

**Ordinary Meeting held on the 13<sup>th</sup> November 2017 at Trebanos Hall, Swansea Road, Trebanos commencing at 6.45pm**

**Present:** Councillors A Nicholson (presiding), Mrs L Purcell, A Richards, H Evans, J Jones, GC Davies, V Hotten, Ms R Jones, K Flynn, W Thomas, Ms C Ford.

**Apologies:** Councillor G Nicholson, Mrs R Phillips, Ms S Northcott and R Smith.

**10630. Disclosure of Personal and Pecuniary Interests:** None.

**Resolved** to be noted.

**10631. Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on the 9<sup>th</sup> October 2017:**

**Resolved** that the minutes of the Ordinary meeting held on the 9<sup>th</sup> October 2017, having been read and confirmed as a true record, be accepted by Council.

**10632. Matters raised by Members of the Public:** None.

**Resolved** to be noted.

**10633. Neil from the 'Working with Nature' Project:** Neil provided an update on the actions that have taken place over the first 14 months of the project:

- 228 participants have taken part in over 15 events in Cwmdu Glen, including wood working, wildcraft, history walks and story-telling.
- A 5-week program of education sessions was run with YGG Pontardawe
- 35 Volunteer Task days to improve access, re-open path ways, restore the pond, excavate the old swimming pool and manage the invasive species.
- New benches
- Future actions include the development of a community hub, improved paths and a viewing platform for the waterfall.
- Work on reopening the Circular walk is also still ongoing
- Continuing support for the 'Friends of Cwmdu'
- Ongoing visitor and volunteer days.
- Litter eradication.

County Borough Members were keen that the County Borough waste enforcement team were kept informed of litter clearing days to enable them to act against those that are identified as littering in the Nature Reserve.

Councillors also provided ideas to be taken forward including the possible relocation of the barrier to provide a small amount of parking and a Perspex notice board identifying key features of the Glanrhyd Estate.

**Resolved** to be noted.

**10634. Cwmdu Glen and Biodiversity:** Council was advised that regarding Biodiversity at the Canal Bank from Herbert Street to Holly Street, some ideas had been to include bulb planting and dormouse boxes near the hazel trees. Bird boxes could also be included.

Unfortunately, one of the major difficulties with that area was dog fouling. There were dog waste bins at either end of the path, but some individuals were still allowing dogs to foul on the grass.

Council discussed many ideas but to deter dogs it was agreed that a mixture of rockeries with native bulbs together with the planting of Holly or gorse may be used in addition to the suggestions made by the Working with Nature team. It was agreed that this could reduce the problem.

Council was reluctant to fund a large-scale refurbishment of the area as they were unsure if the project would have the desired effect and therefore it was agreed that a small section of the path should be refurbished initially with additional planting to be carried out in future years.

**Resolved** that the Clerk will discuss the solution with the working with nature team and will arrange for an area to be refurbished if agreement is received from all the relevant managing bodies.

**10635. Police Matters:** Council was advised that there were no additional statistics available.

Council Members stated that following the October PACT meeting in Pontardawe, the priorities remained dangerous cycling in Herbert Street, however the instances had reduced. In Trebanos the PACT priorities were speeding, lighting and parking on Swansea Road. Following a fatal road accident on Swansea Road, a petition had been raised to request the County Borough install additional traffic calming measures on the road.

Both the Trebanos and Pontardawe PACT meetings in December were to be held on the 7<sup>th</sup> and at 6.30pm.

The Clerk also stated that a response had been received re the difficulties of contacting the PCSOs on rest days. The response was that all non-urgent calls should be to the 101 number with emergencies being directed to 999.

There was a long discussion on the issues surrounding reporting through 101 however it was finally agreed that the way forward was to encourage the use of 101 but that the service needed to be improved.

Councillor Richards was soon to be visiting the 101 call centre where he could provide feedback on the issues with the service.

**Resolved** that Councillor Richards will provide feedback to Council on his visit to the 101 call centre and most specifically how long it takes for a report of an incidence to be directed to the local Police/PCSO's for perceived non-urgent matters.

