

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Pontardawe Town Council held on Monday 10th January 2011 at Trebanos Hall commencing at 6.45p.m

8406. Present: Councillors Mrs J Bowen (presiding), B Williams, D B Thomas, D Harris, M James, Mrs C Lambourne, Mrs E Puzey, H Pickrell, Mrs A Davies, Sue Northcott, Linet Purcell, A Nicholson, H Evans

Apologies: M Thomas, A E Williams, V Thomas

8407. Amendment to Minute number 8404: Councillor Purcell organized the petition.

8408. Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on the 13th December 2010.

Resolved that the minutes of the meeting, subject to the above amendment, having been read and confirmed as a true record, be accepted by Council.

8409. Police Matters: Council was provided with a summary of the PACT Meeting issues and resolutions for Pontardawe and Trebanos. These were as follows:

Pontardawe

- Dog Fouling in the Town Centre and on the canal path – Patrols carried out in over the last three months by PCSOs, and to continue for the near future, however Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council, to take over the monitoring in the longer term.
- Littering in Herbert Street – Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council to take over the monitoring of this issue.
- Annoyance by youths in Church Street, Pontardawe – PCSO Mark Jones gave a talk to the local Youth Club, to explain the dangers of playing football on public roads, after dark. Subsequent patrols in the area showed no issues.
- Anti Social behavior in Pontardawe Town Centre – Additional patrols carried out by PCSO's in the area, however no incidences were witnessed

Trebanos

- Parking issues in Graig Road – PCSO Singh had spoken to residents, and had taken appropriate action.
- Complaints that a certain business, were selling alcohol to under age youths – The appropriate agencies were made aware of the position. Patrols have been monitoring this closely.

Council was also advised that PACT were considering the issue of cyclists within the area and parking on pavements.

PACT Meetings:

Pontardawe – 3rd February 2011 at the Cross Community Centre.

Trebanos – 10th February 2011 at Trebanos Community Hall.

Resolved to be noted.

8410. Theft of CCTV Camera from Trebanos Park: Council was advised that a youth had been arrested from the Trebanos Area, in relation to the theft of the CCTV Camera from Trebanos Park. The youth received a reprimand at the Police Custody Unit. Details of the crime and punishment are to be circulated to local youths as a deterrent to this type of theft and vandalism.

Council was however advised that no order for compensation could be made.

Resolved to be noted.

8411. One Stop Shop: A letter was received from the County Borough with regard to reduced opening hours. This confirmed the following:

- From the 10th January 2011 the 'One Stop Shop' would be open for full days on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.
- Staff from the Housing benefits team would be based in Pontardawe to give residents and expert service
- 'Blue Badge' customers would be able to obtain their badge in person from the One Stop Shop, rather than waiting for it to be sent via the post.
- Implementation of the Department of Work and Pensions 'Tell us Once' project, where by details of death could be advised through the 'One Stop Shops'
- Discussions were underway to provide a Citizens advise Bureau service from the One Stop Shop at Pontardawe.

Councillor Purcell also advised Council that she had received actual figures of the staff to enquiries ratio for the One Stop Shops, which showed a justification for the reduction in opening hours. However, there was still some concern at the lack of prior notification.

Resolved that the reduced service would be monitored, to determine if the needs of the community were being met.

8412. Pheasant Road, Trebanos: Council was advised that Pheasant Road was now closed by the Water Authority for the laying of the new pipe. Local residents were concerned however about the lack of prior information provided to advise them of the proposed road closure. A notice was however placed in the Post Office at Trebanos by Councillor Davies, to inform residents.

Resolved to be monitored.

8413. Teenage Shelter at Trebanos Park: Council was advised that allocation of funds was imminent, and that work could begin shortly.

Resolved that the Clerk, would keep Council, up to date with developments.

8414. Local Cyclists: The issue of dangerous cyclists, together with sub standard homemade cycles, was raised by Council. Together with Advice from 'Sustrans', Cycling proficiency tests and bike building

workshops will be looked into, there is also the possibility that a cycle refurbishment centre is to open in the area, that may provide opportunities for disaffected youths, to put skills to legitimate use. Additional information will be provided, when available

Resolved that the Clerk would make enquires and report back to Council.

8415. Bridle Path, Pheasant Road, Treabanos: Council was advised that no further information had been received from the Countryside Officers.

Resolved that the Clerk, would advise Council, of any developments.

