

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

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

Apologies: Councillor A Nicholson, Ms S Northcott, R Smith and W Thomas.

11017. Disclosure of Personal and Pecuniary Interests: Councillor Purcell expressed an interest in planning application number P2018/0694 as she is a close neighbour.

11018. Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on the 9th July 2018:

Resolved: that the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on the 9th July 2018, having been read and confirmed as a true record, be accepted by Council.

11019. Matters raised by Members of the Public: None.

Resolved to be noted.

11020. Co-Option of Pontardawe Town Council Youth Representative for 2018/19: Council Members had been provided with details of the candidate prior to the meeting. Benjamin McCarthy then addressed Council. Council unanimously voted to Co-Opt Ben as the Youth Representative for 2018/19.

Resolved that Benjamin McCarthy will be the Pontardawe Town Council Youth Representative for 2018/19.

11021. Cwmdu Glen and the 'Working with Nature' Project: The Clerk confirmed that she had contacted Arborum who had conducted the original tree risk assessment on part of the land owned by Pontardawe Town Council at Cwmdu Glen. Council wished to appoint the same contractors (who had been recommended by Neath Port Talbot Council) to conduct the further assessments to ensure consistency.

Arborum had confirmed that they were able to conduct a risk assessment on the second portion of land owned by Pontardawe Town Council in the same way as area 1. They were also able to conduct a more details assessment of each of the trees on the boundary with properties at Waun Gron to produce a specific management plan over time to ensure that any issues with the trees would be identified in a timely manner as they were close to residential properties. The total cost of both assessments was £750 plus VAT.

The Clerk confirmed that the 'Working with Nature' project co-ordinator had also reviewed the path from the green bridge to the proposed picnic area which would fall within the scope of the project. The path and trees would be reviewed, and any maintenance work carried out. Rustic steps could be placed from the picnic area to both small beaches and metal picnic furniture placed close to the riverbank. (Metal furniture would be preferable to wooden due to the remote location and risk of vandalism or fire). The picnic area would be situated on the path from the green bridge which is currently closed. The path would then close following the picnic area, and there would be no reinstatement of the circular route.

It was agreed that the picnic area would be considered a short-term goal. Longer term goals could include opening a path to the waterfall from Waun Gron and the reinstatement of the circular route.

Council was aware however that the longer-term plans would require significant investment which could only be obtained via large scale grant funding.

Resolved that Arborum be contracted to complete the two risk assessments at Cwmdy and that the 'Working with Nature' team be asked to complete the work required to create a picnic area at Cwmdy on the path from the green bridge.

11022. Police Matters:

The Clerk provided the following statistics:

Pontardawe

July 2018 Total crimes 44

June 2018 Total crimes 41

The PACT meeting was held on the 6th September 2018. There were no significant additional issues.

Trebanos

July 2018 Total crimes 6

June 2018 Total crimes 6

The PACT meeting was held on the 16th August 2018. A community speed check scheme was to be put into operation on Swansea Road, Trebanos. The next PACT meeting was due to be held on the 11th October 2018 at 6.30pm at Trebanos Hall.

The Clerk advised Council that unfortunately the Police were unable to identify the individuals who had damaged the park in May 2018 and therefore no further action would be taken.

The damage to the park by individuals in July 2018 had good CCTV footage and details of one of the individuals involved. Unfortunately, the Clerk had been informed that the case had been closed by the officer in charge following a discussion with the Park keeper. The Clerk will however request that his case is reopened as there is no Park Keeper at Trebanos Park.

Resolved to be noted.

11023. Plastic Free Pontardawe: As Councillor W Thomas was not at the meeting it was agreed to defer this item until the October meeting.

Resolved that this item will be added to the October agenda.

11024. Planning:

P2018/ 0694

Councillor Purcell expressed an interest and took no part in the discussion.

Applicants name: CPR Distribution, York Chambers...

Site Location: Land adjacent to 35 New Road, Ynysmeudwy, Pontardawe SA8 4PJ

Proposed Development: Variation of condition 1 of Planning application P2013/0673 (granted on 10.01.14) to allow a further 3 years for the commencement of development.

Resolved No Comment.

P2018/0718

Applicants name: Mr Jason Dykes, Pontardawe AFC, Parc Ynysderw, Pontardawe SA8 4EG

Site location: Parc Ynysderw, Ffordd Parc Ynysderw, Pontardawe SA8 4EG.

Proposed Development: 4 Pitch seating stands and portacabin.

Resolved No Objection.

Planning Committee held on the 20th August 2018 at the Town Council Office, 4 Herbert Street, Pontardawe, Commencing at 6.30pm.

Application to change register of Common Land – CL25A Entry 275 – Application number NPT 0036

Resolved – No Comment.

Pre-Application: Notice for a proposed solar farm adjacent to the wind turbines at Penwaun Uchaf Farm, Gwrhyd

Resolved – No Objection

P2018/0395

Applicants name: Costal Housing Group

Site Location: Land adjacent to 40 Maes yr Ysgol, Phase 6 Parc y Dderwen, Pontardawe, Swansea.

Proposed Development: Construction of 8 dwellings: Retention and completion of engineering works (relating to land levels/ retaining structures as an amendment to planning permission refs P2010/0880 and P2006/1780)

Resolved – Council is pleased to support additional social housing in the area but wishes the Unitary Authority to ensure that planning restrictions placed on contractors with relation to the area's trees are adhered to.

P2018/0575

Applicants name: Mr & Mrs Gibson, 7 Compass Road, Pontardawe, Swansea SA84LS

Site Location: Rear Garden area of 7 Compass Road, Pontardawe, Swansea SA8 4LS.

Proposed Development: Detached split level dwelling with associated engineering works, access and off-street parking.

