

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Pontardawe Town Council held on Monday 11th of July 2011 at Trebanos Community Hall commencing at 6:45p.m

8610. Present: Councillors H Evans (presiding), Mrs E Puzey, B Thomas, D Harris, H Pickrell, V Thomas, Ms. S Northcott, A Nicholson, Mrs C Lambourne, Mrs J Bowen, Mel Thomas.

Apologies: Councillor M James, AE Williams, B Williams, Mrs L Purcell

8611. Disclosure of Personal and Pecuniary Interest: None Declared.

Resolved to be noted.

8612. Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on the 13th of June 2011.

Resolved that the minutes of the meeting dated 13th June 2011, having been read and confirmed as a true record, be accepted by Council, with the following amendments, Councillor Eryl Puzey had expressed her apologies for the Development Meeting.

8613. Police Matters: Council expressed feedback to the attendance of Chief Superintendent Mathias at the previous meeting when he gave details of the closure of Pontardawe Police Station counter service and others in the area. Council commended his openness, the comprehensive explanation and his honesty.

Council was also advised of the Neath Port Talbot Police Open day which was to be held on the 17th July 2011. Unfortunately none of the Council members were in a position to attend.

Resolved that the Town Clerk will express the Town Council's thanks to Chief Superintendent Mathias, and will confirm to the Police Authority that there will be no representatives from the Council available to attend the open day.

8614. Ynysderw Road, Pontardawe: Council was informed that although no official sign was available, an alternative black and white sign, together with two directional signs will be erected to instruct Heavy Goods vehicles to take an alternative route.

Resolved to be monitored.

8615. Cefn Llan Resident Association - Application for Grants for the New Playground: Council was informed that the Grant application for the People and Places Grant is going ahead, and that the lease for the land is currently being prepared.

Resolved to be monitored.

8616. Ynni'r Fro Programme: No information has been received by the Town Clerk as of yet.

Resolved that the Clerk will continue to make attempts to contact from the Ynni'r Fro Programme.

8617. The Possible Post of Town Crier: Councillor Bob Williams was to determine the exact requirements of the post and report back to Council for discussion.

Resolved that as Councillor Williams was not present at the meeting that the matter would be discussed in the September meeting.

8618. Herbert Street Improvements: Council expressed disappointment and concern over the fact that Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council had failed to update Pontardawe Town Council on the road improvements on Herbert Street prior to the work beginning.

The Clerk explained that both Councillor Purcell and the Town Council offices had been provided with clearer plans relating to the changes but the plan was far too complicated and did not provide a timescale.

It has therefore been decided that as the plans were available that there would be little benefit at that time contacting the Chief Executive. Instead the Town Clerk would attempt to get simplified plans from the contractors showing the various phases.

Council was however advised that a single plan was now attached to the security fencing at the edge of the road works.

Resolved that the Clerk would write to the County Borough to request that in future the Town Council be informed of developments of this nature so that any questions can be answered before the work starts. The Town Clerk would also contact the contractors again to determine a time scale for the simplified drawings.

8619. Town Clerk Probationary Period Ended: Council was informed that the Probationary Period of the Town Clerks employment had now finished.

Resolved that the Town Clerks appointment be made permanent.

8620. Planning: The planning meeting was held on the 27th June 2011.

P2010/1267

Applicant: Grwp Gwalia CYF 7-13 The Kingsway, Swansea, SA1 5JN

Site location: Land at former Ynysmeudwy House, Ynysmeudwy Road, Ynysmeudwy, Pontardawe, Swansea SA8 4QD

Proposed Development: Residential development for 15 dwellings.

Resolved No objection provided there is neighbourhood notification.

P2011/0398

Applicant: Pennant Home, 11 Wind Street, Swansea, SA11 1DP

Site location: land at former Coleg Cwmtawe, Alltycham Drive, Pontardawe, SA84JX

Proposed Development: Erection of detached Bat house and associated means of enclosure.

Resolved No Objection.

P2011/0489

Applicant: Mr Tim Venebles, Woodland, Pontardawe Road, Pontardawe, Swansea SA8 4SX

Site location: Woodland, Pontardawe Road, Pontardawe, Swansea SA8 4SX.

Proposed Development: Single Storey rear extension and part two storey / first floor side extension.

Resolved No objection provided there is neighbourhood notification.

P2011/0522

Applicant: Cambrian Renewable Energy Limited.

Site Location: Access track to Nant Melyn Farm, Pontardawe.

Proposed Development: Formation of new vehicle access and track onto A474, improvements to existing farm track, temporary change of use of land for use as site construction compound with associated drainage, fencing and landscaping.

Resolved No objection provided there is local consultation.

P2011/0487

Applicant: Property and Regeneration, Neath Port Talbot CBC, The Quays, Brunel Way, Briton Ferry, Neath. SA11 2GG.

