

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Pontardawe Town Council held on Monday 8th June 2015, at Ynysmeudwy Hall, Old Road, Ynysmeudwy, Pontardawe commencing at 6.45pm

9926. Present Councillors D B Thomas (presiding), P Williams, Mrs J Bowen, V Hotten, B Williams, H Evans, D Harris, Mrs L Purcell, Ms C Ford, G Davies and H Pickrell
Youth Representatives – Harri Evans-Mason & Thomas Hutchins.

Apologies: Councillor Mrs E Puzey, A Nicholson, Ms S Northcott, M James and Mrs R Phillips.

9927. Disclosure of Personal and Pecuniary interests: Councillors Mrs J Bowen, G Davies and V Hotten declared an interest in the Pontardawe and District Youth Facility.

Resolved this be noted.

9928. Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting and Annual General Meeting held on the 11th May 2015:

Resolved that the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting and Annual General Meeting held on 11th May 2015, having been read and confirmed as a true record, be accepted by Council.

9929. Matters raised by members of the public: None.

Resolved to be noted.

9930. WREN Representation: Council was advised that there could be only one representative from Pontardawe Town Council on the WREN Committee and Councillor Mike James had expressed an interest in continuing his role in this capacity as he had been elected Deputy Chair for the year.

Resolved that Councillor Mike James remain as representative for Pontardawe Town Council on the WREN Committee.

9931. Police Matters: The Clerk provided the following information:

Trebanos:

The next PACT meeting was to be held on the 18/6/15 at Trebanos Hall commencing at 6.30pm. Crimes for April 2015 for Trebanos were – 4 (2 Vehicle Crime, 1 Violent Crime and 1 Criminal Damage).

The Clerk advised Council that unfortunately statistics had not been provided for Pontardawe for April 2015.

Councillor Purcell stated that although initially there seemed to be an increased visible Police presence in the Town Centre, this seemed to have ceased, with local retailers once again witnessing anti social behavior in the Town Centre.

The Clerk however stated that following a request for additional patrols around Parc Chwarae Teg to deter older teenagers from entering the Park later in the evening, additional patrols had been arranged.

There had however been no response from the Inspector at Neath for a private meeting to discuss matters.

Resolved that the Clerk will contact the Inspector at Neath directly to request a meeting. She will also request an explanation for the absence of Crime figures for Pontardawe.

9932. Pontardawe & District Youth Facility: Councillors V Hotten, G Davies and Mrs J Bowen expressed an interest.

Council was advised that the Pontardawe and District Youth Facility had received a £500 grant to assist with liquidity for 2015/16. The budget for the remainder of the year was therefore £9500.

Resolved to be noted.

9933. Trebanos Park: Council was advised that the Park refurbishment was virtually completed with the final touches being added in the next week. There was some discussion on the type of Official opening to be arranged and it was agreed that a small ceremony should be carried out at the Park on a Tuesday morning to officially open the refurbished Park.

The Mayor was to officially open the Park with representatives from Trebanos School, the Rugby Club, Trebanos Hall and Community Groups invited to attend. There should then be tea and cakes provided at Trebanos Hall.

As the opening was to be held on a Tuesday morning it was hoped that the reception and the Trebanos Hall Coffee Morning could be amalgamated, with the Town Council providing cakes etc for the reception. This would both advertise the Coffee Morning while also providing refreshment for guests.

It was also agreed that the South Wales Evening Post be invited to attend.

The Clerk also stated that the official signs at the entrance to the Park were now obsolete and would require replacement.

Council was advised that there had been some issue with litter picking at the Park however following a meeting with all the parties this had been resolved.

Resolved that the official opening of the refurbished Park will take place on a Tuesday morning with Trebanos Hall Committee being asked to host the reception. It was further agreed that new signage could be purchased for the Park from the Park reserves and that trade waste sacks could be offered to the volunteer litter collectors at the Rugby Club to support their litter picking efforts.

9934. Cwmdu Management: The Clerk stated that there was not update at present.

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

9935. Pelican/Zebra crossing requests: As both Councillor Phillips and James were absent it was agreed to defer any discussion until the next meeting.

Resolved to be noted.

9936. Register of Interests: The Clerk suggested that Councillors include details of all interests they hold; details of any organizations they had a controlling interest in and details of Membership of all organisations, as specific guidance on this matter was still unclear.

Resolved to be noted.

9937. Autogloss building, Pontardawe: The Clerk confirmed that she had contacted the County Borough with regard to the building as it seemed unsafe however following an inspection it had been determined by Neath Port Talbot Council that this was not the case. No further action could be taken by the Town Council on this matter.

Resolved to be noted.

