

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Pontardawe Town Council held on the 11th September 2017 at Ynysmeudwy Hall, Old Road, Pontardawe commencing at 6.45pm.

10570. Present: Councillor A Nicholson (presiding), Mrs L Purcell, G Davies, V Hotten, H Evans, Ms C Ford, J Jones, Ms R Jones, W Thomas, C Morgan, Ms S Northcott, G Nicholson, K Flynn and Jamie Edwards (Youth Representative).

Apologies: Councillor Mrs R Phillips, A Richards and R Smith

Council agreed to Councillor Mrs R Phillips non-attendance at meetings as she is currently on Maternity Leave. They also offered their congratulations on the birth of her son.

10571. Disclosure of Personal and Pecuniary interests: Councillor J Jones expressed an interest in Riverside as he is the Chair of the Organisation.

Resolved to be noted.

10572. Minutes of the Ordinary meeting held on the 10th July 2017:

Resolved that the minutes of the Ordinary meeting held on the 10th July 2017, having been read and confirmed as a true record, be accepted by Council.

10573. Matters raised by Members of the Public: None.

Resolved to be noted.

10574. Lyn Cadwallader Chief Executive of 'One Voice Wales': Lyn attended the meeting to present Pontardawe Town Council with the One Voice Wales Best Youth Engagement Award for 2017. He stated that the work carried out by the Town Council to encourage youth engagement together with the projects undertaken with the youth, notably the work carried out by Harri Evans-Mason on the Youth Councillor guide and the 'Go Valley' web site was a credit to the Council.

Resolved the Mayor thanked Lyn and One Voice Wales on behalf of Council.

10575. Robert Clapham Head of the Glantawe Outdoor Education Academy: Robert provided information on the work being carried out by the Glantawe Outdoor Education Academy at the Riverside Centre and 25 acres of land adjacent to the centre in Pontardawe. He explained that the Academy was working on creating schemes for Natural Qualifications for disadvantaged Young People. The courses were operating five days a week, for young people from throughout Neath Port Talbot, to obtain both soft and hard skills and to change their perceptions on Education. It was hoped that the courses would provide them with greater employment currency.

The year long courses were operating for sub year eleven children with progression for post sixteen years old.

The Academy was working in partnership with Neath Port Talbot College and the Duke of Edinburgh but were in correspondence with the local Welsh and English Language Community schools to encourage further partnership working.

Robert hoped that the Town Council would support the project and its goals for the future.

Resolved to be noted.

10576. Alan Thomas addressed Council re the Mount Elim Church re-development: Council was advised that the current Mount Elim Church building was now not fit for purpose. The Church was therefore in negotiation with Neath Port Talbot Council to purchase a portion of land adjacent to Dan-y- Bryn Care Home to build a new purpose-built community space with parking which could be used not only for Church events but also as a Community Hall for local groups. He provided a picture of the proposed development and an update on the current position.

The cost of the project was approximately £500,000 but the Church already held land which would be sold to part fund the project and had raised additional funds. They were however looking to apply for a Communities First Grant of up to £250,000.

To apply for the grant, they would need to be working in partnership with other community organisations. Currently their applications were supported by Dan-y-Bryn Care Home, Llangiwig School, The Cross Community Centre, and a local Mothers and Toddlers Group.

Alan requested Pontardawe Town Council support their application for grant funding

Resolved that the plans will be reviewed at the October Ordinary meeting

10577. Cwmdu:

The Clerk confirmed that that Neil, Ed and the 'Working with Nature' team were still working at Cwmdu and that the 'Friends of Cwmdu' group was in the process of being set up.

Maggie was also due to return to the team from Maternity leave in October

Resolved that a representative of the 'Working with Nature' team will attend the October meeting to give an update on the project.

10578. Police Matters:

Council was advised that Sergeant Jayne James had recently retired. A replacement had not yet been allocated but as an interim measure PC Richard Blake would carry out the Sergeants functions.

