

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Pontardawe Town Council held on Monday 14th April 2014, at Trebanos Hall, Swansea Road, Trebanos, Pontardawe commencing at 6.45pm

There was a minutes silence at the beginning of the meeting for former Councillor Mel Thomas

9489. Present Councillors Ms S Northcott (presiding), Mrs J Bowen, V Hotten, H Pickrell, Mrs L Purcell, D Harris, D B Thomas, Mrs E Puzey, G Davies, H Evans, B Williams, Ms R Lewis, P Williams.

Youth Representatives – Harri Evans – Mason

Apologies: Councillor A Nicholson.

9490. Disclosure of Personal and Pecuniary interests: Councillors Ms S Northcott, Mrs J Bowen, G Davies and V Hotten declared an interest in the Pontardawe and District Youth Facility. Councillor Mrs L Purcell and Ms R Lewis declared an interest in Planning.

Resolved this be noted.

9491. Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on the 10th March 2014:

Resolved that the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 10th March 2014, having been read and confirmed as a true record, be accepted by Council.

9492. Malcolm Bubb of the Pontardawe Indoor Bowls Club addressed Council: Malcolm Bubb the Chair of the Pontardawe Indoor Bowls Club provided some information on the current position at the Leisure Centre at Pontardawe.

He stated that there had been some indication that the Swimming Pool would be relocated to the site of the current indoor Bowling Green at Pontardawe Leisure Centre which would lead to the loss of this facility at Pontardawe.

He explained that the Bowls Club was not against the relocation of the Swimming Pool but believed that this should not be at the expense of the Bowls green but should be in addition.

The Bowls Club was currently encouraging new membership and had a petition of over 1000 signatures that requested the Bowls green be retained.

Celtic Leisure was now actively promoting the Bowls arena, and the Club was encouraging younger players from the local Community and Primary Schools to utilise the facility. They had also hosted the National Championship.

The Club was currently providing information to organisations on the Club, the green and the opportunities it provided, and hoped that in the event of a consultation on the replacement of the Bowling Green at the Leisure Centre, the Town Council would support the Clubs request for the swimming pool to be situated at the leisure Centre in addition to the Bowling Green and not as a replacement.

Resolved to be noted.

9493. Alun Pugh of Menter Iaith addressed Council: Council was advised that Menter Iaith promoted the increased use of the Welsh Language within the boundaries of Neath Port Talbot Council. 8000 people had taken part in activities, with approximately 341 events per year, 43 volunteers, 31 casual staff, 4 staff members and 48 local and national partners.

Some of the events that had taken place each year were the Gwach Gigs, The Gwach Festival, the Crinddail Film Festival, the Children's and Young Peoples clubs, Welsh Play schemes and the Language awareness courses. Menter Iaith also provided a translation service which was well utilised.

Alun thanked the Town Council for their recent grant of £400 towards the Gwach Festival and reiterated that the events were advertised bilingually and that they encourage attendance by both Welsh and English speakers.

He also thanked the Mayor for judging the Pontardawe Shop Window competition on St David's Day which was very well received by the retailers in the Town.

Resolved to be noted.

9494. Matters raised by members of the public: None.

Resolved to be noted.

9495. Police Matters: The Clerk provided the following information:

Trebanos:

The next PACT meeting was to be arranged.

The main PACT priority was complaints of off road biking in the area. PCSO Singh had confirmed that he had not seen vehicles but had received reports of their use. He confirmed that the police would continue to review the situation but members of the public should report instances through the 101 telephone number when they occurred.

Pontardawe:

The next PACT meeting was to be held on the 17/4/14 at The Cross Community Centre commencing at 6.30pm.

The main PACT priority was parking and speeding at Llanguick School.

The PCSO's confirmed that high visibility patrols were carried out during school opening and closing to deter motorists.

The Town Council was advised that Harri Evans-Mason had participated in the first youth PACT meeting which had produced some very constructive action points.

Resolved to be noted.

9496. Pontardawe & District Youth Facility: Councillors Ms S Northcott, V Hotten G Davies and Mrs J Bowen expressed an interest.

Council was advised that the Pontardawe and District Youth Facility had received no financial assistance for this fiscal year to date and therefore there was still £10,000 from the budget available. For the 2013/14 fiscal year the total support for the year was £3500.