9938. Christmas 2015: Council was informed that a meeting of the partners had taken place in May in order to determine responsibilities. The tree would be organised by Pontardawe Town Council but funded by sponsorship from Celtic Leisure.

The Clerk confirmed that 'Vale' at Clydach were once again willing to transport the tree free of charge.

The procession and Santa would be arranged by the Chamber of Commerce and Art Centre as in previous years.

One issue was the lack of Christmas lights. The Clerk was provided with the authority to enter a competition to win Christmas Lights as Council would need to fund their erection if they were successful.

It was also decided to allocate in the first instance the amount of funds spent during 2014 to providing Christmas lights in 2015 as additional lights could be funded as the tree was to be sponsored.

The Clerk confirmed that she would make additional enquiries to provide Council with options for lights for the 2015 season.

Resolved that the budget for Christmas 2014 will be made available for Christmas lights for 2015 with additional funding being reviewed. Council also agreed to funding the erection of additional lights should competition lights become available.

9939. Missing Signage at 'The Cross': Councillor Purcell confirmed that the County Borough were investigating if the sign had been removed during regeneration.

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

9940. Planning:

P2015/0389

Applicants Name: Mr Ian Bain, 5 St Peters Place, Pontardawe, Clos yr Hen Ysgol, Swansea, SA84AZ.

Site Location: 5 St Peters Place, Pontardawe, Clos yr Hen Ysgol, Swansea, SA84AZ.

Proposed Development: Retention of outbuildings.

Resolved – No Objection provided there was neighbourhood notification. Council was however dismayed that the development was still being referred to as 'St Peter's Place' when it should be referred to a 'Clos yr Hen Ysgol'.

P2015/0437

Applicants Name: Mr Gary Thomas, Secretary of Pontardawe AFC, Bryngwyn, 38 Penywern Road, Ystalyfera, Swansea, SA92NH.

Site Location: Parc Ynysderw, Ffordd Parc Ynysderw, Pontardawe, SA84EG.

Proposed Development: Single storey prefabricated building to provide changing facilities.

Resolved – No Objection.

9941. Clerks Holidays: The Clerk confirmed that unfortunately she had been unable to take the holidays agreed earlier in the year and so these holidays were still to be taken.

She requested Councils agreement to a week's holiday at the end of June 2015 with an additional week later in the year to allow time for a property move. Cover was available for both of the proposed holiday periods.

Resolved that the Clerks holidays will be agreed and that relief cover will be provided for both weeks.

9942. Accounts Schedule 312:

Resolved to accept the schedule 312 totaling £18267.22 in line with Standing Orders.

9943. Letters of Thanks: Letters of Thanks were received from the following organizations for grants provided:

- St Peters Flower Festival
- Pontardawe Art Club
- Welsh Area Fire Engine Restoration Society
- Talking Books Wales
- The Stroke Association
- Teenage Cancer Trust
- Swansea Valley Heritage – Clive Reed
- Eisteddfod Genedlaethol
- NSPCC
- Alzheimers Society
- Marie Curie
- Relate
- Shelter Cymru

Resolved to be noted.

9944. Deed of Variation: Council was advised that a ‘Deed of Variation’ needed to be signed to allow the adoption of estate roads at Gelligron by Neath Port Talbot Council. The documents had been reviewed by the Town Council’s Solicitors who had confirmed that the Town Council would not be adversely affected by the Deed.

Resolved that the Clerk will sign the Deed of Variation on behalf of Council.

9945. Letter of Support for the Pontardawe Chamber of Commerce: Council was advised that a letter of support had been provided following agreement by the Clerk, Mayor and Deputy Mayor.

Resolved that the decision is ratified.

9946. Consultation ‘Protecting Community Assets’: It was agreed to discuss in the next Policy and Resources Committee.

Resolved that a Policy and Resources Committee will be arranged for 6.00pm on the 15th June 2015.

9947. Consultation ‘Developments of National Significance’ It was agreed to discuss in the next Policy and Resources Committee.

Resolved that a Policy and Resources Committee will be arranged for 6.00pm on the 15th June 2015.

9948. Email received from the Post Office re Trebanos Service Station: The Clerk confirmed that the pedestrian walkway at the Service Station was due to be completed by the end of August 2015.

Resolved to be noted.

9949. Letter received from the National Library of Wales: Council was advised that the National Library of Wales had requested agreement to add the Town Council’s web site to its archive.

Resolved that agreement will be granted.

9950. Urgent Road Safety Matters: None.

Resolved to be noted.

9951. Date and time of next meeting: The date of the next Ordinary Meeting of Council will be Monday 13th July 2015 at ARCH Hall commencing at 6.45pm.

Signed **Dated**