Site Location: Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg, Pontardawe, Alltycham Drive, Pontardawe, Swansea SA8 4JR

Proposed Development: Replacement of existing redgrar surface with turfed playing field and associated drainage and creation of new car park (25 spaces) with associated drainage, access, means of enclosure and landscaping.

Resolved No objection.

P2010/0880

Applicants address: Mr Pennant Homes, 11, Wind Street, Swansea, SA1 1DP

Site Location: Former Coleg Cwmtawe, Alltycham Drive, Pontardawe, Abertawe. SA8 4JX.

Proposed Development: Residential development of 81 dwellings with associated highways and landscaping (Reserved matters application pursuant to outline planning permission P2006/1780 granted on the 28/8/2007). Amended and additional information / plans received on 22.06.11 relating to site layout, access, pat migration and house types)

Resolved that the Council has concerns about the magnitude of the development for the following reasons:

- The increased volume of traffic in an area adjacent to a primary school.
- Concerns over the impact on service waste management in this area.
- How such a large development is accommodated by Unitary development plan (i.e. are additional services such as buses to be provided)

Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (England and Wales) Regulations 1999

Consultation under regulation 5 – Screening option

Ref P2011/471 (This is not yet a planning issue but merely an opportunity to comment on the prospective environmental impact of the proposed plan)

Proposed: Screening option for a proposed anaerobic digestion facility

Location: Pwllfawatkin Landfill Site, Pontardawe.

Resolved that although there is no objection to the facility, Council has concerns over the impact of an additional 40 vehicle movement per day, to and from the site.

The following applications were discussed in full Council:

P2011/0541

Applicants address: Mr & Mrs L Kissick, 215 Swansea Road, Trebanos, Pontardawe, Swansea SA84BT.

Site Location: 215 Swansea Road, Trebanos, Pontardawe, Swansea SA84BT.

Proposed Development: First Floor rear extension.

Resolved No objection provided there is neighbourhood notification

P2011/0546

Applicants address: Mr & Mrs Harris, 5 Lon Deg, Rhyd y Fro, Pontardawe, Swansea SA84LZ.

Site location: 5 Lon Deg, Rhyd y Fro, Pontardawe, Swansea SA84LZ.

Proposed Development: Single Storey side extension.

Resolved No objection provided there is neighbourhood notification.

P2011/0554

Applicants address: Mr Harminder Bamra, 167 Swansea Road, Trebanos, Pontardawe, Swansea SA8 4BS.

Site Location: Swansea Road, Trebanos, Pontardawe, Swansea SA8 4BS.

Proposed Development: Single storey rear extension.

Resolved No objection provided there is neighbourhood notification

P2011/0543

Applicants address: Mr Andrew Gunning, Centrica Resources Ltd, Millstream, Maidenhead Road, Berkshire SL4 5GD.

Site Location: Land at Mynydd y Garth, Cwmgors, Abernant.

Proposed Development: Details to be agreed in association with Condition 3 – scheme to treat and remove suspended soils from surface water, 4 – scheme to deal with surface water – 5 scheme to treat and remove suspended solids from water abstracted from the ground of application P2010/0655

Resolved No objection.

8621. Annual Return and Internal Auditors Report: Council was provided a summary of the Auditors report from the Town Clerk. The conclusion of the report was that the Council's finances were effective and Mr Peter Morgan was happy with its outlook. Council expressed their delight and thanks for the Town Clerk and Peter Morgan for their effort in producing the Internal Audit Report.

Council was also provided with the Annual Return for the year ended 31st March 2011, which was reviewed in full Council.

Resolved that the Annual Return be agreed and the recommendations of the Internal Auditor be agreed and acted upon.

8622. Policy and Resources Committee:

This Committee, met to discuss the Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Authority Draft Action Plan 2012-13 on the 27th June 2011.

The committee reviewed the plan, which was divided into five separate areas. The areas were as follows:

- Managing Risk – Reduced risk from arson, focusing on developing children and young people into safer citizens
- Managing People – A multi- skilled, competent, safe and flexible workforce.
- Working together – Close working with other public and private organizations, partners and communities to ensure that citizens most at risk receive help and support.
- Managing Resources – A high performing and efficient Service, managing resources effectively and delivering excellent value for money.
- Managing Performance – Better collection, analysis and sharing of data to help us identify risk and target our resources in the areas of greatest need.

The committee was pleased with the overall theme of the plan; however, it seemed to be a 'list of good intentions'. There were very few details of specific projects or changes that were to be put in place to achieve these goals, few details on how success or failure against targets could be quantified, and no details of time scales.

One of the few specifics included in the report, was that the Llanelli community Fire station would be adopting a new crewing arrangement, in line with the crewing arrangement currently being used in the Pontardawe Fire Station.

