

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Pontardawe Town Council held on Monday 13th of June 2011 at ARCH Community Centre commencing at 6:45p.m

8582. Present: Councillor B Williams (presiding), Mrs E Puzey, Mrs L Purcell, B Thomas, D Harris, H Pickrell, V Thomas, Mrs. S Northcott, A Nicholson, Mrs C Lambourne, H Evans, Mrs J Bowen, Mel Thomas,

Apologies: Councillor M James, AE Williams

8583. Minute Silence: Minute silence was held for Mr Rhys Daniels, retired member of Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council who recently passed away.

8584. Councillor M Thomas: Council was delighted to welcome back Councillor M Thomas after his long illness.

8585. Disclosure of Personal and Pecuniary Interest: Councillor L Purcell took no part in planning discussion and left the meeting for the duration.

8586. Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on the 9th of May 2011.

Resolved that the minutes of the meeting dated 9 May 2011, having been read and confirmed as a true record, be accepted by Council, with the following amendments, **minute number 8564** should read Alltwen and not Pontardawe.

8587. Chief Superintendent Mathias: Chief Superintendent Mathias from South Wales Police attended the meeting. He explain that Pontardawe Police Station will remain closed to the public due to cuts in the police budget, also that other areas will also lose their stations and eventually only Neath and Swansea would remain open. Council was very dismayed about the prospect but was sympathetic regarding the situation that the police found themselves in financially. Council raised issues in regard to public communication with the police once the stations were closed.

Resolved to thank Chief Superintendent Mathias for attending and for the frank discussion.

8588. Police Matters:

Trebanos PACT: The priority issue in regard to parking at Swansea Road. A member of the County Borough Highways department had been requested to attend the next PACT meeting but the Clerk stated that this was not possible. Next PACT meeting to be held at Trebanos Community Hall hall on 16th June 2011.

Pontardawe PACT: Vehicle nuisance at Ffordd Parc Ynysderw and Tesco Car Park was brought up. Next PACT meeting to be held at Pontrdawe Cross Community Centre on the 2nd June 2011.

Resolved to be noted.

8589. Ynysderw Road, Pontardawe: As Councillor James was absent from the meeting, no further update on this matter was available.

Resolved this item to be discussed at the July Meeting.

8590. Hanging Basket Scheme – Summer 2011: The Clerk confirmed that five hanging basket brackets had been ordered one to be placed at the Tamarind Restaurant. All new brackets to be placed by the contractors when checking the brackets prior to the replacement of the baskets.

Resolved to be noted.

8591 . National Grid Ynysymond Road, Alltwn:

- Council was informed that the playing fields needed to be reseeded due to the high winds blowing away the original seeds.
- The coating of the scratches on the pipes was done to maintain the integrity of the pipes and the Alltwn testing revealed that the covering to the scratches did not provide adequate protection. As a result the decision was made to recoat the whole section of pipe. This will be carried out but a decision is still outstanding on whether the road will need to be dug up to allow recoating. Testing will again be carried out after recoating.
- There are no other issues with regard to any other portion of piping in the area.
- It is to be noted that the Freedom of Information Act does not apply to this body.
- Council noted with disdain and dismay Councillor Lewis' recent comments.

Resolved to note the above and follow progress.

8592. Cefn Llan Resident Association - Application for Grants for the New Playground: Council was advised that Paul Hinder of Neath Port Talbot Council was in the process of applying for grants and was negotiating with NPT Homes on behalf of the Town Council with regard to the land. Council was informed that a land lease/licence of ten years had been proposed initially.

Resolved to accept the report and confirm that Council was in agreement with an initial 10 year lease/licence on the land from NPT Homes.

8593. Ynni'r Fro Programme: Energy Saving Trust extended an invite in regard to Ynni'r Fro Programme. If council wished to pursue energy project of Upper Clydach river then involvement of this programme was necessary.

Resolved the issue to be passed to the Development Committee once new information had been received from the Ynni'r Fro Programme.

8594. Pontardawe Old Foundry Site: Bluefield Land Limited explained that the material on site

had been stockpiled for infill as requested by planners and had been checked and approved by the Environment Agency. However, the site would not be operational in the near future due to the economic climate.

Resolved to be noted.

8595. Accounts 267 totalling £20,732.25.

Resolved to be agreed under financial regulations

8596. People and the Arts in Neath Port Talbot: Mayor Bob Williams expressed disappointment at the format of the meeting, which was not what was expected but results may come from it.

Resolved to be noted.

8597. The Possible Post of Town Crier: Email from a resident regarding the concept of Town Crier was received by the Mayor.

Resolved that the Mayor contact the resident to identify exactly what he envisaged.

8598. Local Development Committee Meeting: To be held on Monday the 27th June at 7pm Town Council offices Herbert Street, Pontardawe.

8599. Policy and Resources Committee Meeting to be held on Monday the 27th June at 6.30pm Town Council Offices, Herbert Street, Pontardawe.

Resolved to be noted.

8600. Trebanos Park Development Committee Recommendations: It was recommended that a 5 year rolling programme of repair and improvement be put into operation to include signs, fencing, bulb planting, litter bins and equipment. It was suggested that the schools both primary and comprehensive might be happy to get involved in the bulb planting. It was also suggested that Council support the Rugby Club's use of the disused toilets, once refurbished by them, as a refreshment stand.

Resolved that the recommendations be accepted.

8601. Internal Auditor's Initial Recommendations:

- Auditor pleased with level of control last year especially with the newly introduced level of financial reporting.
- He was happy to see the new financial and operational risk assessments.
- Requested that the cheque stubs be initialled by signatories.
- Requested that the new format accounts schedule be used in the monthly meetings.

- Requested that office expenditure be removed from halls expenditure in accounts.

Resolved that the above be accepted and put into operation.

8602. Planning Applications:

P/2011/471 Pwllfawtkin Landfill Site, Pontardawe – Consultation under regulation 5 – Screening Option. This item is not an application but an explorative document for a possible anaerobic digestion facility.

Resolved to note the document and the Mayor to attend the next meeting of the Pwllfawtkin Committee.

8603. Swansea Valley Area Forum: To be held on the 8th September at Alltwen Community Hall.

Resolved to be noted.

8604. Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue: Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Authority Draft Action Plan 2012-2013 also reply from Chief Fire Officer R Smith stating that and fire engine was always available for use.

Resolved to put the above to the Policy and Resources Committee for consideration.

8605. Age Concern: Office available at 9A Dynevor Terrace, Pontardawe, free information and advice. Mayor expressed delight at opening of such a useful service. Recommended contact with local church and chapels.

Resolved that Clerk write congratulations on behalf of Council.

8606. Pwllfawtkin Liaison Committee Minutes available.

Resolved to be noted.

8607. One Voice Wales Report by Councillor Nicholson: APPENDIX 1

Resolved to note the contents and congratulate Councillor Nicholson on his appointment.

8608. Road Safety: Council expressed concern over Herbert Street “Roundabout” and dismay at lack of communication on road works. Local business were concerned that members of public thought they were not open.

Council Purcell is to contact contractors now following up with Neath Port Talbot Council and present the borough council with list of questions on specific areas.

Resolved that Councillor Purcell be given Council's mandate to follow up.

8609. The Next Ordinary Meeting: Council was advised that the next ordinary meeting would be held on the 11th July 2011.

Resolved to be noted.

Signed **Dated**