

**Ordinary Meeting held on the 9<sup>th</sup> July 2018 at ARCH Hall, Cefn Llan Road, Pontardawe commencing at 6.45pm**

**Present:** Councillor Mrs L Purcell (presiding), G Nicholson, K Flynn, J Jones, Ms C Ford, A Richards, Mrs R Phillips, G Davies, D Williams and R Smith (Councillor Smith left the meeting following the Co-Option vote)

**Apologies:** Councillors Ms S Northcott, A Nicholson and W Thomas.

**10998. Disclosure of Personal and Pecuniary Interests:** Councillor R Phillips expressed an interest in the email from Alltwen RFC.

**Resolved** to be noted.

**10999. Minutes of Ordinary meeting held on the 11<sup>th</sup> June 2018:**

**Resolved** that the minutes of the Ordinary meeting held on the 11<sup>th</sup> June 2018, having been read and confirmed as a true record, be accepted by Council with one amendment. Council wished to clarify that only Mr Hanford attended the meeting.

**11000. Matters raised by Members of the Public:** None.

**Resolved** to be noted.

**11001. Co-Option:** Council was advised that there was one candidate for Co-Option. Mr Daniel Williams addressed Council prior to the Co-Option vote and was voted unanimously on to the Council. He then signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

**Resolved** that Mr Daniel Williams be Co-Opted as Town Councillor for the Rhyd y Fro ward.

**11002. Cwmdu Glen:** A Committee meeting was held on the 25<sup>th</sup> June 2018.

The Committee discussed the trees bordering Waun Gron together with the Working with Nature project.

Waun Gron was discussed and it was felt that Council needed to fulfil its responsibilities as land owners in the top section of land at Cwmdu which was recently found to belong to the Council, and therefore should be assessed in the same manner by Arborum to ensure that any dangerous trees were addressed.

All trees within falling distance of properties, which were on Council land should have a more detailed survey to pick up potential problems that may present themselves over a longer time frame.

Once this has been completed and any remedial action carried out, Council should instigate a tree policy on the lines of the policy produced by Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council.

Regarding the Working with Nature project at Cwmdu, the Committee felt that the lower picnic area with some improvement by the 'Working with Nature project' and the positioning of a bench would establish the area in a very short time.

The second picnic area near the falls would need more clearing work before it could be useful. Information boards could be placed along the route of Cwmdu highlighting history, birds, animals together with flora and fauna. Grants would be needed to establish these boards.

Once the picnic area was established the area could be advertised and some investigation could be made to try to find out the old names for sections of Cwmddu, such as Boy's Pool, Girls Pool etc.

The medium and longer-term goals could be reviewed once the short-term goals had been achieved.

**Resolved** that the Committees recommendations will be ratified.

**11003. Police Matters:**

Pontardawe statistics –31 Crimes for April, with 54 Crimes for May– There was no date available for the next PACT meeting.

Trebanos statistics –1 crime for April, with 17 Crimes in May (This included the weekend of Criminal Damage that took place throughout Trebanos, Pontardawe and Ynysmeudwy) – There was no date available for the next PACT meeting.

**Resolved** to be noted.

**11004. Planning:**

Meeting held on the 26<sup>th</sup> June 2018

P2018/0541 – Fascia sign to rear elevation 75 Herbert Street, Pontardawe

No objection

P2018/0463 – Part two storey part single storey rear extension and alterations to fenestrations, 62 Gwyrddgoed, Pontardawe.

No objections provided there has been neighbourhood notification.

P2018/0119 – Garage compound, Gellideg, Rhydyfro, construction of 9 single lock-up garages on existing garage site.

No objections

2018/0528 – Single storey side extension, alterations to fenestration, bay window to front elevations and detached garage with private art studio above, 92 High Street, Pontardawe.

No objections provided there has been neighbourhood notification. Concern was expressed about possible highway problems during the building, as property is situated on a junction.

P2018/0512 – Planning variations on site, increase of working time to 2023 at Pwllfa Watkin Farm, Pontardawe (landfill site)

No objections

P2018/0511 -Planning variations on site, increase of working time from 2023 to 2025 at Pwllfa Watkin Farm, Pontardawe (landfill site)

No objections

It was brought out by the Mayor, Councillor Purcell, that residents in the Pontardawe and district can no longer dispose of their rubbish at the Pwllfa Watkin site. It was decided to enquire about the thinking behind this decision.

Applications reviewed in the Ordinary meeting:

P2018/0580

Applicants name: Artisan Stone Supplies Ltd, Gwrhyd Quarry, Gwrhyd Road, Pontardawe Swansea SA9 2SB.

Site Location: Gwrhyd Uchaf Farm, Gwrhyd Road, Pontardawe, Swansea, SA9 2SB.

