

Ordinary Meeting held on the 12th March 2018 at Ynysmeudwy Hall, Old Road, Ynysmeudwy, commencing at 6.45pm

Present: Councillor A Nicholson (presiding), Ms S Northcott, G Nicholson, Mrs L Purcell, H Evans, K Flynn, V Hotten, J Jones, Ms C Ford, Ms R Jones, A Richards, Mrs R Phillips

Apologies: Councillor W Thomas, G Davies and R Smith

10722. Disclosure of Personal and Pecuniary Interests: None.

Resolved to be noted.

10723. Minutes of Ordinary meeting held on the 13th February 2018:

Resolved that the minutes of the Ordinary meeting held on the 13th February 2018, having been read and confirmed as a true record, be accepted by Council.

10724. Matters raised by Members of the Public: None.

Resolved to be noted.

10725. Glantawe Lions: The Glantawe Lions presented a cheque to the Mayor for the Mayors Charity from the 2017 Tree of Light for £415.00.

The Mayor and Council thanked the Glantawe Lions for their generosity.

Resolved to be noted.

10726. Cwmdu Glen: The Clerk confirmed that a few volunteer days had been arranged for the Friends of Cwmdu at Cwmdu Glen itself. These were:

14th March – Meet at Glanrhyd Plantation 10am – 2pm

15th March – Meet at the Cross 10am – 2pm

24th March – meet at Glanrhyd Plantation to walk the site.

Council was advised that during volunteer days and events the car park at Glanrhyd would be open however there was significant resistance from residents to the Car Park being open outside of these events.

The Clerk then provided details of the work that was being carried out on the trees at the boarder of Waungron and Cwmdu Glen.

Residents had been advised by letter that they were able to cut back any tree branches to their boundaries without requesting permission from Pontardawe Town Council.

The Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council arborist had then walked the boundary with Waun Gron properties to ensure that there were no trees in a dangerous condition. He also confirmed that it was permissible for residents to arrange for the crowns of the boundary trees to be reduced by a maximum of three meters (If possible a suitably sized secondary growth should be retained as all final pruning positions). All pruning could be stacked in a suitable location within the glen as a habitat pile. All work would need to be completed in accordance with BS39998:2010 Tree work.

If, however radical crown reductions had already been carried out on trees on the boundary, then he suggested no action be taken on these trees until they could be reviewed with a full canopy in the Summer.

Residents were provided with the advice of the County Borough Arborist and were given permission to carry out the work if they wished.

We did however receive additional correspondence from on resident who was still concerned about the safety of the boundary trees close to his property.

The Town Council on the advice of Neath Port Talbot Council then employed a local private Arborist recommended by Neath Port Talbot Council (Arborum) to carry out a full Tree Safety survey on the trees adjacent to properties or footpaths on their land at Cwmdu.

The survey identified seven trees that required attention. Two of these trees however were fallen trees on a section of the path in Cwmdu that was closed to the Public indefinitely due to safety issues and impassable in places. It was also suggested that tree surveys be carried out every two years.

Resolved that Arborum be employed to carry out the remedial work on the five trees on open sections of the path and close to the boundary with neighbouring properties. The two fallen trees on the closed section of path will remain to deter walking on the closed path. The Clerk will also make available the details of the survey to residents to put their mind at rest. A tree survey will be carried out by suitably qualified arborist every two years as recommended.

10727. Police Matters:

The following statistics were provided:

Pontardawe – January a total of 37 crimes which was down from Decembers figure of 53.

Trebanos – January a total of 8 crimes which was up from Decembers figure of 3.

PCSO Sian Jenkins had provided an update on current Pontardawe Projects.

- CAP Project was ongoing a training day had been well attended by on and off licenced businesses.
- All on and off licenced premises visited were in order
- CAP day had been held in Cwmtawe School with Year 10 students
- Patrols had been carried out in 'hot spots' of anti-social behaviour.

