

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Pontardawe Town Council held on the 10th April 2017 at Trebanos Hall, Swansea Road, Trebanos commencing at 6.45pm.

10450. Present: Councillor Mrs R Phillips (presiding), G Davies, Ms S Northcott, A Nicholson, B Williams, Mrs E Puzey, V Hotten, D Harris, D B Thomas and H Pickrell.

Youth Representatives: Jamie Edwards.

Apologies: Councillor Mrs J Bowen, Mrs L Purcell, P Williams and Ms C Ford.

Council Members who were not to stand at the Election spoke of their experience with the Council, Mrs J Bowen provided a written statement as she was not at the meeting.

Councillors D B Thomas, D Harris, B Williams, Mrs J Bowen and Mrs E Puzey all stated how pleased they were with the work carried out by the Town Council to support the community and to improve the wards of Pontardawe, Trebanos and Rhyd-y Fro. They all felt that the Council's ability to work together for the good of the Community regardless of any Political affiliations was the key to the success of the Council and hoped that the new Council would continue to work together in the future.

Councillors D B Thomas, Mrs J Bowen, D Harris and B Williams also stated that it had been an honour and privilege to be elected as Mayor of Pontardawe during their tenures.

As the current Mayor Councillor Mrs R Phillips would not be able to attend the AGM the Council thanked her for all her work supporting the Council during her year as Mayor.

10451. Disclosure of Personal and Pecuniary interests: Councillors B Williams and H Pickrell expressed an interest in the City and County of Swansea Pensions.

Resolved to be noted.

10452. Minutes of the Ordinary meeting held on the 13th March 2017:

Resolved that the minutes of the Ordinary meeting held on the 13th March 2017, having been read and confirmed as a true record, be accepted by Council.

10453. Matters raised by Members of the Public: None.

Resolved to be noted.

10454. Commercial Christmas Presentation: Tim from Commercial Christmas provided a presentation on the hire service offered by his company for the installation of Christmas Lights for Commercial and Municipal Clients. He provided details of the type of display that could be organised for Pontardawe to take into account the whole of Herbert Street and 'The Cross' together with dressing the Christmas tree at the Art Centre with the lights owned by the Town Council and providing an additional Christmas Tree at 'The Cross'. They would also be able to attend the event organised each year to switch on the lights.

The proposals provided were for a three-year contract which could then be renewed if required.

Commercial Christmas had several major clients including Gatwick Airport, O2, Samsung and Cardiff City. They also arranged the displays for many local Town and Community Councils such as Llanelli Town, Neath Town and Briton Ferry Town Council.

Tim hoped that the Town Council was happy with the presentation and would like to contract them to provide the Christmas Light display at Pontardawe but they would require a decision imminently as they were virtually to capacity.

Commercial Christmas would require a 50% deposit on confirmation of the contract with 25% at least 21 days before installation and 25% within 7 days of takedown and removal.

Commercial Christmas have a strict health and safety policy. A detailed method statement and risk assessment would be provided to the Town Council prior to any installation work.

Resolved to be noted.

10455. Cwmdu:

The Clerk confirmed that the 'Working with Nature' project was providing many events at the Glen to encourage community participation in the area. A children's themed walk and bush craft event was very well attended and a History walk arranged in partnership with the History Society in Pontardawe was very well received by the Community.

Further events were to be planned for the Spring and Summer seasons. They were also in the process of setting up a 'Friends of Cwmdu and Glanrhyd Plantation' group to further increase volunteer support in the area.

The Clerk had attended a site meeting with the Ed Tucker from the 'Working with Nature' team and the Neath Port Talbot Council Surveyor following reports of possible earth dumping on Town Council land in Cwmdu Glen. It was however identified that the earth movement was not adjacent to Town Council land and therefore no further action could be taken.

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

10456. Police Matters:

The Clerk confirmed that she had attended a meeting with PCSO Sian Jenkins to discuss issues raised by Council and to obtain information on current Police initiatives in the area.

