

**Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Pontardawe Town Council held on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April 2015, at ARCH Hall, Cefn Llan Road, Pontardawe commencing at 6.45pm**

**9857. Present** Councillors P Williams (presiding), M James, Mrs J Bowen, Mrs E Puzey, V Hotten, B Williams, H Evans, Ms S Northcott, A Nicholson, D B Thomas, D Harris, Mrs L Purcell, Ms C Ford and Mrs R Phillips.

Youth Representatives – Thomas Hutchins

**Apologies:** Councillor G Davies and Youth Representative Harri Evans-Mason.

**9858. Disclosure of Personal and Pecuniary interests:** Councillors Mrs J Bowen, A Nicholson, Ms S Northcott and V Hotten declared an interest in the Pontardawe and District Youth Facility. Councillor H Evans declared an interest in discussions on Primary Schools in the area as he is a School Governor.

**Resolved** this be noted.

**9859. Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on the 9<sup>th</sup> March 2015:**

**Resolved** that the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> March 2015, having been read and confirmed as a true record, be accepted by Council with the following amendment; in minute number 9834 the Police initiative is ‘Keepsafe Cymru’ and not ‘Keepsake Cymru’ as stated in the minutes.

**9860. Matters raised by members of the public:** None.

**Resolved** to be noted.

**9861. Police Matters:** The Clerk provided the following information:

Pontardawe:

The next PACT meeting was to be held on the 16/4/15 at The Art Centre, Pontardawe at 6.30pm. The Town Council was concerned that despite the retention of ‘The Cross’ Community Centre, the PACT meetings were still scheduled to be held at the Art Centre. It was also stated that a number of local residents had requested the PACT meetings be returned to the Cross Community Centre.

Crimes for February 2015 for Pontardawe were – Burglary 3, Anti Social Behaviour 6, Robbery – 0, Vehicle crime 7, violent crime 7, Public Disorder 1, Criminal Damage 7, Other Theft 4, Drugs – 0, other crime - 0 – Total 35.

Trebanos:

The next PACT meeting was to be held on the 30/4/15 at Trebanos Hall commencing at 6.30pm.

Crimes for February 2015 for Trebanos were – 1 (Other Theft).

The Clerk confirmed that the current PCSO's in Pontardawe were to be replaced shortly. One of the new PCSO's Sian Jenkins would take over responsibility for the Youth PACT meetings.

Council also discussed in detail the issues currently presenting themselves in Pontardawe, with a number of 101 calls not being acted on, and some recent issues with reports of criminal damage and menacing behavior in progress not receiving prompt police attendance.

It was suggested that a private meeting be convened with full Council and Senior Police Officers to review the current issues and the ways in which the Police intend to improve the service being provided.

**Resolved** that the Clerk will contact the South Wales Police, to request a special meeting with Sergeant Jayne James, together with the local Inspector and Chief Inspector for the Western Division.

The Clerk will also contact the PCSO's to determine if the PACT meetings for Pontardawe can be relocated to the 'Cross' Community Centre.

**9862. Pontardawe & District Youth Facility:** Councillors V Hotten, A Nicholson, Ms S Northcott, and Mrs J Bowen expressed an interest.

Council was advised that the Pontardawe and District Youth Facility had received £1000 in financial assistance for the 2014/15 fiscal year from a budget of £10,000. For the 2015/16 fiscal year the budget was once again £10,000 with no funds yet required.

Council was also advised that the Youth Club were holding a Birthday Party as they had been in existence for five years. The party would be concluded with a Balloon release. It was confirmed that the balloons were biodegradable and would cause no damage to the environment or wild life.

**Resolved** to be noted.

**9863. Trebanos Park:** Council was advised that the 20<sup>th</sup> April 2015 was the proposed start date for the Park improvements with completion by the end of May 2015.

**Resolved** that Council will be kept up to date with developments.

**9864. Footpath Grant and Cwmdru Management:** The Clerk confirmed that the footpath grant was to be paid for 2014/15 however for 2015/16 the revised maintenance agreement was still in the process of being developed. Once the position was finalised Council would be provided with details of the paths that would continue to be maintained by the Town Council together

with those that would in future be maintained by Neath Port Talbot Council. They were also advised that a payment on account was to be made by Neath Port Talbot Council for £2057.95 for the 2015/16 year which would be adjusted on future years if it was determined that the payment was too high or low.

**Resolved** that the Clerk will keep Council informed of developments.

**9865. Pelican/Zebra crossing requests:** County Council Members M James and Mrs R Phillips advised Council that they were in the process of reviewing the proposed crossings at Swansea Road adjacent to the Avenue Roundabout which had been requested by Cwmtawe School and outside Llangiwig Primary School.