**10636. Defibrillators:** Council was advised that although we were originally advised that funding for both defibrillators would not be available. The funding for the Rhyd y Fro unit had now been received. It was therefore agreed that the donated defibrillator would be installed at Rhyd y Fro and one of the purchased units would be installed at Ynysmeudwy.

The Clerk confirmed that it was likely that a local company may be interested in donating another cabinet for the spare unit.

**Resolved** that the donated Defibrillator and cabinet will be installed at Rhyd y Fro. A purchased defibrillator and purchased cabinet will be installed at Ynysmeudwy. The remaining purchased defibrillator will be retained until it was known if a cabinet will be donated from the wider community.

**10637. Town Council web site:** Unfortunately, as Councillor Morgan was not at the meeting no additional details were available.

**Resolved** to be noted.

**10638. Shh Campaign:** The Clerk confirmed that half of the late-night establishments had responded positively to the campaign. A response was still awaited from the others.

The Clerk was in the process of obtaining the printed posters, beer mats and stickers.

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

**10639. Christmas 2017:** Council was advised that the documents required by the County Borough had been forwarded and that the tree lights owned by the Council had been collected by Commercial Christmas for testing. The Tree was due to be delivered to Vale on the 20<sup>th</sup> November and transported to the Art Centre in Pontardawe on the 22<sup>nd</sup> November.

The Winterfest Christmas Parade was due to begin at 5.30pm on the 1<sup>st</sup> December and the lights were due to be switched on at 6.00pm.

**Resolved** to be noted.

**10640. One Voice Wales Committee:** Councillor Ford had attended on behalf of Council. She stated that a talk had been given by the Older Persons Commissioner with details of what they wished to achieve for Older People in Wales in the future.

The Younger Persons Commissioner was due to attend the next meeting.

One Voice Wales was also looking for instances of innovation in Town and Community Councils and stated that they were aware of several innovative practices that had originated in Pontardawe.

**Resolved** to be noted.

**10641. Memorial Bench:** Council was advised that the Memorial Bench had been placed at Parc Chwarae Teg.

**Resolved** to be noted.

**10642. Planning:**

**P2017/0940**

Applicants name: Mr Jonathon Hale, Unit 2 Millands Road Industrial Estate, Neath SA11 1NJ.

Site Location: Waun Sterw, Rhyd y Fro, Pontardawe SA8 4PG.

Proposed Development: Section 73 Application for the removal of condition 17 (visitor parking) and variation of condition 29 (Drainage surface run off) of planning permission P2015/0778 approved 6/10/2016.

**Resolved No Objection**

**P2017/ 0932**

Applicants Name /Address: MR SHANE WILLIAMS, OLD STAR INN, PONTARDAWE ROAD, PONTARDAWE, SWANSEA, SA8 4SX

Site Location: THE FORMER OLD STAR INN, PONTARDAWE ROAD, PONTARDAWE, SWANSEA, SA8 4SX

Proposed Development: Demolition of existing office block / store with stables, kitchen and garage and construction of two storey rear extension, single storey side extension, porch, increased ridge of

existing property, detached stable block, glazed walkway to new two storey annex block, surfacing works and boundary treatment and associated works

**Resolved No Objection**

**P2017/0992**

Applicants name: Mr Andrew Gliddon, 130 Gelligron Road, Rhyd y Fro, Pontardawe, Swansea SA8 4SJ.

Site Location: 130 Gelligron Road, Rhyd y Fro, Pontardawe, Swansea, SA8 4SJ.

Proposed Development: Regularisation of existing vehicle access by dropping the kerbs adjacent to the highway.

**Resolved No Objection**

**P2017/0988**

Applicants Name /Address: Nigel Jones- Western Power Distribution, Fynnon Menter, Phoenix Way, Llansamlet, Swansea, SA7 9HW.

Site Location: Rhydyfro Pontardawe.

