

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Pontardawe Town Council held on the 9th May 2016 at ARCH Hall, Cefn Llan Road, Pontardawe, commencing at 6.45pm.

10207. Present: Councillor Mrs R Phillips (presiding), Mrs J Bowen, G Davies, P Williams, Ms S Northcott, A Nicholson, B Williams, Mrs L Purcell, M James, D Harris, V Hotten, H Evans, H Pickrell and Ms C Ford.

Youth Representatives: Thomas Hutchins

Apologies: Councillor Mrs E Puzey & Harri Evans Mason (Youth Representative)

10208. Disclosure of Personal and Pecuniary interests: Councillors Mrs J Bowen, A Nicholson, Ms S Northcott, V Hotten and G Davies expressed an interest in the Pontardawe and District Youth Facility as they are Trustees. Councillors A Nicholson and Ms S Northcott expressed an interest in Cwmda as they are known to the parties in the dispute. Councillors V Hotten, A Nicholson and Ms S Northcott expressed an interest in PANTRY.

10209. Minutes of the Ordinary meeting held on the 11th April 2016:

Resolved that the minutes of the Ordinary meeting held on the 11th April 2016, having been read and confirmed as a true record, be accepted by Council, with the following amendments:

- 10183. The heading should state 'Uplands and Marina Market Team'.

10210. Alun Jones from the Pontardawe Bowls Club addressed Council - He stated that the County Borough were to cease the maintenance of the Bowls pavilion and required a third party to take over the responsibility for it. Alun explained that the Bowls club were happy to carry out the cleaning and opening and closing of the building and were also happy to cover the costs but were concerned over the risk factor of an asset transfer of this type. He asked that the Town Council consider taking over the lease in partnership with the Bowls Club.

Resolved to be noted.

10211. Councillor Vince Hotten addressed Council: He stated that in the two years since PANTRY had been created 595 people had been provided with assistance however demand was increasing. He confirmed that PANTRY was also working in partnership with other third sector organisations to assist people with other issues such as debt problems, domestic violence etc in order to provide a 'joined up service'. Currently they were receiving fresh produce from Tesco's and were also working with the Credit Union to ensure that people had access to financial advice. Unfortunately however their expenditure was exceeding their income and therefore it was likely that they would require some financial assistance from the Town Council in the future in order to continue their work.

Resolved to be noted.

10212. Matters raised by Members of the Public: Dr Jones requested that the Boundary Report commissioned by the Town Council be made public and also that the matter be discussed in the meeting.

Resolved to be noted.

10213. Police Matters:

The following information was provided:

Trebanos – There were no details of future PACT meetings available

There was one crime (Anti Social Behaviour) for February 2016

Pontardawe – The next PACT meeting was due to be held on the 23rd June 2016 at Pontardawe Art Centre commencing at 6.30pm

There were 26 crimes reported for February 2016 which was down from 44 crimes in January 2016.

Resolved to be noted.

10214. Pontardawe and District Youth Facility: Councillors A Nicholson, Ms S Northcott, Mrs J Bowen, V Hotten and G Davies expressed an interest.

Council was advised that a £750 grant had been awarded to the Pontardawe and District Youth Facility to assist with the closure of the facility

Resolved to be noted.

10215. Pelican/ Zebra Crossing: Council was advised that interviews were currently taking place by the County Borough; however a commencement date was not yet available.

Resolved to be noted.

10216. Agreement to suspend Standing Orders: Council agreed to suspend standing orders in order to discuss Cwmdy later in the meeting as there were time sensitive Financial matters that required urgent attention.

Resolved that Cwmdy be discussed later in the meeting.

10217. Community Halls:

ARCH Hall & Ynysmeudwy Hall – MPN windows had replaced the windows at both ARCH and Ynysmeudwy Hall.

Unfortunately we had as yet not been able to identify why the roof at ARCH leaked however the roofer would continue to monitor.

Resolved that Council will be kept informed of developments.

10218. Update on Investment Policy: Council was advised that the Nationwide Building Society account was now open but that we required the opening pack prior to transferring funds from the Unity Bank Account.

Council were advised that the Building Society had required one Councillor and one Officer to open the account and these were the Clerk and Councillor Purcell. There were also signatories required for both the Nationwide and Credit Union Accounts. It was agreed that the Clerk would be the Principle with Councillors Huw Evans and Andrew Nicholson as signatories.

Resolved that Councillor Purcell be the Councillor designated on the Nationwide Account and that she would be a signatory together with the Clerk. Councillors A Nicholson and H Evans together with the Clerk would be the signatories for the Credit Union account.

10219. Planning:

P2016/0387

Applicants name: Tracs Care Ltd, Copper Court, Phoenix Way, Llansamlet, Swansea, SA7 9EH

Site Location: 3 Commercial Road, Rhyd y Fro, Swansea SA8 4SL.

Proposed Development: Change of use from dwelling house (Class C3) to care home for 7 people (Class C2) Removal of existing conservatory and replacement with single storey rear extension, conversion of existing integral garages to living accommodation plus external alterations including alteration to and addition of windows and doors and installation of railings to enclose raised platform to the rear.

Resolved No objection.

P2016/0374

Applicants name: Mr Patrick Hewlett, 23 Bethesda Road, Ynysmeudwy, Pontardawe, Swansea, SA8 4QQ.

