

Ordinary Council Meeting held on the 8th October 2018 at Ynysmeudwy Hall, Old Road, Ynysmeudwy commencing at 6.45pm.

Present: Councillor Mrs L Purcell (presiding), A Richards, G Davies, V Hotten, A R Thomas, D Williams, K Flynn, A Nicholson, Ms S Northcott, G Nicholson, Ms R Jones, W Thomas, Youth Representative: B McCarthy

Apologies: Councillor Ms C Ford, J Jones and Ms R Phillips.

11042. Disclosure of Personal or Pecuniary Interests: Councillor Hotten expressed an interest in P2018/0797 as the designated Tree Contractor is a customer.

11043. Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on the 10th September 2018:

Resolved that the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on the 10th September 2018, having been read and confirmed as a true record, be accepted by Council.

11044. Matters raised by Members of the Public: None.

Resolved to be noted.

11045. Robert Clapham Head of 'Glantawe Outdoor Education Academy', addressed Council:

Robert explained that the Academy is a registered Charity that currently is working in two areas:

Firstly, with the use of volunteers, they manage 25 acres of land at Riverside in Pontardawe. The derelict land is being reclaimed to protect the natural surroundings and encourage wild life. The area is being maintained as an area open for members of the community to enjoy.

Secondly, the Academy is working with disengaged Adults to bolster confidence and providing accredited training to assist them in moving on with their lives.

Initially together with Adults, it was envisaged that young people not in education, employment and training could also benefit however it seemed that there were several organisations who specialised in helping this group but that there were limited programmes for primary age children who were at risk of exclusion. The Academy had therefore been working with local primary schools to address behavioural issues and attitudes in this demographic.

Robert explained that the work carried out was not a 'Magic Bullet' and required longer term investment however they were experiencing good results.

The project had been awarded EEC funding however funding was always an issue and they would therefore be grateful if Pontardawe Town Council would look favourably on future grant requests.

Robert explained that at present their publicity was only from face to face discussions with Council bodies, local schools and voluntary organisations however additional publicity to the wider community was planned for a later date.

Council thanked Robert for attending the meeting and providing an update on the work being carried out.

Resolved to be noted.

11046. Cwmdu Glen and the 'Working with Nature Project': Council was advised that the 'Working with nature project' was working on the proposed picnic site at Cwmdu. The project they hoped would be completed by next Summer.

Arborum had completed the risk assessment for the second portion of Cwmdu owned by the Town Council and the in depth over time assessment of the trees adjacent to properties at Waun Gron. The report provided a work plan for three, six, twelve and twenty-four months.

Resolved that the plan should be emailed to all Councillors and that the work will be carried out together for those trees requiring action in three and six months. Council was aware that the Clerk would obtain three quotes to carry out the work if possible.

11047. Police Matters: Council was advised that there were no additional statistics available. The PACT meetings for Trebanos and Pontardawe were both to take place on the 11th October and 6th December and would begin at 6.30pm. Trebanos PACT would take place at Trebanos Hall and Pontardawe PACT at the Art Centre.

Regarding the damage to the fences at Trebanos Park, the Clerk had determined that incorrect information provided to the Police by the County Borough had resulted in the case being closed. The case had now been reopened and the CCTV footage reviewed. The Police were to contact the School Liaison Officer to speak to the boys and their parents. The Town Council would be advised when this had been carried out.

Resolved to be noted.

11048. Plastic Free Pontardawe: Councillor W Thomas had spoken with a local fruiterer from Pontardawe and had received good feedback. He advised that Sustain Wales had talks and presentation on how to reduce Plastic waste in business that was innovative and cost effective. He believed that the by raising awareness of the actions that could be taken in business they could begin to reduce plastics.

Resolved that the Steering Committee would invite local businesses to attend a presentation by Sustain Wales to determine what action could be taken to reduce plastic consumption.

11049. Planning:

P2018/0770

Applicants name: Mr Teifion Thomas, 132 Gelligron Road, Rhyd y Fro, Pontardawe, Swansea SA8 4SJ.

Site Location: 132 Gelligron Road, Rhyd y Fro, Pontardawe, Swansea SA8 4SJ.

Proposed Development: Two Storey rear extension plus single storey side and rear extension.