The Clerk provided statistics for Pontardawe and Trebanos for May and June 2017.

Pontardawe: May 2017 – Total of 45 crimes and June 2017 – Total of 47 crimes

Trebanos: May 2017 – Total of 12 crimes and June 2017 – Total of 6 crimes

In Pontardawe the PACT meeting was held on the 10th August, with PACT Priorities of:

- Parking on pavements at Herbert Street, High Street, Jones Street and Quarr Road.
- Vehicles contravening the one way system at Church Street, Quarr Road and Dynevor Terrace
- Anti-Social Behaviour at Herbert Street. (Some relating to Cycles)

Councillor Purcell and Jones had additional information on the issues experienced with young cyclists riding dangerously in Pontardawe.

Council was advised that the young people questioned felt that the issue was there was no place for them to cycle safely in Pontardawe and therefore action was being taken by Councillor Jones to create a club to support young cyclists with obtaining space to ride safely.

Young Cyclists who however were known to the Police were being taken home for matters to be discussed with parents.

Regarding the issues of dangerous parking Councillor Purcell had obtained definitive guidance from the Police on what was considered an obstruction and what action would be taken if it was identified that a parked vehicle was causing an obstruction. PCSO's and Police Officers in the area would in future be speaking to those within cars causing an obstruction and would be issuing tickets for parked cars.

Repeat offenders would also be dealt with in the appropriate manner.

In Trebanos the PACT meeting was held on the 17th August 2017. There were no specific PACT priorities however Councillors Ford and Thomas had attended the meeting and had stated there was a lot of concern in the area over parking and speeding in and around Swansea Road. A petition had been started by residents to request authorities take action.

Resolved that Council be kept up to date with developments.

10579. Defibrillators: Council was advised that Ynysmeudwy Stores and Rhyd y Fro Post Office had agreed to have an external Defibrillator sited at their premises. The Clerk had been in touch with David Thomas at the NHS Trust who would attempt to obtain funding for the unit for both locations.

Resolved that Council will purchase the cabinets and arrange for the installation of the units. They will also support the cost of the units if the units cannot be obtained from the NHS Trust.

10580. Town Council Social Media: The Town Council Facebook and Twitter accounts were now operational and we currently being populated. It was however important that Councillors shared the site to ensure that it had maximum coverage.

Councillor Morgan was also in the process of building the new Town Council web site. He confirmed that Council would have a draft at the October meeting.

Resolved that the Town Council Facebook page be 'boosted' to reach a greater number of people.

10581. Good Citizen's Award: Council was advised that over eighty guests were expected to attend the Good Citizen's award ceremony due to be held on Thursday at Pontardawe Art Centre.

Councillor Jones had booked a Master of Ceremony and had also booked musical entertainment from 'Platform 1' as 'Evening in Paris' was deemed expensive.

The awards had also been created

The buffet was to be supplied by Blissful Bakes.

Resolved to be noted.

10582. Shh Campaign: The Art work was in the process of being created and it was anticipated that the beer mats and stickers would be available prior to the Christmas season.

Resolved to be noted.

10583. Question Time Evening: The evening was to take place at the Studio at Pontardawe Art Centre on the 26th October 2017 from 7.00pm to 9.00pm.

The Panel was to consist of Jeremy Miles AM, Suzie Davies AM, Bethan Jenkins AM, Councillors Linet Purcell, Anthony Richards and Alex Thomas. Unfortunately, Christina Rees MP was unable to attend.

The Mayor, Councillor Nicholson would chair the meeting.

Resolved to be noted.

10584. Planning:

Planning committee held on the 7th August 2017

P2017/ 0646

Applicants name: Mr R Thomas, Renov8, Tir Alice, Mynydd Gelli Wasted, Clydach, SA6 5SP.

Site Location: Land between, 22 and 30 Ynysmeudwy Road, Pontardawe SA8 4QD.

Proposed Development:

Construction of two detached developments.

