

Ordinary General Meeting held on the 10th December 2018 at Trebanos Hall, Swansea Road, Trebanos commencing at 6.45pm

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

Apologies: Councillor R Smith and A Richards

11079. Disclosure of Personal or Pecuniary Interests: None.

Resolved to be noted.

11080. Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on the 12th November 2018:

Resolved that the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on the 12th November 2018, having been read and confirmed as a true record, be accepted by Council with the following amendment:

Councillor K Flynn had been incorrectly included as Councillor K Davies.

11081. Matters raised by Members of the Public: None.

Resolved to be noted.

11082. Cwmdu Glen and the Working with Nature Project: The Clerk confirmed that the quotes had been received from the ARB Team and Arborum who were the two contractors recommended by Neath Port Talbot Council.

In line with Council's request both had provided a quote for the work to be carried out on trees in the Risk Assessment recently carried out by Arborum at Cwmdu Glen.

The Quotes were as follows:

Arborum -Trees listed as 'within 3 months' on the Risk Assessment £4200 plus VAT, Trees listed as 'within 6 months on the Risk Assessment £5500 – Total £9700

The ARB Team - Trees listed as 'within 3 months' on the Risk Assessment £4400, Trees listed as 'within 6 months on the Risk Assessment £4900 – Total £9300 (If however, both sets of trees were to be completed at the same time then the amalgamated cost would be reduced to £8500.)

Council had stated that they wished both sets of trees completed at the same time in a previous meeting.

Resolved that the ARB Team will be contracted to complete the work specified on the Cwmdu Tree risk assessment for the 'within 3 month and within 6 month' period together, (subject to sight of adequate insurance)

11083. Police Matters: Council was advised of the following statistics:

Pontardawe All crimes for September totalled 42 (with 19 Violent, 8 Antisocial behaviour and 7 Public Order). All crimes for October totalled 50 (with 19 Violent, 12 Antisocial behaviour and 5 Vehicle)

Trebanos – All crimes for September totalled 5 (with 3 Violent). All crimes for October totalled 3 (with 2 Violent)

The Pontardawe PACT meeting was held on the 6th December 2018. The Police confirmed that one of the young people involved in the road traffic accident on Gellifowy Road had left hospital however the others had life changing injuries. The Quarry had been asked by the Police to close and lock the gate to the section of Gellifowy Road to deter young people racing vehicles in that area.

It was also raised that the contractors working at the junction of the B4603 with Gellifowy Road were parking in a way that obstructed visibility in that area.

The Trebanos PACT meeting was also held on the 6th December 2018. The residents were being consulted on the proposal to place traffic calming measures on Swansea road to reduce the speed of vehicles. The consultation would close on the 14th February 2019. There was also concerns that the road to the Water Treatment plant, adjacent to the Park, was being used for illegal purposes. The local Police had confirmed that they would be monitoring the area regularly.

The Clerk stated that she had been provided with an updated local Police structure chart which would be forwarded to Councillors

Resolved that the Clerk will contact Neath Port Talbot Council to request Traffic Officers attend the junction of Gellifowy Road and the B4603.

11084. Christmas Festivities 2018: The Clerk provided Council with a Report on the Christmas Festivities for 2018.

- There was no issue with the transportation of the tree to Vale or from Vale to the Pontardawe Art Centre. No issue with erecting the tree.
- Commercial Christmas PAT tested the Christmas tree lights and installed them on the Tree prior to the Winterfest
- Most of the Hire lights were installed prior to the Winterfest and switched on as the Parade moved down High Street and the top of Herbert Street. The Tree lights and the lights around the Art Centre were switched on as part of evening's Entertainment. Unfortunately the festoons were not installed prior to the Parade and will be installed after the event. The contractor had profusely apologised and stated this was outside his control.
- All the relevant contracts were signed to allow Festive Lighting to be placed by the Town Council with Neath Port Talbot Council, legal department and Streetlighting
- Arrangements have been made for the Town Council to be billed for the electricity used by the festive lighting.
- There was some concern with the provision of a Fireworks Finale. The Town Council received one email and one resident called at the office. Neath Port Talbot Council also received two complaints, however the complaints were from the same two individuals. Neath Port Talbot Environment Department confirmed that no action

was required or would be taken re the complaints to the Unitary Authority. Overall the feedback from the Community on the Fireworks provision was very positive.

