

**Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Pontardawe Town Council held on Monday
14th of February 2011 at Ynysmeudwy Hall commencing at 6:45p.m**

8431. Present: Councillor Mrs J Bowen (presiding), Mrs E Puzey, M James, Mrs C Lambourne, DB Thomas, Mrs A Davies, D Harris, H Pickrell, AE Williams, V Thomas, Sue Northcott, A Nicholson, H Evans, B Williams.

Apologies: Councillor Mrs L Purcell.

8432. Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on the 10th January 2011.

Resolved that the minutes of the meeting having been read and confirmed as a true record, be accepted by the council.

8433. Minute Clerk: Councillor Mrs J Bowen welcomed Issac Puzey, the newly appointed minute clerk, to the meeting, and confirmed that the appointment was initially for a six month trial period.

Resolved that the appointment be ratified by Council.

8434. Police Matters: Council was provided with a summary of the PACT Meeting issues and resolutions for Pontardawe and Trebanos. These were as follows:

Pontardawe

- Complaints of taxis parking on the pavement at Herbert St.
- Complaints of food outlets in the town open until 4am attracting anti social behaviour. Also loud music from public houses until the early hours.
- Anti Social behaviour in Pontardawe Town Centre – Complaints received during PACT meetings with regard to the youths, congregating, particularly on Friday Night. Action was taken and the youths were appropriately advised.

Trebanos

- Complaints of speeding along Swansea Road.
- A new Police Officer was introduced for the area.
- Statistics on crime rates published showed nothing significant and at a low.
- There was no further sale of alcohol by an unnamed outlet and underage drinking was now not a problem.
- Parking on Graig Road – Police to look into parking on the brow of the hill.
- Graffiti at the bottom of Trebanos – no arrest.
- Drug warrant issued due to possession of cannabis.
- Dog – fouling had however increased in the canal and park area.
- The Proposed Teenage Shelter in the park was a general concern due to possible increases in anti-social behaviour, e.g. drinking, drugs etc.

A letter was to be forwarded to the Town Council expressing concern over the teenage shelter.

PACT Meetings:

Pontardawe – 7th of April 2011 at 6.30PM in the Cross Community Centre.
Trebanos – 7th of April 2011 at 6.30PM in Trebanos Hall.

Resolved to be noted.

8435. Theft of CCTV Camera from Trebanos Park: Council was concerned that although the culprit had been apprehended and a caution given by the police, compensation could not be awarded to the Town Council. It was therefore felt that the culprit should be expected to pay towards the reinstatement of the camera

Resolved that the Clerk would identify if legally Council were in a position to request compensation.

8436. One Stop Shop: Reduced service monitored and the needs of community continue to be met.

Resolved to be noted.

8437. Pheasant Road, Trebanos: Road closed on the 14th of February. No notification of length of time given to the community.

Resolved that the position to be monitored.

8438. Local Cyclists: Council was advised by the Clerk that 'Sustrans' was currently working with both Trebanos and Rhyd-y-Fro Primary schools on projects to increase the proficiency of cyclists, bike maintenance and recreational cycling. At present both schools had achieved a 'bronze award', and the education of the children was continuing. There were a number of other organisations offering courses on cycling, from maintenance to proficiency, however, any requests for education, would need to be organised.

Resolved that the Clerk would contact the Police, with regard to the current problem of cyclists without adequate lights, and, would also discuss cycling with the Youth Leaders at the Youth Club in Pontardawe, to determine a way forward.

8439. Bridle Path, Pheasant Road, Trebanos: There were no further developments with regard to the encroachment of one of the resident's properties on to the bridle path.

Resolved to be monitored.

8440. Local Government Boundary Commission for Wales – Review: The Clerk stated that enquiries had been made with the Boundary Commission. The total expenditure of the Boundary Commission for the 2010 financial year was £636,312. However an accurate cost for the review that started January 2009 and completed in August 2010, for the Neath Port Talbot area was unavailable. An estimate was approximately £20,000.

Resolved to be noted.