Proposed Development: Consultation under section 37 of the Electricity Act for the construction of an overhead 11 kv power line 1875 metres in length.

**Resolved No Objection**

**P2017/0976**

Applicants name: Mr Nicki Powell, 40 Parc Gilbertson, Rhyd y Fro, Pontardawe, Swansea SA8 4PU.

Site Location: 40 Parc Gilbertson, Rhyd y Fro, Pontardawe, Swansea SA8 4PU.

Proposed Development: Widening of Existing driveway to accommodate replacement parking space.

**Resolved No Objection**

**P2017/1004**

Applicants Name /Address: Dr Wendy Hurst -Lidl UK GmbH, Waterton Industrial Estate, Off Cowbridge Road, Bridgend, CF31 3PH.

Site Location: LIDL SUPERMARKET, FFORDD PARC YNYSYDERW, PONTARDAWE, SWANSEA, SA8 4EG.

Proposed Development: Details pursuant to the discharge of condition 7 (remediation verification report) of planning permission P2015/1090 approved 12/4/2016.

**Resolved No Objection**

Commons Act 2006 – Section 38

Betws Community Holdings Ltd, 21 Carmarthen Street, Llandeilo, Carmarthenshire, SA19 6AN.

Application to the Welsh Ministers for consent to construct works on the Betws Common (CL – 38) under section 38 of the Commons Act 2006.

**Resolved – No Comment or Objection.**

**10643. Finance Committee held on the 24<sup>th</sup> October 2017:** The Committee reviewed the budget for 2018/19:

The Committee discussed the current position in full.

They were made aware that there were several projects that were to be funded from reserves such as the 'Good Citizens Award, Town Council brochure, defibrillators for Ynysmeudwy and Rhyd y Fro and the Shh Campaign' but that the sponsorship of the Christmas lights of £3000 would offset some of these costs if it transpired. The General Reserve was also sufficient to support all these costs.

It was envisaged that at the year end the Actual costs would be only slightly over the budgeted costs but that the VAT repayments would more than cover the slippage. See Appendix A.

The Committee were aware that inflation was rising with forecasts of approximately 3.6% for 2018/19 due to the weak pound and Brexit. The Committee also recognised that additional funds were being requested from local organisations following County Borough austerity measures.

The Committee therefore recommends that the precept is raised slightly by approximately 5% but that the Reserve is used as in previous years to fund ad hoc projects. See Appendix B.

The Committee recommended the precept is raised slightly to £176000.

**Resolved** that the Committee's recommendation will be accepted and the Precept for 2018/19 be £176000.

**10644. Development Committee held on the 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2017:** The Committee discussed the 'Shh' Campaign. (Plenary Powers Awarded)

The Committee reviewed the draft poster and decided that the picture and logo were effective. Regarding wording, it was agreed that the poster should state 'Keep the noise down, the neighbours are sleeping' and 'Shh' should remain. It should also include 'Leave Quietly! Remember, Council Enforcement Officers regularly monitor noise levels' The Town Council logo should be included with the annotation 'A Pontardawe Town Council led Community Campaign'.

It was agreed that stickers for taxis should include the main logo and 'Keep the noise down, the neighbours are sleeping' together with the Town Council logo.

Councillor Jones would also produce a two-sided design based on the original poster and wording for the beer mats.

The Clerk would speak to the establishments who were open late at night in the Town Centre, such as restaurants, take-aways, Public Houses and Taxi firms to ask them to become a partner in the campaign. Stickers and / or beer mats and posters would then be allocated to the establishments.

It was also suggested that a piece including a photograph be provided for the Community Mag prior to the 10<sup>th</sup> December 2017 which would advertise the scheme and thank the businesses that took part.

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

**10645. Development Committee held on the 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2017:** The Committee discussed the format of the Town Council Brochure (Plenary Powers Awarded)

The Town Council brochure should be produced every five years following the Election to give Members of the Public details of the work being carried out by the Town Council and links to the various web-sites and social media pages for additional information.

