

Ordinary Meeting held on the 10th October 2016 at Trebanos Hall, Swansea Road, Trebanos commencing at 6.45pm.

10304. Present: Councillor Mrs R Phillips (presiding), Councillor V Hotten, Mrs L Purcell, Mrs J Bowen, H Pickrell, B Williams, P Williams, M James, Mrs E Puzey, Ms C Ford

Apologies: Councillor D Harris, G Davies, A Nicholson, Ms S Northcott, D B Thomas and H Evans also Harri Evans-Mason (Youth Representative)

10305. Disclosure of Personal and Pecuniary Interests: None.

Resolved to be noted.

10306. Minutes of the Ordinary meeting held on the 12th September 2016:

Resolved that the minutes of the Ordinary meeting held on the 12th September 2016 having been read and confirmed as a true record, be accepted by Council with the following amendments:

Minute number 10285 - should state 'Once' and the media company should be 'South Wales Evening Post'. 10287 should state 'Charter'. 10289 spelling of Compassionate. 10294 should also state that a petition had been handed in requesting the removal of the Telephone Kiosk.

10307. Matters raised by Members of the Public: None.

Resolved to be noted.

10308. Awel Aman Tawe: Dan McCallum provided Council with an update on the position regarding the Wind Farm Construction. The construction of two turbines at Mynydd y Gwrhyd is now in progress. The turbine towers are 60 meters tall and the total turbine heights is a maximum of 100 meters. The turbines have a twenty-five-year life span and the project should provide investors with a 5% rate of return. Shares are £50 each. Dan was keen that the Town Council consider investing in the project as it is a community venture which will utilise a south wales construction company and should not only inject funds in to the local economy but will also hopefully provide funds for further ethical projects in the future.

Council thanked Dan for attending the meeting and for providing an update on the project.

10309. Data Protection and Freedom of Information Act training: The Clerk stated that unfortunately there had been several apologies for the meeting and due to technical issues one of the dvd's could not be shown, however she would provide a link to the ICO Web site by email which would allow Council Members to review the training videos at home. The Clerk also confirmed that the Town Council had adopted the Model Publication Scheme, a copy of which would be forwarded with the email.

Resolved that Council Members will review the training online and that the Model Publication Scheme will be considered the adopted scheme.

10310. Police Matters:

Pontardawe Ward statistics for July 2016 – Anti Social Behaviour – 9, Burglary – 1, Vehicle Theft – 5, Violent crime – 11, Criminal Damage – 6, Other theft – 3, Public Order – 4.

The total for July was 39 which was an increase from June's figure of 26.

The next Pontardawe PACT Meeting was to be held on the 13th October 2016 at Pontardawe Art Centre at 6.30pm.

Trebanos Ward statistics for July 2016 – Anti Social Behaviour – 3, Bicycle Theft – 1, Other – 1.

The total for July was 5 which was a decrease from June's figure of 8.

The next Trebanos PACT Meeting was to be held on the 13th October 2016 at Trebanos Community Hall at 6.30pm.

Resolved to be noted.

10311. Pelican/ Zebra Crossing: Cwmtawe School had circulated the details of the vacancy and a piece had also appeared in the South Wales Evening Post advertising the post.

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

10312. Cwmdu Glen: Council was advised that the closed path from the Cross was likely to be opened shortly by Neath Port Talbot Council. There were also additional events scheduled at Cwmdu Glen prior to Christmas by the 'Working with Nature' team.

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

10313. Trebanos Park: Council was advised that the replacement of the septic tank was likely to take place during November to minimise disruption to the Rugby Club. The Park would be closed while work was being carried out.

Resolved to be noted.

10314. Speeding at Rhyd y Fro: Council was advised that a limited response had been received from the team, and 'Go Safe' vans had been witnessed in the area.

Resolved Council will be made aware of the results of the survey when they were available.

10315. Christmas 2016: The Clerk confirmed that the tree had been purchased and would be transported to the Art Centre on the 24th November. Neath Port Talbot Council would erect all the lights and would attend the official 'switch on'. The event was due to take place on the 2nd December with the parade leaving the Cross at 5.30pm. The Lights would be officially switched on at 6.00pm and a craft market and Santa's grotto would be available from 6.30pm to 8.00pm on Friday and until 1.00pm on Saturday.

Resolved to be noted.

10316. Planning: A Planning Committee would be arranged for a suitable date prior to the next meeting.

Resolved to be noted.

10317. Policy and Resources Committee held on the 19th September 2016:

The Committee was to discuss the merits of setting up an award scheme for volunteers in the Pontardawe Town Council area together with an 'Awards Evening'.

Councillor Hotten had requested the Town Council consider the possibility of an award, and awards evening for volunteers in the Pontardawe Town Council area following his experience at the Neath

Port Talbot CVS Awards which were very well attended and provided a method of rewarding those people who volunteered in the community.

An award from the Town Council would provide similar recognition to local volunteers while also raising the profile of both the Town Council and volunteering, to encourage more people to get involved in their community.

It was suggested that a 'Good Citizenship' award should be created rather than a purely volunteering award as this would include a far greater number of people. It was suggested that nomination forms should be created which could be distributed to Councillors and other interested parties. The deadline for submission should be the 31st December 2016. The nomination could then be reviewed by Council or a designated committee.

