

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Pontardawe Town Council held on Monday 14th September 2015, at Trebanos Hall, Swansea Road, Trebanos, Pontardawe commencing at 6.45pm

9979. Present Councillors D B Thomas (presiding), Mrs J Bowen, D Harris, V Hotten, B Williams, H Evans, Mrs L Purcell, G Davies, A Nicholson, Ms S Northcott, Mrs R Phillips and H Pickrell
Youth Representatives – Harri Evans-Mason & Thomas Hutchins

Apologies: Councillor P Williams, Ms C Ford, Mrs E Puzey and M James

9980. Disclosure of Personal and Pecuniary interests: Councillors Mrs J Bowen, G Davies, A Nicholson, Ms S Northcott and V Hotten declared an interest in the Pontardawe and District Youth Facility, as they are Trustees.

Resolved this be noted.

9981. Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on the 13th July 2015:

Resolved that the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on the 13th July 2015, having been read and confirmed as a true record, be accepted by Council.

9982. Matters raised by members of the public: Members of the Public expressed concern over fencing and unauthorised tree felling by a private individual at Cwmdu Glen together with the safety of the upper path from the 'green bridge' to Rhyd y Fro.

Resolved to be noted.

9983. The Chairman of the Royal British Legion addressed Council: Wyn Davies from the Royal British Legion addressed Council. He explained that unfortunately as a number of the long standing members were no longer able to arrange the Remembrance Service it was likely that 2015 would be the last service organised in Pontardawe by the British Legion. He asked that Council consider what actions could be taken to support the British Legion in 2016.

Resolved that the matter will be reviewed.

9984. Police Matters: Council discussed in detail the Policing priorities at Pontardawe together with issues surrounding the Summer Festival. It was agreed that the Festival was a very successful celebration in the Town which showcased both the Town Centre and the local retailers. The Clerk confirmed that despite there being significant constraints on Police funding Sergeant James had ensured that there were sufficient Constables and PCSO's on call to cover issues. She also confirmed that there had been only one call over the weekend relating to parking.

Some other issues had been encountered which unfortunately had not been reported however Council did reiterate that issues encountered by residents needed to be reported at the time for the Police to take action.

The majority of the issues surrounded the lack of facilities which could be addressed in future years.

The Clerk also confirmed that Sergeant James was aware of the issues surrounding the PCSO's transfers but as promotion from PCSO to PC was now the preferred method of recruitment, the practice would continue. In Pontardawe however there was one PCSO who had indicated she was not looking for promotion and therefore she would remain as the main contact in the area. This would provide some of the consistency required.

Council agreed that due to significant financial pressures from Central Government 'old style' Policing was no longer possible but was pleased that on the whole the area was a safe place to live.

One issue that still caused concern was the lack of response by the Chief Constable and the Police Commissioner to recent correspondence as there was still concern that the Swansea Valley had limited emergency cover by car as it was no longer a Police 'hub'.

It was also suggested that the lack of response should be included in any discussions with Christina Rees, the Member of Parliament for Neath.

Resolved that the Clerk will once again contact the Police Commissioner.

9985. Pontardawe & District Youth Facility: Councillors V Hotten, G Davies, A Nicholson. Ms S Northcott and Mrs J Bowen expressed an interest.

Council was advised that the Pontardawe and District Youth Facility had received an additional grant to assist with liquidity for 2015/16. The budget for the remainder of the year was therefore £8000.

Resolved to be noted.

9986. Pelican/Zebra crossing requests: The Clerk confirmed that she had requested a feasibility study but had received no response.

Resolved that Councillor Phillips will look into the lack of response and report back.

9987. Christmas 2015: The Clerk confirmed that 'Vale' was happy to transport a tree as in the previous year and that Celtic Leisure had pledged £1000 towards the Christmas Tree for 2015. With regard to the erection of the lights for 2015, Neath Port Talbot Council had confirmed that the original lights and banners were still available and that to erect and dismantle the full Christmas display together with the Christmas tree lights and attendance at the 'switching on' would be £6277.69.

The Clerk confirmed that she had contacted a number of local Community, Town and County Councils and had been advised that on the whole the Town and Community Councils were utilising the local County Borough Council with some of the larger municipal authorities utilising private hire companies to organize both the supply and fixture of the lights. The costs

associated with this method however was far greater and seemed more effective for very large displays.

The Clerk also confirmed that the budget would support the erection of the Christmas Lights for 2015. Council was however keen to reiterate that the level of provision for future years would depend on budgetary constraints so there would be no guarantees for future years.

Resolved that the Town Council will employ Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council to place both the Christmas Tree and Street Lighting for the 2015 Christmas Season.

9988. Missing Signage at 'The Cross': Council was advised that the sign would be replaced by Neath Port Talbot Council.

Resolved to be noted.