The Clerk provided details of an article in 'This is South Wales' during May, which stated that the new crewing arrangements in Pontardawe had left the facility off line on occasions due to staff fatigue. The Chief Fire Officer however stated that these claims were untrue.

The Committee recommended that a response be forwarded to the Mid and West Wales Fire Authority, supporting the plan, however, it should state that the plan requires more information on specific projects, time scales and the method of quantifying success.

With regard to the article in the press, it is recommended that the article together with the Chief Fire Officers response be noted.

Resolved that the committee's recommendations be agreed and that a letter be send requesting additional information.

8623. Development Committee to discuss the Local Development Plan: There were insufficient members for a quorum; however documents were reviewed by the attending Councillors as an informal working party.

The working party identified two areas that they felt could be an issue. These were the abandoning of the safeguarding and potential to restore the canal route between Ynysmeudwy and Ystalyfera, and also that the plan had no specific safeguards for small retail outlets in the area.

Resolved that the Clerk will determine when the details of the proposals will be available online and would inform Council. She will also provide copies of the plan for each Councillor and request that a representative of the County Borough attend the September meeting to discuss the plans.

8624. Accounts: totalling £8962.84.

Resolved to be agreed under financial regulations

8625. Pwllfawtkin Liaison Committee: Council was advised that a meeting was to be held on the 11th July 2011.

Resolved that Mayor Councillor Bob Williams will provide an update at the next meeting.

8626. County Borough Council/ Community Councils liaison forum: Council was advised that the next meeting was to be held on July the 25th 2011.

Resolved that Councillors Sue Northcott and Bob Williams will attend.

8627. Ombudsman – Annual Report: Council received Ombudsman Annual Report.

Resolved that Councillor Andrew Northcott will read the report and give feedback in September meeting.

8628. Letter received from Llangiwig Primary School: A Letter was received from Llangiwig Primary School requesting funding for new outdoor area.

Resolved that the Clerk would contact the County Borough to determine if they had already allocated funding, or if there were any plans that may negate the proposals and provide feedback in September's meeting.

8629. Letter received from Gwenda Thomas AM: A letter was received with regard to litter on the canal bank in Pontardawe following the erection of a new memorial seat on the canal bank close to the Town Centre. The letter requested a bin be provided by the Town Council in conjunction with other stakeholders such as the Chamber of Commerce and the local School, to solve the issue.

The Clerk informed Council however that Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council were to be placing a number of additional seats on the canal bank however none would be accompanied

by rubbish bins, as the County Borough had no vehicular access to the area and would therefore not be in a position to empty the bins.

Following a discussion with the Canal Society however it was identified that the Town Council could empty the bins in the Pontardawe area, and the Canal Society continue to remove litter from all areas but also empty the bins in the area outside of the Pontardawe area, if the County Borough were prepared to purchase and place the bins initially.

Resolved that the Clerk liaise with the Canal Society and the County Borough to place the bins and arrange the emptying of the bins on the canal towpath.

8630. Minor Authority Co- Opted Governors – confirmation required: Councilor's Mel Thomas and Mrs Jean Bowen declared themselves as Co-Opted Governors of Trebanos school. Councilor Bowen wished it to be noted that her first meeting would take place on the 12th of July 2011.

Resolved to be noted.

8631. South Wales Police Community Safety volunteer award: Council suggested that the possibility of PCSO Mark Jones' name be put forward due to his work with Bike Safety in the area.

Resolved that the Clerk will put forward PCSO Mark Jones name, however, Council members will contact the Town Clerk if they had ideas for other to be put forward.

8632. Email received from Lee Davies, land lord of 'The Castle' Public House in Pontardawe: Mr Davies, land lord of the Castle Public House contacted Town Council with regards to the placement of hanging baskets outside the Castle Public House, in line with the retail establishments either side of his public house.

Resolved that a Policy and Resources committee be arranged in the autumn that will review the budget and criteria for the placement of new hanging basket bracket and displays.

8633. Letters of thanks received: Letters of thanks were received from the following organisations for grants provided:

Powys Citizens advice bureau

The Girl guiding association

Marie Curie Cancer care

Bobath Children's Therapy Centre

Welsh Air Ambulance

Shelter Cymru

The Stroke Association

Welsh National Eisteddfod

Resolved to be noted.

8634. Road Safety: Council was informed that the Old Star Inn near Cwmgors was now a residential building and that now there were issues with cars parking on the road and causing an obstruction.

Resolved that the Town Clerk is to write to the County Borough to determine if road markings would be appropriate to prevent parking in this area.

8635. The Next Ordinary Meeting: Council was advised that the next ordinary meeting would be held on 12th September 2011 at Ynysmeudwy Hall.

Resolved to be noted.

Signed **Dated**