

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

10092. Present: Councillor D B Thomas (presiding), V Hotten, Mrs J Bowen, G Davies, D Harris, Ms S Northcott, A Nicholson, B Williams, Mrs L Purcell.

Youth Representatives: Harri Evans-Mason, Thomas Hutchins.

Apologies: Councillor H Pickrell, Ms C Ford, Mrs E Puzey, Mrs R Phillips and P Williams.

10093. 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. Councillors A Nicholson, Ms S Northcott and T Hutchins expressed an interest in Ynysderw Road as they are residents or have family members as residents.

10094. Minutes of the Ordinary meeting held on the 14th December 2015:

Resolved that the minutes of the Ordinary meeting held on the 14th December 2015, having been read and confirmed as a true record, be accepted by Council, with the following amendments:

- 10077 – The word sited should replace the word sighted.
- 10079 – The site location on planning application P2015/0922 should read Ffordd Parc Ynysderw and not Ffordd Parc Ynysderw Road.

10095. Matters raised by Members of the Public: None.

Resolved to be noted.

10096. Police Matters:

The following information was provided:

Trebanos – The next PACT meeting was to be held on the 4th February 2016 at Trebanos Hall commencing at 6.30pm.

The crime statistics showed 2 crimes for November and 4 crimes for October 2015.

The PACT Priority remained Trebanos Park.

Pontardawe - The next PACT meeting was to be held on the 4th February 2016 at Pontardawe Art Centre commencing at 6.30pm.

The crime statistics showed 35 crimes for November and 45 crimes for October 2015.

The PACT Priorities remained underage drinking and anti social behaviour in the Town Centre but also speeding at Rhyd y Fro.

With regard to the request for Neath Port Talbot Council to enforce the provision of CCTV cameras thorough the licensing process, it seemed that this would only be partially possible as only the Public Houses could be compelled to provide and maintain cameras, and the requirement could only be

made for new public houses or if the Police requested a revision to one of the licences due to issues at the establishment.

Resolved that the Clerk identify any grants available for retail outlets to obtain CCTV cameras and then request the Chamber of Commerce canvas their Members to determine if they would be willing to provide their own CCTV cameras on their premises.

10097. Pontardawe and District Youth Facility: Councillors A Nicholson, Ms S Northcott, Mrs J Bowen, G Davies and V Hotten expressed an interest.

Council was advised that the Town Council had provided £3000 in financial support, this year to date. There was therefore £7000 still available should the Youth Facility require funds.

Harri Evans Mason provided confirmation that the Youth Club was a valuable asset to Pontardawe and that should a new home not be found, then many of the links to the youth of Pontardawe which had been instrumental in limiting anti social behaviour, would be lost.

It seemed therefore that a temporary home would be required to allow the club to operate. It was suggested that the second hall at Ynysmeudwy Hall could be offered to the Youth club as a base as they could permanently store the pool table/sofas and television in the second hall and the whole building was available on the Friday evening, which was one of the main club evenings.

Councillor Bob Williams proposed that the offer be made of the second hall to Pontardawe Youth Club, and this proposal was seconded by Councillor Dyfrig Harris.

The Clerk confirmed that the Canal Society artefacts currently being stored in the second hall had been found new homes with the National Museum of Wales together with some local Members of the Canal Society. The Society thanked the Town Council for storing these artefacts in previous years.

Resolved that the second hall at Ynysmeudwy Hall be offered to the Youth Club as a temporary base with one evening being offered as a club night.

10098. Pelican/ Zebra Crossing: The Clerk confirmed that no response had been received from the Chair of Governors of Cwmtawe but that the Christmas break would have caused a delay.

Resolved to be noted.

10099. Cwmdu: The Clerk provided additional information on the 'Working with Nature' project and it was confirmed that Cwmllynfell Community Council had pledged £2000 per annum to the fund.

Council was advised that no response had been received from the County Borough Surveyors but that it was likely that the process would be slow. The Clerk would once again request assistance.

Resolved that Pontardawe Town Council will pledge no less than £2000 per annum to the project but that firm figures would be needed on the amount of time that would be provided for the investment, once this was available.

10100. Highway seat placement: Council was advised that the seat had been ordered and the concrete plinth placed. It was likely that the seat would be placed in the next few weeks.

