

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Pontardawe Town Council held on the 12th June 2017 at ARCH Hall, Cefn Llan Road, Pontardawe commencing at 6.45pm.

10516. Present: Councillor A Nicholson (presiding), G Davies, Ms S Northcott, V Hotten, H Evans, Ms C Ford, A Richards, J Jones, G Nicholson, Ms R Jones, W Thomas, Mrs L Purcell, Mrs R Phillips and R Smith

Apologies: Councillor C Morgan and Jamie Edwards (Youth Representative).

10517. Disclosure of Personal and Pecuniary interests: None.

Resolved to be noted.

10518. Minutes of the Ordinary meeting and Annual General Meeting held on the 15th May 2017:

Resolved that the minutes of the Ordinary meeting and Annual General Meeting held on the 15th May 2017, having been read and confirmed as a true record, be accepted by Council.

10519. Councillor Hotten addressed Council re PANTRY: He stated that PANTRY had been in existence for over three years now and the number of people helped was now approximately sixty each month. As well as canned goods, they also provided fresh produce and managed an allotment to provide further fresh produce in the future.

At present, they were looking for alternative premises as although Tabernacle were extremely good they were finding that there was now a lack of space due to the increase in the needs of the community. PANTRY was also looking to expand their service to include cookery lessons, drop in sessions and other support for vulnerable people.

Currently the food bank was open from 10.00am to 12.00 on Tuesday and Saturday and Councillors were welcome to call to see the project and the work being carried out by the volunteers.

Currently there were sufficient funds to provide the service required but they envisaged requiring some grant assistance from the Town Council in future years.

Resolved to be noted.

10520. Matters raised by Members of the Public: None.

Resolved to be noted.

10521. Cwmdu:

The Clerk provided an update on the actions currently being taken by the 'Working with Nature' team and confirmed that a Friends of Glanrhyd Estate and Cwmdu group were in the process of being set up.

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

10522. Police Matters:

The Clerk confirmed that there were no further statistics.

The next PACT meeting in Pontardawe was due to be held on the 22nd June 2017 at Pontardawe Art Centre commencing at 6.30pm

The next PACT meeting at Trebanos was to be held on the 17th August 2017 at 6.30pm at Trebanos Hall.

Councillor Phillips was concerned that several PACT meetings had been cancelled in Trebanos due to various Elections and requested that the Police in future, reschedule PACT meetings that needed to be altered rather than cancelling them.

Resolved that the Clerk will request the local Police Service reschedule rather than cancel PACT meetings should circumstances require a change in the date.

10523. Good Citizens Award:

The Clerk confirmed that many nominations had been made for the Good Citizen Award but that the new nominations needed to be reviewed and the final details of the Awards Evening needed to be finalised.

Resolved to be discussed at a forthcoming Development Committee.

10524. Ynysmeudwy Park: Council was advised that the Park refurbishment was virtually complete and that the Official Opening was being arranged by the 'Friends of Ynysmeudwy Park' group for the 19th June 2017.

Resolved to be noted.

10525. Defibrillators: The Defibrillator at Trebanos Service Station had been installed and was now operational. We were currently awaiting a suitable date for the Mayor and representatives from Trebanos Service Station and the Ambulance Service to attend the site for the official unveiling.

Councillor Phillips expressed her thanks to Council, Trebanos Service Station and the Ambulance Service on behalf of the people of Trebanos for the provision of this important safety amenity.

Resolved to be noted.

10526. Early Morning and Late-night noise in Herbert Street: This matter had been discussed in an earlier meeting with several actions being taken to advise the local community of ways to report noise issues to the County Borough. It was felt however that the Town Council would need to work with the local traders and licenced premises to produce a cohesive plan which could be adopted by local traders to benefit both them and the residents in Central Pontardawe.

Resolved to be discussed in a forthcoming Development Committee.

10527. Planning:

P2017/0523

Applicants name: Mrs Stephanie Radford, Pennant Homes, 3rd Floor, 220 High Street, Swansea SA1 1NW.

Site Location: Phase 5, Plot 16, Parc y Dderwen, Pontardawe.

Proposed Development: Non-Material amendment to Planning Permission P2014/0973 (Residential development) for the insertion of French doors to side elevation of dwelling on Plot 16 only.

Resolved No objection.

P2017/0036

Applicants name: Artisan Stone Supplies Ltd, Gwrhyd Quarry, Gwrhyd Road, Pontardawe, Swansea SA9 2SB.

Site Location: Gwrhyd Specialist Quarry, Gwrhyd Uchaf Farm, Gwrhyd Road, Pontardawe, Swansea, SA9 2SB.

Proposed Development: Variation of Condition 15 of planning permission P2010/0026 in order to allow for a) an output of 750 tonnes of dimensional blockstone and masonry products per working week for the duration of the planning permission and b) the removal of 700 tonnes per working week of aggregate produced from waste stone resulting from the dimensional stone and masonry production process for a limited period of 2.5 years.

Resolved Council has concerns about the possible increase in traffic and the effects on the Community.

10528. Clerks Report re Insurance Provision for 2017/18: The Clerk advised Council that a review of the required insurance provisions had taken place by the Council's nominated brokers. Royal Sun Alliance would provide the main municipal Insurance with additional stand-alone policies to cover exclusions for computer hacking and for decisions made by residents Committees.

The cost of the insurance had increased slightly from £6194.52 in 2016/17 to £6738.01 for 2017/18 although a proportion of this increase was due to standard increases in the IPT Tax.