Council was also advised that the self funding groups (Engage and Xroads) were utilising the facility and that the youth club was generally well attended, and had held its 4th anniversary party recently.

Resolved to be noted.

9497. Out of School activities brochure: The Clerk confirmed that a meeting of the partners took place on the 20th March 2014.

The meeting was arranged to determine the initial action to be taken:

- The Committee determined that initially the 2012/13 brochure should be put into electronic format to provide a basis for updating. The information would then be added to through information gathered from the individual Councils via posters on notice boards, information from local members, requests on Council web sites etc and a dedicated Facebook page that would be set up to capture information .

The facebook page could also be used as the electronic vehicle for the completed brochure. With a request for regular updates from activities providers.

- The committee discussed the format of the leaflet and concluded that although the format used for the 2013/14 brochure provided good information, it would also be useful if a middle page spread could be provided that could be removed from the brochure and pinned on notice boards. The centre spread would be in the format of an event calendar.
- With regard to the brochure art work it was felt that this was an opportunity to get the schools involved in the production. It was therefore recommended that each school in the area be contacted with an activity theme and asked to produce a piece of art work that could be included in the brochure.
- It was agreed to obtain three quotes for the printing. A local printer was recommended by Councillor Pugh. Details to be provided by the Clerk of GCG Community Council.
- The proposed activities fair was discussed briefly as this had been poorly attended in 2013/14. It was suggested that the fair could be linked to a community event such as the Summerfest, or a community fete in the Cilybebyll or GCG Community Councils area. Details for proposed fairs would be discussed at the next meeting.

- The method of keeping the online brochure up to date was also discussed and it was determined that if the format was facebook or another form of social media the information could be updated daily.

Time scales were also discussed and it was determined that initially Councillor Vince Hotten would arrange for the 2013/14 brochure to be put into electronic format. The Clerk Debby Phillips with assistance from Councillor Lams would then set up and populate a face book page to capture information. The Clerk would also contact the schools with regard to the art work.

It was suggested that the schools be given to the end of the Summer Term to produce the Art Work. The fairs if they were to be organised should take place during the school summer holidays and the brochures and online information forum available during September 2014.

It was agreed that a meeting would be arranged for the 15th May 2014 to continue with the planning.

Resolved Council will be kept up to date with developments.

9498. The Time for Change organizational Pledge: Council was advised that the action plan was in progress, but that we needed to determine when we wished to 'sign the pledge' and who was to be nominated as the 'MIND' champion.

Resolved that the 'Pledge' shall if at all possible be signed at the May 2014 AGM and that Councillor Sue Northcott shall act as 'MIND' champion.

9499. TATA Steel Consultation: Councillor Evans stated that the event in March showed in positive light that TATA were hoping to develop their production with state of the art process while being mindful of environmental factors. They claimed to be supportive of the South Wales community and economy and hoped to play a long term part in prosperity of the area in future years.

Resolved to be noted.

9500. Councillor Mel Thomas: The Clerk confirmed that following Councillor Thomas sad death on the 12th March 2014, there was a 'Casual Vacancy' in the Trebanos Ward. Council was advised that a notice of Casual Vacancy had been posted and that the statutory deadline would expire on the 2nd May 2014. If at least ten persons who were registered to vote in the electoral area in which the vacancy occurred contacted the returning officer in writing and requested an election, then an election would be held to fill the vacancy. If an election was not required however the seat could be filled through a co-option.

Resolved to be noted.

9501. Civic Pride Certificates: Council was advised that the Certificate had been designed by Councillor Bob Williams but we were still awaiting details of the student's names from Cwmtawe School.

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

9502. Planning: Councillor Purcell and Lewis expressed an interest and took no part in the planning portion of the meeting.

Meeting 31st March 2014

P2011/0752 Mr Shaun Lacey, Old Star Inn, Pontardawe Road, Pontardawe, Swansea, SA8 4SX.
Site Location: Old Star Inn, Pontardawe Road, Pontardawe, Swansea, SA8 4SX.

Proposed Development: Retention of use of building as office/ storage in association with the operation of a boiler/ tank breakdown, replacement, recovery, maintenance, and serving business with domestic stables rear and association external alterations.

Resolved: No Objection provided there is neighbourhood notification.

P2012/1036 Mr Emyr Davies, 44 Pheasant Road, Trebanos, Pontardawe, Swansea SA8 4DP.
Site Location: 44 Pheasant Road, Trebanos, Pontardawe, Swansea SA8 4DP.
Proposed Development: New Pitched roof to existing two storey extension, first floor rear extension and the retention of a detached outbuilding.

Resolved: No Objection provided there is neighbourhood notification.

P2013/1150 Mr Richard Kelly, 17 Western Road, Clydach, Swansea SA6 5DY.
Site Location: 163 Swansea Road, Trebanos, Pontardawe, Swansea, SA8 4BS.
Proposed Development: Demolition of existing single storey extension and porch and erection of part two storey and single storey rear extension.

Resolved: No Objection provided there is neighbourhood notification.

Discussed in Meeting:

P2013/0762 Nigel Thomas Plan Hire Ltd, Blaen yr Olchfa Fawr Farm, Salem, Morriston, Swansea SA6 6PG.

Site Location: Dan-y-Graig House, 36 Swansea Road, Pontardawe, Swansea, SA8 4AL.

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

Resolved: No Objection provided there is neighbourhood notification.

P2014/0285 Dr Wendy Hurst, Lidl UK GMBH, Off Cowbridge Road, Bridgend, CF31 3PH.
Site Location: Lidl Supermarket, Ffordd Parc Ynysderw, Pontardawe, Swansea, SA8 4EG.
Proposed Development: Single Storey Front Extension.

Resolved: No Objection however Council would like to see a public toilet included in the development.

9503. Policy and Resources Committee 17th March 2014 – Local Government Byelaws (Wales) Act 2012 (Implementation):

The document had been reviewed prior to the meeting and the following had been noted:

- The byelaw power may only be used by county and county borough councils and was not available to other legislating authorities.
- The powers should not be used to make byelaws where existing legislation addressed the problem.
- The Welsh Assembly Government felt it was unlikely that enforcement could be carried out by Town/Community Councils and therefore suggested partnership with an enforcement authority.
- PCSO's may exercise the power of an authorised officer and issue Fixed Penalty notices for infringements of byelaws however this would require the agreement of the chief police officer in the area. (The Committee was aware that the Chief Superintendent of the local district had already stated that he was not in favour of this course of action and would not agreed to PCSOs becoming authorised officers)

The Committee recommended that the documentation be noted as the issuing of a byelaw by the Town Council would be either impossible due the lack of authority (i.e. alcohol and noise issues), or impractical due to the lack of enforcement ability.

Resolved that the committee's recommendation be ratified.

9504. Clerks Report on Trebanos Park: The Clerk confirmed that the 'Boulder Project' from the Core funding grant was now in progress. With regard to the proposed WREN grant application to improve the facilities in the park, the Clerk was in the process of obtaining letters of support, quotes from park suppliers and supporting documents required by the grant providers. She did

however confirm that the School, Hall user groups and Youth Rugby Club would be involved in the decision making process.

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

9505. Clerks Report on Allotment Provision: Council was advised that investigations were underway as to whether land owned by local schools could be utilised for allotment purposes. Councillor Purcell was in the process of determining the position. A meeting of the Cwmdu Glen committee was also to be scheduled in which allotment matters could be discussed.

Resolved to be noted.

9506. Clerks Report on Electricity Provision at the Community Halls: The Clerk confirmed that following a recommendation by the Society of Local Council Clerks she had engaged a utilities broker to negotiate a bulk buying agreement with Scottish and Southern Energy which would reduce the Electricity Charges at the Hall. The Council would however need to pay by direct debit.

The Clerk confirmed that Section 150 of the Local Government Act 1972 had now been repealed which removed the requirement for accounts to be paid by cheque with two signatures and therefore provided Council was happy with the security of a direct debit this was now appropriate.

Resolved that the agreement be noted and that two members who usually sign the cheques countersign a copy of the direct debit mandate.

9507. Pwllfawtkin liaison meeting held on the 25th March 2014: No Councillors were available to attend the meeting.

Resolved to be noted.