Resolved Council would like Neighbourhood Notification but is also concerned over the ground stability in the area together with access to the site from the main road and opposite a junction and the lack of adequate parking in the area. (This was also Councils objection to the original planning application P2015/0738)

P2017/0878

Applicants name: Dr & Mrs Teblett c/o agent

Site Location: Nant y Gaseg Uchaf Farm, Pontardawe Road, Pontardawe, Swansea SA8 4SY

Proposed Development: Conversion of agricultural outbuildings to self-contained holiday accommodation, demolition of single storey extension and construction of two no. single storey extensions and external alterations (Bat Survey and bat mitigation information received 17.7.17)

Resolved No Objection

P2017/ 0612

Applicants Name: Mr Gareth Green, 31 Maes yr Ysgol, Pontardawe, SA8 4JS

Site Location: 31 Maes yr Ysgol, Pontardawe, Swansea SA8 4JS.

Proposed Development: Installation of first floor window to side elevation (Amended plans and application forms received 18.7.17)

Resolved No Objection provided there is neighbourhood notification.

P2017/0645

Applicants name: Mr & Mrs Gibson, 7 Compass Row, Pontardawe, Swansea, SA8 4LS.

Site Location: Land between No 7 and 10 Compass Row, Pontardawe, SA8 4LS.

Proposed Development: Construction of two storey dwelling abutting number 7 and associated parking provision including for donor property number 7.

Resolved No objection provided there is neighbourhood notification.

P2017/0036

Applicants name: Artisan Stone supplies ltd, Gwrhyd Quarry, Gwrhyd Road, Pontardawe, Swansea SA9 2SB.

Site Location: Gwrhyd Specialist Quarry, Gwrhyd Uchaf Farm, Gwrhyd Road, Pontardawe, SA9 2SB.

Proposed Development: Variation of Condition 15 of planning permission P2010/0026 in order to allow for:

- A) An output of 750 tonnes of dimensional block stone and masonry products per working week for the duration of the planning permission (a maximum of 2 x 24 tonne carrying capacity vehicles and 5 x 20 tonne carrying capacity vehicles per day)
- B) The removal of 700 tonnes per working week of aggregate produced from the waste stone resulting from the dimensional stone and masonry production process for a limited period of 2.5 years. (A maximum of 7 x 20 tonne carrying capacity vehicles per day)

Resolved No Objection

P2017/0666

Applicants name: Mr M Evans c/o agent

Site Location: Yard, Commercial Road, Rhyd y Fro, Pontardawe Swansea

Proposed Development: Details pursuant to the discharge of conditions 3(finished floor, ridge levels and ground levels) 4 (drainage scheme including management and maintenance plan), 5 (footway link), 6 (construction method statement), 8 (scheme for landscaping) 9 (artificial nesting site for birds), 10 (wildlife friendly lighting scheme), 12 (samples of materials), and 14 (means of enclosure) of planning permission P2016/0928 approved on the 5th July 2017

Resolved No Objection

P2017/ 0703

Applicants name: Mr Wayne Evans – Mine manager Celtic Energy, Lakes at Rhosaman site, New Road, Tairgwaith, Ammanford, SA18 1UP

Site Location: East Pit Revised OCCS, New Road, GCG, Neath SA18 1UP

Proposed Development: Condition no 65 associated with Planning Reference No P2012/ 1073, Approval required for Northern and Southern lake outfalls

Resolved No Objection

Planning application discussed in the meeting:

P2017/0813

Applicants name: Ms Dowi-Jupp, 10 Heol y Llwynau, Trebanos, Pontardawe, Swansea, SA8 4DH

Site Location: 10 Heol y Llwynau, Trebanos, Pontardawe, Swansea, SA8 4DH

Proposed Development: Two Storey side extension.

Resolved No objection provided there is neighbourhood notification.