8441. Location of Christmas Lights: Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council confirmed that lighting festoons would not be placed against the cenotaph in future.

Resolved to be noted.

8442. Trebanos Park Toilet Block refurbishment: To be discussed at a later date when Council's budget is reviewed, however this project should be prioritised.

Resolved to be noted.

8443. Ynysderw road, Pontardawe: The Clerk advised Council that Councillor Purcell had provided some information on the availability of a sign to warn vehicle users not to follow a satellite navigation device. It seems that there was no prescribed Department of Transport Sign, however, an unprescribed sign could be placed, but, Neath Port Talbot Council, would not fund a placement of this type. It was also likely that Welsh Assembly Government approval would be required.

Resolved that Councillor Mike James would make enquiries about a 'No HGV/ large vehicle' sign as an alternative.

8444. Car Parking Charges at Pontardawe: The Clerk confirmed that two letters had been sent to the County Borough, firstly objecting to the car parking charges, and secondly, explaining Councils dismay as to the lack of prior consultation. Council, was advised that the proposed introduction of car parking in Pontardawe was to be delayed and instead was to be reviewed after the regeneration programme for Pontardawe had been completed.

With regard to the letter expressing Councils concern over the lack of prior consultation, a response was received stating that no specific consultation with Town Councils was required by law.

Resolved to be noted.

8445. Planning:

P2011/0048

Ansawdd Development Ltd

Site Location: Plot adjacent to number 1 Bethesda Road, Ynysmeudwy, Swansea.
SA8 4QE.

Proposed Development: Variation of Condition one of planning permission reference P2005/0550 to extend the period of time in which to commence development for 16 houses.

Resolved no objection.

8446. Personnel and Policy and Resources Committee: The Clerk advised Council, that a Policy and Resources committee would need to be arranged to discuss the web- site and also the introduction of a revised policy for Equality and Diversity, following the introduction of the Equalities Act 2010. A Personnel Committee was also required to discuss the new Clerks 'Contract of Employment'

Resolved that both meetings be held on the 21st February 2011 at the Council offices in Herbert Street, Pontardawe. Personnel at 6.00pm and Policy and Resources at 6.30pm.

8447. End of Audit Report: Public Notice had been placed in the office window, at 4 Herbert Street, Pontardawe on the 4th February 2011 and would remain there for 14 days.

Resolved to be noted.

8448. Accounts 263 totalling £7458.42.

Resolved to be agreed. Proposed by Councillor Mike James and second by Councillor Christina Lambourne.

8449. Retirement Party: The Mayor thanked Town Clerk Debby Phillips for the organisation of the Retirement Party for the previous Clerk. The Mayor also confirmed that she had provided a voucher, as a gift to the harpist.

Resolved to be noted.

8450. Pwllfawatkyn liaison meetings 2011: Council was advised that initial dates were 7th March, 6th June, 5th September and 5th December. Councillor Bob Williams confirmed that as yet there had been no response to his request for the dates to be altered.

Resolved to be noted.

8451. Councillor M Thomas: Council was advised that Councillor Mel Thomas was recovering well and had been moved from a high dependency ward to a general ward

Resolved to be noted.

8452. County Borough Council – Community Liaison Forum 14th February 2011: Councillor Northcott gave a brief presentation stating the matters that were discussed. One of the major issues was the unofficial charters currently existing between the County Borough and the Community and Town Councils. Council

believed that this informal charter was not an effective tool, and would welcome a more formal arrangement.

Resolved that as a formal agreement would need to be achieved via 'One Voice Wales', Councillor Nicholson would look into matters and pursue a more formal Charter.

8453. Hanging Basket Scheme – Summer 2011: Council confirmed that they would like to continue the hanging basket scheme, for the summer of 2011.

Resolved that the Clerk would arrange for the baskets to be installed, and would advise Council once the work had been carried out.

8454. Ynysamond Road, Trebanos: Council was advised that road works were in the process of being carried out adjacent to Ynysamond Road, in Trebanos. Council were however unsure why.