8416. Local Government Boundary Commission for Wales – Review: Council was advised that unfortunately the information provided, was for the City of Swansea, and not for Neath Port Talbot.

Resolved that the Clerk, would make another request.

8417. Location of Christmas Lights – email from Councillor Bob Williams: Council was advised that a letter had been sent to the County Borough, requesting that they take into account the cenotaph when deciding of the placement of Lights, stages etc.

Resolved that the Clerk would advise Council once a response had been received.

8418. Treabanos Park Toilet Block refurbishment: It was agreed that this matter would be discussed later in the year, when Councils spending against budget was reviewed.

Resolved to be noted.

8419. Ynysderw Road, Pontardawe: Following concern over large vehicles attempting to access the retail park via Ynysderw Road, a letter was sent to the County Borough, stating that signage was needed to request motorists disregard 'SAT NAV' instructions. Although no response was received by the Clerk, Councillors Mike James and Linet Purcell, had received a response.

Resolved that Councillor Purcell, would look into the response, and report back to Council.

8420. Car Parking Charges at Pontardawe: The Clerk provided Council with details of a letter received from the County Borough, in response to our letter of the 16th December. The letter stated that the legal process began on the 17th December for a period of 21 days ending on the 7th January 2011. However, as the Town Council Meeting was not to be held until the 10th January 2011, they were happy in this instance, to allow the Town Council to provide details following the Town Council Meeting. The letter confirmed that the current on street parking order was not to be varied, and this should help with residents picking up prescriptions from the two pharmacies in the village.

The letter also referred to the proposed regeneration scheme for Pontardawe, and stated that as part of this scheme two disabled bays were to be included outside the two pharmacies.

The Clerk also advised Council of an email received from Councillor David Lewis, which provided some background.

Resolved that two letters be sent to the County Borough with regard to this matter.

One letter to state the Council dismay that once again, important decisions were being made by the County Borough that directly affected area, without initial consultation with the Town Council

The Second letter to reaffirm its objection to car parking charges in the Pontardawe area.

8421. Planning: It was agreed to arrange a Planning meeting to discuss planning applications received, on the 24th January 2011 at the Council Office, Herbert Street, Pontardawe.

Resolved to be noted.

8422. End of Audit Report: Council was advised that an audit of the accounts from the 1st April 2009 to the 31st March 2010 had now been completed successfully by the District Audit.

Council approved the Annual Return.

Resolved to be noted.

8423. Schedule of Accounts 262 totaling £11229.31.

Resolved to be noted.

8424. Retirement Party: Council was advised that in accordance with their wishes the Art Centre had been booked for the evening of the 17th January 2011 - £100 deposit had been paid this week, with the balance by invoice. Invitations had been printed and the majority sent by post on the 7th January. A presentation gift with a suitable inscription together with a bouquet had been ordered. The Mayor confirmed that the buffet for the event had also been ordered.

Resolved that the costs of the even be ratified and the details noted.

8425. Pwllfawtkin liaison meetings 2011: Council was advised that the initial dates for the meetings were the 7th March, 6th June, 5th September and 5th December. Councillor Bob Williams confirmed that he had requested the dates altered as they clashed with Council meetings.

Resolved to be noted.

8426. Councillor M Thomas: Council was advised that Councillor Thomas was unwell and currently in hospital.

Resolved that a suitable card be send on behalf of the Council, and that Councillor Thomas wife be contacted to offer help if needed.

8427. Web Site: The Clerk advised Council that the 'Annual Website Maintenance Package' had been altered due to increased use of the web site. In future the webmaster would provide a fully itemized invoice every time four hours had been reached; time would be recorded in 5 minute slots. The hourly

rate of £25 per hour would remain. It was also suggested that a Policy and Resources committee be arranged later in the year to discuss the improvement of the web site.

Resolved that the changes be ratified, however the position would be monitored.

8428. County Borough Council – Community Liaison Forum 14TH February 2011: Council was advised that the next meeting would be on the 14th February 2011 at 4.00 at the County Hall in Neath.

Resolved that Councillor B Williams and S Northcott would attend.

8429. Hanging Basket Scheme- Summer 2011: Council was advised that a request had been received for confirmation that Pontardawe would like to continue with the summer hanging basket scheme for 2011.

Resolved that Pontardawe would request hanging baskets for summer 2011.

8430. Road Safety: Council was advised that a hole had appeared at the centre of 'The Cross' in Pontardawe.

Resolved that a letter would be sent to the County Borough.

Signed **Dated**