

**Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Pontardawe Town Council held on Monday 8 April 2013, at
Ynysmeudwy Hall, Old Road, Ynysmeudwy, Pontardawe commencing at 6.45pm**

9129. Present: Councillors Bob Williams (presiding), Brian Thomas, Hywel Pickrell, Sue Northcott, Andrew Nicholson, Vince Hotten, Huw Evans, Jean Bowen, Dyfrig Harris, Linet Purcell, Gary Davies, Peter Williams.

Apologies: Councillors Rebeca Lewis, Eryl Puzey.

9130. Disclosure of Personal and Pecuniary Interests:

Councillors Linet Purcell and Sue Northcott declared an interest in St Peter's School room, Councillor Linet Purcell declared an interest in planning and Councillors Jean Bowen, Andrew Nicholson, Sue Northcott, Gary Davies and Vince Hotten declared an interest in the Pontardawe and District Youth Facility.

Resolved this be noted.

9131. Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 11 March 2013:

Resolved that the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 11 March 2013, having been read and confirmed as a true record, be accepted by Council.

9132. £650 Million Tidal Lagoon, Swansea Bay:

Representatives of a privately owned company attended the meeting to give a presentation and to discuss the proposed Tidal Lagoon which will promote sustainable and green electricity for the area.

The Lagoon will have turbine housings and capture energy four times a day, two when the tide went out and two when it returned, engendering 16 mega watts each hour. There will be a pedestrian walk way around the lagoon and there will also be an information centre. Marine conservation and promotion will be high on the firm's agenda.

There is no other project like this one to date, but the individual technology has been used successfully in other projects i.e. Brittany, France. Scoping studies will be available for consultation in the near future.

There will be 12 jobs per mega watt engendered and the firm will endeavour to employ local labour on the construction side. When the project is completed there will be 20 maintenance jobs created.

This lagoon will generate enough electricity to power around 107,000 homes and create savings of over 200,000 tones of CO2 annually.

Time scale for the project 2015-2017 provided planning consent is received in the autumn of 2013

Resolved to thank the guests for attending and Council will await progress.

9133. Police Matters:

Next PACT Meeting to be held on 18 April 2013 at Trebanos Hall commencing at 6.30pm.

It was reported that Part 1 Section 59 warnings had been given out to people using vehicles off road. These warning will stay on the book and if there is reoffending the vehicles could be confiscated. Any off roaders making other persons using the space feel afraid 999 should be dialed for assistance and not 101.

Resolved that the information be noted.

9134. Pontardawe and District Youth Facility:

The Clerk stated that a cheque for £2303.00 had been received from Neath Port Talbot County Borough for use of the Stables during the day. The facility was also awaiting money from the Young Carers group who use the facility two evening per week in term time.

Resolved that this be noted.

9135. Children's Out of School Activity Pamphlet:

Councillor Hotten stated that there should be information within the next two weeks.

Resolved that this be noted.

9136. Road Safety Matters:

Councillor Purcell stated that she was pleased by the fast response from the County Borough with regard to speeding outside Llangiwig School and a speed visor will be placed outside to remind vehicle owners of the desirable speed within the area. Although the statistics show some rise in speeding twice a day, morning and afternoon, it is not enough to put other measures in place.

The Clerk to follow up the bollard situation with Councillor James.

Resolved the above be noted.

9137. Planning Applications:

Resolved to call a planning meeting for Monday next, 15 April 2013, at the Town Council Offices commencing at 6.30pm.

9138. Personnel Committee Meeting The Clerk stated that there was a need to discuss and recommend on :

- The holding over of holidays from one financial year to the next.

- To look at sickness benefit allowed by Council and whether this should be on a rolling year basis.

Resolved to call a Personnel Committee Meeting on Monday next, 15 April 2013, at the Town Council Offices commencing at 7.00pm.

9139. Grants for the Financial Year 2013/14:

The Finance Committee recommended the following:-

Outdoor Proms 27 July 2013

Geoff Williams attended the committee meeting at the request of Council to discuss the above. He stated that the idea was to have an outdoor event featuring classical music. He stated that, to date, he had one orchestra on board with the likelihood of two others and one professional singer who was willing to give of his time for the benefit of the community. He was also negotiating with other single artists.

The Proms would take place on ground owned by Pontardawe Rugby Club and they had already given £800.00 towards the cost of the project. Mr Williams stated that he was also working in partnership with the Chamber of Trade and Commerce. The Proms is estimated to cost about £3000.00 and any money made over and above this would be ploughed back into the pot for the following year, 2014.

The committee were concerned about the short time scale and felt that a lot more planning was needed but the idea was a good one and they were happy to support it in principle.

Resolved to recommended that the **Outdoor Proms** be supported and a £500.00 grant be given but only when the Proms Committee could show that they had £1500.00 in the bank.

