

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

**8462. Present:** Councillor Mrs J Bowen (presiding), Mrs E Puzey, M James, Mrs C Lanbourne, DB Thomas, D Harris, H Pickrell, V Thomas, S Northcott, A Nicholson, H Evans, B Williams.

**Apologies:** Councillor Mrs L Purcell, AE Williams.

**8463. Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on the 14<sup>th</sup> of February 2011.**

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

**8464. Police Matters:** Council was provided with dates for the next PACT meetings:

PACT Meetings:

Pontardawe – 7<sup>th</sup> of April 2011 at 6.30PM in the Cross Community Centre.

Trebanos – 7<sup>th</sup> of April 2011 at 6.30PM in Trebanos Hall.

**Resolved** to be noted.

**8465. Theft of CCTV Camera from Trebanos Park:** The Town clerk had contacted the County's solicitor and was informed that the Council were within their rights to pursue compensation, and, that a letter could be sent to both the boy and his parents. However, the police stated that as the culprit was a minor, no personal information could be provided without a court order. The solicitor then advised the Clerk that pursual would be costly. Sergeant Andy Abraham stated however that the minor was of previous good character, and that the family had supported the actions of the police. The town council expressed disappointment but agreed no further action should be taken.

**Resolved** to be noted.

**8466. Pheasant Road, Trebanos:** Works on the culvert, and the road had been completed.

**Resolved** to be noted.

**8467. Local Cyclists:** The Clerk stated that she had written an official letter to Sergeant Andy Abraham with regard to dangerous cyclists in the area, but as yet had received no reply. She did however also state that the youth club, in the Ponty Project was in the process of arranging a workshop to encourage teenage cyclists in the area to undergo cycle training. This road show would be in conjunction with Cwmtawe School, Pontardawe PACT, Neath Port Talbot Road Safety Team and the local Police.

**Resolved** that Council be kept informed of developments

**8468. Bridle Path, Pheasant Road, Trebanos:** It was noted that the path was extremely narrow and 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 noted.

**8469. Ynysderw road, Pontardawe:** Councillor James reported that representatives from Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council had been to review the signage and had stated that it was insufficient. They would now take the matter further.

**Resolved** that the position be monitored.

**8470. Car Parking Charges at Pontardawe:** Council was informed that the proposed introduction of car parking charges in Pontardawe had been postponed.

**Resolved** to monitor developments.

**8471. Accounts 264** totalling £9213.60

**Resolved** to be agreed under financial regulations

**8472. Councillor M Thomas:** Council was advised that Councillor Mel Thomas was still in hospital but was recovering.

**Resolved** to be noted.

**8473. Hanging Basket Scheme – Summer 2011:** The Clerk confirmed that there had been no notification as yet of the date of the replacement of the winter baskets by the summer baskets, but Council would be kept informed. She did however state that one of the restaurants that had opened since the introduction of the scheme had expressed an interest and would like a bracket installed. The Clerk confirmed that one bracket would cost over £200 to manufacture however this cost would be reduced to just over £100 if we arranged for five to be manufactured and kept some in stock.

**Resolved** that the Clerk will arrange for the additional brackets to be manufactured and would also inform Council when the summer display was available.  
Expenditure authorised under S144 of the Local Government Act 1792

**8474. Ynysymond Road, Pontardawe:** The Clerk had made enquiries and written a letter to Murphy's to clarify the reason for the works. No response had been received as of yet.

**Resolved** that the Clerk will write another letter.

**8475. Cefn Llan Resident Association:** Council discussed proposals to move the Cefn Llan play area project forward. Council understood that as well as the matched funding of £5500 for a WREN Grant and the agreement to cover park insurance and maintenance, that had

already agreed by Council, some additional action would be required by the Council to move the project forward.

Council therefore agreed to approach Neath Port Talbot Homes in order secure and new lease of the land required for the Play Area, as the original lease had expired.

Council also agreed to be the principal party in a grant request to the Big Lottery Fund for a 'People and Places' grant.