There had been a good turnout at the PACT meeting in Pontardawe with records showing anti-social behaviour at an all time low however it was evident that incidents were still not being reported and therefore an Anti-social behaviour operation was to be carried out in the next few weeks.

The issue with parking at Cwmtawe was being addressed with a road safety survey, meetings with parents and an operation to be arranged with parking enforcement officers to ticket offenders and speak to parents.

Further Dog Fouling operations being arranged to address issues and a local school litter pick together with Neath Port Talbot Council officers was in the process of being arranged.

Councillor A Richards had attended the 999 & 101 call centre.

The Centre had recently been upgraded to improve efficiency, but further work was in progress. The 999 number elicited an emergency response and call-back was in operation if the line was busy, however the 101 number was utilised to report non-urgent issues which may not be addressed immediately but would produce statistics that would be used to target future resource. It was

therefore important that if the 101 lines was busy then members of the public should keep trying or telephone again at a less busy period.

Social media was now available with Facebook and twitter accounts that could be used for reporting non-urgent crime. Videos and photographs could be uploaded via this method.

There was also a multi-agency approach at the call centre with ambulance staff and fire officers together with Police staff located at the call centre.

Councillor Richards reiterated the importance of reporting non-urgent crime even if action would not be taken by the Police immediately as without these reports not additional resource would be allocated to Pontardawe.

Resolved that the Town Clerk will include details of the visit to the 101 Call centre in a future Community Mag article and all Councillors will continue to direct reports from Members of the Public to the 101 Call centre via telephone, twitter and Facebook.

10728. Defibrillator: Council was advised that they had placed an interior Defibrillator at Pontardawe Taxi Office.

Resolved to be noted.

10729. Graffiti Wall: The Clerk provided additional information on the proposed Graffiti wall however there were still not details of who would lead the project.

It was agreed that the Clerk would contact Mark Jones to confirm that the Town Council could assist with administration, obtaining the relevant agreements and grant applications however there would still need to be a lead organisation or person who would run the actual project with the children. Councillor John Jones did however suggest that the project could coincide with the Summerfest.

Resolved that the Clerk will liaise with Mark Jones at the Youth Club and Councillor John Jones and the Chamber of Commerce to identify if a partnership can be created to move the project forward.

10730. Planning:

P2018/0010

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

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

Proposed Development: Proposed single storey extension and conservatory to rear plus retention of raised decking area with proposed screening panel.

Resolved No Objection provided there is neighbourhood notification.

P2018/0120

Applicants name: Mr Stephen Hughes, 30 Heol y Llwynau, Trebanos, Pontardawe, Swansea SA8 4DH

Site Location: 30 Heol y Llwynau, Trebanos, Pontardawe, Swansea SA8 4DH

Proposed Development: Raised parking platform.

Resolved No Objection provided there is neighbourhood notification.

P2018/0206

Applicants name: Miss J Evans, C/O Agent

Site Location: The Royal Oak, 66 Commercial Road, Rhyd y Fro, Pontardawe, Swansea, SA8 4SL

Proposed Development: Details pursuant to the discharge of Condition 8 (Highways details) of Planning Permission P2014/0323.

Resolved to be noted.

10731: Finance Committee held on the 26th February 2018:

The Committee discussed grant funding for 2018/19:

The following grants were awarded:

Gwaun Cae Gurwen Brass Band - £450.00

Royal Air Force Cadets - £700.00

Pontardawe Senior Citizens Welfare Association - £100.00

Heard of the Valley Show - £1000.00

Neath Age Connects - £300.00 (The grant is awarded on the condition that the funds are utilised in the Pontardawe Town Council area)

Pontardawe Community Sports and Recreation Association - £500.00

St Peters Church Flower Festival - £100.00

Pontardawe RFC (Pontardawe Proms, Pontardawe Fireworks and Pontardawe Carnival)- £1500.00

Pontardawe Cricket Club - £500.00

Tenovus Cancer Care - £50.00

Teen Cancer Trust - £50.00

Marie Curie Nurses - £50.00

Macmillan Cancer Support - £50.00

Urdd - £100.00

Eisteddfod Genedlaethol Urdd - £100.00

National Eisteddfod - £100.00

Tawe Guild of weavers and dyers - £100.00

Shopmobility Neath Port Talbot - £100.00

Total grants awarded £5850 from budget of £11000.

