

**Ordinary General Meeting held on the 11<sup>th</sup> February 2019 at ARCH Hall, Cefn Llan Road, Pontardawe commencing at 6.45pm**

**Present:** Councillor Mrs L Purcell (presiding), A Nicholson, Ms S Northcott, G Nicholson, G Davies, D Williams, K Flynn, R Thomas, W Thomas, Ms R Jones, Mrs R Phillips and B McCarthy (Youth Representative)

**Apologies:** Councillor Ms C Ford, A Richards, R Smith and J Jones

**11112. Disclosure of Personal and Pecuniary Interests:** Councillor A Nicholson, Ms S Northcott and G Nicholson expressed an interest in planning as they are residents of Ynysderw Road.

**Resolved** to be noted.

**11113 Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on the 14<sup>th</sup> January 2019:**

**Resolved** that the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on the 14<sup>th</sup> January 2019, having been read and confirmed as a true record, be accepted by Council.

**11114. Matters raised by Members of the Public:** None.

**Resolved** to be noted.

**11115. Cwmdu Glen:** The ARB team had confirmed that they would be carrying out the work recommended by the October 2018 Management Plan for the 'up to 3 month and 6 month' categories during February 2019.

The Clerk was awaiting confirmation from the 'Working with Nature' Project that the trees and paths on the closed section of Cwmdu had been reviewed and remedial action had been taken prior to purchasing the picnic set.

**Resolved** to be noted.

**11116. Police Matters:** Council was advised of the following:

Pontardawe PACT was to be held on the 21<sup>st</sup> February 2019 at Pontardawe Art Centre commencing at 6.30pm

The statistics for Pontardawe were – 22 crimes reported in December 2018 which was down from 42 in November.

Trebanos PACT was to be held on the 28<sup>th</sup> February 2019 at Trebanos Hall commencing at 6.30pm

The statistics for Trebanos were – 7 crimes reported in December 2018 which was down from 10 in November.

**Resolved** to be noted.

**11117. Pontardawe Fire Station:**

The Clerk read a letter from the Deputy Chief Fire Officer Rob Quin providing a response to questions that had been asked by Council during the January 2019 Ordinary meeting. The responses were accepted by Council however they were sceptical that there would be no impact on the service provided. They would also like future public consultations to be conducted from Pontardawe Tesco ensure public participation.

Two further questions were posed:

- How would cover be provided if there were multiple night call outs during a week for staff working a full day roster?
- Council had been advised that the Accommodation at Pontardawe Fire Station was considered unsuitable as there was not a separate entrance to the residential accommodation at the fire station. If that was the case, could alterations to the building be a solution?

**Resolved** that Council will request a response to the additional questions but will monitor the new crewing patterns over the next 6 months.

**11118. Planning and Policy:**

Council agreed to continue the practice of providing Plenary Powers to Planning committees under the Committees terms of reference to allow observations to be made on applications within time scales but between Ordinary meetings. All other Committees would require decisions ratified by full Council unless Plenary Powers had been awarded by full Council prior to the Committee.

Planning Committee 4<sup>th</sup> February 2019

**P2019/0043**

Applicants name: Mrs Jane Cotton, 102 Herbert Street, Pontardawe, Swansea SA8 4ED

Site Location: 102 Herbert Street, Pontardawe, Swansea SA8 4ED

Proposed Development: Facia sign to side elevation

**Resolved** The Committee was concerned that the sign may be a distraction to road users on the roundabout.

**P2019/0039**

Applicants name: Mr Alex Parker and Ms Hannah Jones, 1 Maes Rhosyn, Rhos, Pontardawe Swansea SA8 3HT.

Site Location: 7 Quarr Road, Pontardawe, Swansea SA8 4JD

Proposed Development: Part Two Storey, part single storey rear extension

**Resolved** No objection provided there is neighbourhood notification

**P2019/0080**

Applicants name: Mr and Mrs Baugh, 11 Gellideg, Rhyd y Fro, Pontardawe, SA8 4LX.

