

**Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Pontardawe Town Council held on Monday 12<sup>th</sup>  
September 2011 at Ynsymedwy Community Hall commencing at 6:45p.m**

**8636. Present:** Councillors B Williams (presiding), Mrs E Puzey, DB Thomas, D Harris, V Thomas, Ms. S Northcott, A Nicholson, Mrs C Lambourne, Mrs J Bowen, Mel Thomas, M James, H Evans, Mrs L Purcell.

**Apologies:** Councillor AE Williams

**8637. Disclosure of Personal and Pecuniary Interest:** Councillors S Northcott and A Nicholson – Pontardawe ‘Summerfest’ as they are residents of Ynysderw Road, Councillor Mrs L Purcell – The LDP Pre Deposit Plan as she is a member of the Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council planning committee, and Councillor B Williams - LDP Pre- Deposit Plan as he is a lifelong member of the Canal Society.

**Resolved** to be noted.

**8638. Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on the 11<sup>th</sup> July 2011**

**Resolved** that the minutes of the meeting dated 11<sup>th</sup> July 2011, having been read and confirmed as a true record, be accepted by Council, with the following amendment, Minute number 8627 should read Councillor A Nicholson.

**8639. Matters raised by members of the public:** R Williams spoke on behalf of his delegation. He expressed dismay over the proposed route for the construction traffic to the Mynydd y Betws Wind Farm, due to concerns over possible subsidence on Gelligron Hill and the effect that very large construction vehicles will have on the fabric of the road and properties in this previously unstable area.

**8640. Mynydd y Betws Wind Farm construction traffic:** Council brought forward the discussion on Mynydd y Betws Wind Farm construction traffic.

Councillor Purcell provided details on the planning history of the site and confirmed that planning for the wind farm was agreed and that the current issue was not in relation to the wind farm itself, or the access to the site at Cwmgors.

Council believed that the issue was with the proposed route for construction traffic through Pontardawe and Rhyd y Fro, which they believed had significant problems such as:

- Whether the tonnage of the roads in the area were sufficient to allow the movement of the turbines
- Narrow roads and corners in Rhyd y Fro
- The possible instability of Gelligron Hill
- Issues for emergency services in the area during periods of transit
- Additional construction traffic in an area with already significant heavy vehicle, movement issues.

Council voted unanimously to oppose the current route for construction traffic for the Mynydd y Betws wind farm, through Pontardawe.

**Resolved** that the Clerk will write to the Chief Executive of Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council, the Welsh Assembly Government, and the City and County of Swansea objecting to the proposed route and requesting that a risk assessment be carried out on all bridges and culverts along the proposed route.

Furthermore the Clerk will request that the various authorities review alternative routes for the construction traffic, so that a more suitable route may be determined.

**8641. Overview of the Pontardawe 'Summerfest' by PS Andy Abrahams:** PS Abrahams firstly stated that he wished to review the 'Summerfest' separately to the issues with the Public Houses in Pontardawe.

With regard to the 'Summerfest' he explained that there had been no significant criminal activity during the festival in the area. He believed that the festival was well run, and well organised, and that this organisation had contributed to a very low instance of crime over the period.

PS Abrahams did however confirm that there had been issues due to the loud music from the Public Houses, which had caused difficulties for both residents and the Festival Committee who felt that the street music was drowned out by competing Public House bands.

Council was advised that Neath Port Talbot Environmental Health officials were on site during the weekend, but had taken the decision not to compel the Public Houses to reduce the noise level. The Police were also unable to compel a reduction in the noise level as the only monitoring equipment was held by the local authority, although the police favoured immediate action.

Some Councillors expressed concern that the Police were not accessible to the public following the closure of the counter service at the local police station however PS Abrahams confirmed that a Police Surgery would be held in the 'One Stop Shop' each Friday, when members of the public may talk to a police representative face to face.

PS Abrahams was thanked for attending the meeting by Council.

**Resolved** that the Clerk would contact the County Borough Council Environmental Department to determine what action is being taken to prevent noise pollution by the Public Houses in Pontardawe.

**8642. Presentation on the Neath Port Talbot Local Development plan 'Pre- Deposit Plan' Formal Consultation:** Carl Comerford from the Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council attended the meeting and provided Council with an overview of the consultation process together with details of the 'Pre- Deposit Plan' itself, and was able to answer Councils questions on the proposed plans.

Carl was thanked for attending the meeting by Council.

**Resolved** that a Development Committee be held to discuss the Local Development Plan on the 19<sup>th</sup> September 2011 at 6.30pm, but that should any Councillor have a view, they may provide this directly to the Clerk, who will inform the County Borough.