£3000 ringfenced for the Pontardawe Chamber of Trade and Commerce in support of the Pontardawe Festivals and £100 ringfenced for the Pontardawe Tree of Light.

£2050 to be retained for grant requests later in the year.

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.

The Committee reviewed the Financial Risk Assessment

The Financial Risk Assessment was reviewed. It was confirmed that previous actions had been carried out and that no further amendments were required. There were no additional actions to be included.

In the Ordinary Meeting Council was advised that the formal grant request had been received from the Chamber of Commerce. Council agreed to award them the £3000 ringfenced by the Finance Committee.

An application had also been received from Bobath Cymru after the Finance Committee. Council agreed to award them £50.00

The amount of grant budget still available was therefore reduced to £2000.

Resolved that the Committees recommendations will be ratified and in addition, £50 will be awarded to Bobath Cymru.

10732. Development Committee held on the 26th February 2018:

The Committee was to identify ideas to improve the Pontardawe Summer and Winter Festivals.

Winterfest:

- Best Dressed Christmas Window with First, Second and Third Prizes of £100, £75 and £50 – Provided Council agreed to providing the prizes then this could be implemented.
- Christmas Tree for 'The Cross' at Pontardawe – Commercial Christmas would need to be approached to determine the additional costs.
- Project together with local Primary Schools to make battery powered lighted stars to be placed on the bushes and trees at 'The Cross' – Councillor John Jones was happy to Chair a working party to liaise with the local Primary Schools.
- Fireworks following the Christmas Parade – Councillor John Jones would identify the cost associated with this and would also confirm that low noise fireworks were available.

Summerfest:

- Best Dressed Summer Window with First, Second and Third Prizes of £100, £75 and £50 – Provided Council agreed to providing the prizes then this could be implemented.
- Flags (flower themed) in the flagpoles and flowers on lamp posts directing members of the public to the Flower Festival
- Photographs of past Flower Festivals in the Community Mag, Library, Town Council window.
- Chalk graffiti on the pavements directing Members of the Public to the Flower Festival.

The Committee was also interested in increasing participation in St David's Day celebration. It was suggested that Menter Iaith should be contacted to identify partnership projects.

In the Ordinary Meeting Councillor Phillips asked if Christmas lights for Trebanos could also be considered.

Resolved that the Committees recommendations will be ratified.

10733. Policy and Resources Committee held on the 5th March 2018:

The Committee discussed the Provision of Toilets in Wales: Local Toilet Strategy

The committee reviewed the consultation and provided the following feedback to the questions posed:

Q1 - Process for consultation is clear however the document does not provide specified time scales for response from partners/third parties. The committee was concerned that time scales for response would be insufficient.

Q2 – No Comment

Q3 – No Comment

Q4 – No Comment

Q5 – Guidance on Collaboration – The Committee would like to see more examples of good practice in other areas, especially rural areas as many of the solutions were more suitable to an urban or city setting.

They would also like to see a method of recourse for third parties who were not consulted in a timely manner.

Q6 - Guidance on Prevention – The Committee was pleased to investigate innovative solutions to the provision of Toilets however, they were concerned that there was a possibility of the closure of Authority run conveniences without adequate alternative provision which would in the longer-term lead to a reduction in provision.

Q7 – If there was a reliance on private company facilities then there would need to be a surplus of these facilities available to cover those that entered a provision scheme, but, who withdrew from the scheme in future years. There would also need to be some facility for ensuring that private conveniences available for member of the public were suitable and kept to a reasonable standard.

Q8 – No Comment

Q9 – No Comment

Q10 – Bilingual signage provided for private businesses to advertise facilities available for the public would increase exposure to the Welsh Language.