Site Location: 11 Gellideg, Rhyd y Fro, Pontardawe, SA8 4LX

Proposed Development: Single Storey and rear extension.

Resolved No objection provided there is neighbourhood notification

**P2018/0977**

Mr Dean Jones, 4 Gwyrddgoed, Pontardawe, Swansea, SA8 4NH.

Site Location: 4 Gwyrddgoed, Pontardawe, Swansea, SA8 4NH.

Proposed Development: First Floor Rear Extension

Resolved No objection provided there is neighbourhood notification

**P2019/0051**

Applicants name: Mr James Davies, 18 Lloyd Street, Trebanos, Pontardawe, Swansea SA8 4DR.

Site Location: 18 Lloyd Street, Trebanos, Pontardawe, Swansea SA8 4DR.

Proposed Development: Retention of raised decking and associated means of enclosure and construction of additional screen fencing.

Resolved No objection provided there is neighbourhood notification

**P2019/0034**

Applicants name: Mr Sean Coughlan, 4 Sunnymead Close, Townhill, Swansea SA1 6SD.

Site Location: 11 Ynysderw Road, Pontardawe, Swansea SA8 4EG.

Proposed Development: Detached two storey dwelling (Reserved matters following outline planning approval P2015/1133 approved on the 24/05/16) including details for condition 5 (drainage), condition 6 (drainage) and condition 8 (land contamination) (Amended external material received 29/1/19)

Councillors A Nicholson, Ms S Northcott and G Nicholson declared an interest as they are neighbours.

**Resolved** Following a site meeting it was identified that the entrance to the plot was from Francis street and not Ynysderw Road and therefore neighbourhood notification should be extended to both roads. It was also noted that although there had been some alteration to the external material of the building to bring it closer to the traditional properties, the design of the building was still not in accordance with the surrounding area and was therefore still not aesthetically in keeping with the neighbourhood.

Planning considered in this meeting:

**P2019/0003**

Applicants name: Mr Gwyn James, 83 Ynysmeudwy Road, Pontardawe, SA8 4QJ.

Site Location: Plot rear of 83 Ynysmeudwy Road, Pontardawe, SA8 4QJ.

Proposed Development: Two detached dwellings (outline matters reserved)

**Resolved** Neighbourhood notification. Council was also concerned that the proposed properties would overlook the properties at the front.

### **11119. Policy and Resources – Improving Public Transport:**

The Committee reviewed the consultation questions and provided the following responses:

Q1. Do you agree that it is important for local authorities to work together with regard to local bus services? – **Yes.**

Q2. Please provide comments on the proposed organisational structures. Which is your preferred option? – **Option 2 as Rural areas and Urban areas have different needs.**

Q3. Is there any other organisational structure for JTAs that we should consider? – **No.**

Q4. Do you have any comments on the proposal that the Welsh Ministers should be represented on a JTA or any committees of a JTA? – **No Comment.**

Q5. Do you have any comments on the proposal that the Welsh Ministers should have power to issue guidance and directions, and to intervene where a JTA is failing to exercise its functions effectively? – **No powers of intervention, but support and guidance only.**

Q6. Is the proposed division of national and regional functions appropriate – **Yes.**

Q7. Should any other transport functions be transferred to a JTA? Please describe? – **Ticketing should be National (i.e. a Universal Ticket like an Oyster card) to allow cross company travel.**

Q8. Do you think that legislation is required to secure benefits of enhanced partnership working? – **Yes, but there needs to be funding provided by the Welsh Assembly Government to support it.**

Q9. Do you agree with our proposals for EQPs in particular the proposed process for developing and making EQPs? – **Yes.**

Q10. Do you think that the proposed scheme provides a more workable option for the franchising of local bus services? **Yes, providing there are Universal Tickets and additional funding provided from the Welsh Assembly Government.**

Q11. Do you think there should be a requirement for the assessment to be subject to an independent audit – **Yes – Wales Audit Office.**

Q12. Do you have any other comments on the proposed process for franchising? – **Welsh Assembly funding and Universal Tickets required.**