It has been determined that the crossing further along from Llangiwig School could not be moved to outside the school to assist children in crossing and therefore the reinstatement of the Crossing Patrol personnel was the only option.

With regard to Swansea Road, the request was for a Pedestrian Crossing rather than for personnel however at present the County Borough was not convinced of its feasibility.

**Resolved** that the County Borough Members will provide feedback when available.

**9866. Planning (Meeting dated 31<sup>st</sup> March 2015):**

**P2015/0228**

Applicants Name: Mr Byron Way, Morganstone House, Unit 3 Llys Aur, Llanelli Gate, Llanelli, SA14 8LQ.

Site Location: Former Coleg Cwmtawe, Alltycham Drive, Pontardawe, SA84JX.

Proposed Development: Details pursuant to the partial discharge of condition 22 (Retaining walls in phases 3 &4 only) of Planning Permission P2010/0880 (Approved on the 14/9/11)

**Resolved – Noted.**

**P2014/0101**

Applicants Name: Mrs Paulette Eynon, 23 Ffordd Brynheulog, Pontardawe SA84JG.

Site Location: Land adjacent to 16 Morgan Street, Trebanos.

Proposed Development: One Split level dwelling (Outline with details of access, layout and scale to be determined).

**Resolved – Objection due to land instability, mine workings and issues with surface water and flooding.**

**P2014/0731**

Applicants Name: Mr Andrew Rickson, Brook Cottage, Llanguicke Road, Pontardawe, Swansea SA8 4PL.

Site location: Jasmine Cottage, Llanguicke Road, Pontardawe, Swansea, SA84PL.

Proposed Development: Retention and completion of detached 2 bed bungalow, outbuildings including air source heat pump, solar panels and associated car parking (Amended plans)

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

**P2015/0188**

Applicant: Mrs Jane Thorton, 43 Paxton Road, London w4 2QT.

Site location: 48 Graig Road, Trebanos, Pontardawe, Swansea SA8 4AS.

Proposed Development: Demolition of existing single storey front extension and the erection of a single storey front extension.

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

**P2013/0792**

Appeal by Nigel Thomas Plant Hire Ltd.

Site at Dan y Graig House, 36 Swansea Road, Pontardawe, Swansea, SA84AL.

Planning Inspectorate APP/Y6930/A/15/30006199

Planning Application Code P2013/0762

Proposed: Demolition of existing dwelling and construction of two pairs of semi detached dwellings, land infill and associated works.

The Committee was made aware of Neath Port Talbots planning refusal.

**Resolved – The Committee supports the original grounds for refusal.**

**P2012/1073**

Site location: East Pit, Revised OCCS, New Road, Gwaun Cae Gurwen, Neath SA18 1UP.

The Committee was advised that there had been amended plans submitted however the notification was for information only as the development was not in the Town Council's area.

The committee was also advised that there was a change to the boundary for the proposed gas-fueled power plant on land adjacent to the National Grid compressor station at Abergelli Farm, Felindre, Swansea SA5 7NN.

They were also advised that under the planning permission granted (P2013/0588) there was no requirement for a pedestrian walkway to be added to the garage forecourt at the Trebanos Service Station.

**Resolved – To be noted.**

Plans discussed in the meeting:

**P2015/0218**

Applicants name: Aggregate Industries UK Ltd, Bardon Hall, Markfield, Leicestershire LE97 1TL.  
Site Location: Cwm Nant Lleichi Quarry, Gellifowy Road, Ynysmeudwy, Pontardawe, Swansea, SA8 4TU.

Proposed Development: Construction of roadway (approx 335m in length).

**Resolved – No Objection.**

**P2015/0259**

Councillor Bob Williams took no part in the discussion.

Applicants name: Mrs Caroline Morley, 109 High Street, Pontardawe, Swansea SA8 4JN.

Site Location: 109 High Street, Pontardawe, Swansea SA8 4JN.

Proposed Development: Lawful Development certificate for an existing use as a single residential dwelling (Class C3)

**Resolved – No Objection.**

**9867. Policy and Resources Committee held on the 16<sup>th</sup> March 2015:**

The meeting discussed the questions sent to the 'Question Time' Panel prior to the event:

The questions were as follows:

1. What will elected Welsh Assembly Members and local Councillors be doing to ensure that vital funding in Further Education remains?
2. What actions are local representatives taking to tackle the litter problem areas around Pontardawe, in areas such as Herbert Street, rear of the Florists, Land opposite Tesco

Petrol Station, area outside 'Mama Mia's' nightclub and the Alltwen Link Footbridge to Tesco Stores (Alltwen side).