Proposed Development: Application for the discharge of conditions 4 (Operational phasing), 9 (Daily Records), 16 (Vehicle Control signage), 17 (Control of deleterious material on the highways), 31 (landscaping plan), 34 (stocking area plan), 38 (soil storage volumes plan), and condition 44 (restoration strategy) attached to planning permission P2017/0036.

No Comment.

P2018/0528

Applicants name: Mr Andrew Settle, 92 High Street, Pontardawe, Swansea, SA8 4JN.

Site Location: 92 High Street, Pontardawe, Swansea, SA8 4JN.

Proposed Development: Alternations to fenestration, bay window to front elevation and detached garage with private art studio above (Amended description)

No Objection provided there is neighbourhood notification

**Resolved** to be ratified.

#### **11005. Policy and Resources Committee held on the 26<sup>th</sup> June 2018:**

The Committee discussed and recommended on the Neath Port Talbot Welsh Language Promotion Strategy:

Councillors were notified of the web site where they could view the above document prior to the meeting ([www.npt.gov.uk@welshstrategy](http://www.npt.gov.uk@welshstrategy))

The Strategy developed by a cross party member task and finish group with support from Menter Iaith Castell-nedd Port Talbot, outlines how the Council can utilise its responsibilities to help influence the increase in the number of Welsh speakers, both directly and indirectly, across the County Borough. In developing the strategy, the County had been mindful of current circumstances, acknowledging the language profile of the area, the ongoing limited resources as well as work already being undertaken or planned which would support the aims of the strategy while at the same time being as aspirational as possible.

In the Welsh Language profile, it is noted that the number of Welsh Language speakers in the County Borough Council has gone down, due mostly to retirement and redundancies. It had also been noted that about 15.3% of the population speak Welsh (2011 census); the highest proportion (45%) lived between Trebanos and Cwmllynfell and Rhos to Gwaun Cae Gurwen. Attention is being focused in the document on this area to maintain and increase the number of speakers.

Our area, having the highest percentage of Welsh Speakers was highlighted as needing extra consideration to maintain and increase the level of speakers.

The Committee felt that, in the light of the above, there was a need to campaign for free transport for children to travel from the Trebanos area to Ystalyfera for their secondary education. It was also felt that instead of increasing the size of the Pontardawe Welsh School, that children should be

encouraged to take up the places vacant in the Trebanos School. This would also be more cost effective even if transport was laid on to achieve this objective.

More Welsh Language nursery provision would help to establish the language at an early age encourage the Mothers and possibly the Fathers to learn Welsh.

As this area is culturally sensitive, it was felt we need to re-establish the 'Welsh Spoken Here' programme in all businesses. New Stickers to this effect should be given out. A Welsh Cultural Festival could be held in the area to encourage speaking Welsh in a social context. It is important that the document is acted on and the constant cutting for funds was not helping the situation.

In places the strategy lacked detail and it also might be felt that it was merely paying lip service to the Welsh Language (Wales) measure 2011 passed by the National Assembly for Wales, however to meet the goals there is a need for ideas and suggestions to be implemented.

In the Ordinary meeting it was suggested that the Town Council reiterate that Ty Gwrhyd in Pontardawe is a hub for the Welsh Language and that the Town Council could arrange for 'Welsh Spoken Here' stickers to be made available to local businesses. It was also suggested that discussions should be held with Menter Iaith for a Cultural Festival following the Ras yr Iaith when it is held in two years.

**Resolved** for the Committee recommendations and additional suggestions to be ratified.

**11006. Development Committee held on the 25<sup>th</sup> June 2018 – Plastic Free Pontardawe:** The Committee discussed numerous ideas for the reduction in plastic waste within both Pontardawe Town Council and the Pontardawe area.

The Committee recommended that a steering committee be set up to explore the ways schools, businesses and residents of Pontardawe can reduce plastic waste in the future.

Councillors W Thomas, J Jones, Ms C Ford and G Nicholson would form part of the steering Committee however Council wished representatives of the businesses to also be invited to form part of the committee.

**Resolved** that a steering Committee be set up to look at ways in which the community can reduce plastic waste.

**11007. Development Committee held on the 25<sup>th</sup> June 2018 – Summerfest and Winterfest:**

The Committee reviewed the proposals of the original Development Committee held on the 26<sup>th</sup> February 2018. It was recommended that the theme for the Summerfest should be 'Flowers' and thereby highlighting the Flower Festival which would take place at St Peters Church in the same weekend.

