

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Pontardawe Town Council held on Monday 11th
November 2013,
at Ynysmeudwy Hall, Old Road, Pontardawe commencing at 6.45pm

9325. Present Councillors Sue Northcott (presiding), Mrs J Bowen, A Nicholson, V Hotten, B Williams, Ms R Lewis, M James, H Evans, H Pickrell, G Davies.

Apologies: Councillor P Williams, Mrs L Purcell, Mrs E Puzey, D B Thomas, M Thomas and D Harris

9326. Disclosure of Personal and Pecuniary interests:

Councillors R Lewis declared an interest in planning; Councillors Jean Bowen, Andrew Nicholson, Sue Northcott, Gary Davies and Vince Hotten declared an interest in the Pontardawe and District Youth Facility. Councillors Vince Hotten, Andrew Nicholson and Sue Northcott declared an interest in the 'Pantry' Pontardawe Food bank and Councillor Sue Northcott declared an interest in the St Peters Christmas tree festival.

Resolved this be noted.

9327. Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on the 14th October 2013:

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

9328. Matters raised by members of the public: None

Resolved to be noted.

9329. Police Matters: The Clerk provided the following information:

Trebanos:

The PACT priorities remained youth annoyance at Trebanos Park. The patrols during the evening and at weekends were to continue as a preventative measure although no instances had been reported recently.

There were a total of nine crimes recorded for September.

The next PACT Meeting was due to be held at Trebanos Hall on the 5th December 2013 at 6.30pm.

Pontardawe:

The PACT priorities remained, speeding outside Llanguick School and Anti- Social Behaviour at Pontardawe Recreation ground.

There were a total of thirty eight crimes recorded for September.

The next PACT meeting was due to be held at 'The Cross' community centre on the 5th December 2013 at 6.30pm.

Councillor James commented that the PACT meetings had been very successful in highlighting areas of concern in the community however at present the issues being raised were more continuing themes such as littering, dog fouling and speeding in specific areas, which were unlikely to be resolved entirely but received ongoing monitoring by the Police and unitary authorities. He believed that the format of the PACT meetings should now be reviewed to improve their relevance.

Resolved that the matter will be added to the agenda for the January 2014 Ordinary Meeting when suggestions can be provided on a way forward.

9330. Pontardawe & District Youth Facility: Council was advised that the Pontardawe and District Youth Facility had received financial assistance of £2500 for this fiscal year. They were also advised that Mark Jones would continue to organise the Friday Youth club despite his promotion. Councillor Nicholson confirmed that the South Wales Evening post were to attend the Youth Club and would as part of their article invite additional potential volunteers to contact the Trustees.

Resolved to be noted.

9331. Out of School activities brochure: The Clerk confirmed that CGC, Cilybebyll and Ystalyfera Community Councils were interested in collaboration with Pontardawe Town Council to produce an 'Out of School Activity' Brochure for 2014, and had provided the names of two Councillors for their areas who would like to sit on the committee.

Resolved that Councillors H Evans and V Hotten will be the representatives for Pontardawe Town Council and that the Clerk will arrange the initial meeting of the joint production committee.

9332. Graffiti Project: The Clerk confirmed that the project to had been completed at the Underpass from Pontardawe Retail Park and was very impressive. She also confirmed that the grant had been received from the Mynydd y Betws Wind Farm community benefit fund. Councillor James confirmed that he was in the process of arranging for the ceiling of the underpass to be painted by the County Borough.

Resolved to be noted.

9333. Dog Fouling Initiatives: The Clerk confirmed that an additional Dog Waste bin had been erected at the junction of the canal and Holly Street, Pontardawe and that she was in the process of obtaining a list of the location of the dog fouling bins in the area.

Resolved that Council will be kept informed of developments.

9334. Community Youth Representatives: Council was advised that notice had been given to Ysgol Gyfun Ystalyfera, Cwmtawe Community School, Bishop Vaughan, Bryn Tawe, Neath College, Gorseinon College, Pontardawe Chamber of Trade and the Community Mag. Posters had also been placed at the Youth Facility in Pontardawe and in the Office window. However there had as yet been no response.

Resolved to keep Council informed of developments.

9335. Planning:

P2013/1005 Mr Phillip Andrews, The Tree Surgeons Ltd, 22 Tydfil Road, Bedwas, Caerphilly, CG83 8EF.
Site Location: Land adjacent/Rear of 24 Cefn Llan Road, Pontardawe, Swansea SA84NA.

Proposed Development: Fell three pine trees covered by Tree Preservation Order T211/A1.