Site Location: 23 Bethesda Road, Ynysmeudwy, Pontardawe, Swansea, SA8 4QQ.

Proposed Development: Retaining works plus installation of external Lift.

Resolved No Objection.

P2016/0387

Applicants name: Mr L Mcfenton, 17 Oakfield Road, Pontardawe, Swansea, SA8 4LD.

Site Location: 17 Oakfield Road, Pontardawe, Swansea, SA8 4LD.

Proposed Development: First floor rear extension.

Resolved No Objection provided there is neighbourhood notification.

10220. Internal Auditors Report– Council was provided with the Internal Auditors Report.

Resolved to be reviewed in a Finance Committee.

10221. Annual Return for 2015/16– Council Members were provided with the Annual Return prior to the meeting and reviewed it in full.

Resolved that the Annual Return be agreed by Council and signed by the Mayor.

10222. Actual/ Budget Report for the year to the 31st March 2016: Councillors were provided with the report prior to the meeting and had reviewed it in full.

Resolved that the Report be agreed.

10223. Clerks Report on Accounting Matters: It was agreed that this would be discussed at the Finance committee.

Resolved to discuss at a Finance committee.

10224. Accounts Schedule 322: Account Schedule 322 totalling £8709.90 was agreed under standing orders.

Resolved to be agreed.

10225. Pavilion at King George V Park: Council decided to review this request at a Policy and Resources Committee.

Resolved that a Policy and Resources Committee be arranged.

10226. Letters of Thanks: The Clerk confirmed that Letters of Thanks had been received from the Pontardawe and Alltwen Bowls club, Marie Curie, Shelter, Tenovus, Teen Cancer Trust, Urdd, Cancer Information Service, Eisteddfod and Alzheimers Society.

10227. Email re the deep drain at Lloyd Street, Trebanos: Council were advised that the County Borough were reluctant to take any action with regard to the barriers at the point as they were not the land owners. They would however look into the position and would determine if there was a way forward.

Resolved that both the Clerk and Councillor Phillips would chase the County Borough.

10228. Letter from Pontardawe Chamber of Trade re Grant: Council decided to review this matter in a Finance Committee.

Resolved that this would be reviewed in the Finance Committee.

10229. Email from Councillor Hotten re Circular walks: Councillor Hotten explained that he would like to set up way markers on existing paths in order to easily identify a longer circular walk in the Pontardawe area. It was also his hope that future walks could be marked out at a later date. Councillor Hotten request funds to purchase the marker posts. Councillor Evans however stated that there was a charity based in Cardiff who specialised in these types of project.

Resolved that the Clerk will identify what assistance could be available from the Charity.

10230. Urgent Road Safety Matters:

- Councillor Purcell stated that there were no time scales for the transport of the wind turbines through Pontardawe. Two turbines would be transported. The trail run would be on the 20th June and they had been assured that there would be no conflict with busy period on

the road and the school run. The deliveries were to take place from the 10th October and could be either two deliveries a day for one week or one delivery per day for two weeks.

- The Clerk confirmed that the Mid and West Wales Fire Authority would review roads that might have difficulties with large appliances due to parked cars. Council Members were requested to provide details of roads in the area.

Resolved that the Clerk will request details any roundabouts to be removed prior to the transport of the turbines and also if the sections were larger or smaller than those at Mynydd y Betws. The Clerk will also pass on details of roads to Mid and West Wales Fire Authority.

10231. Cwmdu: Council was advised of the following:

- The middle section of the path must remain closed permanently as the engineers from the County Borough could find no way to make the path safe or to move the path higher on the bank.
- The Top section of the path required a tree review. The trees currently across the path would be addressed shortly by the 'working with nature' team but the full survey would need to be carried out by a qualified practitioner. (The County Borough would supply the name of a recommended practitioner)
- The 'Working with Nature' team would also be putting together a plan to utilise volunteers to address the litter issue and would also look to place way markers to direct walkers up the steps to James street than back down through Waun Gron to avoid the closed section of path.
- They would also organise circular walks taking into account the new directions.
- It was also their intention to identify the costs associated with the improvement of the path to the waterfall, possibly also including a viewing platform.
- The independent survey of the fence adjacent to James Street had been carried out. The Cwmdu Committee had suggested that Council's decisions should be based solely on this report and that any information provided by third parties should be disregarded.

The report showed that the fence did not follow the boundary but that the deviations were due to the topography in the area. The fence had therefore been placed in the most practical place in order to prevent damage to trees and avoiding unsafe surfaces. In one section the actual boundary was in the middle of the path but the reasonable approach had been taken by placing the fence at the edge of the path in order to prevent additional costs to the Council.

As there had been concerns by some parties that land had been 'taken' from the Town Council, a desktop exercise had been carried out which showed that there was only a 1.5metre square difference by the placement of the fence, so this was clearly not the case.

The survey also identified that the three trees on the boundary of the land that had been lopped, were in fact on private land despite being situated outside the fence and were therefore not the responsibility of the Town Council.

Resolved that the Town Council agree to allow the fence to remain in situ as this was a practical measure and there had been no attempt to increase land holdings by the third party.

10232. Time and Date of Next Meeting: The next Ordinary meeting is due to be held at Trebanos Hall on the 13th June 2016.

Signed Dated