

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Pontardawe Town Council held on Monday 12th January 2015, at ARCH Hall, Cefn Llan Road, Pontardawe commencing at 6.45pm

9774. Present Councillors P Williams (presiding), Mrs J Bowen, G Davies, Mrs E Puzey, V Hotten, B Williams, H Evans, Ms S Northcott, A Nicholson, D B Thomas, H Pickrell and Ms C Ford.
(Councillor Ford left the meeting at 8.00pm)
Youth Representatives – Harri Evans – Mason & Thomas Hutchins

Apologies: Councillor Mrs L Purcell, Mrs R Phillips, D Harris.

9775. Disclosure of Personal and Pecuniary interests: Councillors Mrs J Bowen, A Nicholson, Ms S Northcott, G Davies and V Hotten declared an interest in the Pontardawe and District Youth Facility.

Resolved this be noted.

9776. Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on the 8th December 2014:

Resolved that the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 8th December 2014, having been read and confirmed as a true record, be accepted by Council.

9777. Matters raised by members of the public: None.

Resolved to be noted.

9778. Police Matters: The Clerk provided the following information:

Pontardawe:

The next PACT meeting was to be held on the 5/2/15 at The Cross Community Centre commencing at 6.30pm.

Patrols were ongoing outside Languicke School to deter speeding and dangerous parking.

PCSO Holly Probert had been promoted to PC and would be leaving Pontardawe to begin her training in June 2015.

Trebanos:

The next PACT meeting was to be held on the 19/2/15 at Trebanos Hall commencing at 6.30pm.

Patrols at night had been scheduled to deter anti social behavior at the park. These were to be ongoing however there had been no instances of anti-social behavior reported recently.

Council was however advised that the transformer had been broken into on the 11th November 2014. This had been reported to the police via the 101 number but had not appeared on any of the crime statistics.

Resolved that the Clerk will contact the police to determine why the statistics did not include details of criminal damage to the transformer.

9779. Pontardawe & District Youth Facility: Councillors V Hotten, A Nicholson, Ms S Northcott, G Davies and Mrs J Bowen expressed an interest.

Council was advised that the Pontardawe and District Youth Facility had received no financial assistance for the 2014/15 fiscal year to date from Pontardawe Town Council and therefore there was still £10,000 from the budget available. Council also confirmed that the support would continue for the 2015/16 fiscal year.

The Clerk advised Council that 'Menter Iaith' would be renting the facility from February 2015. Council thanked the Company Secretary for her work in securing the replacement group.

Resolved that the Town Council will provide financial support to the Youth Facility for up to £10,000 in the 2015/16 fiscal year, should additional funds be required to keep the facility open.

9780. Out of School activities brochure: The total cost for the production of the brochures was slightly more than anticipated at £753.81. The costs would be split in accordance with the previous agreements with 43% to Pontardawe Town Council, 26% to Cilybebyll Community Council and 31% to GCG Community Council.

The Clerk confirmed that any additional brochures would be distributed to the library, community halls and other schools outside of the area that had expressed an interest.

The web site was also an ongoing facility that could be regularly updated with information on new activities.

Resolved that the costs for the brochure will be agreed and that additional brochures will be distributed to interested parties.

9781. Groundwork's: The Clerk confirmed that there was no further information however Council would be advised once it was available

Resolved to be noted.

9782. Financial Risk Assessment and Financial Regulations: It was agreed that a Finance Committee would be required to conduct the annual review.

Resolved that a Finance Committee will be arranged for Monday 19th January 2015 at 6.00pm.

9783. Footpath Grant: The Clerk confirmed that due to severe financial cuts, the grant provided by Neath Port Talbot Council to maintain the paths in the Pontardawe Town Council area would be severely cut. They had also confirmed that the maintenance on paths regulated by Neath Port Talbot Council would be reduced and would be to a greater degree managed on a reactive basis.

It was therefore suggested that a new arrangement be agreed whereby the Town Council retain the responsibility for maintenance for the paths that were very well used for a reduced grant, but that the others revert to the responsibility of Neath Port Talbot Council.

It was also agreed that initially the responsibility for a number of paths would revert to the County Borough however it was hoped that alternative methods of maintenance such as community groups may be identified to maintain other paths to a greater degree.