**8643. Police Matters:** Council was advised that the information from the 'Our bobby' web site was as follows:

June 2011 was yet again a strong performing month as in total there were 103 fewer victims of crime than in the previous year.

The next PACT meeting in Pontardawe was to be held at 'The Cross', Pontardawe at 6.30 pm, on the 20<sup>th</sup> October 2011.

The next PACT meeting in Trebanos was to be held at Trebanos Hall, at 6.30pm on the 13<sup>th</sup> October 2011.

**Resolved** to be noted.

**8644. Cefn Llan Resident Association - Application for Grants for the New Playground:** Council was informed both the People and Places grant application and the WREN grant applications have now been submitted.

**Resolved** to be noted.

**8645. Ynni'r Fro Programme:** No information has been received by the Town Clerk as of yet, despite a number of letters and telephone calls.

**Resolved** that Councillor A Nicholson would provide details of a contact in the organisation.

**8646. The Possible Post of Town Crier:** Councillor Bob Williams advised Council that the request had been for a 'Master of Ceremony' to be appointed rather than a 'Town Crier'. The Master of Ceremony would then be available to announce guests on public occasions.

**Resolved** that in principle Council has no objections.

**8647. Herbert Street Improvements:** The Clerk advised Council that simplified plans and bullet points had now been received from the contractors and were available in electronic format. With regard to the Ornamental fountain, this had been removed from the exterior of the Art Centre and the slate tablets together with a commemoration to 'Gwenallt' were currently being held by the contractors.

Council was advised that the fountain would not be replaced in its current format however the project team were attempting to contact the Civic Society to determine the best place to reposition the slate tablets and commemoration plaque.

Council was however advised that the project manager had been experiencing difficulties contacting the Civic society.

**Resolved** that the Clerk will forward the electronic plans to interested Councillors, and that Councillor Purcell will suggest to the project manager that he liaise with the Town Council via the Clerk, to determine the repositioning of the plaque and tablets.

**8648. Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Authority Draft Action Plan 2012-13:** Council was advised that a letter had been received stating that a more detailed plan including deadlines and performance measures was to be published in October 2011.

**Resolved** to be noted.

**8649. Pwllfawtkin Liaison Committee:** Councillor Bob Williams provided an overview on the meeting and confirmed that the anaerobic Digestion facility in itself was very worthwhile as it provided fuel and composted material from waste, however, he was concerned about the placement of the facility as it would lead to a significant increase in heavy traffic through Pontardawe.

**Resolved** that the Council express concerns over the placement of the facility due to the level of traffic when a planning application had been received.

**8650. County Borough Council/ Community Councils liaison forum:** Councillor Northcott attended the meeting on July the 25<sup>th</sup> 2011, provided Council with a summary of the important issues. She stated that the reduction in the bus service in the area was causing difficulties to some members of the public; however she had been assured that alternatives were being looked into.

The Clerk confirmed that correspondence had been received stating that a responsive service was to be introduced from Brynamman to Swansea on Mondays only, however it was agreed that this limited service would not support members of the working public

**Resolved** that Councillors Northcott would take this issue to the next meeting.

**8651. Ombudsman – Annual Report:** Councillor Nicholson confirmed that he had read the document however there was little to report.

**Resolved** to be noted.

**8652. Llangiwig Primary School:** The Clerk advised Council that the County Borough had responded to a letter requesting details of any changes to Llangiwig School that Council should be aware of prior to discussing issuing a grant.

The County Borough confirmed that plans for Pontardawe and Ystalyfera schools were still in progress and therefore the details we require were currently unavailable.

A letter had also been received requesting nominations for Co-Opted School Governors for Llangiwig School.

**Resolved** that Councillors H Evans and A Nicholson be put forward as Governors for Llangiwig School, and would then determine if it would be suitable to provide grant income to the school for its project.

**8653. 30 mph speed limit on the A474 at the 'Old Star' Cwmgors:** Council was informed that as part of the wind farm planning application the 30mph limit would be extended.

**Resolved** to be noted.

**8654. Planning:**

Meeting dated 1<sup>st</sup> August 2011

**P2011/0293**

Applicant: Amberlyn Properties, 1 Ynysymond Road, Alltwen, Pontardawe, SA8 3BA

Site location: 229, Swansea Road, Trebanos, Pontardawe, Swansea SA8 4BT.

Proposed Development: Retention and completion of two storey rear extension and vehicular access to front.

**Resolved** No objection provided there is neighbourhood notification.

**P2011/0586**

Applicant: Pennant Home, 11 Wind Street, Swansea, SA11 1DP

Site location: Former Tennis Courts at Coleg Cwmtawe, Allycham Drive, Pontardawe, SA84JX

Proposed Development: Ten flag pole advertisements, four freestanding advertisements and two fascia signs on office (non-illuminated).