The following information was provided:

- Mama's the nightclub had been reopened as 'Legacy' and was now providing young person's discos on Friday evenings. The owner was a member of the CAP project and the events were proving very popular. The Police were working closely with the owners and no issues had been identified with underage drinking or anti-social behaviour either at the venue or in the wider area.
- The CAP project was continuing to monitor other licenced premises in the area. No fines had been issued.
- The CAP project had also provided funds for the Youth Club to purchase new DJ equipment.

- The Local Police together with Neath Port Talbot enforcement officers were addressing dog fouling in various 'hot spots' in Pontardawe. They were also addressing instances of fly tipping on local mountains.
- There were also ongoing investigations in progress to address the possible sale of controlled substances in the area although further information was not available.
- Patrols would continue on Dynevor Terrace, Quarr Road and Church Street to identify motorists failing to comply with 'No Entry' signs.
- PACT meetings in April had been cancelled due to Purdah regulations surrounding the forthcoming elections however the June meetings would take place as advertised.

Resolved to be noted.

10457. Good Citizens Award:

The Clerk confirmed that there had been additional nominations from Councillors however there was still time to nominate an individual for the award as the closing date had been extended to the end of May. It was agreed that following the closing date a meeting would be convened to review the nomination prior to an event which would be held in September.

Resolved that Council will be kept informed of developments.

10458. Christmas Light provision: Council discussed in full the future provision of the Christmas Light displays for Pontardawe following Neath Port Talbot Council's confirmation that the original lights were no longer fit for purpose and that they would no longer provide an installation service.

Council was aware that the purchase of lights would create difficulties with testing and storage together with high initial costs and strict requirements by both the Town Council insurers and the County Borough on the companies that could install lights.

Community based projects such as the provision of Christmas trees for the holders risked a low take up by local businesses which could lead to a less than complete display together with insurance, installation and organisational difficulties.

As the Town Council in partnership with local groups hosted a dedicated event for the Christmas light 'Switch on' it was also important that a suitably qualified and insured electrician was available to switch on the lights during the event.

It was therefore agreed that to employ a Commercial Company on a hire contract would guarantee a professional display for the Christmas Season that was in accordance with the rules set by both the County Borough and the Town Council's insurers.

The original installation costs for lights owned by the Town Council but installed by Neath Port Talbot Council was approximately £7000. This did not take into account additional decorations requested by Council for 'The Cross' area. It was therefore agreed that a hire contract for £9000 was acceptable for the hire, installation and removal of the lights at Herbert Street and the Cross together with the attendance of the electrician at the 'Switch On' was acceptable.

Commercial Christmas was already providing a hire service for several Town and Community Council's in the area and had been recommended by Neath Town Council. The Clerk had approached

another hire company to provide details of their service but had been informed that they were not able to quote due to the size of the contract and the distance from their main operation.

Commercial Christmas was the only company of that nature that was based in the local area.

Resolved that the Town Council will enter a three-year contract with 'Commercial Christmas' based in Llanelli to provide the Christmas Light display for Pontardawe at a cost of £9000 plus VAT per annum. Given the issue with time scales it was agreed that the Mayor and Deputy Mayor would be given the authority to agree the specific decorations within the scheme provided they were within the stated budget.

10459. ROSPA Reports and Ynysmeudwy Park: Council was advised that one of the new benches in Trebanos Park was raised as an issue in the ROSPA Report. HAGs- SMP however stated that the bench design had been agreed by ROSPA and therefore following a discussion between HAGs-SMP and ROSPA the issue was downgraded from the Trebanos Park ROSPA Report and a new report issued.

The work to refurbish Ynysmeudwy Park had commenced and therefore the Park would remain closed until completion.

The Community at Ynysmeudwy were keen to champion the new Park Refurbishment prior to its official opening by arranging for children from the community and local school to create tiles that could be cemented into the wall at the park. The project would be completed in conjunction with Dragon Arts and would provide a sense of ownership for local children.

Resolved that £400 will be provided by the Town Council to finance the Community tile project. All other actions will be noted.