Q13. Do you have any comments in relation to the proposals for the issuing of permits in circumstances where franchising arrangements are in place? – **Yes, but local discretion is required.**

Q14. Do you agree that as part of any arrangements to let franchise contracts, specific consideration should be given to how SMEs can be enabled to be involved in the procurement process? – **Yes -To protect small local enterprise and prevent cartels.**

Q15. What transitional arrangements should be considered in order to ensure that bus services are not compromised during the process of preparing to franchise? – **Consult with subject matter experts.**

Q16. Do you think that local authorities should be able to run bus services directly? **Yes**  
In what circumstances do you think this would be appropriate? **When private organisations are unable or unwilling to fulfil a transport need. No additional Comment.**

Q17. Do you think that local authorities should be able to set up arm's length companies to operate local bus services? – **Yes, as these may have funding options not available to Local Authorities. No Additional Comments.**

Q18. Do you agree with the Welsh Ministers proposal to align entitlement to a mandatory concessionary fare pass with a woman's pensionable age? **Yes, providing that there is a Universal ticket.**

Q19. Do you agree that an incremental change is the most appropriate method? – **Yes.**

Q20. Do you agree with our proposal to require the release of open data on routes, timetables, fares and tickets? – **Yes.**

Q21. Do you agree with our proposal to enable local authorities to have the power to obtain information on services which are to be cancelled or varied and where appropriate disclose this information as part of a tendering process? – **Yes- statutory notice period would be required.**

Q22. Do you agree with our proposal to introduce national standards which will apply to all taxis and PHVs in Wales – **Yes**

Q23. Are there any matters which you think should be included in any national standards? – **Highest common denominator should be used for vehicle safety and DRB checks.**

Q24. Are there any matters which you think should be excluded from any national standards? – **No.**

Q25. What practical obstacles might there be to setting common national standards for both taxis and PHVs? – **Transition period required.**

Q26. What would be the best approach for determining the content of national standards? – **Highest Common denominator.**

Q27. Please provide any other comments or proposals around national standards that were not covered in the above questions. – **None.**

Q28. Should local authorities be able to revoke or suspend a licence relating to any vehicle operating in its area even if it did not issue the original licence? **Yes**

Q29. Should a local authority be able to issue a lesser sanction in relation to any vehicle operating in their area, even if it did not issue the original licence? **Yes**

Q30. Please provide any other comments? **None.**

Q31. Do you agree with our proposal to create a database or make other arrangements for relevant safeguarding information to be shared? **Yes.**

Q32. Please provide any other comments or proposals around information sharing that were not covered. **None.**

Q33. Do you agree with the proposal to redirect all the existing taxi and PHV licensing functions away from local authorities and into a national licensing authority (Option A) - **No. The licencing function needs to remain at local level. Consistency will be achieved via national standards that all will adhere to.**

Q34. Do you think that local authorities should continue to have responsibility for taxi and PHV licensing (Option B)? **Yes, see above.**

Q35. Please provide any other comments or proposals around responsibility for taxi/PHV licensing? **Functions to remain with local authorities with National standards applied.**

Q36. We would like to know your views on the effects that the legislative proposals set out in this paper would have on the Welsh Language, specifically on opportunities for people to use Welsh and on treating the Welsh Language no less favourably than English. **Welsh can be used more freely in local areas especially given the North/South Welsh differences.**

Q37. Please also explain how you believe the proposals could be formulated or changes to have positive effects or increased positive effects on opportunities for people to use the Welsh Language? **As above.**

Q38. We have asked a number of specific questions. If you have any related issues which we have not specifically addressed, please use this space to report them.