Each nomination form should request that the reason for the nomination of a person should be provided with a limit of 500 words.

It was agreed that initially there should be no specific categories and no limit on the number of awards to be given.

A venue would then be hired for March 2017 with a buffet, when the awards could be presented. Town Councillors and family Members of the winners would be invited to the ceremony.

It was suggested that the smaller room at the Art Centre may be a suitable venue. Wine and soft drinks could also be supplied together with the buffet and the awards would be presented by the Mayor.

It was also suggested that to advertise the nomination process we should contact the local press, hand out leaflets, place details on social media and have stock of application forms in both the library and other community spaces. They could also be forwarded electronically by the Clerk.

The eligible nominees should live in or serve the Pontardawe Town Council area.

The Committee recommended that the Town Council should agree to 'Good Citizenship' awards being created and that an awards night should be arranged with drinks and a buffet to present the awards.

The Clerk confirmed that the cost of hire of the smaller hall was £25 per hour and it would accommodate 60 people.

Resolved that the Committee's recommendations be ratified.

10318. Finance Committee: Council was advised that a Finance Committee was required to review the budget for 2017/18 and additional grant funding.

Resolved that a Finance Committee would be arranged for a suitable date prior to the next meeting.

10319. Clerks Report on the Conclusion of Audit to the 31st March 2016: Council was advised that the External Auditors had been changed to BDO, she also stated that the following observations had been made by the Auditors:

- The Value of the fixed assets in the Annual Return appeared to be undervalued – Their recommendation was that the cost of any assets which were replaced during the year should be removed from the register and the new item added.

- Two Items had been recorded as Section 137 payments when other statutory Powers existed – Their recommendation was to review alternative powers to ensure payments were recorded correctly.

Council was happy to agree the Annual Return.

Resolved that the Annual Return for the year to the 31st March 2016 will be accepted by Council.

10320. Minor Authority Governor for Llangiwg School: Council was advised that Councillor Davies had to step down temporarily as Minor Authority Governor. Councillor Mrs Jean Bowen was happy to take his place.

Resolved that Councillor Mrs Jean Bowen replace Councillor G Davies as Minor Authority Governor for Llangiwg School.

10321. Personnel Committee: A Personnel Committee was required to review Contracts of Employment and pay scales.

Resolved that a Personnel Committee will be arranged for a suitable date prior to the next meeting.

10322. Clerk's Holiday Request: The Clerk requested two weeks holiday from the 15th December 2016. She also requested that locum cover be sanctioned for five days during the period.

Resolved that both the holidays and cover will be agreed.

10323. Accounts Schedule 326: Account Schedule 326 totalling £14729.54 together with the Bank Reconciliation were agreed under Standing Orders.

Resolved to be noted.

10324. Email received re Remembrance Sunday: Council was advised that as the British Legion in Pontardawe was no longer in existence then a Remembrance Parade could not take place on Remembrance Sunday, however some alternative methods of Remembrance could be considered. Council's preference was for a Church Service at St Peters Church to be followed by laying of the Wreaths for any who wished to at the Cenotaph on Remembrance Sunday followed by an informal gathering at the Cenotaph on the 11th November.

Resolved that the Clerk will arrange for a press release to publicise any alternative arrangements for Remembrance Sunday.

10325. Letter received from Carl Jones: A letter had been received from Carl Jones requesting CCTV cameras on High Street and Herbert Street to combat criminal damage. He was also concerned about the lack of parking for businesses on High Street.

Council discussed matters but it was noted that CCTV cameras were being removed from larger city centres due to the costs and therefore this was not something that could be considered by the Town Council at this time.

Regarding Parking, Council was advised that the Castle Car Park would hopefully provide additional spaces soon however no further details were currently available.

Mr Jones was also concerned about the number of vehicles turning right from Swansea Road into Herbert Street although there was a 'no right turn' sign at the Cross.

Resolved that the Clerk will respond to Mr Jones and will also advise the local Police Force and Neath Port Talbot Council of Mr Jones concerns.

10326. Email received from Sustain Wales: Council was advised that unfortunately their nomination had not been shortlisted for an award.

Resolved to be noted.

10327. Letter received from Clive Reed: Council was advised that Clive Reeds book on Tareni Colliery was in the process of being published and would be available in October 2016.

Resolved to be noted.

10328. Letter received from the Boundary Commission: The Clerk confirmed that Initial Proposal for the 2018 review of Parliamentary Constituencies in Wales had been published and details had been forwarded to Council Members.

Resolved to be noted.

10329. Local Service Revisions: Council was advised that the X50 service would be introducing a Sunday and Bank Holiday service from the 30th October 2016.

Resolved to be noted.

10330. Applications to change Register of Common Land: Council was advised of the applications for NPT 0012,13,14.

Resolved that the applications will be reviewed in the forthcoming Planning Committee.

10331. Road Safety:

- A suggestion was made to remove the barrier and to make Ynysderw Road one way from Parc Ynysderw with no entry from the roundabout. This would prevent large lorries trying to access the trading estate via Ynysderw Road.
- A great deal of surface water was evident on Gas Road adjacent to the Leisure Centre.

Resolved that the Clerk will take all necessary action.

10332. Time and Date of next meeting: The next Ordinary meeting is due to be held at Ynysmeudwy Hall on the 14th November 2016.

Signed Dated