

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Pontardawe Town Council held on Monday 13th February 2012 at Trebanos Community Hall commencing at 6:45p.m

8763. Present: Councillors B Williams (presiding), Mrs E Puzey, Ms. S Northcott, A Nicholson, Mrs C Lambourne, Mrs J Bowen, Mrs L Purcell, D B Thomas, D Harris, V Thomas, H Pickrell, M Thomas

Apologies: A E Williams

8764. Disclosure of Personal and Pecuniary Interest: None.

Resolved to be noted.

8765. Comments by members of the public: A representative of Mynydd y Betws Wind farm stated that following an article in the press about archaeological finds at the wind farm construction site, they had brought in CADW to review the position, and were awaiting a report from CADW on the historical significance of the site. They also extended an invitation to the Town Council for four or six members to visit the site to view the find.

Resolved that the Clerk compile a list of members who wish to visit the site and liaise with the contractors, and also that a copy of the CADW report is requested once the investigations have been completed.

8766. Glantawe Lions: A delegation from the Glantawe Lions attended the meeting in order to present a cheque for £515 to the Mayor for the charity of his choice. These funds were raised from the 2011 'Tree of light'. The Glantawe Lions also thanked the Town Council for their grant in 2011 which had helped towards the administrative costs of the 'Tree of Light'. The Town Mayor confirmed that he would like the funds donated to the 'Princes Trust' due to their work assisting young people into employment and training.

Resolved to be noted.

8767. Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on the 9th January 2012:

Resolved that the minutes of the meeting dated 9th January 2012, having been read and confirmed as a true record, be accepted by Council.

8768. Mynydd y Betws Wind Farm construction traffic and community benefit fund: The Clerk confirmed that a response had now been received to her letter requesting details of the vehicle movements to the wind farm and their monitoring protocols. The letter provided a comparison of the actual vehicle movements against those in the planning application and indicated that there was no significant difference. It also stated that the department was not aware of any current breaches in the planning conditions and of the alleged breaches; investigations had

shown these to be unsubstantiated.

Councillor Purcell then provided details of her discussions with Inspector Dean Thomas on the traffic route through Pontardawe and on the meeting held with the Chief Executive of Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council with regard to the Community Benefit fund which would be set up following completion of the Mynydd y Betws Wind farm.

The following information was provided:

- Inspector Thomas would not be in a position to answer specific queries on the procedure for the emergency vehicles following a breakdown of the turbine Lorries.
- Certain questions would need a response by the haulier or the abnormal loads officer.
- Inspector Thomas would welcome the Town Councils input prior to the creation of the 'Traffic Management plan'.
- The 'dummy run' was to take place in late spring but due to the Olympics that actual transport of turbines would not take place until the autumn.
- Town Councillors would not be able to attend the dummy run due to Health and Safety issues.

With regard to the Community Benefit fund, Councillor Purcell provided the following information:

- The funds from the Community Benefit fund were likely to be allocated 30% to Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council/ 70% to Carmarthen Council.
- The Neath Port Talbot segment would further be allocated to three wards with approximately £82,000 being available to each ward.
- Only recognised organisation would be in a position to draw down these funds.
- It was proposed that a committee be set up to allocate funds comprising of the following from each of the three wards. Two residents and one Town Councillor, together with one officer from Neath Port Talbot Council. It was further suggested that Borough Councillors could observe but not vote in this committee.
- WREN had offered their assistance in setting up a committee of this type.

Resolved That the Clerk will request Inspector Dean Thomas, the abnormal loads officer and the haulier to the March Ordinary Meeting. If however they were unable to attend then an Extraordinary meeting will be arranged to discuss these matters. The Clerk will also arrange for the venue of the March meeting to be altered to ARCH from Ynysmeudwy Hall if possible as there is likely to be significant interest from local residents, and parking could be an issue in Ynysmeudwy.

8769. Police Matters: The Clerk advised Council that a comparison between crime figures for December 2010 and December 2011 showed an increase in burglary of dwellings, thefts from motor vehicles, and criminal damage. They were however addressing these issues. The Police also had a new mobile CCTV vehicle to tackle anti-social behaviour in the area.

Pontardawe PACT meeting held on the 9th February 2012:

- Traffic within the Town Centre was still a priority
- Youths on cycles were still an issue but the local police hoped that the 'Cycle Safe Cycle Smart' initiative would address this issue.
- There had been a rise in thefts from parked cars.
- Licensing was an issue, but should members of the public wish details of licences granted then they could now request details from the 'One Stop Shop' in Pontardawe.

Trebanos PACT meeting held on the 9th February 2012:

- There had been some issues with debris from the stables adjacent to the Canal being thrown into the canal by youths in the area in the early hours of the morning. These youths had been identified by Police but could not be officially charged as the CCTV images were not of sufficient quality for a conviction. There was however some indication that the youths were as young as 12 years old.
- There was no further information on the smash and grab from the local Post Office.
- The 20 mph sign opposite the garage in Trebanos was damaged and had still not been replaced.

Resolved that the Clerk would contact the County Borough to request that the damaged sign be replaced and also that she would contact the Police to determine if Social Services had been brought in to address the issue of very young children causing damage in the early hours of the morning.