10460. Defibrillators: Council was advised that Mid and West Wales Fire Authority had agreed to supply a defibrillator for Trebanos provided a place could be identified for it and that the Town Council would be willing to purchase a cabinet at approximately £300.

The defibrillator supplied would not require Personnel training and battery and pad replacement would be required only approximately every 5 years.

The Clerk confirmed that Trebanos Service Station had agreed to put the defibrillator within the Service Station and one had already been provided by the Mid and West Wales Ambulance Service. The Cabinet was on order.

As Council had originally agreed to the purchase of the defibrillator and cabinet but was now receiving the unit for free it was requested that the Town Council be willing to fund some additional cabinets for Pontardawe. The Town Council agreed in principle but would like to see a cabinet for Ynysmeudwy and Rhyd y Fro if a suitable location could be identified.

Resolved that the Town Council will agree in principle to supplying additional defibrillator cabinets for the Pontardawe area if the units were supplied by the Mid and West Wales Fire Authority but each location would need to be reviewed.

10461. Planning:

P2017/0267

Applicants name: Mr Saiful Miah, 7 Henrietta Street, Swansea, SA1 4HW.

Site Location: 69 & 71a Herbert Street, Pontardawe, Swansea, SA8 4ED.

Proposed Development: Change of use of 71a Herbert Street from retail (Class A1) to extend existing restaurant (Class A3) plus new shopfront.

Resolved No objection.

P2017/0081

Applicants name: Mr Blair Fisher, Pensarn Farm, Palleg Road, Lower Cwmtwrch, Swansea, SA9 2QL.

Site Location: 159 Heol y Llwynau, Trebanos, Pontardawe, Swansea, SA8 4DB.

Proposed Development: Demolish existing extension and construction of a single storey rear extension (Amended details).

Resolved No Objection provided there is neighbourhood notification.

10462. Clerks Report on the 2017 AGM – The Clerk stated that due to the date of the Election in 2017 there would be insufficient time to provide the relevant information to Council for the AGM unless the date of the AGM and Ordinary meeting was moved to the 15th May 2017.

This would still comply with the rule that the AGM must be held within 14 days of the Election.

Resolved that the AGM and Ordinary Meeting be moved to the 15th May 2017.

10463. Account Schedule 332:

Resolved that Account Schedule 332 totalling £17507.61 and the Bank Reconciliation be accepted in accordance with Standing Orders.

10464. Letter of Thanks: Letters of Thanks were received for Grants provided from Pontardawe RFC, Bobath, Action for Children, Shelter Cymru, CISS and the Eisteddfod Genedlaethol.

Resolved to be noted.

10465. Letter received from Neath Port Talbot Council re Dog Waste bin at the Canal Path:

Unfortunately, Neath Port Talbot Council were not prepared to place a Dog Waste Bin at the junction of the Canal path from Trebanos with the Cycle Track adjacent to the Leisure Centre in Pontardawe as there was already five bins within a five-mile radius.

Resolved to be noted.

10466. City and County of Swansea Pension Fund:

Employees rate for 2017/ 18 Cleaners in Charge – 5.5%, Groundsman – 5.8%, Clerk - 6.5%.

Employers rate for 2017/18 - 23%

Resolved to be noted.

10467. Draft Wellbeing Assessment -Consultation: Council was provided with the consultation prior to the meeting but there were no further comments.

Resolved to be noted.

10468. Urgent Road Safety Matters:

- Issues surrounding construction traffic at YGG Pontardawe had now been addressed. No issues were now being reported.
- The new layout of Junction 45 of the M4 was considered extremely dangerous and needed to be addressed.
- There had been an incidence on the dual carriageway adjacent to the retail park when dangerous driving had caused danger to school children crossing the road. The quick actions of the Crossing Patrol Officer had however prevented injury to the Children.

Resolved that all required action will be taken.

10469. Time and Date of Next Meeting: The next Ordinary meeting and AGM are due to be held at Ynysmeudwy Hall on the 15th May 2017.

Signed Dated