The Best Dressed Window Competition should also have the theme of 'Flowers' and the prizes should be £100 for 1<sup>st</sup> prize, £75 for 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize and £50 for 3<sup>rd</sup> prize. This would be advertised in the Community Mag, Office Window and on social media (in the Ordinary meeting it was also agreed that flyers be forwarded to local businesses)

Councillor John Jones suggested that Flower Flags could be made and hung from the shops. He stated that he would take this in hand (in the Ordinary meeting it was agreed that a budget of £150 would be provided for the flags)

It was felt that the chalk graffiti was not a good idea as rain would wash this away. Instead the Flower Festival would be advertised by the committee in conjunction with the Summerfest. Flowers could be hung from the lamp post outside St Peters Church indicating the Flower Festival in the Church (In the Ordinary meeting it was decided that there would be a budget of £200 for the additional flower baskets)

The Clerk confirmed that a piece advertising the both the Summerfest and the St Peters Flower Festival was included in the July edition of the Community Mag.

The Winterfest could also have a Best Dressed Window Competition, with prizes of £100 for 1<sup>st</sup>, £75 for 2<sup>nd</sup> and £50 for 3<sup>rd</sup> with a theme of 'Christmas'. It was suggested that LED Balls could be purchased and painted by local children. Councillor Jones also offered to take this in hand. It was felt that low noise fireworks would round off the festival, however prices would need to be obtained before a decision could be made (In the Ordinary meeting it was agreed that a separate Development Committee could be arranged for September to discuss).

A request was brought forward regarding the Revive and Thrive grant application. Councillor Jones stated that we had been lucky enough to be shortlisted for a grant. Total grants given were £20,000 split as follows:

1<sup>st</sup> - £10,000, 2<sup>nd</sup> £2000 and 8, 3<sup>rd</sup> prizes of £1000 each.

A presentation would have to be made in London before the next Council meeting in July and two representatives would need to prepare and present this. It was decided using plenary powers, the two representatives of the Chamber of Commerce who submitted the original application should attend and Council would pay for one night in a hotel and the travel fares.

(The Clerk confirmed that the Town Council could make such a payment under the Power of Wellbeing – she had confirmed this with One Voice Wales)

**Resolved** that the Committees recommendations together with additional recommendations made in the Ordinary meeting be ratified

#### **11008. Development Committee held on the 25<sup>th</sup> June 2018 – CCTV provision:**

This item was discussed, and it was felt that more consideration was needed as several areas had not been covered fully.

The feeling was that this had been a knee jerk reaction and although it was not necessarily a bad idea for the area, many things needed to be taken into consideration.

It was felt that if Council decided to support a CCTV system for Pontardawe then several firms needed to be contacted for quotations.

Other considerations were

- Cost – Are Reserves available for would this project need funds raised from the precept.
- Maintenance costs
- Planning
- Insurance
- Positioning of the monitors

- Police support for the project. (The Clerk did confirm that the local Police were in support of a CCTV system and would be happy to discuss in more detail should the Town Council wish to support this or a future project)

The Committee felt that CCTV was a good idea in principle however the idea needed to be more thoroughly investigated.

In the Ordinary meeting it was agreed that the current proposal should not be taken forward however action would be taken to investigate CCTV coverage in more detail.

**Resolved** that the Committees recommendations be ratified and in addition the Clerk will obtain additional information on systems for future discussion.

**11009. One Voice Wales meeting – 13<sup>th</sup> June 2018:** Unfortunately, Councillor Ford was unable to attend.

**Resolved** to be noted.

**11010. Standing Orders 2018:** The Clerk produced copy of the new Model Standing Orders which included amendments following the introduction of the General Data Protection Regulations.

**Resolved** that the revised Standing Orders will be adopted.

**11011. Account Schedule 346:**

**Resolved** that Account Schedule 346 totalling £5419.15 together with the Bank Reconciliation be accepted in accordance with Standing Orders.

**11012. Letter received from the Boundary Commission:** The deadline for submission was following the September meeting and therefore it was agreed that the Clerk would forward the relevant details to Members which could then be discussed in the September meeting.

**Resolved** to be noted.

**11013. Email received from Barclays Bank:** Council was advised that the local branch of Barclays Bank on High Street Pontardawe would close from the 12<sup>th</sup> October 2018. Council was dismayed by the closure and the impact it would have on elderly and more vulnerable residents. Although general banking could take place at the Post Office, more complex needs could only be addressed by electronic means or by lengthy travel to Morryston or Neath.

**Resolved** to be noted.

**11014. Email received from Alltwen RFC:** Council was advised that a grant request had been received from Alltwen RFC for financial assistance towards their drainage project at Ynysymond Road.

**Resolved** that while the Town Council were sympathetic they believed during this time of austerity, grant funding would need to be allocated to organisations within the Town Council Boundary.

**11015. Urgent Road Safety Matters:**

- Continual disturbances at night by high powered quad bikes.

**Resolved** that the Clerk will advise the local Police.

**11016. Date of next Ordinary meeting:** To confirm that the next meeting of the Town Council is to be held on the 10<sup>th</sup> September 2018 at Trebanos Hall.

Signed ..... Dated .....