Resolved to be noted.

10101. Consultation on the Draft Local Government (Wales) Bill: It was suggested that this was discussed in a Policy & Resources committee. Plenary Powers were awarded due to the tight time scales.

Resolved that a Policy and Resources committee be arranged to discuss.

10102. Planning:

P2015/1097

Applicants name: Mr M Evans, c/o agent

Site location: Yard, Commercial Road, Rhyd y Fro, Pontardawe.

Proposed Development: Demolition of existing storage buildings and construction of two detached split level dwellings plus associated access works, boundary treatments and landscaping.

Resolved No Objection provided there is neighbourhood notification.

P2015/1090 – Councillor A Nicholson and Ms S Northcott expressed an interest. Thomas Hutchins also expressed an interest.

Applicants name: Lidl UK Properties GMBH & Co c/o agent.

Site Location: Lidl Supermarket, Ffordd Parc Ynysderw, Pontardawe, Neath, SA8 4AG.

Proposed Development: Demolition of existing foodstore and construction of replacement foodstore plus service yard and parking.

Resolved No Objection however the Council has the following concerns:

- Concerns over the amount of deliveries 'Out of Hours'
- Concerns over vehicular movements at the site during construction and the effect this will have on during school opening and closing times.
- Serious concerns that construction vehicles will not have correct addresses and will attempt to access the site via Ynysderw Road.

10103. Clerks Report on actions required at the Community Halls:

The Clerk confirmed that some double glazing needed replacement at ARCH and Ynysmeudwy Halls. The costs were approximately £1500 for Ynysmeudwy Hall and £400 for ARCH Hall. Unfortunately the quotes obtained were not 'like for like' and therefore additional quotes were required.

With regard to Trebanos Hall, the antiquated heating was not now effective and a number of the gas heaters had been condemned.

The Clerk had requested the services of 'Westward', a local commercial heating supplier to provide details and costing of altering the heating at the hall from the gas heaters to a boiler and radiators with thermostatic control which would be a far more cost effective method of heating the hall.

Westward had provided a quote of £5399.89 plus VAT.

The Clerk had also requested an alternative quote for the work from Mark Evans plumbing, who currently serviced the heating at the hall. He provided a quote of £5550.26 plus VAT.

Resolved that the 'Westward' quote will be accepted and that the heating system replacement will be carried out by them.

10104. Financial Risk Assessment and Financial Regulations: A Finance Committee was required to review these in line with Standing Orders.

Resolved that a Finance Committee be arranged.

10105. Account Schedule 318:

Resolve that Account Schedule 318 totalling £10345.47 plus the Bank Reconciliation statement be accepted in accordance with Standing Orders.

10106. Email received from One Voice Wales – Re the Financial Services Compensation Scheme:

It was suggested that this be reviewed at a Finance Committee.

Resolved that the information be reviewed at a Finance Committee.

10107. Letter received re the 'High Sheriffs Award': The Clerk requested nominations for the award.

Resolved that Council Members will provide a nomination directly to the Clerk.

10108. Buckingham Palace Garden Party 2016:

Resolved that the Mayor, Councillor D B Williams be put forward for the 2016 draw.

10109. Email received re the Fire Service presentation: The Clerk confirmed that Simon Pearson had been provide with details she had received from Members of the areas in the Pontardawe and Trebanos areas which could have restricted access and may require the Rural Response Pump. These had been assessed by the Fire Service and noted on their response system.

Resolved to be noted.

10110. Urgent Road Safety Matters:

- Councillor Purcell provided details of a Road Traffic Survey for a proportion of the road at Rhyd y Fro. This showed that over 85% of drivers were exceeding the speed limit at this point with speeds of up to 42 mph in a 30 mph zone.
- Councillor Nicholson expressed concern that there had been another incidence of a 'Farm Foods' vehicle having to reverse out of Ynysderw Road over Christmas.

Resolved that the Clerk will contact the 'Go Safe' team to express Councils concern and will also request another survey from point 1043 (the end of the original survey) to Rhyd y Fro School. She will also Contact 'Farm Foods' to advise them of this issue.

10111. Time and Date of Next Meeting: The next Ordinary meeting is due to be held at ARCH Hall on the 8th February 2016.

Council also congratulated Councillor R Phillips on the birth of her son.