The brochure was to be 16 pages with eight in English and a Welsh Translation.

The brochure was to be set out as follows:

Front Cover – Ariel view of Pontardawe together with the Town Council logo.

Inside Cover – Introduction to the Town Council and photograph of Councillors.

Page 1 – Community Halls (General Information of groups and links to go valley and web site)

Page 2 – Parks

Page 3 – Footpaths and Cwmdu Glen

Page 4 – ‘Go Valley’

Page 5 – Past achievements and supported events i.e. Heart of the Valley, Pontardawe Festivals

Page 6 – Councillor and other contact details including social media and web sites. (Contact details and name of Youth representative should not be included) – Useful numbers also to be included i.e. Pantry etc.

The caveat ‘All details subject to change – Please consult our websites’ should be included.

**Resolved** that the Committees recommendations be agreed.

**10646. Clerks Report on Internal Audit themes:** Council was advised that the Auditors had stated that it was generally accepted that General Revenue Reserves usually lie within a range of three to twelve months of gross expenditure.

Pontardawe Town Councils General Revenue Reserve was approximately seven months of Gross Expenditure and therefore within the recommended guidelines.

**Resolved** to be noted.

**10647. Report on the CCTV at Trebanos Park:** Council was advised that the system was now old and not fit for purpose. Council discussed the fact that this was the only park with a CCTV system and that there had been few problems at the Park recently however the location of the Park on the Cycle Track meant that young people not local to the area regularly attended the park. It was therefore felt by all Councillors that there was an additional risk of vandalism due to these factors.

**Resolved** that the Clerk consider a replacement system then reports back to Council.

**10648. Account Schedule 338:**

**Resolved** that Account Schedule 338 totalling £16344.50 and the Bank Reconciliation be accepted in accordance with Standing Orders.

**10649. Consultation on the Rights of Way Improvement Plan:** Council wished to review in Committee.

**Resolved** to be discussed in a forthcoming Policy and Resources Committee Meeting.

**10650. Email re St Peters Church Christmas Tree Festival:** It was agreed that the Town Council place a Christmas Tree at the Christmas Tree Festival with the theme of 'Silence'.

**Resolved** to be noted.

**10651. Letter received re Hanging Baskets for the Summer of 2018:** Council was advised that the cost of the baskets would be £63.66 plus Vat for 74 baskets.

**Resolved** that a display will be ordered for Summer 2018.

**10652. Expansion to the Go Valley Web Site:** It was suggested that additional information could be added to the Go Valley Web Site to assist businesses and individuals needing assistance in the local area. Council was made aware that Neath Port Talbot Council had an extensive business directory already and therefore businesses were well catered for.

Regarding local people requiring assistance however it was agreed that contact details for PANTRY, NPT Homes, Refuge etc could be added to a page on the Go Valley web site.

**Resolved** that the Clerk will add this page to the Go Valley web site.

**10653. Consultation on Sections 52 and 53 of the Planning Act 2015:** Council wished to review in Committee.

**Resolved** to be discussed in a forthcoming Policy and Resources Committee Meeting.

**10654. Email received re potential Caravan Site in Pontardawe:** Council was advised that opposite the Riverside project in Glanrhyd there was land that might be suitable for a touring caravan site.

**Resolved** that the idea be agreed in principle but that the Clerk will contact the County Borough to discuss the feasibility.

**10655. Letter received re SLCC Membership:** The Clerk advised Council that membership was £177 for the year.

**Resolved** that the Membership will be continued for 2018.

**10656. Consultation on updated guidance on Community Reviews:** Council wished to review in Committee.

**Resolved** to be discussed in a forthcoming Policy and Resources Committee Meeting.

**10657. Urgent Road Safety Matters:** Council was made aware that the closed street race would not take place on the date originally stated.

**Resolved** to be noted.

**10658. Date of next Ordinary Meeting:** To confirm that the next meeting of Council will be held on the 11<sup>th</sup> December 2017 at Ynysmeudwy Hall commencing at 6.45pm.