9508. Clerks Holiday: Council agreed to suspend standing orders to discuss the Clerks Holiday as the next item. The Clerk requested one week's holiday beginning on the 21st April 2014 with cover by a relief Town Clerk for three days, due to the proximity to the end of year and the level of work currently in progress.

Resolved to agree the Clerks holiday and to employ relief cover for three days.

9509. Development Meeting required to discuss Open Meeting: It was agreed that a Development Meeting would be scheduled to discuss the Open Meeting held during 2014.

Resolved that a Development meeting will be scheduled for 6.00pm on the 28th April 2014.

9510. Accounts Schedule 298 and Direct Debit Schedule for 2013/14:

Resolved to accept both schedules with the account schedule totaling £8480.32

9511. Letter of Thanks from Menter Iaith: A letter was received thanking the Town Council for its grant of £400.

Resolved to be noted.

9512. Request for Grant Income: A request was received from Pontardawe Outdoor Bowls Club for a grant for £250.

Resolved that the grant of £250 be awarded to the Pontardawe Outdoor Bowls club.

The grant given is in the interest of, and will bring direct benefit to, this area or any part of it, or all, or some of its inhabitants.

9513. Letter received from Alltwen HSA re grant requested: A letter was read from the Alltwen Primary School HSA expressing their disappointment on the Town Council refusal to award a grant to the school as it was outside of the Town Councils area. The HSA requested the Council reconsider as some children from the Town Council's area did attend the school. Council discussed the letter but felt that there should be not change to their original decision.

Resolved to be noted.

9514. Neath Port Talbot Community Review – Second Stage: It was agreed that this matter should be discussed in a Policy & Resources Committee.

Resolved that a Policy and Resources Committee be arranged for the 28th April 2014.

9515. Consultation on the Playing Fields (Community involvement in disposal decisions) (Wales) Measure 2010: It was agreed that this matter should be discussed in a Policy & Resources Committee.

Resolved that a Policy and Resources Committee be arranged for the 28th April 2014.

9516. Email re Minor Authority Governor at Rhyd y Fro School: Council was advised that unfortunately Councillor P Williams had resigned as Governor. It was suggested that perhaps Councillor A Nicholson may wish to take up the position.

Resolved that Councillor A Nicholson be asked to undertake the position of Minor Authority Governor at Rhyd y Fro Primary School on behalf of Council.

9517. Letter received from the Post Office re Trebanos Post Office: The Clerk read a letter received from the Post Office confirming the closure of the current Post Office at Trebanos and its relocation to the Service Station. They also confirmed that action would be taken to identify pedestrian walk ways on the forecourt following review of local residents and the Town Council's feedback.

Resolved to be noted.

9518. Letter received from Councillor H Evans re representation: Council was advised that Councillor H Evans who was formally an Independent Councillor was now representing the Liberal Democrat Party.

Resolved to be noted.

9519. Letter received from Egni – re the solar PV Co-Operative: Council was provided with information on the scheme.

Resolved to be noted.

9520. Letter of thanks for grants received: Letters of thanks received from Neath Shopmobility, the Stroke Association, Bobath, Hafan Cymru, Urdd, Shelter Cymru and the Teenage Cancer Trust

Resolved to be noted.

9521. Changes at the Pontardawe 'One Stop Shop' : Council was advised that the Once stop Shop had been rebranded as 'The HWB at Pontardawe' and provided advise on Money , Courses and Learning, Computer skills, Housing, Jobs, Council Tax, Benefits, Domestic Violence, Housing Benefit and NPT Homes services on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Pontardawe Library was also able to provide a range of additional services six days a week.

Resolved that Karen Jones Head of Corporate Strategy and Democratic Services be invited to the next meeting to discuss the changes.

9522. Email received requesting clarification of the County Boroughs future leisure provision for Pontardawe: Given the level of uncertainty over the future of the bowls green and the swimming pool at Pontardawe it was agreed that official notification of the position was required from the County Borough.

Resolved that the Clerk would write formally to Neath Port Talbot Council to determine the position.

9523. Date and time of next meeting: The date of the next Ordinary Meeting of Council will be Monday 12th May 2014 at Ynysmeudwy Hall commencing at 6.45pm.

Signed **Dated**