**Resolved** objection due to the visually obtrusive nature of the advertisement.

**P2011/0391**

Applicant: Mr Simon Michaels, SMPG, The Stables, Station Drive, Kirby Muzloe, Leicester, LE92 ET

Site location: 29 Cefn Llan Road, Rhyd y Fro, Pontardawe, Swansea SA8 4NA

Proposed Development: Subdivision of one dwelling to two no 3 bedroom dwellings

**Resolved** No objection.

**P2011/0145**

Applicant: Mrs Cynthia Mullen, 18 Maes y Cwm, Ystradgunlais.

Site Location: Llangiwg Church, Church Road, Ynysmeudwy, Pontardawe, Swansea.

Proposed Development: External alterations to include alterations to entrances, rainwater goods, and fascias, refurbishment of external walls, erection of 2m high oak fencing to provide an enclosed area to the North elevation for bin storage and air- con unit, new lead flat-roof with access hatch to tower, new coping stones to crenulations on tower and stainless steel yacht safety wire, plus installation of bio-disc sewerage treatment plant and rainwater harvesting tanks and associated services within churchyard. Internal alterations to include erection of new partition walls and mezzanine floor with staircase, re-laying of flagstones, removal / re- use of pews, provision of new level access onto performance area, ground –floor kitchen and w/c (Application for listed building)

**Resolved** No objection provided there is neighbourhood notification.

**P2011/0588**

Applicant: Mrs Cynthia Mullen, 18 Maes y Cwm, Ystradgunlais.

Site Location: Llangiwg Church, Church Road, Ynysmeudwy, Pontardawe, Swansea.

Proposed Development: Erection of 2m high oak fencing to provide an enclosed area to the North elevation for bin storage and air- con unit, new lead flat-roof with access hatch to tower, new coping stones to crenulations on tower and stainless steel yacht safety wire, plus installation of bio-disc sewerage treatment plant and rainwater harvesting tanks and associated services within churchyard..

**Resolved** No objection provided there is neighbourhood notification.

Meeting dated 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2011

**P2011/0456**

Applicant: Mr David Jones, Ynysmeudwy Arms, 168 Ynysmeudwy Road, Ynysmeudwy, Pontardawe.

Site location: Ynysmeudwy Road, Ynysmeudwy, Pontardawe.

Proposed Development: Formation of new vehicle access, retention of marquee and construction of detached smoking shelter.

**Resolved** No objection to marquee or smoking shelter, however change to access is agreed subject to the local authority highways department confirmation that the new access is will not cause a danger to road users and that there is sufficient signage to warn of a concealed access.

**P2011/0512**

Applicant: Mr Lawrence Griffiths, Wall Colmonoy, Alloy Industrial Estate, Pontardawe, Swansea, SA84HL

Site location: Wall Colmonoy, Alloy Industrial Estate, Pontardawe, Swansea, SA84HL

Proposed Development: Four single storey extensions to the factory, two storey extension and canopy to office, pitched roof and alterations to external elevations of office, external staircase, bike shelter, means of enclosure and associated works.

**Resolved** No objection.

**P2011/0664**

Applicant: Mr & Mrs KM AND JM Hancock, 34 Waun Penlan, Rhyd y fro, Pontardawe, Swansea SA8 3BB

Site location: 34 Waun Penlan, Rhyd y fro, Pontardawe, Swansea SA8 3BB

Proposed Development: Subdivision: Retention and completion of pitched roof on existing front and rear dormers.

**Resolved** No objection provided there is neighbourhood notification.

**P2011/0663**

Applicant: Mr RJ Cole, 33 Waun Penlan, Rhyd y fro, Pontardawe, Swansea SA8 3BB

Site location: 33 Waun Penlan, Rhyd y fro, Pontardawe, Swansea SA8 3BB

Proposed Development: Subdivision: Retention and completion of pitched roof on existing front and rear dormers.

**Resolved** No objection provided there is neighbourhood notification.

**Resolved** that a further planning meeting be scheduled for Monday 19<sup>th</sup> September 2011 at 6.00pm.

**8655. Finance Meeting 25<sup>th</sup> July 2011 – Grant funding for the Chamber of Commerce to fund the Pontardawe ‘Summerfest’**

An initial letter was received from the Chamber of Commerce, requesting a donation of £3000 towards the street markets and festivals planned for the remainder of 2011. Council however requested additional details on other funding partners and details of what the funds were likely to be used for prior to making a decision on the level of funding.

