

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Pontardawe Town Council held on Monday 10th February 2014,
at Ynysmeudwy Hall, Old Road, Pontardawe commencing at 6.45pm

9418. Present Councillors M James (presiding), Mrs J Bowen, V Hotten, H Pickrell, Mrs L Purcell, D Harris, D B Thomas, Mrs E Puzey, G Davies, Ms R Lewis, H Evans.
Youth Representatives – Dylan Williams and Harri Evans – Mason

Apologies: Councillor Ms S Northcott, A Nicholson, B Williams and P Williams.

9419. Election of Chair for the meeting: As both the Mayor and Deputy Mayor were absent from the meeting, Councillor Mike James was nominated by Councillor G Davies and seconded by Councillor Mrs L Purcell to chair the ordinary meeting, in accordance with Standing Orders. There were no objections.

Resolved that Councillor Mike James chair the Ordinary meeting on the 10th February 2014.

9420. Disclosure of Personal and Pecuniary interests:

Councillors Mrs J Bowen, G Davies and V Hotten declared an interest in the Pontardawe and District Youth Facility. Councillor L Purcell and R Lewis declared an interest in Planning. Councillor Mrs J Bowen also declared an interest in any discussion on Trebanos Park or the Trebanos Hall constitution.

Resolved this be noted.

9421. Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on the 13th January 2014:

Resolved that the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 13th January 2014, having been read and confirmed as a true record, be accepted by Council.

9422. John Jones a representative of the Pontardawe Chamber of Trade addressed Council:

Mr Jones firstly thanked the Town Council on behalf of the Chamber of Trade for their previous grants to support the Pontardawe Festivals. He also thanked them for their support in obtaining the 'one hour free parking' in the Town Centre Car Parks, and for providing the Summer Hanging Baskets.

He explained that in the past the festivals had been supported through funds from the Chamber of Trade, the Town Council and Neath Port Talbot Council, however due to austerity measures at the County Borough, the grants they provided had been cut, and this led to the Chamber of Commerce inability to stage the festivals in 2013.

The Chamber of Trade had however been tirelessly working to devise a plan to stage the 'Summerfest' in 2014 and had identified that the parade was one of the major areas of the festival that would require funding.

They had already obtained pledges from the Public Houses in Pontardawe to provide funds totaling £1000, but would require a grant of approximately £2000 from the Town Council to support the Summerfest.

As the funds would be required to support a number of different acts and administrative costs (i.e. bands, dancers, security, lighting etc) he explained that it would be difficult to provide costs prior to the event as had been the case for previous years but confirmed that all receipts would be provided as soon as the Festival had been completed.

The Summerfest was to be held on the 15th, 16th and 17th August 2014.

Council thanked John for his overview of the situation and asked him to officially contact the Clerk with a grant funding request.

Resolved to be noted.

9423. Matters raised by members of the public: None.

Resolved to be noted.

9424. Police Matters: The Clerk provided the following information:

Trebanos:

Total Crime for January 2014 – 3 instance of crime (1 violent, 1 criminal damage and 1 other theft)

The PACT meeting had been held on the 6th February 2014 at 6.30pm at Trebanos Hall, but there were no details available of the next meeting.

Pontardawe:

Total Crime for January 2014 – 25 (1 Burglary, 6 Anti- social behavior, 2 vehicle crime, 5 violent crime, 2 public disorder, 1 shoplifting, 2 criminal damage and 6 other theft)

The next PACT meeting was to be held on the 20th February at the Cross Community Centre commencing at 6.30pm.

Council was advised that the Police considered both the Pontardawe and Trebanos PACT meetings to be a valuable method of public communication and had no plans to disband them.

Resolved to be noted.

9425. Pontardawe & District Youth Facility: Councillors V Hotten G Davies and Mrs J Bowen expressed an interest.

Council was advised that the Pontardawe and District Youth Facility had received financial assistance of £3500 for this fiscal year to date.

The Trustees would also like to request similar financial support for the 2014/15 fiscal year.

Resolved that the request for financial assistance be reviewed at a Finance Committee due to be held on the 17th February 2014 at 6.00pm.

9426. Out of School activities brochure: The Clerk confirmed that both Cilybebyll and GCG Community Council's wished to collaborate in the production of the brochure, however Ystalyfera Community Council had declined.

Resolved that the Clerk will arrange for up to date details of the organizations to be collated, and will liaise with the partners.

9427. Open Meeting 2014: The Clerk confirmed that the posters had been printed and had been placed in prominent positions throughout the area. A note had also appeared in the Community Mag. She was also hoping that a piece would appear in the South Wales Evening Post.

Council was a little concerned over the size of the panel and believed that the Chair would need specific guidance on managing the meeting. They also wished questions to be allowed from the floor on the evening of the event.

Resolved that the Clerk will arrange a Policy and Resources committee on the 24th February 2014 to discuss the question formats and the Chaining of the meeting.

9428. Community growing programmes: The Clerk confirmed that despite numerous attempts to obtain technical help to register with the land share web site, none had been forthcoming. It was therefore unlikely that sources of land would be determined from this source.