Resolved that the Committees recommendations will be ratified.

10734. Account Schedule 342:

Resolved that Account Schedule 342 totalling £11675.24 together with the Bank Reconciliation be accepted in accordance with Standing Orders.

10735. Mount Elim Church Project: The Clerk provided a progress report and advised Council that additional details would be made available once received.

Resolved to be noted.

10736. Independent Remuneration for Wales – Annual Report 2018/19

Council was advised that unlike in previous years the Town Council could not elect to receive no remuneration but that instead each individual Councillor would need to provide a written statement to the effect if they wanted to receive no remuneration.

If Council Members wished to receive remuneration, then this would need to be paid via PAYE and tax would need to be paid.

Members in receipt of band 1 or 2 senior salary from a Principal Council could not receive any payment from a Town or Community Council other than travel or subsistence expenses or reimbursement of costs for care.

The remuneration was as follows:

- £150 per year for each Member.
- Travel costs for attending approved duties. This must be the actual costs of public transport or the HMRC mileage allowances.
- Overnight stay costs
- Monetary loss compensation for attending approved duties of up to £34 for each period not exceeding 4 hours and up to £68 for each period exceeding 4 hours but not exceeding 24 hours.
- Reimbursement of child or dependant relative care costs and for personal assistance needs up to a maximum of £403 per month.

In addition, an annual payment of £500 each to a minimum of 1 and maximum of 5 Members may be made for specific responsibilities.

The Mayor and Deputy Mayor may in addition receive an honorarium of up to £1500 for the Mayor and £500 for the Deputy Mayor.

Details of all payments must be published no later than the 30th September following the year end of the period to which the payments relate.

Resolved All Councillors will decide if they wish to receive remuneration and will provide either the relevant information for PAYE or a written statement stating their wish not to receive remuneration. In addition, the Mayor will receive £950 or an increased amount which will be agreed in the Annual General Meeting each year.

10737. Local Service Revisions: The X50 from Ystradgunlais to Swansea on Monday to Saturday will be departing 5 minutes earlier from 1st April 2018

Resolved to be noted.

10738. Letter received from One Voice Wales re Buckingham Palace Garden Party:

The letter stated that the Mayor, Councillor Andrew Nicholson would receive an invitation to the Buckingham Palace Garden Party on the 5th June 2018.

Resolved to be noted.

10739. One Voice Wales:

Councillor Charlotte Ford provided details from the meeting held on the 7th March 2018:

This included:

- Community Asset Transfer
- The Future of Town and Community Councils
- IRP Wales for 2018/19
- Devolution tool to be developed
- Internal Audit process
- GDPT from 25th May 2018
- Cluster funding

Council thanked Councillor Ford for attending the meeting.

A letter requesting Membership of One Voice Wales for 2018/19 at a cost of £988 had also been received.

Resolved that Pontardawe Town Council will continue Membership of One Voice Wales for 2018/19.

10740. Email from Neath Port Talbot Council re Crossing Patrol Officer for Swansea Road: Council was asked if they wished to continue financially supporting the Crossing Patrol Crossing Officer for 2018/19 including any proposed salary increase.

The Town Clerk confirmed that Cwmtawe Community School would contribute £1000 towards the costs.

Resolved that the Town Council will continue to support the cost of the Crossing Patrol Officer for Swansea Road for 2018/19.

10741. Ynysmeudwy Hall: The Clerk confirmed that WIFI had been installed at the hall by Mark Jones and the Pontardawe Youth Club. The WIFI would be available for all groups.

Resolved that Mark Jones and the Youth Club be thanked.

10742. Urgent Road Safety Matters:

- Bollard replaced outside the Art Centre to prevent cars parking on the forecourt.
- Ambiguous signs at the Castle Car park to be reviewed.

Resolved to be noted.

10743. Date of next Ordinary meeting: To confirm that the next meeting of the Town Council is to be held on the 9th April 2018 at ARCH Hall commencing at 6.45pm.