A vote was requested by show of hands which provided One Member for agreement to the action and four against, five abstained.

Resolved: Objection to the felling of the trees as development in the area had led to many more trees being felled than necessary. Council requested that the trees be pruned if there were issues experienced by local residents, rather than felled.

9336. Development meeting required to review proposed 'Open Meeting' for 2014: It was agreed to hold a Development Meeting on Monday 18th November 2013 at 6.00pm.

Resolved to be noted.

9337. Clerks Holiday Request: The Clerk requested the following holidays 23rd, 24th, 27th 30th and 31st December 2013.

Resolved that the request will be agreed.

9338. Accounts Schedule 293:

Resolved to accept the schedule totaling £13987.16.

9339. Grant Request for 'PANTRY' the Pontardawe Food Bank: Councillor Northcott expressed an interest and offered to stand down as Chair for the discussion however Council was comfortable that she continue to Chair the meeting during the discussion. (This was proposed by Councillor Mike James and seconded by Councillor Bob Williams) Councillors Sue Northcott, Gary Davies, Vince Hotten, Jean Bowen and Andrew Nicholson all expressed an interest and took no part in either the discussion or the vote.

Although Council would normally only discuss Grants twice a year (the main grant meeting held in March/April) followed by another to allocate any surplus fund in October/ November, they felt that as funds were being carried forward from the 2013 Grant Budget, the request could be discussed in the November meeting. Council also decided that the discussion should be held in full Council rather than by committee due to the number of Councillors with an interest in the project.

The request for a £500 grant to the PANTRY project was unanimously agreed.

Resolved that a grant of £500 be provided for the 'PANTRY' Pontardawe Food Bank.

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.

9340. Public Consultation on the Regional Technical Statements for Aggregates: Councillor Nicholson confirmed that there were no changes for the Pontardawe Town Council area.

Resolved to be noted.

9341. Public Consultation on the Welsh Assembly Government Nature Fund: Council was advised of the fund and believed that Cwmdu Glen was an ideal project. They therefore suggested that the Clerk liaise with Neath Port Talbot Council to determine if their land at Cwmdu could form part of any grant request for funding from the Welsh Assembly Government for the Cwmdu area.

Resolved that the Town Clerk will contact the County Borough to determine if Neath Port Talbot Council is to apply for grant funding at Cwmdu and if the land owned by the Town Council could also be considered in the proposal.

9342. Letters of Thanks: Council was advised that letters of thanks for grants provided had been received from Cwmtawe District Youth Band and Mountain Rescue.

Resolved to be noted.

9343. Housing Wales Bill – The Clerk read the pre consultation document to Council.

Resolved to be noted.

9344. Consultation on the introduction of table valuation system for TB compensation: Council was provided with details of the consultation before the meeting.

Resolved to be noted.

9345. Consultation on the Mobile Infrastructure project (Information for planning services): Council was provided with details prior to the meeting

Resolved to be noted.

9346. St Peters Church Christmas Tree Festival: The Clerk confirmed that an invitation had been received from St Peters Church for the Town Council to place a tree at the Church during the Christmas Tree Festival. The Clerk confirmed that she was happy to dress the tree with whichever Councillors wished to attend.

Resolved that a Christmas Tree is provided for the festival at St Peters Church with the theme being 'PANTRY' .

9347. Letter from Neath Port Talbot Council re Special Events programme: A letter was read to Council from Neath Port Talbot stating the special events that were to take place in 2014. Council was however advised however that budget cuts may alter the original programme.

Resolved to review the position in January 2014.

9348. Independent remuneration panel for Wales draft annual report: Council was provided with details prior to the meeting

Resolved that the position be noted.

9349. Email Re Allotments: The Clerk confirmed that she had received an email requesting an allotment in Pontardawe. She confirmed that at present there were no allotments in the Town Council area and also that the Town Council had no land which could be allocated to this purpose. She also confirmed leased land from the County Borough had also been reviewed in the past, however no suitable plots had been identified.

Resolved to discuss at the Development meeting on the 18th November 2013.

9350. Double Yellow Lines at Pheasant Road, Trebanos- Councillors H Pickrell and Ms R Lewis provided Council with an update on the current position.

Resolved that Council will be kept informed of developments.

9351. Urgent road safety matters: None.

Resolved to be noted.

9352. Date and time of next meeting: The date of the next Ordinary Meeting of Council will be Monday 9th December 2013 at ARCH Community Hall commencing at 6.45pm.

Signed Dated