Resolved that the Clerk would make enquiries and report back to Council.

8455. National Grid Works, Holly Street, Pontardawe: A number of Councillors together with the Clerk attended a presentation by National Grid, stating the nature of the work to be undertaken on the former gas works site. The site is to be cleared and all underground tanks removed. The land may be sold at a later date, however, any building would be subject to a planning application at that time. Some concern was raised about working at night, and the effect of the work on the infrastructure of the canal.

Resolved that the position be monitored.

8456. Trustees of the PONTY PROJECT:

Councillors Mrs Jean Bowen, Mrs C Lambourne, Sue Northcott and Andrew Nicholson declared an interest as they are trustees of the PONTY Project.

A request was received from the Ponty Project Trustees, to change the wording of financial assistance, offered by the Town Council from a negative to a positive light.

Resolved that the Town Council agree to a contribution to the PONTY Project of up to £10,000 pa. To be reviewed 5 years from the original decision on the 28th September 2008.

8457. Cefn Llan Resident Association: A letter was received from the Cefn Llan Residents Association. It stated that they, with the assistance of a Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council grants officer, were attempting to obtain grants in order to place a playground at Cefn Llan, Pontardawe. The Town Council had already agreed to lease the land from Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council, and to take over the insurance, maintenance and monitoring of the park, once it was built, however, the residents now also requested that the Town Council provide matched funding for the proposed 'WREN' Grant. The grant was for £50,000 and the residents association, had requested 11% (£5500).

Resolved that in principle, the Council would agree to the £5500 matched funding, and would arrange for it to form part of the 2011/12 budget.

8458. 7.25 AM Saturday Bus service: Council was advised that the service between Brynamman and Pontardawe has been terminated, due to lack of use.

Resolved to be noted.

8459. Invitation to Buckingham Palace : A letter was received by the Clerk inviting the outgoing mayor to a Garden Party to take place in July 2011. Eligible candidates would be selected at random.

Resolved that Councillor Jean Bowens name be put forward.

8460. Teenage Shelter at Trebanos Park:

A letter was received from Mrs Judith Davies with regard to the 'teenage shelter' at Trebanos Park. Mrs Davies together with another member of the public also attended the meeting to voice their objections.

Mrs Davies objections were as follows:

- That full consultation had not been carried out with residents of the area.
- That a teenage shelter would encourage disruptive elements from other areas to the village.
- That the shelter would encourage illegal activity such as drinking and drug taking within an area populated by younger teenagers.
- That the funds being directed towards the teenage shelter would have been better spent on upgrading the play equipment in the park.
- That anti social behaviour would increase.

Council discussed the history of the project, as the decision to construct a meeting area for teenagers, was made originally, a number of years before, but, at the time could not be acted on due to a lack of suitable funding.

The teenage shelter was originally suggested as a solution to local teenagers congregating in the bus shelter and other unsuitable places. Consultation with teenagers from the area attending the PONTY Project was undertaken and letters of support obtained from the local Comprehensive school and the Police.

Resolved that as the grant had already been obtained, and the structure ordered from suppliers, it would be constructed as originally intended, however, the situation would be closely monitored and reviewed on a regular basis, so that should it be felt by Council that the shelter was having a detrimental effect on the area, it would be removed.

8461. Road Safety: Council was advised that work had been carried out near Pontardawe cross, however, vans were parked irresponsibly and pedestrian access was limited due to this. There were also no safety cones in use. It was however confirmed this was emergency work being carried out due to an electrical failure. There was also a risk of explosion, and therefore remedial work needed to be carried out quickly.

Council was concerned that the depression at the Avenue roundabout was still unresolved.

It was also mentioned that salt gritting bins, were not being filled, however, Councillor Davies confirmed that the County Borough were aware of the situation, and were retaining their limited supplies for the present, due to the threat of another 'cold snap', the grit bins would however be filled once this period had passed.

Resolved that the Clerk contact the County Borough with regard to the salt bins and the depression at the Avenue Roundabout.

Signed **Dated**