

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

10546. Present: Councillor Mrs L Purcell (presiding), G Davies, V Hotten, H Evans, Ms C Ford, A Richards, J Jones, Ms R Jones, W Thomas, C Morgan, Mrs R Phillips and R Smith

Apologies: Councillor A Nicholson, Ms S Northcott, G Nicholson and Jamie Edwards (Youth Representative).

10547. Disclosure of Personal and Pecuniary interests: Councillor J Jones expressed an interest in planning as he was the applicant in P2017/0195.

Resolved to be noted.

10548. Minutes of the Ordinary meeting held on the 12th June 2017:

Resolved that the minutes of the Ordinary meeting held on the 12th June 2017, having been read and confirmed as a true record, be accepted by Council.

10549. Co- Option for the vacant Pontardawe Ward seat: The three candidates; Kevin Flynn, Carl Jones and Peter Ryan all addressed Council then left the room. Council unanimously decided on a secret ballot rather than a show of hands to vote for their preferred candidate.

The Clerk explained that each Councillor had one vote with the Mayor having an additional deciding vote in the event of a draw. The Candidate with most votes would be Co-Opted on to the Council.

The votes were as follows:

Kevin Flynn – 7 votes, Peter Ryan – 4 votes and Carl Jones – 1 vote.

The Chair advised the candidates of the result of the vote and thanked them for their application.

Resolved that Kevin Flynn be Co-Opted on to Pontardawe Town Council.

10550. Matters raised by Members of the Public: None.

Resolved to be noted.

10551. Robert Clapham Head of the Glantawe Outdoor Education Academy: Unfortunately, Robert was unable to attend the meeting and sent his apologies. He will be attending the September meeting.

Resolved to be noted.

10552. Cwmdu:

The Clerk confirmed that the volunteer days and arrangement to set up the volunteer groups were continuing. Further information would be available in due course.

Council was made aware that there had been some vandalism to new structures in Cwmdu but that it had been an isolated incident.

Council also wished time scales for the sign posting of the Circular route and the creation of the viewing platform if they were available. It was also stated that work was needed on the Town Council path from the mill to the Waterfall as there were fallen trees on the path.

A request was made for additional parking at the Glanrhyd Estate and although this had been discussed previously it was agreed to consider the possibility again as this would increase the number of visitors to the area.

Resolved that the Clerk will request a response from the Working with Nature team on the issues raised.

10553. Police Matters:

The Clerk confirmed that there were no further statistics but that a response had been received from the Trebanos PCSO re the cancelled PACT meeting. He stated that the dates of the PACT meetings were decided at beginning of the year centrally and therefore in the event of one having to be cancelled, the local PCSO was unable to reschedule. He did however point out that the issue with the two consecutive meetings being cancelled in Trebanos due to two separate elections was an unusual occurrence which was unlikely to be repeated.

Resolved that the Clerk will request that the statistics be updated as the most up to date were for April 2017 and will request an explanation as to why PACT meetings were cancelled during Purdah when they were non-political.

10554. Ynysmeudwy Park: Council was advised that the Park had been completed and the official 'Open Day' had been a remarkable success. The local media had attended and we were awaiting the story in the local press.

The Clerk was in the process of drawing down grant funds and the invoice from the supplier would be settled once funds were received.

Resolved that Councillor Purcell will contact the Reporter to determine when the story on the Park Opening would appear in the local media.

10555. Defibrillators: The Defibrillator at Trebanos Service Station had been officially opened by the Mayor and a press release had been forwarded to the local media. Unfortunately to date the story had not appeared.

The Town Clerk had also contacted venues in Ynysmeudwy and Rhyd y Fro to determine if the external units could be placed on their establishments but had to date not received a reply.

Resolved that Councillor Purcell will contact the local media to determine when the story would be run. Councillors Smith would discuss the possible placement with the owners of the private business at Rhyd y Fro and Councillor Hotten will discuss the possible placement with the owners of the private business at Ynysmeudwy.

10556. Town Council Social Media: Council was advised that the Facebook page had been set up but was not yet live. Information to populate the page was required. It was also agreed that the page should be bilingual rather than there being separate Welsh and English Facebook pages.