- The Letter drop was carried out to advise pet owners of the Fireworks finale and giving details of how to protect pets. The Art Centre was also open for any person or resident with a dog to come inside during the display. This information was also included in the leaflet and on our social media sites.
- The Fireworks could not be set off from St Peters due to changes in regulations as stated by Pendragon. The only area that could support the firing was the Bypass Car Park – Special Events at Neath Port Talbot Council were contacted, and the relevant authorities and licences obtained to allow the display to go ahead
- The Town Council Insurance provided additional cover however an additional premium of approx. £500 was required.
- The Billboard message at the Cross was placed prior to the Winterfest as required.
- The Battery lights and stars were placed at the Cross prior to the Winterfest. The Battery stars were constructed by the Clerks husband to add to the displays
- A letter was received prior to the judging of the Pontardawe Shop window competition requesting a Panel of Judges from outside the area. With the Mayors consent the Clerk contacted the Glantawe Lions, who were happy to judge the windows competition
- The shopfront competition was judged by the Glantawe Lions on the 8th December 2018 following the dedication of the Tree of Light at the Art Centre. The competition with monetary prizes did not rally the shopkeepers as expected and caused disagreements and some bad feeling. The winners were as follows: 1st Chirpy Bird, 2nd Jaynes Fashion Box & 3rd Pontardawe Florist.
- The Tree and decorations were erected at Trebanos Hall and were well received by the community – The Hall Committee had already provided settlement for half of the cost of the decorations as requested. The Town Council supported the cost of the other half of the decorations and the cost of the installation. – A letter of thanks had been received from the Hall Committee for the Town Council's contribution.
- The Hall committee confirmed that a small celebration has been arranged to award the winners of the Residents Competition – This would be held on Friday 14th December from 5.00 to 5.30pm – All Councillors were welcome to attend.

Council thanked the Clerk, Chamber of Commerce, Art Centre, Clerks Husband and Trebanos Hall Committee for their work to make the 2018 Winterfest such a success.

Resolved Commercial Christmas be thanked for attending the lights 'Switch On' despite sever difficulties but asked to please ensure that for future years all lights are erected and tested at least three days before the event to ensure that there is enough time to address any difficulties that arise.

11085. Planning:

P2018/0911

Applicants name: Mr & Mrs Gaunt- Morris, 47 Danygraig Road, Trebanos, Pontardawe, Swansea SA8 4DS.

Site Location: 47 Danygraig Road, Trebanos, Pontardawe, Swansea SA8 4DS.

Proposed Development: Dwelling (outline all matters reserved)

Resolved there should be neighbourhood notification. Council was also concerned that there was adequate on-site parking due to current congestion in the area.

P2018/0964

Applicants name: Mr Andrew Thomas, 14 Glyn Meirch Road, Trebanos, Pontardawe, Swansea, SA8 4AP.

Site Location: 14 Glyn Meirch Road, Trebanos, Pontardawe, Swansea, SA8 4AP.

Proposed Development: First Floor rear extension plus insertion of first floor window in southern side elevation of original dwelling.

Resolved No Objection provided there is neighbourhood notification.

P2018/0922

Applicants name: Mr Jonathon Clarke, Brynglas Farm, Heol Las, Ynysmeudwy, Pontardawe Swansea SA8 4TR.

Site Location Brynglas Farm, Heol Las, Ynysmeudwy, Pontardawe Swansea SA8 4TR.

Proposed Development: Conversion and alteration of existing barn to provide overspill residential accommodation plus art/craft studio for live/work provision.

Resolved No objection provided there is neighbourhood notification and that the build is ancillary to the existing dwelling and not as a commercial operation which might give rise to access issues.

Application to change the register of Common Land – CL64 Entry 30 Application No: NPT0039.

Resolved No Objection.

Councillor Purcell explained that she had also requested a full Planning Meeting prior to the commencement of the final phase of development opposite YGG Pontardawe to ensure that planning restrictions on traffic, trees and drainage would be upheld by the Local Authority.

It was suggested that the links to Planning Applications should be forwarded to Councillors with the Agenda for each meeting.

Resolved that the Clerk will advise Councillors of the Planning Link when forwarding Agendas.

11086. Clerks Report on GDPR:

The Clerk confirmed that interim policies had been adopted by Council in 2018 however given the wide-ranging changes, changes to policies were ongoing. The Information Commissioners Office had stated that they expected organisations to be working towards compliance but were aware that this would take some time.

With Council's agreement the Clerk had entered a cluster agreement with other local Town and Community Councils to obtain Welsh Assembly Government funding to assist with training and the Data Audit that was required.

The Cluster group had been awarded £5000 and had contracted Neath Port Talbot Council to provide group training together with one day at each Council Office to assist with the Data Audit. This would provide an 'Action Plan' for each Clerk. Assistance would also be available to create standard policy templates for consistency, which could be adopted by Councils.

The Clerk confirmed that the training had been undertaken and a data audit would be completed early in the new year.

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

11087. CBC/Town Council Liaison Committee: Not attended.

Resolved to be noted.

11088. Clerks Holiday: Council was advised that holidays were agreed by the Mayor and Deputy Mayor for the 19th to 23rd November. 10 Hours of relief cover were also agreed. This was agreed in line with Standing Orders.

The Clerk also requested 27th & 28th December and the 2nd January as Holidays.

Resolved that all Holidays will be agreed.

11089. One Voice Wales Committee 5th December 2018: Unfortunately, the Deputy Mayor was unable to locate the venue.

Resolved to be noted.

11090. Account Schedule 351:

Resolved that the Accounts Schedule 351 totalling £13062.24 together with the Bank Reconciliation be accepted by Council in line with Standing Orders.