3. Does the Panel believe that fracking should allowed to be carried out in the Swansea Valley and surrounding areas?
4. With regard to the proposed boundary changes. Do the Panel have a preference on where Pontardawe should be placed?
5. How do the Assembly Members feel that additional powers from devolution will help them to govern Wales?
6. What plans does the Welsh Assembly have to improve GP Services in Wales?

The meeting also discussed the production of local school travel safety plans to include partnership with the Police, parents, carers, teachers, pupils and Local Authorities:

A number of the committee were Governors at local primary schools and the issues were discussed in detail.

It was determined that due to the location of the primary schools in the area, each had unique issues that affected the travel plans of the pupils and therefore an integrated travel plan for the all the schools would not be effective.

It was also determined that for Rhyd y Fro School, Trebanos School and Pontardawe Welsh School, specific policies were already in operation that had been developed to meet the specific needs of the school and had received the input of parents, Governors, PTA and the local PCSO'S.

Llangiwg School did however experience specific problems with parking and vehicular movement outside the school due to its location on a busy road, which also created an additional danger to the children attending the school.

It was suggested therefore that the school may need further support in producing an effective plan to reduce the risk to children in that area, and that a wider range of stakeholders may need input to ensure the plans effectiveness, especially Neath Port Talbot Council's traffic enforcement officers.

Give the County Boroughs proposed involvement it was suggested that the Town Council approach the Headteacher with its concerns, but also to provide its backing for a request to the County Borough for traffic warden assistance at the site to deter motorists from illegal and dangerous parking. It was further suggested that the PTA, Governors, local Police and Town Council support the schools stand.

The Committee recommended that Llangiwg School was offered the Town Council's backing in a request to the County Borough to enforce parking restrictions at the school.

**Resolved** that the Committees recommendations will be ratified.

**9868. Policy and Resources Committee held on the 31st March 2015:**

The meeting reviewed the Reforming Local Government: Power to Local People Consultation.

The Consultation document was reviewed in full and the proposed responses to the ten sections were identified in Appendix 1.

It was recommended that the Committees proposed responses to the consultation were submitted on behalf of the Town Council.

**Resolved** that the Committees recommendations will be ratified.

**9869. Finance Meeting:** The Clerk confirmed that the meeting to discuss grant funding for 2015/16 had not yet taken place as there had been insufficient Members available for a quorum.

**Resolved** that a further Finance meeting will be arranged to discuss grant funding for 2015/16.

**9870. Accounts Schedule 310:**

**Resolved** to accept the schedule 310 totaling £14891.59 in line with Standing Orders.

**9871. Telephone call from Cilybebyll Community Council re allotments:** Council was advised that at present a feasibility study was been carried out on the land at Rhos. A public meeting would be arranged for April/May 2015 to determine local views on the proposed allotments.

**Resolved** that the Clerk will keep Council up to date with developments.

**9872. Letter from Ysgol Gunradd Gymraeg re signage:** The Clerk read a letter from the school which asked the Town Council to arrange signage to guide prospective parents to the school as currently many people were unable to locate it.

The Clerk confirmed that she had made enquiries for Signs mounted back to back at the junction of James Street and Alltycham Drive and at the junction of High Street and Brynawel which would cost approximately £865 + VAT.

Council discussed the matter and felt that the cost was prohibitive however they did sympathise with the school and had a number of suggestions.

**Resolved** that the Clerk will contact the School to suggest the following:

- Contact the local house builders to determine if they would be in a position to donate signage as a community gesture.
- Review the costs for signage from the AA and RAC which were likely to be substantially less expensive.
- Look at additional partners to which the Town Council may be in a position to add some funds.

**9873. Consultation on the Exemptions to Council Tax premium for long term empty properties and second homes:** Council suggested this discussed in a Policy & Resources Committee.

**Resolved** that a Policy and Resources Committee will be arranged to discuss.

**9874. Consultation on Land Transaction Tax:** Council suggested this discussed in a Policy & Resources Committee.

**Resolved** that a Policy and Resources Committee will be arranged to discuss and plenary powers will be awarded due to the tight time scales.

**9875. Urgent Road Safety Matters:**

- There was still a significant issue with speeding and dangerous parking at Llangiwg School.

**Resolved** that Councillors look to take note of licence plate numbers for cars parked dangerously outside the school and report them.

**9876. Date and time of next meeting:** The date of the next Ordinary Meeting and Annual General Meeting of Council will be Monday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2015 at Trebanos Hall commencing at 6.45pm.

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