Council also reviewed the Town Council web site which was considered outdated and in need of updating. Councillor Morgan explained that he would liaise with the Clerk over both matters.

Councillor G Nicholson was in the process of setting up the twitter feed and this would be available in due course.

Resolved that the Clerk will liaise with Councillors Morgan and Nicholson to produce the information to allow both pages to go 'live'

10557. Planning:

Council was advised that the Planning Committee scheduled for the 3rd July had not been quorate.

P2017/0656

Applicants name: Mrs Marina Polyukhova, Telecom Holding Ltd, 1-4 Argyll Street, London W1F7LD.

Site Location: Land to the North West of Perthgynion Farm, Rhyd y Fro, Neath SA8 4TA.

Proposed Development: Non-Material Amendment to P2015/0915 granted on the 30/6/2015 – amendment to working hours.

Resolved No Objection.

P2017/0554

Applicants name: Mr Andrew Spratt, Blaen Egel Fawr, Rhyd y Fro, Pontardawe SA8 4TA

Site Location: Blaen Egel Fawr, Rhyd y Fro, Pontardawe SA8 4TA

Proposed Development: Two Storey Side Extension

Resolved No Objection provided there is neighbourhood notification

P2017/0612

Applicants name: Mr Gareth Green, 31 Maes yr Ysgol, Pontardawe SA8 4JS.

Site Location: 31 Maes yr Ysgol, Pontardawe SA8 4JS.

Proposed Development: Installation of first floor window to side elevation

Resolved No Objection provided there is neighbourhood notification

P2017/0542

Applicants name: Mr & Mrs Davies, Maes Iago, James Street, Pontardawe, Swansea SA8 4LR.

Site Location: Maes Iago, James Street, Pontardawe, Swansea SA8 4LR.

Proposed Development: Two Storey rear extension and detached garage

Resolved No Objection provided there is neighbourhood notification.

P2017/0584

Applicants Name: Mr A Collins, 180 Swansea Road, Trebanos, Pontardawe, Swansea SA8 4BU

Site Location: 180 Swansea Road, Trebanos, Pontardawe, Swansea SA8 4BU

Proposed Development: Single Storey rear extension

Resolved No Objection provided there is neighbourhood notification.

P2017/0195

Planning Permission approved for the Proposed Certificate of Lawful use of Development at the Old Stables, Herbert Street, Pontardawe, Swansea

Councillor J Jones expressed an interest.

10558. Good Citizens Award – Discussed at the Development meeting held on the 19th June 2017:

The reminder of the nominations for the Good Citizens Award were reviewed and agreed – These were:

Chris Penhale, Dan and Joan Griffiths, Edwina Ranft, Harri Evans-Mason, Claire DeFreitas, Lydia Ryan, Mark Jones, Ruth Excel Whitehart, Kelly Frost, Miranda Williams and Luke Morgan- Harris.

It was agreed that the main theatre at the Art Centre should be hired for the event which should take place on a Thursday in mid-September 2017 from approximately 7.00pm to 10.00pm

The buffet should be for 60 guests from a local caterer.

We should try to arrange for a Master of Ceremonies for the evening and Noel James was put forward as a possible MC

Entertainment should be one set of 45 minutes following the awards ceremony and several bands were suggested.

It was agreed that the current Councillors and Councillors who were Members prior to the Election should be invited plus a guest for each. The nominees should also be invited together with recipients plus family members (It was suggested that should recipients wish to invite more than three family, Members, so four in total then the Clerk should be informed) – The Event would be invitation only.

The Committee suggested that as well as a signed certificate, recipients should also be presented with a Good Citizens Mug.

Full Council would decide on the band to be invited to play and Councillor John Jones would look at the designs for the mugs and Certificates.

In the Ordinary meeting full Council decided that a Jazz band or similar would be appropriate entertainment for the evening. Councillor J Jones would arrange the entertainment.

Resolved that the recommendations be ratified.