Resolved that the insurance position be agreed and noted.

10529. Question Time arrangements for 2017: It was agreed to discuss in a forthcoming Development meeting.

Resolved that the Council will discuss in a forthcoming Development meeting.

10530. Local Resolution Protocol: It was agreed to accept the standard protocol as issued by One Voice Wales.

Resolved that the standard protocol from Once Voice Wales for Local Resolution will be adopted.

10531. Social Media Policy: It was agreed to accept the standard Social Media Policy as issued by One Voice Wales.

It was also suggested that a subcommittee of Councillors be provided with plenary powers in addition to the Clerk to manage both the Council's Social Media Accounts and the 'Go Valley' web site. It was further suggested that Council look at One Voice Wales training for Councillors on Social Media.

Resolved that the standard Social Media Policy from Once Voice Wales will be adopted. Council will also create a committee to manage the Social Media accounts and 'Go Valley' web site in addition to the Clerk and will look into training for Councillors on Social Media.

10532. Clerks Report on the Pontardawe Town Council Councillor vacancy: Council was advised that the position could be filled by co-option. The Clerk then provided details of the co-option process and advised Councillors that the Co-option vote would take place at the July meeting when the potential candidates would also be invited to address Council.

The Co-Option vote would be by a show of hands with the Chair having a casting vote in the event of a draw.

Resolved that a notice of co-option be issued with the actual co-option vote taking place at the July 2017 meeting.

10533. 'Go Valley' web-site: Council was advised that the web-site had a great deal of information on activities in the area but was not widely know about.

It was agreed that action needed to be taken to advertise both the web site and the work of the Town Council in general.

Resolved that the following action be taken:

- A subcommittee of Councillors would manage the social media sites and would keep the 'Go Valley' site up to date in addition to the Clerk. Plenary power would be awarded to the Clerk and Committee to manage the day to day running of the online accounts.
- Immediate Welsh response could be provided by Councillor G Nicholson who would form part of the social media Sub -Committee. Other translation would be provided by Councillor H Evans if required.
- A brochure should be created providing details of the Town Councils Halls and Parks and in addition details that would be found on the Town Council web site, the 'Go Valley' site and the social media pages.
- It was suggested that a brochure be produced every five years to publicise the work of the Town Council.
- The School Governors would ensure that their schools were aware of the various online resources.

10534. Clerks Report on Business Rate relief for Community Halls: The Clerk confirmed that as a precepting authority, the Town Council would not be able to obtain business rate relief, however if the Community Halls were to be transferred into a Charity with the Town Council as the sole trustee,

then 80% of the Business rate would be granted relief with the possibility of a further 20% being given on a discretionary basis. This could save the Council between £5000 and £6000 per annum.

The setup of the Charity would however require specialist advice as would the VAT position which would incur initial costs.

Resolved that the Clerk will obtain specialist legal advice and will report back to Council.

10535. Account Schedule 334:

Resolved that Account Schedule 334 totalling £19891.54 and the Bank Reconciliation be accepted in accordance with Standing Orders.

10536. Request for Letter of Thanks: Councillor Richards requested that letter of thanks be forwarded to the previous Town Councillors to thank them for the service to the Community.

Resolved that letters of thanks will be sent.

10537. Email received re 'Events' in Pontardawe: Council was provided with additional details on the 'Closed Street running Event' that was discussed earlier in the year.

The Event was currently being reviewed by Neath Port Talbot Council, but was likely to take place in late October between approximately 7pm and 9pm on a Friday evening. Herbert Street, Part of Grove Road and part of Tawe Terrace would be closed for the duration of the race.

Resolved to be noted.

10538. King George V Park Pavilion: Council was advised that Pontardawe Bowl's club had taken on the lease for the Bowls club pavilion however it was still their intention to request the Town Council take over the lease once the County Borough had replaced the roof.

The Bowls club will contact the Town Council with a formal request once the roof had been replaced.

Resolved that Council will await developments.

10539. Consultation on the SPG of the agreed Local Development Plan for Neath Port Talbot:

Details of the consultation were forwarded to all Councillors prior to the meeting.

Resolved to be noted.

10540. Carer's Trust: Council was advised that unfortunately the organisation had gone into liquidation and therefore the grant cheque had been returned.

Resolved to be noted.

10541. Email received from Neath Port Talbot Council re double yellow lines: Regarding the Council's request to extend the double yellow lines at the junction of Alltycham Drive passed the junction with Church Street. Council was advised that the program of works was closed for 2017/18 but that the County Borough Members would be made aware in November 2017 prior to the completion of the program of works for 2018/19.

Resolved to be noted.

10542. Email received re traffic and parking at Trebanos on match days: An email was received following difficulties on match day with inconsiderate parking which caused difficulties in passing on the residential roads and dangerous parking around the Trebanos Service Station.

Resolved that the County Borough Member for Trebanos will look into the matter.

10543. Letter received re Cwmtawe Choir grant request: Cwmtawe Choir requested a grant to help support a forthcoming 'Tour of Wales'

Resolved that a grant of £100 will be provided.

10544. Urgent Road Safety Matters:

- There had been several cats knocked down by cars in Ynysmeudwy in a very short space of time. Unfortunately, it seemed that this was a hazard of living near a very busy road so no action could be taken.

Resolved to be noted.

10545. Time and Date of Next Meeting: The next Ordinary meeting is due to be held at Trebanos Hall on the 10th July 2017.

Signed Dated