9989. Internet Banking: Council was advised that the transfer to Unity Bank was in progress however had not yet been completed.

Resolved to be noted.

9990. Trebanos Post Office: Council was advised that unfortunately the pedestrian walkway had not been painted on the forecourt.

Resolved that the Clerk will obtain revised time scales.

9991. Planning meeting held on the 27th July 2015:

P2015/0564

Mr Martin Naughton, 102 Brecon Road, Pontardawe, Swansea, SA84PD.

Site Location: 102 Brecon Road, Pontardawe, Swansea, SA84PD.

Proposed Development: Demolition of existing single storey rear extension and construction of a single storey rear extension.

Resolved No objection provided there is neighbourhood notification.

P2015/0555

Mr Ching on Yau, 107 Swansea Road, Trebanos, Pontardawe, SA84BN.

Site Location: 109 Swansea Road, Trebanos, Pontardawe, Swansea, SA84BN.

Proposed Development: Lawful Development Certificate for use of building as takeaway.

Resolved No Objection.

P2015/0218

Aggregate Industries UK Ltd, Bardon Hall, Markfield, Leicestershire, LE97 1TL.

Site location: Cwm Nant Lleici Quarry, Gellifowy Road, Ynysmeudwy, Pontardawe, SA84TU.

Proposed Development: Construction of roadway (approx 335m in length)

Resolved No objection provided environmental impact with acceptable limits.

P2015/0626

Mr David Bennett, Dolgoch, Pontardawe Road, Pontardawe, Swansea, SA84SX.

Site location: Dolgoch, Pontardawe Road, Pontardawe, Swansea, SA84SX.

Proposed Development: Two Storey rear extension and detached garage.

Resolved No objection provided there is neighbourhood notification.

P2015/0593

Allison Thomas, Swn yr Afon, Cwmclyd Road, Rhyd y Fro, Pontardawe, SA84TE.

Site location: Swn yr Afon, Garth Road, Rhyd y Fro, Pontardawe, SA84TE.

Proposed Development: Single storey rear extension plus provision of new gable roof with dormers.

Resolved No objection provided there is neighbourhood notification.

P2015/0385

Mr Geraint Davies, 7 Birchfield Road, Pontardawe, Swansea, SA84PF.

Site location: 7 Birchfield Road, Pontardawe, Swansea, SA84PF.

Proposed Development: Demolition of existing rear extensions and construction of part two storey part single storey rear extension.

Resolved No objection provided there is neighbourhood notification.

Town and County Planning Act 1990

Appeal by: Mr T Shaw.

Site at: Land adjacent to 33 Orchard Street, Pontardawe, Swansea. SA84ER.

Planning inspectorate number APP/Y6930/A/15/3121633

Planning Application code: P2014/1020

Proposed: One dwelling (outline with details of access to be determined)

Council originally objected due to issues with access and insufficient information on the type of development envisaged. No additional comments to be made.

Commons Act 2006 – Section 38

Awel Aman Tawe application to Welsh Ministers for consent under section 38 of the Commons Act to carry out restricted works on Cefn Gwrhyd Common in Neath Port Talbot, approximately 2.5km east of Cwmgors and 1.6km south of Tairgwaith with the centre of the site having a grid reference of 272743, 210763.

The works proposed are for a temporary working area for the construction of access tracks to the proposed turbine. The construction works will not exceed 10,469m square. The construction period will be for between six and twelve months. Once the wind farm development is complete all access tracks will be restored to a width of approx 3 meters.

Resolved that the Town Council accept the proposals provided that the work remains within the stated criteria, that the restoration is monitored correctly and that the organisation maintain the restored paths adequately. The Committee would also like to see the Commoners association included in discussions.

9992. Planning meeting held on the 24th August 2015:

P2015/0742

Applicants name: Mr Kristian Walsh, 12 Alltywerin, Pontardawe, SA8 4QN

Site Location: 12 Alltywerin, Pontardawe, SA84QN

Proposed Development: Two Storey rear development

Resolved: No objection provided there is neighbourhood notification.

P2015/0433

Applicants Name: Mr David Watts, 37 Swansea Road, Pontardawe, Swansea SA8 4AL

Site location: 37 Swansea Road, Pontardawe, Swansea SA8 4AL

Proposed Development: One Dwelling (Amended form and Block Plan received 11/8/15)

Resolved: No objection provided there is neighbourhood notification

P2015/0749

Applicants Name: Hannah Morrall, Adas, 4205 Park Approach, Thorpe Park, Leeds LS15 8GB

Site Location: Land at Perthigwynion Farm, Neath, SA8 4TA

Proposed Development: Request for screening option (EIA Regulations) for the erection of a single wind turbine (Hub height of 60 m, tip height of 86.5m)

Resolved: No Objection

P2015/0159

Applicants Name: Mr Michael Frozani, The Care Home, Randalls Way, Leatherhead, Surrey, KT22 7TW.

