the bilingual posters had been placed in the area and that Councillor Hotten had attended a meeting at Cilybebyll Community Council to offer that Council the opportunity to form a partnership in the production of the pamphlet. Councillor Hotten confirmed that they were very interested and it was suggested that Cilybebyll Community Council contribute one third of the funds to produce the pamphlet. It was confirmed that Cilybebyll Community Council would discuss the matter in their March meeting.

Council was also advised that there was a great deal of interest in the pamphlet and the intention was for paper copies to be distributed to the school children in the area with an electronic copy linked into the Council's and schools web sites.

Resolved to be noted.

9089. Welsh Ambulance Service: All Council Members had been provided with copies of the letter from the Welsh Ambulance service dated 30th January 2013, which provided some information on the level of cover achieved at Pontardawe Ambulance Station over previous months.

Council expressed its dismay over some of the figures and the fact that cover seemed on many occasions to be by voluntary overtime rather than by specified shift management, which Council felt was inappropriate for an emergency service. Council was also very concerned that there was no 'joined up service' among the health boards.

Resolved that the Clerk write to the following:

- The Welsh Ambulance Service requesting specific details on some of the more ambiguous responses.
- The Health Minister at the Welsh Assembly Government, requesting that they urgently review the lack of a 'joined up service' within the Health Boards.

9090. Former Cinema Passageway from Paradise Car Park: The Clerk confirmed that staff at the Art Centre would be happy to lock the gates following evening performances at the Art Centre.

Resolved that the Clerk would contact the owners to request their agreement and will look into obtaining keys.

9091. Dan y Graig House, Swansea Road: Council was advised that Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council Environmental Health Officer had reviewed the building and had found that the chimney posed no threat to pedestrians or vehicles travelling on Swansea Road.

Resolved that the Clerk contact the County Borough's Planning department to determine if action can be taken under the Town and Country Planning Act to compel the owners to improve the visual aspect.

9092. Planning: Councillor Mrs R Lewis expressed an interest.

P2013/0093

Applicant: Mr Grant Carlsson, SPA House, Gelligron Road, Trebanos, Pontardawe, Swansea, SA8 4RN.

Site location: SPA House, Gelligron Road, Trebanos, Pontardawe, Swansea, SA8 4RN.

Proposed Development: Two Storey side extension and covered walkway on rear elevation and retention and completion of front porch.

Resolved No objection provided there is neighbourhood notification.

P2013/0103

Applicant: Marshalls Mono, M.I & D Dept, Lower Brier Lodge, Southowram, Halifax, HX3 9SY.

Site Location: Gwrhyd Specialist Stone Quarry, Gwrhyd Uchaf Farm, Rhiwfawr, Neath, SA9 2SB.

Proposed Development: Proposed demolition of existing single storey agricultural building and replacement with single storey amenity block and cropping shed under condition 57 of planning permission P2009/00262.

Resolved no comment.

Planning meeting 4th February 2013

P2013/0057

Applicant: Mr J K Pedrick, 8 West Crossways, Pontardawe, Swansea SA8 4NE.

Site location: 8 West Crossways, Pontardawe, Swansea SA8 4NE.

Proposed Development: Single Storey side extension with raised decking area to rear including basement storage.

Resolved No Objection provided there is neighbourhood notification.

P2013/0037

Applicant: Ms A Edwards and Mr Robert O'Shea, 15 Church Street, Pontardawe, Swansea, SA8 4JB.

Site location: 15 Church Street, Pontardawe, Swansea, SA8 4JB.

Proposed Development: Single Storey rear extensions and detached garage.

Resolved No Objection provided there is neighbourhood notification.

P2012/1047

Applicant: Mr Paul Gregory 147 Graig Road, Godrergrraig, Ystalyfera, SA92NY.

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

Proposed Development: Detached building for storage and sale of agricultural products (amended plans received 18.1.13)

Resolved No further comment following original objection.

9093. Policy and Resources Committee held on the 28th January 2013:

The committee to discussed the Local Government (Democracy) (Wales) Bill, they were provided with copies of the Bill, the consultation response form, and details of the responses provided by 'One Voice Wales' During the meeting it was agreed to review the response already submitted by 'One Voice Wales' to determine if this response covered all issues.

The Committee recommend that Council accept the response already submitted by 'One Voice Wales' but that in addition to the response by 'One Voice Wales' to Question 8, a specific mention should be made of translation costs.