Resolved No Objection provided there was neighbourhood notification.

P2018/0651

Applicants name: Mr Evans Gelliwca Fawr Farm, Gwrhyd Road, Pontardawe, SA8 4TP

Site Location: Gelliwca Fawr Farm, Gwrhyd Road, Pontardawe, SA8 4TP

Proposed Development: Barn Conversion to facilitate holiday accommodation.

Resolved No Objection provided Neighbourhood notification however the plans showed that the proposed development did not retain the original openings in the barn which changed the aesthetics. There were concerns over access and the name on the Application was Mr Evans but on the plans was D Walker.

P2018/0741

Applicants name: Mr J Harris, Glantawe, 202A Swansea Road, Trebanos, Pontardawe, Swansea, SA8 4BX

Site Location: 202A Swansea Road, Trebanos, Pontardawe, Swansea, SA8 4BX

Proposed Development: Part two storey part single storey rear extension plus attached double garage to side elevation.

Resolved No Objection provided there was neighbourhood notification.

P2018/0821

Applicants Name: Ms Amy Miles, 17 Brynawel, Ponardawe, Swansea SA8 4JP

Site Location 17 Brynawel, Ponardawe, Swansea SA8 4JP

Proposed Development: Work to trees protected by TPO T229/T1 Copper Beach consisting of Crown Reduction to a maximum of 2 meters, crown lift in accordance with regulations and thinning of crown to a maximum of 10%.

Resolved No Comment.

P2018/0820

Applicants name: Emma Pritchard, Portia, 22 Morgan Street, Trebanos, Pontardawe, Swansea SA8 4DW.

Site Location: Portia, 22 Morgan Street, Trebanos, Pontardawe, Swansea SA8 4DW.

Proposed Development: Change of use of Residential dwelling (Class C3) to part residential (Class C3) and a cattery utilising former swimming pool area (Sui Generic) (Maximum 12 cats in total)

Resolved No Objection provided there was neighbourhood notification.

P2018/0797

Applicants name: Mr Ian Stewart, 19 Smithfiled Road, Pontardawe, Swansea, SA8 4LA.

Site Location: 19 Smithfiled Road, Pontardawe, Swansea, SA8 4LA.

Proposed Development: Works to tree protected by TPO T281/T7 Sessile Oak Tree consisting of removal of secondary branches growing down towards the garden shed, reducing length of northerly growing branch by 3 meters and pruning to suitable growth points.

Resolved No Comment.

Application to change the register of common land CL25A Entry 275 Application no. NPT 0036

Resolved No Objection.

Application to change the register of common land CL64 Entry 30 Application no. NPT 0039

Resolved No Objection.

11050.Development Committee held on the 17th September 2018 to discuss Christmas 2018:

Christmas Parade Finale

The Committee believed that Fireworks would be an effective way to end the Christmas Parade and believed that up to £1000 was a reasonable amount to set aside to cover the costs. (The Clerk confirmed that there were enough funds in Reserve) It was agreed that the display would need to comprise of rockets as there was no place on Herbert Street to set off smaller fireworks. St Peters or the Alloy Industrial Estate seemed to be areas that could be considered. It was agreed that the fireworks would need to be impressive but not necessarily for an extended period as this was to be considered a finale to the parade rather than an event.

It was also suggested that the Head Boy and Head Girl from all the primary schools in the Pontardawe area including Alltwn and Rhos be invited on to the stage with the Mayor for the official switch on of the tree lights. The Clerk advised the Committee that the suggestion would be made but that the actual switch on of the lights was decided by the Chamber of Commerce and therefore it was not the Town Council's decision

Regarding the issue of noise, it was agreed that the residents should be informed of the fireworks by social media, posters and a letter drop in plenty of time to allow them to make suitable arrangement for pets during the finale as low noise fireworks were not an option.

Decorations for 'The Cross'

The Committee suggested that battery operated lights should be used on the three trees on the Cross on the left-hand side. The Clerk confirmed that the lights from previous years

were not operational as they were not commercial lights and lasted only one season. The costs of the lights were minimal and therefore could be covered from current Reserves.