**Resolved** that the Clerk will liaise with Paul Hinder at Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council, who would be conducting the negotiations and writing the bid on Councils behalf. Expenditure authorised under S 19 Local Government (misc provision) Act 1976

**8476. Teenage Shelter at Trebanos Park:** Council was advised that minor graffiti had taken place at the Shelter, but that CCTV images were sufficient to allow the PCSO to find the culprit. The majority of local teenagers were however very happy with the shelter and were aware that if it was abused it would be removed. Council felt that despite this minor damage the shelter would provide a focal point for teenagers that was covered by CCTV and known to the authorities and would In addition be useful for day time seating for families and the like.

**Resolved** to be monitored.

**8477. Policy and Resources Committee:** The new Policy on Equality and Diversity was discussed in full to ensure that it covered all the points required under the Equality Act 2010, and it was agreed that this would replace the current council policies for discrimination on the grounds of Disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.

It was also recommended that all councillors would be provided with a copy of the policy, and that all staff would undergo a training seminar conducted by the Clerk.

The current web site provision was discussed and a list of improvements identified.

The high sheriffs award for 2011 was discussed, as there would be insufficient time to allow this to be discussed in full Council, prior to the deadline for submission, and it was recommended that PCSO Mark Jones would be nominated for his work with the Pontardawe and District Youth Club.

The committee also discussed a request from the management committee at Trebanos Hall for computer internet access; however, it was determined that additional details on the request would be needed prior to a full discussion.

**Resolved** that the committee's decision on the introduction of the Equality and Diversity policy, and the High Sheriff's award recommendation be ratified. The Clerk will make further enquiries with regards to the upgrade of the Council Internet provision, and the needs of the user groups at Trebanos Hall.

**8478. Personnel Committee:** The Committee discussed the Clerks Contract of Employment in full, and recommended that the contract be accepted.

**Resolved** to be ratified.

**8479. Meeting at Trebanos Park:** It was noted that Councillor Eryl Puzey had given her apologies prior to the meeting and this should have been noted on the report.

The following points were made:

- There was no sign on the main road directing members of the public to the park
- The sign at the entrance to the park required updating, to increase the size of the sign and to specify that the park has 24hour CCTV Cameras. It should also state that dogs and alcohol were not permitted
- The fences around the older children's play area were currently wooden and open; this should be replaced by a mesh fence and a self closing gate, to prevent dog fouling in the children's area.
- The safety surfaces needed replacing in the smaller children's play area.
- The gate to the sewerage works was routinely open and should be closed and locked when not in use
- The area used by the Rugby club for supporters, was not being maintained by the rugby club
- The fence adjacent to the rugby field was in a poor state of repair and required maintenance
- The local primary school should be encouraged to take an interest in the park by planting daffodils on the bank adjacent to the children's play area.
- The building providing office space for the PCSO together with a maintenance store for the grounds man should not include a toilet as it was felt that this would encourage vandalism.

It was also noted that there was visible glass within the matting, at the small children's play area. The Clerk stated that the last ROSPA report had not raised a risk issue however Council felt that due to the Health and Safety issues there should be an emergency inspection, with the area being closed off should it be felt to be a health and safety issue.

**Resolved** that the Clerk will take action by obtaining additional information where required, getting quotes, and making enquiries. The priority should however be the children's play area which should be closed if a danger was present.

Expenditure authorised under S 19 Local Government Act (misc prov) 1976

**8480. Planning Committee Meeting and Finance Meeting:** Both meetings were to be held on Monday the 21<sup>st</sup> of March at Herbert Street. Planning Committee meeting is to take place at 6pm and the finance meeting is to take place immediately after at 6:30 pm.

**Resolved** to be noted.

**8481. Finance Meeting to discuss grants:** Council agreed that this should be held following the April meeting. The date suggested was the Monday following the meeting.

**Resolved** to be noted.

**8482. Local Authority Charter Agreements:** Council was informed that 'One Voice Wales' were pursuing a formal charger agreement with the County Borough Councils, as it was felt that the current informal agreement was not of benefit.

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

**8483. Local Development Plan:** The Clerk stated that a meeting was to be held at the Pontardawe Leisure centre at 10pm on the 16<sup>th</sup> of May.