8770. Herbert Street Improvements: The Clerk confirmed that a response had been received from the County Borough with regard to the new traffic priorities at the junction between Holly Street and Herbert Street. She explained that the design was to promote a more pedestrianised area and that although there were no double yellow lines; signage was in the process of being erected which would limit the parking areas on this street. A review of the position was also to take place one year after the completion of phase 1 of the regeneration in November 2012.

Council was however advised that both the police and local residents were unhappy with the current arrangement due to a number of 'near misses' at this junction.

A request was also made for maintenance and drainage to the footpath between the 'Castle' car park and Herbert Street along the canal to be addressed during regeneration.

Resolved that the Clerk will contact the County Borough Council to request that action is taken to address the near misses at the Holly Street/Herbert Street junction now, but that if no action is taken then representation will be made to the Welsh Assembly Government.

The Clerk is also to request that the County Borough look into addressing the maintenance issues and drainage on the footpath adjacent to the canal.

8771. Waun Sterw, Pontardawe: Council was advised that following a discussion with Welsh Water over the issue of sewage overflow in this area, an investigation is being carried out to determine the issues and what remedial action needs to be taken.

Resolved that the position will be monitored.

8772. Church Street, Pontardawe: Council was advised that the neighbourhood police team were aware of issues with anti social behavior and underage drinking in this area and in the vicinity of the football club. He explained that there were regular meetings being held with the proprietor to try to address the issue, and that this area was now set up as a 'way marker' for officers. This will mean additional patrols in this area. The proprietor was also advising police of the types of events that were being held so that those with a risk of anti-social behavior would be identified and additional policing measures taken.

Unfortunately on the weekend of the 10th February 2012 there was another instance when details of a party were advertised on 'facebook' which resulted in a large number of underage drinkers in the streets of Pontardawe after they were refused entry to the club.

Councillor Purcell confirmed that she had been advised that a licence review was being sought and that the proprietor was attempting to alter his licence from that of a 'club' to a 'public house'. This action was supported by the police who would then have additional powers to enter the premises.

Resolved that the position be monitored.

8773. Planning: It was agreed that a planning meeting was to be arranged for 6.00pm on Monday 20th February 2012.

Resolved to be noted.

8774. Grants and Financial regulations for 2012 - It was agreed that a Finance meeting was to be arranged for 6.30pm on Monday 20th February 2012.

Resolved to be noted.

8775. Cost savings: It was agreed that a Policy and Resources Committee was to be arranged for 6.30pm on Tuesday 21st February 2012 and to be chaired by the Deputy Mayor.

Resolved to be noted.

8776. Gelligron day care centre: Council was advised that a letter had been sent on Councils behalf objecting to the closure of the centre for two day a week. The letter was sent under the agreement of the Clerk, Mayor and Deputy Mayor in accordance with standing orders.

Resolved to be ratified.

8777. Bank reconciliation and report of actual expenditure against budget: The Clerk provided bank reconciliations to December 2011 together with a report of actual against budgeted expenditure to December 2011.

Resolved to be noted.

8778. Accounts schedule 274: totalling £15444.33.

Resolved to be agreed under financial regulations.

8779. High Sheriffs award: Council stated that they would once again like to put forward Mark Jones for his continual work with the young people of Pontardawe.

Resolved Mark Jones is put forward for the High Sheriffs award.

8780. County Borough Council/ Community Liaison meeting: Council was informed that this meeting has been cancelled due to a lack of agenda items.

Resolved that the Clerk would request details of how the Charter was progressing.

8781. Atlantic Array Offshore Wind Farm - Public consultation Summary Report: Council reviewed the document.

Resolved that this be noted.

8782. Proposal to alter the date of the Local Government Elections in Wales: Council confirmed that the details had been reviewed, and that their only concern was with the long term effects of continually altering the date of elections.

Resolved that the Clerk would submit this observation.

8783. Small fire fighting vehicles: Council was informed that an issue had arisen in Trebanos where fire fighting crew were unable to attend a house fire as they had no local access to a small fire fighting truck and were unaware of the location of the fire hydrants. There had on this occasion been no injuries or loss of life however the lack of a local small vehicle was causing some concern as the closest vehicle of this nature was at Sketty in Swansea.

Resolved that the Clerk will contact the Mid and West Wales Fire Authority to determine if a vehicle of this nature could be stationed locally as this is a rural area with a number of properties with difficult access and also that the Clerk will request details of their procedures for identifying fire hydrants in the area.

8784. Icy Pavements in the Town Centre: An email had been received stating that following regeneration the pavements in the Town Centre were very slippery during icy weather. Councillor Purcell stated that a request had been made to place a 'grit bin' in the Herbert Street Car Park, but that it was dependant on funds being available at the County Borough.

Resolved to be noted.

8785. Urgent Road Safety Matters: It was brought to Council attention that the junction of Waun Sterw adjacent to the bungalows for elderly people was not gritted during cold weather; this was causing difficulties for the elderly in the area.

Resolved that the Clerk would contact the County Borough and request that in future this area is gritted.

8786. The Next Ordinary Meeting: Council was advised that the next ordinary meeting will be held on 12th March at Ynysmeudwy Hall.

Resolved to be noted.

Signed Dated