11091. Service Plans – Pontardawe Fire Station: Council was advised that following the advisory meeting at Pontardawe Fire Station, the Public was advised that Pontardawe Fire Station would be downgraded to a Part Time Station from the 7th January 2019. This decision had been made with no Public Consultation and with no details of when the Station would be closed, the impact on the current staff or the impact on other Part Time Stations in the area that relied on Pontardawe to cover when they were not operational.

Council was extremely concerned as it was known that the Pontardawe area was the third largest in Neath Port Talbot and that as well as taking this decision without consultation, the forward plan discussed in the meeting made no mention of Pontardawe Fire Station. It was also concerning that originally the only Public Meetings scheduled were for Neath and Port Talbot.

Resolved

- An Open Letter would be drafted by the Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Clerk and Councillor Nicholson with the Town Councils concerns – This would be forwarded to the Mid and West Wales Fire Authority, Neath Port Talbot Council, South Wales Evening Post, Alun Llewellyn, Public Service Board, Assembly Members and Member of Parliament.
- The Mid and West Wales Fire Authority would be requested to meet with Councillors prior to the 7th January to discuss their concerns. The Local Press should also be invited to attend.

11092. Hanging Basket Scheme 2019: The Clerk advised Council that there had been some concerns by local shop keepers that the Hanging Baskets were causing rot in their exterior windows. The Clerk explained that as the Lighting Posts had been replaced in Pontardawe they may now be suitable for Baskets.

Resolved that the Clerk will make enquiries about possible alternatives.

11093. Email re Bus Service disruptions: The Clerk provided details from South Wales Transport and First Cymru on the specific disruptions experienced by several Councillors on service 56 & 256.

Council was not convinced as some of the issues such as bus stops, parking and speed bumps had been in existence for years without issue.

Regarding the highways issues and temporary traffic lights, Council was still not convinced as the delays were ongoing despite the removal of the temporary lights in Rhos and Neath.

Resolved that Council Members will email the Clerk with ongoing issues with specific buses. She will then request specific reasons for the delay on those buses. The Clerk will also contact Cilybebyll Community Council to request they also request these details from their Members.

11094. Urgent Road Safety: Councillors Flynn and Nicholson attended a site meeting with Officers (Mr M Brumby) from Neath Port Talbot Council to discuss Pedestrian Crossing Points in Pontardawe.

The Councillors and Officers walked the Centre of Pontardawe and the following points were raised:

- Apart from the push-buttons on the traffic lights at the Cross, the town's single Class I road, the A474, has No controlled pedestrian crossings anywhere on the council's territory: the three other crossings are all on the Class II B4603, dating back to the time, before the complete opening of Ffordd Cwm Tawe, when it was the main valley road.

- They examined in detail the existing pedestrian routes between the Herbert Street area and the many new developments located west of the barrier that the Jubilee bypass has effectively become -- despite the existence of an underpass at one end, which is very useful for the immediate area it serves but is not particularly well connected on the western side.
- They looked at the difficulties posed to pedestrians, especially mobility impaired ones, needing to cross any of the five roads from the Arts Centre to the Ynysderw Road roundabout near the Jubilee bus stops. Our visitors did notice for themselves that the pedestrian route across the splitter-island at the entrance to the roundabout from the bypass, despite having dropped kerbs, also has two enormous traffic sign posts planted in the middle of the walkway.
- The (unmarked) crossing-point near the entrance to the long-stay car-park where there is a crossing patrol a.m. and p.m. on school days was reviewed. It was suggested this might be a good place to install a properly marked full-time controlled crossing. The objection here was that the location is on a bridge, which would make the installation of any signs, beacons, or traffic lights very difficult.
- Mr Brumby and his colleague stated that they would look at the pedestrian provision on the dual-carriageway bridge down from Alltwen. This is, of course, on the border between Pontardawe and Alltwen but, as Cllr Nicholson and I both pointed out, pedestrian traffic to and from Alltwen is an important factor in the safety issues identified at the Ynysderw Road roundabout.
- Councillor Flynn was also provided with a contact in Neath Port Talbot Council in order to report many damaged or missing road signs.

In previous correspondence with Neath Port Talbot Council, the Town Council was advised that the Pedestrian Crossings would only be placed due to criteria such as footfall and Financial constraints were not a factor in the decision on whether to place a pedestrian crossing. Mr Brumby however stated that the inclusion of a financial input from local Town or Community Councils was a factor in the decision for placing Pedestrian Crossings.

Council was also advised that following the removal of overgrown trees adjacent to Holly Street on the Canal bank there was a significant unfenced drop.

Speeding outside Llangiwg school was also still an issue. It was suggested that if the actions carried out in Trebanos to reduce speeding outside the School was successful, then this could also be a solution to the issue at Llangiwg school.

Resolved that the Clerk will clarify the criteria for the placing of Pedestrian Crossings with Neath Port Talbot Council to determine if crossings could be placed if part financed by the Town Council.

11095. The Next Meeting of Council: The next meeting of Council will take place on the 14th January 2018 at Ynysmeudwy Hall commencing at 6.45pm.

Signed Dated