Regarding the right-hand side of the 'Cross' it was noted that there was a large billboard. The committee wondered if perhaps a Christmas message could be incorporate on to the bill board and perhaps lights could be used to outline it. The Clerk confirmed she could investigate feasibility.

Decorations for Trebanos

Councillor Ford confirmed that the Trebanos Hall Committee wished to decorate the outside of the Hall for the Christmas season as decorations could not be attached to the lamp posts in Trebanos as they were wooden.

The Committee were keen on the idea of outdoor trees and lights for the eves. The Clerk confirmed that she had already made some enquiries and had the following information:

There were several pre-lit outdoor trees that were available which needed only to be placed outside the hall and plugged into the indoor socket.

These trees were low voltage, so no guards were required and as the tree would be placed within a locked gate no additional overnight security was needed.

The icicle lights for the eves were also widely available and could be easily put up either by our groundsman or by a local electrician.

Although a tree over the door could be purchased, the bracket would need to be weight tested and therefore it was agreed that this could be looked at in future years.

The Clerk confirmed that the Town Council insurance would cover both the tree and lights.

Councillor Ford also stated that the Hall Committee wished to organise a competition for the best decorated house frontage in Trebanos with prizes provided by the Hall Committee.

The Trebanos Hall Committee were happy to share any costs for the decorations.

The Committee were in favour of purchasing decorations (shared with the Hall Committee) and for supporting the cost of erecting them.

Resolved that the Committee's recommendations will be ratified.

11051. Policy and Resources Committee held on the 17th September 2018 to discuss the Arboricultural Management Plan:

The Committee drafted an Arboricultural Management Plan for Pontardawe Town Council

The Committee reviewed a similar document adopted by Neath Port Talbot Council to ensure that the Policies were similar.

Resolved that the Committee's recommendations will be ratified.

11052. Finance Committee required to discuss the Precept for 2019/20:

Resolved that the Committee will be arranged for the 22nd October 2018.

11053. One Voice Wales Committee held on the 19th September 2018:

Councillor Ford was not at the Ordinary meeting but had provided details of the topics covered:

- 1) Guest Presentation from Natural Resources Wales and why green spaces/green infrastructure is important. The presentation outlined the various benefits green spaces present in the context of the NPT wellbeing plan and meeting the National 7 well-being goals and the 5 ways of working derived from the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act (2015).

NRW (part of NPT public services board) has been given a grant (£90K) from Welsh Government to carry out green infrastructure projects and have partnered up with Bridgend and Swansea Council

The presentation touched on the role of community/town councils (even though their site of interest currently is Port Talbot where there is none). They would like more engagement with community/town councils going forwards

- 2) The Councillor allowance of £150 that was made available a few months ago is taxable. The clerk is to put it through payroll. In some cases, this has led to individual's benefits being cut and effecting peoples student loans. One Voice Wales is looking into how this can be resolved going forward.

- 3) NPT Public Services Board (PSB) update: There was an urgent meeting called for NPT PSB late August when the alarming statistic came through of Neath port Talbot having the 2nd highest mortality rate in the UK and 1st in Wales as a result from drug misuse. Public bodies including the Police, Local Authority, voluntary organisations, Health etc. all met up to discuss this and the course of action going forward and the roles each member would play in their joint efforts. (no detail of exact plan given)

GDPR – The information Commissioner's office has provided a handout with some good advice that is understandable to the everyday person.

- 4) Survey of internal Audit Arrangements in Community and Town Councils. Wales Audit Office is sending a targeted survey out to select Councils.

- 5) Upcoming Training courses:

15 OCT – Code of conduct

17 OCT – Social media

12 NOV – Law

21 NOV – Health and safety

Resolved that Councillor Ford be thanked for her feedback and the points noted.

11054. Accounts Schedule 349:

Resolved that Account Schedule 349 totalling £10778.98 together with the Bank Reconciliation be accepted by Council in line with Standing Orders.

11055. Request to discuss the retention of the Mayoral Chains and Robes:

Councillor Hotten stated that he believed that Civic Regalia such as Chains and Robes together with historical events such as the Civic Service should not form part of a modern Town Council due to its historic link to the class system and privilege. He stated that a social media poll conducted by him had produced a result in favour of selling the Mayoral regalia in order to produce funds for work within the community. He further stated that he had received responses from young people who believed that Civic Ceremony may discourage young people from entering politics.