**When new buses are introduced, they need to be fit for the terrain i.e. small buses, hybrids, city buses etc.**

**Resolved** to ratify the Committee's responses.

**11120. Clerks Report on Web hosting and email:**

Council was advised that there was various action recommended to improve the security of the Town Council's email and web hosting. The Clerk had been in consultation with the Town Council's web administrator and recommended the following:

- Obtain an SSL Certification for the Web Site. As the current web hosting company KCOM requested £200.00 for this service in addition to the current cost of £260.00, it was suggested we alter our web host to Fasthost to reduce costs (£235.00 total cost)
- Obtain a .gov email from Fasthost at a cost of £109 for the first 2 years (This is a competitive cost as Best Host cost £125 and Nominat cost £155)

**Resolved** to move web host companies, obtain an SSL certificate and alter the Town Councils email address to a .gov designation.

**11121. Grass Cutting Tenders 2019:**

In line with Standing Orders the Tenders were received in blank envelopes and remained unopened. Four tenders were received and opened by the Clerk in full Council and witnessed by the Mayor.

The tenders received were from the following companies: Tawe Landscapes, PJC Forestry, Glantawe Landscapes and JPB Tree Services.

It was agreed that the tenders would be discussed in detail at a Finance Committee. The contract would be awarded at the Ordinary General Meeting in March.

**Resolved** that the tenders will be reviewed in a Finance committee and awarded at the March 2019 Ordinary meeting.

**11122. Account Schedule 353:**

**Resolved** that the Accounts Schedule 353 totalling £16130.78 together with the Bank Reconciliation be accepted by Council in line with Standing Orders.

**11123. High Sheriffs Award 2019:** The Clerk requested Councillors provide nominations prior to the deadline on the 1<sup>st</sup> March 2019. She would forward copies of the application form to all Councillors prior to the deadline.

**Resolved** that Councillors will provide the Clerk with nominations prior to the deadline.

**11124. Email re School Crossing Patrol Officer for Swansea Road:** Council was advised that the officer was sick at present but hoped to resume her post shortly. Neath Port Talbot CBC also requested confirmation that the Town Council was willing to fund the post for 2019/20.

**Resolved** that the post of Crossing Patrol Officer for Swansea Road Pontardawe will be funded by the Town Council for 2019/20.

**11125. Bus Revisions:** Council was advised of slight changes to the timetables for the DANSA bus X26 and 167.

**Resolved** to be noted.

**11126. Email re controlled pedestrian crossings:** Council was advised that following the meeting between Town Councillors and the Engineering and Transport Section of Neath Port Talbot Council, the County Borough had stipulated by email, there was no suggestion that a controlled pedestrian crossing would be considered for the A474 Herbert Street bypass.

**Resolved** that the Clerk will request the County Borough explain the reason for the refusal.

**11127. Email re Heritage Centre Exhibition:** Council was advised that the Heritage Centre would not consider and exhibition of the Mayoral Regalia as they were concerned that the local media coverage might cause a burglary risk.

**Resolved** to be noted.

**11128. Review of the Polling Districts and Polling Stations in Pontardawe:** Council was provided with the details prior to the meeting.

**Resolved** Council was concerned about the loss of one Polling Station in Pontardawe.

**11129. Letter received re translation of the Christmas Banner:** A letter was received from a local resident stating that they were unhappy with the wording of the Christmas Banner. Council was advised that they believed the correct wording should be 'oddi wrth' rather than 'gan'.

The technicalities of the wording were discussed in full however it was agreed that 'gan' was a widely accepted translation and had been used by many organisations in their Christmas message including BBC Cymru Wales, Plaid Cymru, Urdd, S4C, Sport Wales, Cardiff City Council, Isle of Anglesey County Council, Bangor University and many more.

It was therefore agreed to send a letter of thanks but to explain that as the translation was widely used and accepted, the banner would continue to be used in future without alteration.

**Resolved** that the Clerk will forward a letter on behalf of Council.

**11130. Urgent Road Safety Matters:**

Council was advised that there was a lack of dropped curb stones outside Lidl on the retail park. The County Borough Member did however explain that the matter was in hand but might take some time.

**Resolved** to be noted.

**11131. Next Meeting:** The next meeting of Council will take place on the 11<sup>th</sup> March 2019 at Trebanos Hall commencing at 6.45pm.

Signed ..... Dated .....