**Resolved** that the Clerk and Mayor attend.

**8484. Pwllfawtkin liaison meeting:** The meeting set for March had been cancelled.

**Resolved** to be noted.

**8485. Footpath Upkeep:** The Clerk confirmed that a Grant had been received from Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council for £3164.95.

**Resolved** to be noted.

**8486. Meeting for Cwn Nant Lleici Quarry:** The Clerk stated that there would be a meeting at the quarry offices on the 29<sup>th</sup> March 2011 at 5.15pm.

**Resolved** that the Clerk will find out who is to attend, and inform them.

**8487. Arena Project Pontardawe:** The Annual General meeting was to be held on the 4<sup>th</sup> of April at 7:30pm at the Pontardawe Arts Centre.

**Resolved** that Councillor Bob Williams will attend.

**8488. 2011 Census:** A Guide was given to councillors for information with regard to the 2011 census.

**Resolved** that this is sufficient, and a representation from the Census officer would not be required.

**8489. Herbert Street Bridge, Pontardawe:** The Herbert Street Bridge had been strengthened and a stone wall had been built alongside.

**Resolved** to be noted.

**8490. Larger Council Conference:** Council was advised that a conference was to take place on the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> of April in Cardiff at a cost of £200 over the course of two days.

**Resolved** that the Clerk will attend the meeting.  
Expenditure authorised under S111 Local Government Act 1976

**8491. Ynni'r Fro Programme:** A letter was received giving details of a programme relating to renewable energy sources. Council expressed interest in solar panels on the community halls, and it was noted that a water mill had existed in Cwm Du at one time.

**Resolved** that the Clerk will contact the organisation to make enquiries about the cost and feasibility of solar panels and to explore renewable energy sources.

**8492. Pontardawe Old Foundry site:** A number of letters had been received from concerned residents as the site was felt to be unsecure and may be a danger to children.

**Resolved** that the Clerk make enquiries about security with the estate agent.

**8493. Membership to 'One Voice Wales':** Council was advised that the membership of the association was likely to be a prerequisite for the council to obtain quality status in the future. The cost to members was £776 for the 2011-12 year.

**Resolved** that the Council will renew its membership for this year.  
Expenditure authorised under S111 Local Government Act 1976

**8494. Trebanos Rugby club:** The Clerks advised Council that there had been an instance of the children's play area being used by the club for training, and causing damage to the turf; however, minimal damage has been caused so far. The Clerk confirmed that she had officially contacted the Rugby Club and asked for them not to do it again. The Club had provided assurances that this would not happen in the future.

**Resolved** to be noted.

**8495. Benches at the Pontardawe Cross:** Council was advised that due to the redevelopment on 'The Cross' in Pontardawe, the two Town Council seats needed to be relocated. It was agreed between the Mayor, Grounds man and Town Clerk that they should be situated at Trebanos and Ynysmedwy halls. Due to the very short time scales it was not possible to await a Council meeting to discuss.

**Resolved** that the decision be ratified.

**8496. Swansea Valley Area Forum:** A meeting was to be held on the 24<sup>th</sup> of March at 6pm at the Fforest Fach resource centre in Clydach.

**Resolved** that Councillor Andrew Nicholson is to attend.

**8497. Employer Contribution rates:** Council was advised that the Employer contribution rates were as follows:  
19.3% of pensionable payroll plus and annual payment of £200 to be paid monthly.  
The annual payment to raise by 5.3% on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2012 and each April thereafter.  
Council was advised that these changes had already been agreed by Swansea City and Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council.

**Resolved** to agree the changes.

**8498. One Voice Wales:** Council was informed that One Voice Wales were interested in Volunteer Responders for a number of policy orders.

**Resolved** that the policy consultation list be distributed to Councillors, who would then inform the Clerk of any preferences.

**8499. Clerk annual leave:** The Clerk requested annual leave from the 9<sup>th</sup> to the 22<sup>nd</sup> of June.

**Resolved** that this be agreed, and the Clerk's deputy will cover for the two week period.

**8500. Road Safety** Disappointment was expressed that salt gritting bins had still not been replenished. The Clerk confirmed that no response had been received to her letter.

**Resolved** that the Clerk send a second letter.

**Signed** ..... **Dated** .....