The position with the land at 'Riverside' was still undecided and therefore no information was currently available.

The Cardiff Community Farm was to determine if one of their members were able to come to a future meeting to discuss alternative community growing projects.

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

9429. Planning: It was agreed to suspend standing orders and defer the planning discussion until the end of the meeting.

Resolved that planning be discussed at the end of the meeting.

9430. Development Committee meeting required to discuss Christmas Decorations for 2015 and the value of PACT meetings: Council wished the Clerk to obtain more information on the Christmas decoration position prior to a formal meeting. They also believed that as the Police believed the PACT meetings effective in Pontardawe and Trebanos no further action was necessary.

Resolved to be noted.

9431. Grant requests for 2014/15: It was agreed to organize a Finance meeting to discuss grant requests for 2014/15.

Resolved that a Finance meeting be arranged for 6.00pm on the 17th February 2014.

9432. Withdrawal of School Crossing patrols from the 31st March 2014 - Policy and Resources Committee held on the 27th January 2014: The Committee was made aware of the proposed cut in service and discussed the matter in full. They determined that at present there were two crossing patrols for Cwmtawe School. The patrols were situated on the bypass and on Swansea Road. There were also school crossing patrols at Llangiwg School, Pontardawe Welsh School and Rhyd y Fro School. Trebanos School had no crossing patrol.

The Committee agreed that due to the age of the children and the speed of the road the greatest risk to children was at the Swansea Road and Bypass crossings, however there was some uncertainty over the future of these crossings, as it was believed that either one of both may continue to be supported by the County Borough.

The Committee discussed the proposal that the Town Council look to take over the responsibility for the service and was advised by the Clerk of the following information had already been obtained:

- One Voice Wales suggested that any Town or Community Council looking to take over responsibility for staff from a unitary authority, look to negotiate a scheme with the unitary authority whereby the staff member remains in the employ of the unitary authority with funds being directed from the Town or Community Council to cover their costs.
- The advice from One Voice Wales was that it was not recommended that staff members be employed directly by Town or Community Councils due to the difficulties administering TUPE regulations and the additional costs associated with cover uniforms etc.
- The Clerk confirmed that Neath Port Talbot Council had quoted a cost of approximately £4000 to £5000 per annum for each crossing patrol and that there were no funds available from the budget to cover this cost for 2014/15. She further stated that should Council wish to fund these patrols for future years then the precept would need to be raised to cover the cost, or other services would need to be cut.
- The Clerk also confirmed that One Voice Wales had confirmed that there were no grants or additional funds available from the Welsh Assembly to support staff or functions transferred from a unitary authority to Town or Community Councils.

The Committee determined that merely taking over the responsibility for the crossings was not financially viable and therefore further information would be required to determine if there were alternative methods of providing the service.

The Committee therefore recommended the Clerk obtain the following information:

- Determine if the School Crossing patrols for Cwmtawe School at Swansea Road and the Bypass will continue to be funded by the County Borough.

- Determine if the County Borough will be willing to supply wet weather gear and cover the insurance of voluntary workers, and if so, if the Schools would be willing to operate a voluntary rota for crossing patrol volunteers.
- Determine if the schools would be in a position to support some of the cost of retaining their crossing patrol personnel
- Determine if the local Police would support additional traffic calming measures in the vicinity of schools, and what type of measure they would recommend.
- Determine if the County Borough would support the placement of additional traffic calming measures at the affected schools to reduce the speed of the traffic.

Resolved that the recommendation will be ratified.

9433. Council Tax Reduction Scheme consultation - Policy and Resources Committee held on the 27th January 2014: The Committee reviewed the documentation and the six proposals, but felt that due to the additional proposals to amalgamate unitary authorities the consultation document was premature, as there was a possibility that the separate authorities would favour different solutions which would need to be readdressed once amalgamation had taken place.

The Committee recommended that the Clerk write to request the review postponed until after the agreement to amalgamate authorities has taken place.

Resolved that the Committee recommendations will be ratified.

9434. Model Standing Order - Policy and Resources Committee held on the 27th January 2014: The Clerk provided the committee with the current version of the Model Standing Orders which was reviewed in full. She explained that the Model was agreed and recommended by the Auditors and One Voice Wales and therefore she suggested that they be adopted in full without amendment, apart from where the model allowed personalisation.

The Committee recommended that the Standing Orders are adopted in full.

Resolved that the Committee recommendations will be ratified and the Model Standing Orders adopted.

9435. Model Financial Regulations - Policy and Resources Committee held on the 27th January 2014: The Clerk provided the committee with the current version of the Model Financial Regulations which were reviewed in full. She explained that the Model was agreed and recommended by the Auditors and One Voice Wales and therefore she suggested that they be adopted in full without amendment, apart from where the model allowed personalisation.

The Committee recommended that the Financial Regulations are adopted in full.

Resolved that the Committee recommendations will be ratified and the Model Financial Regulations adopted.