It was also stressed that members of the public should be made aware that the paths in the area were not now all maintained by Pontardawe Town Council.

Resolved that an alternative plan for footpath maintenance will be agreed with Neath Port Talbot Council. It was also agreed that a P&R Committee would review the position in September 2015.

9784. WREN Grant for Trebanos Park: The Clerk confirmed that the Town Council had been successful in its application for a £50,000 WREN Grant to improve the facilities at Trebanos Park. The Town Council's third party contribution was to be £5443.46. Council Members thanked the Clerk for her work on the project.

Resolved that the third party contribution be agreed and also that the Clerk will be given the authority to sign documents in relation to the grant on behalf of Council.

9785. Neath Port Talbot contaminated land strategy consultation: Council Members were provided with details of the consultation prior to the meeting.

Resolved to be noted.

9786. Planning (Meeting dated 5th January 2015):

P2014/1071 Mr S Tucker, NPT Homes Ltd, Ty Gwyn, Brunel Way, Baglan Energy Park, SA11 2FP.
Site Location: Hafan Brynheulog, Ffordd Brynheulog, Pontardawe, Swansea, SA8 4JW.

Proposed Development: New entrance lobby and office, conversion of flat and office to create 1 additional flat, external alteration including alterations to windows, replacement of vertical tiling with cladding, raised patio area plus additional 7 car parking spaces.

Resolved: No Objection.

P2014/1099 Mr John Hoyle, Cwmbryn Farm, lane off Baran Road to access Cwm Bryn, Pontardawe, SA8 4RR.

Site Location: Cwmbryn Farm, lane off Baran Road to access Cwm Bryn, Pontardawe, SA8 4RR.

Proposed Development: First floor extension and porch on rear elevation.

Resolved No Objection.

P2014/1055 Mr Peter Rees, Kitty O'Sheas, James Street, Pontardawe, Swansea, SA8 4LR.

Site Location: Kitty O'Sheas, James Street, Pontardawe, Swansea, SA8 4LR.

Proposed Development: Canopy roof to existing beer garden, plus retention of smoking shelter.

Resolved No Objection.

P2014/0962 Mr Kumar, 120 Fairways, Sandfields, Port Talbot SA12 7HR.

Site Location: 18 High Street, Pontardawe, Swansea SA8 4HU.

Proposed Development: Replacement shop front, single storey rear extension with raised platform and two external stairs, a dormer and two roof lights in the rear roof slope, an area of extended hard standing for car parking, plus change of use of the first floor and roof space into three 1 bedroom flats.

Resolved No Objection provided there is neighbourhood notification.

Reviewed in the meeting:

P2014/1020 Mr T Shaw, C/O Agent

Site Location: Land adjacent to 33 Orchard Street, Pontardawe, Swansea, SA8 4ER.

Proposed Development: One dwelling (outline with details of access to be determined)

Resolved Objection on the grounds that access would be an issue. It was also stated that there was insufficient information on the type of development that was envisaged.

9787. Policy and Resources Committee held on the 15th December 2014 (Open Meeting 2015):

It was agreed by the Committee that the 'Open Meeting' was a valuable event allowing local residents' access to their elected Members.

The initial arrangements for the meeting were as follows:

- It was agreed that Pontardawe Leisure Centre should be utilised as the venue for the meeting as it was central with good car parking. It had also been provided free of charge for previous years.
- The date of the meeting should be post ratification of the County Borough Council budget, as if the meeting was held prior to the ratification, County Borough Members would not be able to comment on many local matters. A Thursday in March 2015 seemed to be the preferred date, subject to the above. It was also agreed that the meeting should commence at 7.00pm
- The Clerk confirmed that Peter Hain would not attend a meeting of this nature as he was due to stand down as MP. Given the difficulties associated with fairness prior to a General Election it was agreed not to request prospective candidates for MP to the meeting as panel Members.
- The Panel Members would therefore be AM's and Local County Borough Members only.
- Councillor Peter Williams confirmed that he would be happy to Chair the meeting.
- It was agreed that posters requesting questions to be submitted to the Panel would be ordered with a 'cut off' for the submission of questions two weeks prior to the meeting.
- Any very localized question for specific Members would be forwarded directly to the Member for a personal response rather than being included in the meeting (The person submitting the question would be advised)
- All questions would be forwarded to Panel Members one week prior to the meeting. However it was agreed that supplementary questions could be made from the floor on the evening of the meeting.

- It was agreed that five main questions should be forwarded to the Panel Members (but they should be on a mix of topics that could be commented on by both the County Borough Members and AM's) a number of other supplementary questions would also be kept in reserve.

Resolved that the recommendations of the Committee be ratified.

9788. Continual Professional Development: The Clerk provided details of an intensive Welsh Language course that was to take place for fifteen weeks on Wednesdays at the Cross Community Centre. She requested Councils agreement to attend to improve her Welsh Language skills.

Resolved that the Clerk be supported in attending the Welsh Language Course.

9789. NJC Pay scale agreements: The Clerk confirmed that new pay scales had been agreed by the National Joint Council.

Resolved that the pay scales will be discussed at a Personnel Meeting to be held at 6.30pm on the 19th January 2015.

9790. Christmas 2015 funding: It was agreed that an ad hoc committee was required to determine the funding methods for Christmas 2015. The Committee was to comprise of the Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Councillors Andrew Nicholson, Sue Northcott and Charlotte Ford. The committee should also comprise of both Youth Representatives.

Resolved that an ad hoc committee be arranged for 6.00pm on the 26th January 2015, to discuss the Christmas provision for 2015.

9791. One Voice Wales: Unfortunately Councillor Nicholson was unable to attend the meeting held on the 10th December 2014. It was also stated that the meetings themselves were not effective.

Resolved that Councillor Nicholson will provide some feedback to be forwarded to the Committee with the hope that this will improve the effectiveness of future meetings.

9792. Accounts Schedule 307:

Resolved to accept the schedule 307 totaling £14268.05 in line with Standing Orders together with the Bank Reconciliation.

9793. Carmarthen Development Plan: Council was advised that the Carmarthen Local Development Plan had been adopted on the 10th December 2011.

Resolved to be noted.

9794. Email received re request for a 'Pelican Crossing' on the bypass road in Pontardawe adjacent to the retail park:

Council was advised that an email had been received stating that as there was a underpass from the retail park to Herbert Street and also a school crossing patrol for the children from Cwmtawe School, a controlled pedestrian crossing would not be considered at this time.

Resolved that the Clerk will request the cost of placing a pedestrian crossing and will also determine if Neath Port Talbot Highways department would allow a crossing if funding could be achieved from alternative sources.

9795. Email received re Pontardawe Cross Users Group: The agenda point was withdrawn by Councillor Bob Williams, who originally proposed it.

Resolved to be noted.

9796. Consultation on the draft National Transport Plan 2015: Council Members were provided with details of the consultation prior to the meeting.

Resolved that Councillor Nicholson will review the documents and provide a summary at the next meeting.

9797. Email received re LDP hearing meetings: The Clerk confirmed that following her request for hearing meetings to be held outside business hours a response had been received stating that all the meetings must be held within normal business hours but that it was hoped that the notice of the meetings was generous enough to allow working people to make arrangements to attend if they so wished.

Resolved to be noted.

9798. Local Authority Elections (Wales) Order 2014: Council was advised that the order formally provided that the current term of office of existing Councillors elected to County Councils, County Borough Councils and Community Councils in Wales was extended by one year from 2016 to 2017.

Resolved to be noted.

9799. Consultation on Planning and related discussions by the Welsh Ministers: Details were provided prior to the meeting.

Resolved for the information to be reviewed by Councillor Nicholson and details forwarded to Members prior to the deadline of the 30th January 2015.

9800. Urgent Road Safety Matters: Council was advised of the following:

- Neath Port Talbot’s dog warden service was highly praised for its reactive capabilities
- Graig Road in Trebanos had significant road works which limited parking in the area.

Resolved to be noted.

9801. Date and time of next meeting: The date of the next Ordinary Meeting of Council will be Monday 9th February 2015 at Trebanos Hall commencing at 6.45pm.

Signed **Dated**