

Ordinary General Meeting held on the 11th November 2019 at Ynysmeudwy Hall, Old Road, Ynysmeudwy commencing at 6.45pm

Present:

Councillor A Nicholson (Presiding), Mrs L Purcell, Ms C Ford, J Jones, D Williams, R Thomas, H Davies, Mrs R Phillips, Ms R Jones, W Thomas, A Richards, Ms S Northcott, V Hotten, G Davies and B McCarthy (Youth Representative)

Apologies:

Councillor G Nicholson

11298: Disclosure of Personal and Pecuniary Interests:

None

Resolved to be noted.

11299: Signing of the minutes of the Ordinary General Meeting held on the 14th October 2019:

Resolved that the minutes of the Ordinary General Meeting held on the 14th October 2019 having been read and confirmed as a true record, be accepted by Council with the following amendment.

Minute number 11290 – All references to consultation with traders should also include residents in that area.

11300: Consider matters raised by Members of the Public:

None.

Resolved to be noted.

11301: Presentation on Terracycling:

Zoe Stanley attended the meeting to give details of the Terracycling scheme she had started in Trebanos to assist with recycling and to provide funds for YGG Trebannws.

The scheme was originally started to recycle crisp packets but had increased to cover baby food pouches, cleaning product refill pouches and flexible waste carriers.

The waste is collected and sent to various recycling centres in return for terracycling points. These points have a cash value that were being utilised to assist the local school. The scheme was now gaining momentum with recycling collection points in Trebanos School, Trebanos Hall, Tesco and Frosties Fruit and vegetables in Pontardawe. Additional collection points would be added once funds had been raised to purchase collection bins.

Zoe was also keen to provide details of other terracycling and recycling schemes operating in the area via social media to ensure that there was a hub of information for residents to recycle items not covered by local authority recycling schemes.

She asked that the Town Council assist in spreading the word about the work being carried out in this area.

Resolved Council thanked Zoe for her presentation and commended her on the action she had taken to improve raise awareness of terracycling in this area.

11302: Presentation on Dementia Friendly:

Unfortunately, the presentation was postponed due to illness, and would be rescheduled for a later date.

Resolved to be noted.

11303: Defibrillator Mapping Project:

A meeting was soon to be held by the Committee with representatives of the Chamber of Commerce and traders in Pontardawe, as although there was good coverage in Pontardawe itself, many units were not available 24 hours.

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

11304: Cwmdu Glen and the Working with Nature Project:

No additional information.

Resolved to be noted.

11305: Police Matters:

Pontardawe Statistics

September -Total crimes 44 (16 violent, 6 Public Order and 5 Antisocial Behaviour)

August – Total crimes 37 (11 violent and 8 Antisocial behaviour)

Trebanos Statistics

September – Total crimes 3 (no groups)

August – Total 9 (3 violent and 3 other theft)

The PACT meetings during December had been postponed due to the General Election.

Resolved to be noted.

11306: Bench at Alltycham Drive:

An alternative location for the bench at Alltycham Drive had been identified on a piece of unadopted land outside the fire station.

Resolved that the replacement bench will be situated in this area if possible.

11307: Pontardawe Cenotaph:

The Clerk confirmed that she had discussed the recommended cleaning regime for the Cenotaphs with an expert at CADW.

The expert at CADW had explained that the Patina on the Cenotaph plaques were protecting the plaques from damage caused by weather and pollution.

Resolved that that on the advice of CADW no cleaning of the Plaques should be considered.

11308: Pontardawe Winterfest:

The Clerk confirmed that the arrangements for the Christmas Winterfest were in progress. There would be stalls at the Art Centre from 4pm on the 6th December, with entertainment from 5pm. The Parade was due to begin at 5.30pm from St Peter's Church, with the official lights being switched on at 6pm and a fireworks finale at approximately 6.15pm. The entertainment at the Art Centre would continue until 7pm, with Santa's Grotto and the market continuing until 8pm.

The Clerk would arrange for leaflets to be distributed to advise residents of the fireworks display, which would last approximately 5 minutes. There would also be information on social media.

Resolved to be noted.

11309: Planning:

Planning Committee held on the 28th October 2019

P2019/5260

Councillor Ms C Ford declared an interest as she is a Governor at YGG Trebanws

Miss Clare Britton, 265 Swansea Road, Trebanos, Swansea, SA8 4BY

Site Location: 265 Swansea Road, Trebanos, Swansea, SA8 4BY

Proposed Development: Change of use of existing dwelling into a mixed-use residential dwelling and commercial cattery, change of use of part of existing garage into an office, together with the construction of a single storey detached cattery building (Amended Plans and Access Statement received 14.10.19)

Resolved – No Objection provided there is Neighbourhood Notification

P2019/5477

Mr Matthew Williams, Grandma's Diner, 20 Bryn Awel, Cimla, Neath SA11 1JF

Site Location: Gilbertsons Court, Alloy Industrial Estate, Pontardawe SA8 4EZ

Proposed Development: Siting of Static Catering trailer (Use Class A3)

Resolved – Objection due to the impact on existing businesses, in Pontardawe Town Centre and on the Industrial Estate.

P2019/5526

Mr Haulsey Norton, 10 Heol Hir, Gwaun Cae Gurwen, Ammanford SA18 4SX

Site Location: Nort-I Caribbean Food Shack, Abernant Centre, Abernant Colliery, Rhyd y Fro, SA8 4SX

Proposed Development: Variation of condition 1 of Planning Permission P2017/0750 approved on the 22/10/17 for the temporary consent to be extended for a further 3 years.

Resolved – No Objection as there are no near permanent outlets

P2019/5215

Mrs Margaret Davies, 39 Danygraig Road, Trebanos, Pontardawe, Swansea, SA8 4DS

Site Location: Land to the rear of 39 Danygraig Road, Trebanos, Pontardawe, Swansea, SA8 4DS

Proposed Development: Dwelling (outline with all matters reserved) (Amended plans received 11th October 2019)

Resolved – Objection due to limited and difficult access and overlooking other properties

Planning reviewed in the Ordinary Meeting:

P2019/5543

Yr Hadau Ltd, C/O Agent

Site Location: Parc Hadau, Land at Waun Sterw, Rhyd y Fro, Pontardawe

Proposed Development: Full Planning permission for the proposed development of 35 zero carbon homes plus community building along with associated works including landscaping, parking, access, engineering works and ecological mitigation.

Resolved – No Objection.

11310: Planning Consultations:

Revisions to the Housing section of Planning Policy Wales and associated advice and guidance

Resolved – No Comment.

Revisions to the Planning Policy Wales regarding the use of compulsory purchase powers and updated guidance on the compulsory purchase procedure in Wales

Resolved – No Comment.

Revised planning guidance in relation to flooding and coastal erosion

Resolved_– No Comment.

11311: Policy and Resources Committee held on the 28th October 2019 re the Environment Act Wales 2016:

The Committee reviewed the requirement of the Environment (Wales) 2016 Act in relation to the Report to be produced by the end of 2019 and every third year after 2019.

The statement provides information on how each Public Authority will seek to maintain and enhance biodiversity in the exercise of functions in relation to Wales and in doing so promote the resilience of ecosystems so far as consistent with the proper exercise of those functions.

The Committee suggested that initially the Clerk together with Councillor Ford who has extensive knowledge on the subject should produce the draft statement.

It was also recommended that changes be made to green space management in the short term in order to improve biodiversity.

As there was already significant work being carried out by Neath Port Talbot Council on biodiversity at Cwmdu, it was recommended that this form one of the first areas to address in partnership with the County Borough

The maintenance of Town Council Parks and Halls should also be reviewed to improve the biodiversity within the area.

It was suggested that Ynysmeudwy Park be used in the management pilot as there was already keen 'Friends of' Group at Ynysmeudwy, the Youth Club was based at Ynysmeudwy Hall, and it was close to the Primary School. This would assist in promoting community partnerships during the project.

The eco management learnt at Ynysmeudwy Park could then be rolled out to the other parks and halls later, once a workable model had been identified.

The Committee suggested that the lessons learned during the project could then be used to assist in partnership projects with other local organisations to improve the ecosystem throughout the Town Council area.

The Committees recommendation was that Councillor Ford would liaise with the Clerk to produce a draft Statement to be agreed by Council.

The Draft Statement was subsequently created by Councillor Ford and the Clerk for review at the Ordinary meeting.

Resolved – That the Committees recommendations be ratified, and the draft Statement as amended in the Ordinary meeting will be agreed and published. The Cwmdu Committee will also be renamed the Eco and Wellbeing Committee. The Members of the new Committee will be the Mayor, Councillor G Nicholson, Mrs L Purcell, Ms R Jones, V Hotten, Ms C Ford and R Thomas. The Eco and Wellbeing Committee will meet at least quarterly.

11312: Clerks Report following the information meeting with Neath Port Talbot Council, Legal Department:

Council was provided with details of the information provided. The Clerk confirmed that no issues had been raised at Pontardawe.

The Ombudsman was now able to be proactive in their investigations as they were no longer required to wait for a complaint prior to commencing an investigation.

Public Service Protection Orders were now available in the place of Bylaws. These could be set up by the County Borough on Town or Community Council's behalf.

Resolved – to be noted.

11313: Pwllfawtkin Liaison Committee meeting held on the 31st October 2019:

Councillor Hotten attended the meeting on Councils behalf.

The reports of unpleasant odour during October was due to the heavy atmosphere and rain during the month. No hazardous waste had been deposited at the site for a considerable number of years.

It was likely that the site would remain open for several additional years and would not be capped early in 2020 as originally anticipated. The Eco village proposals had therefore been postponed.

Resolved – to be noted.

11314: Accessibility Report:

The Clerk requested assistance from Council Members to test the current web site for accessibility in order to update the Council's Accessibility statement. This would then be agreed in Council at the December Ordinary Meeting and would remain in force until the creation of the new Town Council web site in 2020.

Resolved – that Youth Councillor Benjamin McCarthy assist the Clerk to test the current web site using known Accessibility devices for Chrome in order to update the Accessibility Statement.

11315: Clerks Report on the Civic Service:

Council was advised that due to issues at Tabernacle Chapel and beyond the control of Council, the Civic Service due to have been held on the 3rd November had been cancelled.

There was a full and frank discussion on inclusion. Council decided that in future all Civic Services would be held at St Peters Church, with the option of inviting Preachers from other denominations to form part of the service with Reverend Green. This method, rather than arranging the Service at a different venue, would be used to ensure diversity. It was also agreed to hold the Civic Service on a specified Sunday each year.

Resolved – that the Civic Service will be held in St Peters Church and discussions will be held with Reverend Green to hold the Civic Service on the third Sunday in September each year.

11316: Account Schedule 362 totalling £18177.11 and Bank reconciliation:

Resolved – that Account Schedule 362 totalling £18177.11 and associated Bank Reconciliation should be accepted by Council in line with Standing Orders.

11317: Letters of Thanks:

Letters of Thanks had been received from Glantawe Lions, Swansea Valley Under 11s and Alltwn Brownies for grants received.

Resolved – to be noted.

11318: SLCC Membership:

Council reviewed the Membership for 2020 which was a cost of £196.00

Resolved – that the subscription will be paid.

11319: Observatory on Human Rights for Children:

As Councillor Williams is a candidate for the forthcoming General Election, he elected to withdraw the discussion due to pre-Election rules.

Resolved – to add to the Ordinary Meeting Agenda in January 2020.

11320: Welsh Studies History Project:

As Councillor Williams is a candidate for the forthcoming General Election, he elected to withdraw the discussion due to pre-Election rules.

Resolved – to add to the Ordinary Meeting Agenda in January 2020.

11321: Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales Draft Annual Report:

Council was provided with the report prior to the meeting.

Resolved – to be noted however Councillors will be provided with the means to opt out of remuneration to remain fully voluntary if requested.

11322: Correspondence re Swansea Road Crossing Patrol Officer:

Unfortunately, the Officer has resigned with immediate effect. Neath Port Talbot Council will re-advertise the post as soon as possible.

Resolved – Council will be kept up to date.

11323: Next Meeting:

The next meeting of Council will be held on the 9th December 2019 at ARCH Hall, commencing at 6.45pm

Signed

Dated