P2017/0750

Applicants name: Mr Haulsey Norton, Nort-I Caribbean Food Shack, 10 Heol Hir, Gwaun Cae Gurwen, Nr Ammanford SA18 1PL

Site Location: Abernant Centre, Abernant Colliery, Rhyd y Fro, SA8 4SX

Proposed Development: Siting of Static Caravan Trailer (Use class 3)

Resolved No objection.

10585. Clerks Holiday 2018:

The Clerk requested an extended holiday during June 2018 for a three-week period, relief cover could be arranged.

Resolved that the Clerk will be granted a three-week holiday in June 2018 with relief cover.

10586. Clerks Report on the Completion of the 2016/17 External Audit: The Clerk confirmed that the External Audit had been completed with no issue for 2016/17.

Resolved that the completed Annual Return be accepted and the accounting period for the year ended 31st March 2017 be considered completed.

10587. Transfer of the Community Halls to sole trustee charity status: The Clerk confirmed that the matter had been reviewed but it was extremely complex. She was in the process of discussing matters with Once Voice Wales and would also be contacting the CVS to obtain guidance as it was

important that the process was completed correctly to safeguard both the Council's asset and its ability to reclaim VAT.

Resolved Council will be kept up to date with developments.

10588. Clerks Report re Memorial Bench: Council was advised that a local family wished to place a memorial bench in memory of their late mother at Parc Chwarae Teg. They would fund the bench themselves but required Council permission to place the bench.

The Clerk confirmed that there were two suitable areas within the Park where a bench could be placed.

Resolved that permission be granted to place a Memorial Bench at Parc Chwarae Teg.

10589. Report on Multi- Functional Device Contract: Council was advised that the contract with APPOGEE was soon to come to an end. Unfortunately, the quote for the extension of the contract was higher than competing quotes.

Resolved that Canda Copying Ltd be contracted to supply the Multi-Functional Device for a three-year period with quarterly rent of £86.10 and a mono copy cost of 0.0030p (colour copy cost 0.031p)

10590. Account Schedule 336:

Resolved that Account Schedule 336 totalling £87547.11 and the Bank Reconciliation be accepted in accordance with Standing Orders.

10591. Consultation on Electoral Reform: Council was provided with details prior to the meeting.

Resolved to be discussed at a Policy and Resources Committee. (Plenary Powers Awarded)

10592. Consultation on Revised School Organisation Code: Council was provided with details prior to the meeting.

Resolved to be discussed at a Policy and Resources Committee. (Plenary Powers Awarded)

10593: Consultation on the Welsh Revenue Authority Powers: Council was provided with details prior to the meeting.

Resolved to be discussed at a Policy and Resources Committee. (Plenary Powers Awarded)

10594: Consultation re Autism Wales Bill: Council was provided with details prior to the meeting.

Resolved to be discussed at a Policy and Resources Committee. (Plenary Powers Awarded)

10595: Letter of Thanks: A letter of Thanks had been received from Dementia Friendly for the grant provided.

Resolved to be noted

10596: Email re Biodiversity: Council was asked to look at Biodiversity in the area.

Resolved that Council will look at the Biodiversity in the land it owns and manages.

10597: Christmas 2017: The Clerk confirmed that Vale in Clydach would transport the Christmas Tree for outside the Art Centre, free of charge as in previous years.

10598: Letter from the Lions Club re Grant: A letter had been received from the Lions Club requesting a grant for its Christmas 'Tree of Light'.

Resolved that £100 be provided as a grant as in previous years.

10599. Email received re Pontardawe Street Run: Council was provided with details of the proposed £5k closed street run due to take place in November 2017.

Resolved to be noted.

10600. Urgent Road Safety Matters:

- Industrial Bins on footpath next to Police Station causing an issue.
- Instances of Car's racing around Pontardawe late at night. Residents should be told to telephone 101 with the licence plate at the time. If there are several complaints then action will be taken by the Police.

Resolved to be noted.

10601. Time and Date of Next Meeting: The next Ordinary meeting is due to be held at ARCH Hall on the 9TH October 2017.

Signed Dated