Other Grants

Swansea Valley History Society	(LGA 1972 S137)	£50.00
Victim Support	(LGA 1972 S137)	£100.00
Age Concern Neath Port Talbot	– Councillor Huw Evans left the meeting while this item was discussed. (LGA 1972 S137)	£200.00
Ynysmeudwy AFC	(LGA 1972 S137)	£50.00
Pontardawe Arts Club	(LGA 1972 S145)	£100.00
St Peter's Flower Festival 2013	(LGA 1972 S145)	£100.00
Urdd Eisteddfod	(LGA 1972 S145)	£100.00
Shelter Cymru	(LGA 1972 S137)	£100.00
CAB Powys	(LGA 1972 S137)	£50.00
W. Glam Council for Alcohol & Drug Abuse	(LGA 1972 S137)	£50.00
Wales Air Ambulance	(LGA 1972 S137)	£250.00

It was felt that National Organisations (below) should be given £50.00 each:-

RNIB	(LGA 1972 S137)
Dyslexia Wales	(LGA 1972 S137)
NSPCC	(LGA 1972 S137)
Stroke Association	(LGA 1972 S137)
Marie Curie Cancer Care	(LGA 1972 S137)
Macmillan Cancer Support	(LGA 1972 S137)
Bobath Therapy	(LGA 1972 S137)

Pontardawe Chamber of Trade and Commerce_ Request for grant for the Fests 2013.

It was felt that before a decision could be made on the scale of the funding more information was needed i.e.

- Financial position to date
- Level of grants already received or promised
- On what part of the festival would any money given by the Town Council be spent?

Resolved to accept the above recommendations.

9140. One Voice Wales Meeting 13 March 2013:

Councillor Nicholson attended the meeting and stated that the Chief Superintendent was due to address the meeting but cancelled at the last minute and will reschedule for later in the year.

- Charter Working - The last meeting of the working group was a shambles with the vast majority of delegates not being informed that there was a meeting, and this included a number of OVW Town Councillors who were members of NPTCC as well. There is no date scheduled for the next meeting but Lyn Llewellyn is raising the non notification with NPTCC.
- The next meeting will be an AGM and a call was made for a new Chair to be elected.

While the running of the meeting leaves much to be desired the overall benefits from membership of OVW outweighs this and Councillor Nicholson would advised continued membership.

Resolved to accept the report and also accept the recommendation to continue membership.

9141. New Play Area Trebanos Park:

Groundworks put forward a plan for the new play area. As the grants being used are environmental grants the materials used will be stone, grass and wood. A plan was produced for Council to consider. Council was happy with the plan but felt that the soft landing area should be rubber crumb and not tree bark as tree bark was high maintenance. Councillors also wished to know the height of the climbing boulder. Time scale on project - completion September 2013.

Resolved that a copy of the plan be place in Trebanos Hall for information and the height of the climbing boulder be obtained also for information. Groundworks to be thanked and a request made that they start work as soon as possible.

9142. Email from Resident of Trebanos:

Concern was expressed that there were only two councilors at the recent surgery and information given was not up to date or correct. Although he did state that in the past he had received good help from councilors.

Resolved to note the above.

9143. Councillor Surgeries:

It was felt that the surgeries were beneficial but they should only be used to take in concerns from residents and then get up to date information back to the residents by post or email. It was therefore felt that they should continue for a further 6 months and be reviewed again.

Resolved that this be accepted and that only Councillors from the area where the Ordinary Meeting is taking place should be requested to attend the surgeries.

9144. Review of Electronic Agenda.

Resolved that this continue.

9145. Accounts Schedule 288:

The account schedule total £10132.66

Resolved to be agreed under standing orders.

9146. Letter of Thanks from the Town Clerk:

A letter of thanks for the flowers was received from the Town Clerk.

Resolved that this be noted.

9147. Aber Valley Heritage Group:

A letter requesting a grant to establish a National Mining Memorial was received. This memorial will be constructed in Senghenydd, the village which saw the largest single mining disaster in British coal mining history, when 440 men were killed on the 14 October 1913.

The item was discussed by Council, but although Council felt that the proposal was to be applauded, the idea that only disasters of five men or more killed would be recorded on the memorial was felt to be derisory as this would mean that the Gleison Mine, Alltwen disaster in 2012 where 4 miners were killed would not be put on the memorial and Council felt that this criteria was, therefore, unacceptable.

Resolved to state that the non inclusion of the recent disaster at the Gleison Mine was not acceptable. Also resolved to put Local mining memorial on the agenda for May 2013.

9148. Bethan Jenkins AM – Request to speak to Councillors:

Resolved to request Ms Jenkins to attend the June 2013 Meeting on 10 June 2013 at Trebanos Community Hall.

9149. Swansea Valley History Society – St. Peter’s School Room:

A letter was received expressing concern about the poor state of maintenance of the School Room. This concern had been conveyed to Neath Port Talbot County Borough and the letter to the Town Council was for information only.

Resolved to note the contents of the letter.

9150. Urgent Road Safety Matters:

Signage Ynysderw Road: it was brought to the attention of Council that there is an urgent need for signage at the entrance of Ynysderw Road as large vehicles are still using the road as an access road.

Resolved contact Councillor Mike James to ascertain position.

Roundabout Work: Councillor Purcell stated that the ‘sign off’ of the work was supposed to be 14 February 2013 and she will be looking into it.

Resolved that the above be noted

9151. Date of AGM and Ordinary Meeting of Council is Monday 13 May 2013 at ARCH Hall commencing at 6.45pm

Signed:

Dated: