

**Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on the 11th March 2013, at Trebanos Hall,
Swansea Road, Trebanos, Pontardawe, commencing at 6.45pm**

9108. Present Councillor D B Thomas (presiding), A Nicholson, Ms S Northcott, G Davies, Mrs J Bowen, V Hotten, D Harris, Ms R Lewis, M Thomas, M James, Mrs L Purcell, H Pickrell.

Apologies: Councillor B Williams, Mrs E Puzey and P Williams.

9109. Disclosure of Personal and Pecuniary Interest: Councillor Ms S Northcott, A Nicholson, V Hotten, G Davies and Mrs J Bowen declared an interest in any discussion on the Pontardawe and District Youth Facility as they are Trustees. Councillor Ms R Lewis and Mrs L Purcell declared an interest in planning discussions as they are members of the Neath Port Talbot Council planning committee.

Resolved to be noted.

9110. Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on the 11th February 2013:

Resolved that the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on the 11th February 2013, having been read and confirmed as a true record, be accepted by Council.

9111. Police Matters: Council was advised of the following:

Trebanos PACT:

Dog Fouling – Patrols had been carried out in the area and a number of dog walkers had been approached although only one had been issued with a fixed penalty notice.

Speeding on Swansea Road – A number of operations had been carried out which had resulted in one person being summoned to attend court for speeding offenses.

Both of the PACT priorities were ongoing.

Council was also advised of Canvassers operating in the area, the theft of a motorbike, Rogue traders and the clearance litter from the canal.

Pontardawe PACT:

Youths on cycles at Pontardawe Retail Park – Patrols were carried out and a number of youths had been spoken to.

Parking issues at Cwmtawe School – The neighbourhood policing team had worked closely with Neath Port Talbot Traffic Wardens to reduce the number of illegally parked vehicles.

Both of the PACT priorities were ongoing.

Council was also advised of Rural watch, a burglary at St Peters Church, and a warning issued to a motorcyclist on common land.

Council was also made aware of continuing issues with speeding outside Llangiwig Primary School.

Resolved to be noted.

9112. Pontardawe and District Youth Facility: Councillors Mrs J Bowen, A Nicholson, V Hotten, G Davies and Ms S Northcott expressed an interest. Council was advised that £6500 had been granted to the Youth Club to the 28th February 2013. As the budget for support was £10,000 per annum, this allowed a further £3500 to be transferred to the end of the fiscal year.

Resolved to be noted.

9113. Open Meeting: Council reviewed the 'Open meeting' which was held on the 21st February 2013. They thanked the Clerk for her work on the organisation of the event, and Councillor H Pickrell who had stepped in at very short notice to chair the meeting. It was agreed that the event had been very well received by members of the public and that it was likely to grow in popularity in future years. Council was also made aware that many other areas were now considering a similar meeting. Council then discussed numerous improvements that could be considered for future Open forum meetings.

Resolved to be noted.

9114. Children's out of school activity pamphlet: Council was advised that the collation of information was in progress. Details of the financial support from Cilybell Community Council were still awaited, as were the arrangements with Cwmtawe School for the creation of the pamphlet.

Resolved to be noted.

9115. Former Cinema Passageway from Paradise Car Park: The Clerk advised Council that information had been provided to show significant difficulties with allowing the Cinema Passageway to remain open late into the evening, following previous pilot which had led to damage and anti social behaviour at the site.

Resolved that following a review of the earlier pilot the Town Council regretfully believes that it will not be in the Towns interest to request the opening of the passageway later in the evening, due to safety issues.

9116. Agenda Order: Council agreed to discuss Planning and the Personnel Committee recommendations at the end of the meeting.

Resolved to be agreed.

9117. Finance meeting required to discuss Grants for 2013/14: It was agreed that a Finance meeting would be arranged for the 26th March 2013 at 6.00pm.

Resolved to be noted.

9118. Accounts Schedule 286 totalling £8328.41.

Resolved to be agreed under standing orders.

9119. Dog Bins and disposal bags for Pontardawe: Council was advised that an email had been received requesting that additional dog waste bins be placed in Pontardawe and that disposal bags be made available. Council was advised however that disposal bags were available from the 'One Stop Shop' at Pontardawe, and that Councillor Purcell had been advised by the County Borough Council that there were no funds available for additional dog waste bins.

Resolved that the Town Council will look into the costs of supplying dog waste bins provided that the County Borough were able to empty them, and will also request that the County Borough provide details of the frequency that the bins are emptied and the process for reporting full bins.

9120. Junction of Gnoll Road and the A4067: The Clerk advised Council that there was currently no specific campaign for a roundabout at that location.

Resolved that the issue will be taken forward by the County Borough Members.

9121. WRG Summer Camp accommodation: An email had been received from Martin Davies stating that accommodation had now been located, but thanked the Town Council for looking into the matter.

Resolved to be noted.

9122. Single Integrated plan consultation: Council had been provided with a computer link to review the consultation prior to the meeting and stated that they were in favour of the overall principle but were unsure if it would actually work in practice.

Resolved to be noted.

9123. Pontardawe Regeneration phase 3: Council was advised that phase three of the regeneration of Pontardawe was to begin shortly and would run for approximately twenty weeks.

Resolved to be noted.

9124. Urgent Road Safety Matters: The following issues were:

- Bollards were required outside the taxi office at Pontardawe to prevent parking on the pavement.
- Road Safety barriers were still not permanently fixed on the Mynydd y Betws wind farm transport route.
- A tree was obstructing vision on the Alloy Industrial Estate at the corner of Tawe Terrace.
- Speeding was still an issue outside Llangiwig School.
- There was still a partially felled tree in a precarious position in the Paradise car park.
- A number of the lights on the bridge adjacent to Tesco were not lit in the evenings.

Resolved that Councillor Purcell will look into the issues at Llangiwig School, Councillor James would look into the issue at the taxi office and the Clerk will contact the proper authorities with regard to the other issues.

9125. Personnel committee 19th February 2013:

The Committee discussed a request by Councillor M Thomas to back date the groundsmans wage increase to April 2012.

The committee discussed the request in full but recommended that the increase should be from the date of the review and not from April 2012 as the basis for the increase was following a review of the actual work carried out in comparison to the job description that had taken place in October 2012 and therefore there was no justification for back dating the increase to April 2012, which was prior to the date review.

Councillor Thomas expressed the opinion that he felt that as the groundsman had not received a cost of living increase due to the local authority pay freeze it would be fair to back date the increase to the beginning of the financial year and proposed that the recommendation of the committee be rejected and the increase be backdated to April 2012. The proposal was not seconded.

Resolved that the committee's recommendation is accepted and the wage increase be awarded from the date of the review in October 2012.

Pursuant to section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admissions to meetings) Act 1960 it is resolved that because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, the public and the press leave the meeting during consideration of the Personnel committee recommendations.

9126. Planning: Councillors Mrs L Purcell, Ms R Lewis expressed an interest and both Councillors together with Councillor M James left the meeting prior to the discussion.

P2013/0196

Applicants name: Lloyds Banking group, Group property, Operations, P O Box 112, Canons House, Canons Way, Bristol, BS99 7LB

Site Location: 66 Herbert Street, Pontardawe, Swansea SA8 4ED.

Proposed Development: One illuminated fascia advertisement, two illuminated projecting advertisements and one illuminated ATM Collar on front elevation.

Resolve no objection.

P2012/0155

Applicants name: Grwp Gwalia CYF, 7-13 The Kingsway, Swansea, SA1 5JN.

Site Location: Land at former Ynysmeudwy House, Ynysmeudwy Road, Pontardawe, SA8 4QD.

Proposed Development: Details to be agreed in associated with condition 16 (retaining walls) of planning permission ref P2012/0543 granted on 14.02.13.

Resolved no objection.

P2012/1098

Applicants name: Peter Edwards, 189 Swansea Road, Trebanos, SA8 4BT.

Site Location: Lina's cutting house, 202 Swansea Road, Trebanos, Pontardawe, Swansea, SA8 4BU.

Proposed Development: First floor front extension and conversion of hairdressers (class A1) to two self contained residential units.

Resolved no objection provided there is neighbourhood notification.

9127. Thanks to translator: The Chairman thanked the translator for her translation work during the bilingual meeting.

Resolved to be noted.

9128. Date of the next meeting is the 8th April at Ynysmeudwy Hall commencing at 6.45pm.

Signed

Dated