Resolved that the Committees recommendation be ratified.

9094. Proposed deputising arrangements for sickness cover: The Clerk informed Council that she was awaiting surgery which was due to take place in March 2013. The recovery time was likely to be between six and twelve weeks.

Resolved that the Clerk make arrangements to employ a relief Clerk for the period of her convalescence.

9095. ARCH Hall Roof: Council was advised that significant problems had been experienced with water leakage at ARCH Hall. She confirmed that a local firm had been monitoring the position for some time to determine the cause of the roof leakage but that the cause was undetermined. A second opinion was also sought. It was determined that a significant portion of the roof tiles and felt in the affected area needed to be removed and the felt replaced. In accordance with standing orders and with the agreement of the Mayor and Clerk, two quotes were obtained and the work was carried out by Abertawe Roofing who had produced the lowest quote, and who also spent a considerable amount of time identifying the problem. The cost of the repair was £800.

Council was advised that the issue seemed to be due to original construction methods and there was a possibility that further leakage may occur on the untreated portions of the roof. Council was advised that an area on the opposite side of the roof would also require replacement however Abertawe roofing had stated that the cost would be less as the area to be replaced was smaller. Two quotes were also obtained for this work as per standing order of which Abertawe roofing was the least expensive.

Resolved that Council agrees with the action taken to address the initial roof leak at ARCH Hall and is in agreement with Abertawe Roofing carrying out the replacement of the felt and reinstatement of the tiles at the site of the second leak.

9096. Accounts Schedule 285 totalling £9240.84.

Resolved to be agreed under standing orders.

9097. Employer Contribution rate 2013/14: Council was advised that the Employer Contribution rate for 2013/14 was 19.3% plus and additional amount of £240.

Resolved to be noted.

9098. Back pay for Groundsman: A personnel meeting was to be arranged to discuss back pay for the Groundsman.

Resolved that a Personnel committee be arranged for 6.00pm on the 19th February 2013.

9099. West Glamorgan High Sheriffs Award: Council was requested to nominate an individual or group who voluntarily made an outstanding contribution to the community.

Resolved Emlyn Williams be put forward for his work with the Youth at the Pontardawe and District Youth Club.

9100. Minor Authority Governors: The Clerk advised Council that nominations for a minor authority governor were required for both Llanguick School and Rhyd y Fro School.

Councillor Peter Williams was nominated for Rhyd y Fro School by Councillor Eryl Puzey and seconded by Councillor Andrew Nicholson.

Councillor Gary Davies was nominated for Llanguick School by Councillor Andrew Nicholson and seconded by Councillor Huw Evans

Resolved that Councillor Peter Williams be Minor Authority Governor for Rhyd y Fro School and Councillor Gary Davies be Minor Authority Governor for Llanguick School.

9101. Letter received from Neath Port Talbot Council re pedestrian crossing at Tawe Terrace: Council was advised that the County Borough did not feel that it was appropriate to place a pedestrian crossing at Tawe Terrace.

Resolved to be noted.

9102. Email re Pontardawe Regeneration: An email had been received re moss and dust adhering to the new paving following the Pontardawe regeneration.

Resolved that the observations be forwarded to Neath Port Talbot Council.

9103. Welsh Government Skills program: An email had been received offering some essential skills training for local authority employees.

Resolved that the Clerk determine if any there is any interest in essential skills training.

9104. Letter from the Welsh Assembly Government re funds for web sites: The letter advised Councils that each unitary authority had been provided with £500 per Town and Community Council for improvements to Web Sites.

Resolved that the Clerk contact the County Borough to determine the parameters are for claiming funds to improve the web site.

9105. Email received re 'Post 16 transport' and the proposed closure of Gellinudd Hospital: Council was asked to comment on their stance with regard to the proposal to introduce charges for post 16 transport to Welsh medium and religious schools as well as on the closure of Gellinudd Hospital

Resolved that the Council will be unanimously opposed to both the closure of Gellinudd Hospital and the charges for post 16 transport in the area.

9106. Road Safety: Council was advised of the following issues:

- The temporary crash barriers in place following the movement of turbine parts to the Mynydd y Betws Wind Farm had not yet been replaced.
- Construction traffic to the March Hywel Wind Farm site.
- Grit bins at Graig Road, Trebanos.

Resolved that the Clerk contact the proper authorities.

9107. Date of the next meeting is the 11th March 2013 at Trebanos Hall commencing at 6.45pm.

Signed

Dated