Site Location: Trebanos House, The Drive, Trebanos, Pontardawe, SA8 4BB

Proposed Development: Demolition of existing care home (C2 use) following construction of new replacement two storey residential care home for 6 adults (C2 use) and associated works.

Resolved: No Objection provided there is neighbourhood notification and that there is no damage to trees that will remain covered by TPO's. The Committee also was a little concerned over the impact of large vehicles on the access road.

P2015/0698

Applicants name: Mrs Rhian Thomas, 16 Osprey Close, Bryncoch, Leiros Park, Neath, SA10 7EP.

Site Location: 1 New Road, Trebanos, Pontardawe, Swansea SA84DL.

Proposed Development: Demolition of existing single storey rear extension and construction of a two storey rear extension.

Resolved No Objection provided there is neighbourhood notification.

(Councillor D B Thomas expressed an interest as he is a neighbour)

9993. Planning:

P2015/0737

Applicants name: Mr & Mrs Tony and Trudy Gaithwaite, SPA House, Gellionen Road, Trebanos, Pontardawe, Swansea SA84RN.

Site Location: Land adjacent to SPA House, Gellionen Road, Trebanos, Pontardawe, Swansea SA84RN.

Proposed Development: Menage.

Resolved – No Objection.

P2015/0772

Applicants name: Mr Mitul Shah, 2nd Floor Jebesen House, 53-61 High Street, Ruislip, HA4 7BD.

Site Location: Cwm Cartref Nursing Home, Commercial Road, Rhyd y Fro, Pontardawe, Swansea SA8 4SS.

Proposed Development: Single Storey front extension.

Resolved – No Objection.

P2015/0738

Applicants name: Mr Michael Conniff, 30 Ynysmeudwy Road, Pontardawe, Swansea SA84QD.

Site Location: Land between 30 & 22 Ynysmeudwy Road, Pontardawe, SA4 4QD.

Proposed Development: Two Detached Dwellings (Outline with all matters reserved)

Resolved – Council would like Neighbourhood Notification but is also concerned over the ground stability in the area together with access and parking.

9994. Cwmdu Glen Committee: It was agreed that in this initial meeting it was important that all Members of the Committee were aware of the Management Plan, the impending designation of 'Local Nature Reserve', the legal agreements to be put in place between Neath Port Talbot Council and Pontardawe Town Council and the current issues at the site.

Elen Richards gave a brief overview of the current Management Plan stating that there were two distinct areas at Cwmdu. These were the traditional broad leafed woodland habitat in the Cwm which included the land owned by Pontardawe Town Council and the old Glanrhyd Estate.

The main management issue in the Cwm was public safety and path maintenance together with ongoing work to ensure that the trees were adequately maintained. It was confirmed that due to the nature of the site mature trees would continue to fall and slip as there soil was shallow and over rock which would lead to instability once the trees achieved a certain size.

With regard to the Glanrhyd Estate the main management issue was to preserve the historical features while also addressing invasive species which had been introduced historically.

The management plan was to run from 2015 to 2020 had no financial obligations associated with it as it was envisaged that grants would be sourced to finance improvement projects and that ongoing maintenance would be covered by Neath Port Talbot Council and Pontardawe Town Council in the same manner as currently provided.

The Committee was advised that the Management Plan had been agreed by both Neath Port Talbot Council and Pontardawe Town Council and provided a unified plan for the whole of the Cwm for the next five years. The area will be designated as a Local Nature Reserve once the management agreement with Pontardawe Town Council had been sorted out.

There was some concern over the responsibilities of the land owners for trees that had fallen into the river and Elen Richards confirmed that she would look into the legal responsibilities for the land owners.

The legal agreement between Pontardawe Town Council and Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council had also been received and had been reviewed by the Town Council's solicitor. He had some concerns over financial obligations this document seemed to confer however as this was not the intention of the plan it was agreed that the Town Council's and County Borough's solicitors should liaise to ensure that the wording was improved prior to agreement.

The Committee was also advised that unfortunately following the site meeting at the permissive path owned by Pontardawe Town Council and running from Rhyd y Fro to the 'Green Bridge' it was identified that there were three distinct problem areas. Two could be improved by shoring the path and back filling however one area of the path was continually eroding and very narrow and wet. It was confirmed by the County Borough expert that this area of the path was unsafe and therefore should be closed.