9436. Organisational Pledge: The Clerk requested details of the action plan to be put in place for the 'Time to Change Wales Organisational Pledge'

Resolved to be discussed in a Policy and Resources Committee to be held at 6.30pm on the 17th February 2014.

9437. Clerks report on Employee Mobile Phones: The Clerk advised Council that both her mobile phone and the Groundsmans phone were no longer operational but that she had determined that under the current contract the Council was due new handsets. She explained that she had renegotiated with Vodaphone as the original Groundsmans mobile phone needed to be more robust, but that she was able to take a less comprehensive handset.

It was therefore negotiated that the Groundsman would receive a Samsung Galaxy with a rubber case but that the Clerk would receive a Nokia ASHER. The reduction in the Clerks subscription would almost offset the increase in the groundsmans subscription with the difference being only £1.91 per month.

Resolved that Council will agree the new Mobile phone contracts and that the Councillors will be made aware of the Clerks mobile phone number.

9438. Accounts Schedule 296:

Resolved to accept the schedule totaling £12837.57

9439. Email from Groundworks re Trebanos Park: Council was advised that Groundworks had attended Trebanos School and had received feedback from the children on the actual Boulder to be situated at the Park. The start date would be provided shortly.

Resolved that an actual date to commence the project will be obtained from Groundworks.

9440. Letter from Councillor Re Trebanos Park: A letter had been received from a Trebanos Councillor requesting the Town Council look into additional grant funding to update the current play equipment at the park.

Resolved that the Clerk will look into funding from WREN.

9441. Letter from the Cefn Llan Residents Association re plaque for Parc Chwarae Teg: Council was provided with details of the types of plaques available and was advised that the unverified cost was at least £350. The Clerk did however confirm that there were £1500 ring fenced from

the original grants that was still available and could only be used to improve Parc Chawarae Teg.

Resolved that an anodised aluminium plaque be purchased following a review of the cost by the Clerk.

9442. Neath Port Talbot Local Development Plan – Alternative Sites: Council was provided with details of the sites prior to the meeting. Council was concerned over the lack of specifics however as these sites were not yet agreed it was determined that no action need be taken.

Resolved to be noted.

9443. Consultation on the Welsh Planning System: Council requested this be reviewed at a Policy and Resources Committee.

Resolved to discuss at a Policy and Resources Committee to be held on the 17th February 2014. This committee will have plenary powers due to the tight time scales.

9444. 'Cymraeg yn Gyntaf': The provided details of an email received from Mener Iaith inviting the Town Council to take part in activities to promote the town on St David's Day.

Resolved that the Town Council will take part in the campaign.

9445. Trebanos Hall revised Constitution: Council was provided with the revised constitution prior to the meeting and was advised that it has already been passed by the Hall Committee during its AGM.

Resolved to be noted.

9446. Commission on Public Service Governance and Delivery Final Report: Council was provided with details prior to the meeting.

Resolved to be noted.

9447. Request for summer work placement: The Clerk stated that Harri Evans Mason had requested he be allowed to work at the Town Council for his placement from the 14th July to the 18th July 2014. The Clerk confirmed that she was happy for this placement to take place.

Resolved that the Town Council will provide Harri Evans-Mason with a work experience placement for the above dates.

9448. Tata Steel consultation: Council was advised of the details of the consultation.

Resolved that Councillor A Nicholson will be asked to review and report back at the next meeting.

9449. Planning: Councillors Ms R Lewis and Mrs L Purcell left the meeting and took no part in the discussions.

P2013/1143

Applicants: Mr Richard Grove, Pontardawe Golf Club, Ael y Fro, Rhyd y Fro, Pontardawe, Swansea, SA84SH.

Site Location: Club House, Pontardawe Golf Club, Ael y Fro, Rhyd y Fro, Pontardawe, Swansea, SA84SH.

Proposed Development: Single Storey side extension.

Resolved no objection.

P2014/0084

Applicants: CTIL and Vodafone, C/o Agents....

Site Location: Industrial Estate SW, Off Tawe Terrace, Pontardawe, Swansea, SA84EZ.

Proposed Development: Application under part 24 of the General Permitted Development Order for a 15 meter high antenna and two cabinets.

Resolved no objection.

P2014/0020

Applicants: Mr Andrew Rickson, Brook Cottage, Llanguicke Road, Pontardawe, Swansea, SA84PL.

Site Location: Jasmine Cottage, Llanguicke Road, Pontardawe, Swansea, SA84PL.

Proposed Development: Demolition of out building and part of existing dwelling and construction of single storey rear extension, outbuilding, alteration to roof and flue.

Resolved no objection provided there is neighbourhood notification.

9450. Urgent road safety matters: There was some concern that the Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Authority were still dispatching vehicles that were unsuitable to incidents in Trebanos.

Resolved that the Clerk will write to the Mid and West Wales Fire Authority to express concern.

9451. Date and time of next meeting: The date of the next Ordinary Meeting of Council will be Monday 10th March 2014 at ARCH Hall commencing at 6.45pm.

Signed **Dated**