A letter providing the details requested was received, together with bank statements which stated that the £3000 would be utilised as follows

£2500 Road Train for the Summerfest

£500 to part finance 'FAT BARRYS SOUL BAND' also for the Summerfest.

The Chamber of Commerce own funds would be utilised for the Autumn and Winter Fairs.

The Clerk advised Council that for 2011 the budget for grants for local organizations was £5000 and of this £1126 has already been allocated. There was therefore £3874 still to be allocated.

In previous years the Chamber of commerce had been allocated a grant with the Festival being allocated a similar grant, this was altered in the last year to a one off grant to the joint festival organised by the Chamber of Commerce and the Festival Committee.

It is currently policy for grants to be awarded once a year with the cut off for applications being in January of that year. As a result the majority of the grants have been awarded for 2011.

It was felt by the committee however that due to the current economic position and the number of organisations that were requesting grant funding, £3000 would leave insufficient funds in from the Grant budget for any emergency grants required by other organisations later in the year, as emergency grants would be considered outside of the normal grant funding meeting.

The following recommendation was proposed by Councillor A Nicholson and Seconded by Councillor H Evans, with full agreement of the other members of the Committee except Councillor C Lambourne who wished it noted that she wanted the full £3000 granted to the Chamber of Commerce.

The Committee therefore recommended that a grant of £2500 be awarded to the Chamber of Commerce for 2011 to support the Town Festivals, as this would leave £1374 of the budget available for emergency grants later in the year. It was further recommended that another opportunity be provided in October for community groups to request the remainder of the budgeted funds.

**Resolved** that the decision of the Committee be ratified.

**8656. Accounts schedule 269:** totalling £14553.52. The Clerk also confirmed that the reimbursement of £25 to Councillor Bob Williams for the gift to the Twinning Society would be taken from the Mayors allowance.

**Resolved** to be agreed under financial regulations.

**8657. Bank reconciliation and report of expenditure against budget:** Council was provided with bank reconciliations for April, May and June 2011 and also a report showing that we were within budget for the period to the 31<sup>st</sup> July 2011.

**Resolved** to be noted.

**8658. Hanging Baskets:** A request had been made for brackets and hanging baskets for the 'Castle' public house.

**Resolved** that a Policy and Resources Committee would be arranged for the 26<sup>th</sup> September at 6.30 pm to discuss the criteria for allocating new baskets.

**8659. Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales – Draft Annual Report 2012/13:** The Clerk advised Council that the report was substantial and over 63 pages long.

**Resolved** that this would be discussed in the Policy and Resources Committee at 6.30pm on the 26<sup>th</sup> September 2011.

**8660. Letter of thanks received from the Twinning Association:** A letter of thanks was received from the Twinning Association.

**Resolved** to be noted.

**8661. Atlantic Array Offshore Wind Farm-** Council was advised that a letter had been received giving details of the proposed Wind Farm that would be placed in the Bristol Channel 16 kilometres from the South Wales coast.

**Resolved** to be noted.

**8662. Winter Hanging Baskets:** Council was asked if they wished to place Winter Hanging baskets this year. It was stated however that although the summer baskets were large and brightly coloured, and could be seen despite the ongoing building work in the Town Centre, it was likely that the winter baskets would be overshadowed.

**Resolved** that winter baskets will not be placed this year due to the regeneration work, but instead the Clerk will look into Christmas trees for the brackets, which would be more visible. It was agreed that the summer baskets would be ordered for 2012.

**8663. Church Street – Additional Lighting:** Following a spate of burglaries, it was suggested by the police that additional lighting be placed in the lane adjacent to Church Street.

**Resolved** that the Clerk contact the County Borough to determine if an additional light could be placed.

**8664. Urgent Road Safety Matters:**

Accident at Tesco's roundabout – A note in 'this is South Wales' indicated that the accident was staged for insurance purposes.

**Resolved** that the Clerk will advise the Police.

Two Large signs outside the Pontardawe Inn were obstructing views on the roundabout.

**Resolved** that the matter would be reviewed.

Pelican Lights in Trebanos had been out of order for a number of weeks.

**Resolved** that the Clerk would contact the County Borough.

The off street parking bays on 'Waun Sterw' were in a bad state of repair and were causing a hazard.

**Resolved** that the Clerk would contact the County Borough.

The trees on the Avenue roundabout were overgrown obstructing visibility.

**Resolved** that the Clerk would contact the County Borough.

**8665. The Next Ordinary Meeting:** Council was advised that the next ordinary meeting would be held on 10<sup>th</sup> October 2011 at ARCH Hall.

**Resolved** to be noted.

**Signed .....** **Dated .....**