It was confirmed that the Deputy Mayor's Chain had been donated by Lliw Valley Borough Council, the robes and Mayor's consort's Chain had been donated by Neath Port Talbot Council and the Mayor's Chain had been specially designed by a project sponsored by the West Wales Art's Council. The raw materials had been purchased by the Council with a resident artist working at 'The Stables' to design and produce the Chain in the Community. Local Schools and the Community provided input into the project and the artisan's workshop was open to the public to enable local people to view the creation of the piece. The cost of the project was covered by the West Wales Art's Council.

A full discussion on the matter was carried out with the following points raised:

- The social media campaign and piece placed in the Community Mag had several inaccuracies which were likely to have misled the Community.
- The Mayoral Robes were not edged with Ermine but with Faux fur.
- The Inauguration of the Mayor takes place in the Annual General Meeting in a secular session and not in St Peter's Church.
- The Civic Service is a tradition and not an obligation. The standing Mayor may if he or she wishes hold a service in a separate religious establishment, hold a secular celebration or hold no celebration at all.
- The photograph attached to the Poll was of the Neath County Borough Council's Gold Chain and not the Silver Chain worn by the Pontardawe Town Council Mayor.
- The articles implied that the book value of the Chains rather than the resale value would be available for the community in the event of a sale.
- The poll was for three days and only 210 people had responded. The poll was unofficial, included inaccurate information and could not be used as a guide of public

opinion. Many of the comments attached to the survey had been in favour of retaining the regalia.

- Although it had been stated that young people were intimidated by the regalia, both the Town Councils youngest Councillor and Youth Representative stated that they did not agree with this statement and in their opinion the regalia should be retained due to its historical links to the Community.
- There was no certainty that the regalia could be sold as it had been donated or created by a project financed by grant funds.
- The Council was concerned that any sale of assets that had been obtained by Grant Funding may affect the Communities abilities to obtain grant funding for projects in the future.
- The Clerk confirmed that she had contacted Michael's who specialised in Civic Regalia and had been advised that as far as they were aware there was no secondary market for Civic Regalia and therefore scrap value only was likely to be obtained.

It was agreed that due to the issues raised it would be unwise to continue with the discussion and instead additional information should be obtained by the Clerk on the resale value of the regalia. The matter would be discussed further at a later meeting when actual figures were available.

It was however stated that at some point a statement should be produced by the Town Council, or Councillor Hotten, or both for social media and for the Community Mag to provide actual information on the regalia due to the inaccuracies in the original pieces, which were likely to have mislead the community.

Resolved that the Clerk will obtain an official resale value for the Civic Regalia by a future meeting.

11056. Suspended Standing Orders: Standing Orders were suspended to allow the meeting to continue until 9.15pm.

Resolved to be noted.

11057. Local Service Revisions:

Council was advised by the following:

First X50/51 services between Pontardawe and Swansea would be renumbered the X6 and a 20-minute service would be introduced from the 5th November (Swansea bus station to Pontardawe)

First X50 Swansea Bus station to Ystragunlais renumbered the X6

First X 51 Alltycham to Swansea Bus Station renumbered the X6 and both daytime journeys would depart 10 mins later.

Council was advised that the previously advised alteration to the Neath College buses had created substantial difficulties.

Several Buses had also been cancelled recently at short notice.

Resolved the Clerk will advise the County Borough.

11058. Urgent Road Safety Matters:

- Cars were ignoring the Pelican Crossing at Llangiwg School.
- It was suggested that the Radar Gun project to deter speeding in Trebanos could be useful in Ynysmeudwy
- A great deal of difficulties was being experienced at the Jubilee crossing by those who's movement was impaired.
- The disabled bay in Herbert Street was routinely being blocked by those without disabilities. It was stated that the signage needed to be clearer.

Resolved that the issues with Ynysmeudwy would be dealt with via the next PACT Meeting with Councillor Purcell reviewing the issue at Herbert Street and the Jubilee crossing.

11059. Date of next Ordinary Meeting: To Confirm that the next meeting of Council will be held on the 12th November 2018 at ARCH Hall commencing at 6.45pm.