10559. The 'Shhh' campaign - Discussed at the Development meeting held on the 19th June 2017:

The Committee reviewed some of the events that had taken place at Lincoln following their 'Shush' Campaign to determine some methods of encouraging people in the centre of Pontardawe to respect residents by keeping noise to a minimum late at night and early in the morning.

Many ideas were put forward however it was agreed that the following be taken forward:

- Beer mats with the campaign logo and message to be provided for public houses.
- Poster to be provided for the Public Houses, restaurants, and late evening venues
- Stickers to be provided for Taxis

Councillor John Jones would produce a logo and slogans for the campaign for agreement by Council

Resolved that the recommendations be ratified.

10560. 2017 Question Time Arrangements - Discussed at the Development meeting held on the 19th June 2017:

It was suggested that as the bar at the Leisure Centre was no longer available then the event should take place in the Studio at the Art Centre on a Thursday in October 2017 between approximately 7.00pm and 9.00pm.

As in previous years the MP, Assembly Members and Local County Councillors should be invited to form the Panel.

Councillor Andrew Nicholson was happy to Chair the meeting.

It was suggested that Posters and Social Media should be used to both publicise the event and to obtain relevant questions. As in previous years the questions would be supplied to the Panel prior to the event.

A meeting would need to be scheduled prior to the event to review the question submitted.

Resolved that the recommendations be ratified.

10561. Clerks Holiday and Holiday Cover:

Council agreed for relief Cover for the Civic Service on the 23rd July 2017 and for relief cover during the Clerks holiday on the 15th September 2017.

Resolved that relief cover is employed for both events.

10562. One Voice Wales – Area Committee: Councillor Ford attended the meeting and provided a summary.

The salient points were information from the Financial Auditors which would be forwarded to the Clerk. A help sheet which could be made available for Councillors in Declaring Interests and Social Media and its uses for Town and Community Councils.

Pontardawe Town Council was also praised for Harri's work as a Youth Representative

Resolved to be noted.

10563. Account Schedule 335:

Resolved that Account Schedule 335 totalling £10685.46 and the Bank Reconciliation be accepted in accordance with Standing Orders.

10564. Active Travel Consultation: The Consultation was forwarded to Councillors prior to the meeting.

The consultation was primarily to support walking and cycling routes in the area and it was noted that there some gaps in the provision between various areas although unofficial paths were available to members of the public.

It was suggested that a Circular Cycle route would be good for tourism.

Regarding public transport which was slightly out of the remit of the consultation, it was noted that Neath Port Talbot Council were looking to set up a Council run bus service for outlying areas, however at present there were many obstacles that would need to be overcome.

Resolved to be noted.

10565. Notice of Confirmation: Council was advised that there was a Notice of Confirmation for the alleged public footpath alongside the Upper Clydach river between Waungron and Footpath No 236.

Resolved to be noted.

10566. Email received re Dementia Friendly Communities: Marcia Vale provided details of a 'singalong group' to encourage integration. Funds had been provided for the singing sessions and the venue would be provided free of charge.

At present, however they required approximately £300 for the years refreshments.

Resolved that a £300 grant be awarded to the Dementia Friendly group.

10567. Email received from Ceri Miles re proposed bike skills area near the Riverside in Pontardawe:

Ceri had provided details of some proposed sites and details of grants than may be available for this venture.

Resolved that Ceri be put in touch with Robert Clapham at the Glantawe Outdoor Education Academy as they were in the process of setting up a similar project at Riverside in Pontardawe.

10568. Urgent Road Safety Matters:

- There was still concern over the speed of vehicles travelling up Gelligron and through Rhyd y Fro.

Resolved that 'Go Safe' be contacted to identify if speed surveys had been carried out before and after the bend on Gelligron Hill and to also request if Speed Surveys had been carried out in Rhyd y Fro following earlier requests. Councillor Chris Morgan should also be provided with details of all the actions that had already been instigated by the Town Council following complaints over the speed of cars in Rhyd y Fro.

10569. Time and Date of Next Meeting: The next Ordinary meeting is due to be held at Ynysmeudwy Hall on the 11th September 2017.

Signed Dated