Resolved Council objects due to concerns over access.

11025. Clerks Report on proposed new Caravan Site:

The Clerk confirmed that she was in correspondence with Neath Port Talbot Council about the proposal for a Camping and Caravan site on land owned by Neath Port Talbot Council but in an area outside of that earmarked for Industrial Development.

She explained that the Camping and Caravan Club had special dispensation to dispense with Planning requirements for small caravan sites with Five Caravans and up to ten tents. The set-up costs for a small basic site and ongoing maintenance were minimal.

Resolved that the Clerk obtain details of exactly the plots of land available from Neath Port Talbot Council and will also contact One Voice Wales to identify if there are any other Town or Community Councils that operate caravan or camping sites.

11026. Christmas 2018: Council was advised that to place a 6-meter tree at the Cross under the rental agreement with Commercial Christmas would cost an additional £2500. Given the time constraints a decision would need to be made at the meeting on this point. A Development Committee meeting would also be required to discuss decoration for Trebanos and in-house decorations for the Cross in Pontardawe.

Resolved that the Town Council will not add an artificial Christmas tree to the rental agreement with Commercial Christmas but will discuss other matters regarding the 2018 display in a Development meeting at 6.00pm on the 17th September.

11027. Arboricultural Management Plan: It was agreed to discuss the Arboricultural Management Plan at a P&R Committee at 6.30 pm on the 17th September.

Resolved there will be a P&R Committee at 6.30 pm on the 17th September to discuss the Arboricultural Plan

11028. Budget / Actual Report Apr-Jul 2018: Council was provided with the report and was happy to accept it.

Resolved that the Budget/Actual Report for Apr-Jul 2018 be accepted.

11029. Review of the Electoral Arrangement for Neath Port Talbot Council: The initial report merely advised of the Wards where there was over /under representation and requested any proposals. The County Borough Members confirmed that a solution had been submitted but could not at this time be commented on. Following the submission of proposals however there would be a second consultation which would allow Members of the Public to submit their opinions.

Resolved to be noted.

11030. Clerks Report on Personnel Changes:

Council was advised that the Caretaker at Ynysmeudwy Hall had retired and that our Groundsman was considering ceasing work in approximately 18 months.

This was an opportunity for the Council to update the job specification and to determine if the position should be going forward as one full time post, several part time posts and if outside contractor should be obtained for part of the work.

The Clerk therefore proposed a transitional working arrangement for the next 18 months.

The proposal was that the current groundsman be employed at the caretaker for Ynysmeudwy Hall for 17 hours a week at usual caretaker rates. In addition, he continues as groundsman for 20 hours a week at usual rates. This transitional arrangement to continue until his retirement.

During the transitional arrangement most grass cutting, and strimming would be carried out by outside contractors.

In 12 months, Council would have enough data to decide on the future job specifications of ground working employees and could employ at that time. The current groundsman would also be available to train new employees for a further 6 months prior to his retirement.

Resolved that the transitional arrangement for the groundsman will be instigated.

11031. Conclusion of Audit 2017/18: Council was advised that the Audit had been concluded for 2017/18 and the Annual Return had been signed by the External Auditors.

Resolved that the conclusion of Audit for 2017/18 will be accepted.

11032. Account Schedule 347 and 348:

Resolved that Account Schedule 347 totalling £23726.72 and 348 totalling £19707.95 together with the bank reconciliation be accepted in accordance with Standing Orders.

11033. Consultation on Petroleum Extraction Policy: Members were provided with a computer link prior to the meeting.

Resolved that Councillor G Nicholson will review the document and give feedback. Given the time scales he has been provided with plenary powers to respond on behalf of Council.

11034. Letter from Glantawe Lions: Glantawe Lions requested grant assistance for administration of their 'Tree of Light'.

Council was advised that £100 had been earmarked for this purpose in the Finance Committee.

Resolved that a £100 grant will be awarded.

11035. Email from St Peters Church: A letter of thanks was received from St Peters Church for the Planters that were placed adjacent to the Church gates during the Flower Festival.

Resolved that the Clerk will confirm that these planters can be provided in future years.

11036. Letter received from Pontardawe Bowls Club: A letter was received requesting Pontardawe Town Council match the grant provided by Cilybebyll Community Council to the Bowls Club. Council was advised that £2000 was still available from the Grant Budget.

Resolved that a £400 grant will be awarded to Pontardawe Bowls Club.

11037. Local Service Revisions: Council was advised that from the 2nd September 2018 the 904 from Pontardawe to Neath College would no longer operate.

Resolved to be noted.

11038. Email of Thanks: An email was received from Meryl Hunt and Melanie Humphries from the Chamber of Commerce, thanking the Town Council for their assistance in funding the travel to London for the Revive & Thrive Presentation which Led to an award of £1000 in Christmas Lights for the Town.

Council was advised that Pontardawe was the only Town in Wales to receive an award.

Resolved to be noted.

11039. YGG Trebannws – Minor Authority Governor: Council was advised that Councillor Ford's term of office was due to finish on the 13.10.18. Council unanimously voted for Councillor Ford to continue to be a Minor Authority Governor for YGG Trebannws.

Resolved that Councillor Ford will continue to be the Minor Authority Governor for YGG Trebannws for a further term.

11040. Urgent Road Safety Matters:

- The number of Accidents on the A4067 was discussed however the A4067 was within the Cilybebyll Ward and therefore the Councillors in Cilybebyll Community Council or the Local County Borough Member for Alltwen should be contacted with any suggestions.

11041. Date of Next Ordinary Meeting: to confirm that the next Ordinary Meeting is due to be held on the 8th October 2018 at Ynysmeudwy Hall.

Signed Dated