The Town Clerk confirmed that both the Mayor and Deputy Mayor had agreed that the path should be temporarily closed and signage had been ordered. Elen Richard confirmed that a map identifying the closed area would be placed in the Cwmdu notice board and that Councillor Purcell would also refer to this in her October article in the 'Community Mag'. The Town Clerk would also take action to put a notice informing Members of the Public of the closure in the October 'Community Mag'.

It was also suggested that a full structural review was required of the top path to identify hazards and improvements; as this was likely to be a quite costly exercise, grants should be sourced from either WREN or 'Mynydd y Betws'.

The Committee was advised that a representative of the Historical Society had expressed an interest in attending future meetings and that other community representation should be encouraged.

Resolved that the Committees decisions be ratified and that Council will be kept informed of developments.

9995. ARCH Hall: The Clerk confirmed that ARCH Hall had been one of the successful applicants in the NPT Homes 2015 Community Challenge. The main hall had now been painted by their nominated contractors. Council was advised however that the tables required replacement and that some maintenance was required on the UPVC windows which would need to be financed by the Town Council.

The Town Council also thanked the Clerk for her partnership working and the work carried out to secure additional finance for Town Council projects.

Resolved that thanks will be given to NPT Homes for their Community provision and that Council purchase new tables and improve the windows at the hall.

9996. Annual Return: The Clerk confirmed that the Annual Return to the 31st March 2015 had been agreed by the external auditors with no issues identified. The conclusion of Audit would therefore be publicized in accordance with procedure.

The Town Council thanked the Clerk for her work in ensuring the Council's Financial Obligations were correctly managed.

Resolved that the Clerk will publicise the completion of Audit in accordance with the proper regulations.

9997. Accounts Schedule 314 together with Bank Reconciliation to the 31st July 2015 checked by Councillor A Nicholson:

Resolved to accept the schedule 314 totaling £86250.63 and the checked Bank Reconciliation in line with Standing Orders.

9998. Out of School Activities (OOSA) - The Clerk confirmed that for the previous two years the 'Out of School Activities' brochures had been very successful and had been built upon year by year to improve the service. The Clerk also confirmed that Harri Evans- Mason had been the major contributor of skills and ideas for the online forum which was developed in 2014. He had

now suggested that the way forward for this year would be to continue to develop the web site with leaflets to advertise which would reduce the costs; he further suggested that the web site could be linked to local authority and school sites to increase publicity.

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

9999. 'Wellbeing of Future Generations Act 2015' – Statutory Guidance: The Clerk confirmed that s the Town Councils total income or expenditure for the previous three years was less than £200,000, they did not have a duty under this Act.

Resolved to be noted.

10000. Consultation on Chapter 10 of Planning Policy Wales and TAN 4: It was suggested that this was discussed in a Policy and Resources Committee.

Resolved that this matter will be reviewed by a Policy and Resources Committee.

10001. Consultation on the Welsh Governments Draft Directions to the Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales: It was suggested that this was discussed in a Policy and Resources Committee.

Resolved that this matter will be reviewed by a Policy and Resources Committee.

10002. Consultation on the simplification of Welsh Legislation: It was suggested that this was discussed in a Policy and Resources Committee.

Resolved that this matter will be reviewed by a Policy and Resources Committee.

10003. Email received re 'Castle Car Park': Council was advised that there had been some issues surrounding the ownership of the 'Castle Car Park'. As matters were currently in the hands of the parties legal advisors it was deemed inappropriate to comment.

Resolved to be noted.

10004. Email received from St Peters Church re the Summer Flower Festival: Council was advised that unfortunately the Flower Festival was not held in 2015 and the grant cheque had been returned. It was however hoped that the festival would once again be held in 2016. Council was sorry that the festival had been cancelled but was pleased that it would be reinstated for 2016.

Resolved to be noted.

10005. Email received re the 'Riverside Centre': Council was advised that the 'Riverside Centre' had once again been awarded the Green Flag award.

Resolved that they will be congratulated.

10006. Local Service Revisions: Council was advised that the service from Pontardawe to Ammanford had been withdrawn from the 22nd August 2015 and that also that there had been a time table revision on the X50/X51 Swansea to Ystradgunlais service.

Resolved to be noted.

10007. Email received re highway seat placement: A request had been made for a seat to be placed around the East Crossways junction in Pontardawe.

Resolved that the Clerk will review costs together with the level of interest in the area.

10008. Urgent Road Safety Matters: Speeding at Cwm Cartref Rhyd –y-Fro.

Resolved that Councillor Purcell will look into matters.

10009. Date and time of next meeting: The date of the next Ordinary Meeting of Council will be Monday 12th October 2015 at Ynysmeudwy Hall commencing at 6.45pm.

The Mayor also congratulated both Harri Evans Mason and Thomas Hutchins on their extremely impressive GCSE results and wished them well on their 'A' Levels

Signed **Dated**