

Ordinary Meeting held on the 12th September 2016 at ARCH Hall, Cefn Llan Road, Pontardawe commencing at 6.45pm.

One minute's silence was observed out for respect for two former Pontardawe Town Council Mayors. These were Mr E Williams and Mrs C Lambourne who passed away during August 2016.

10275. Present: Councillor Mrs R Phillips (presiding), Councillor D Harris, V Hotten (arrived later in the evening), A Nicholson, Ms S Northcott, G Davies, Mrs L Purcell, Mrs J Bowen, D B Thomas, H Pickrell, B Williams, P Williams and Harri Evans Mason (Youth Representative)

Apologies: Councillor Mrs E Puzey, Ms C Ford and H Evans

10276. Disclosure of Personal and Pecuniary Interests: Councillor Mrs J Bowen, G Davies, A Nicholson and Ms S Northcott expressed an interest in the Pontardawe and District Youth Facility as they were Trustees. Councillor R Phillips expressed an interest in the Trebanos Park Septic Tank as she is a relative of the contractor.

Resolved to be noted.

10277. Minutes of the Ordinary meeting held on the 11th July 2016:

Resolved that the minutes of the Ordinary meeting held on the 11th July 2016 having been read and confirmed as a true record, be accepted by Council with the following amendments:

Minute number 10266 – Incorrect spellings for Dwr Cymru, Field and Childrens'

10278. Matters raised by Members of the Public: None.

Resolved to be noted.

10279. Police Matters:

Pontardawe Ward statistics for June 2016 – Anti Social Behaviour – 8, Burglary – 2, Vehicle Theft – 1, Violent crime – 8, Criminal Damage – 5, Other theft – 1, drugs – 1.

The total for June was 26 which was a decrease from the May total of 60.

The next Pontardawe PACT Meeting was to be held on the 13th October 2016 at Pontardawe Art Centre at 6.30pm.

Trebanos Ward statistics for June 2016 – Anti Social Behaviour – 4, Violent – 2, Criminal Damage – 1, Other Theft – 1.

The total for June was 8 which was an increase from the May total of 5.

The next Trebanos PACT Meeting was to be held on the 13th October 2016 at Trebanos Community Hall at 6.30pm.

Resolved to be noted.

10280. Pontardawe and District Youth Facility: Councillors Mrs J Bowen, A Nicholson, Mrs S Northcott and G Davies expressed an interest as former Trustees.

Council was advised that the Charitable Company was in the process of closure. Once this had been completed there was no further action to be taken.

Resolved to be noted.

10281. Pelican/ Zebra Crossing: There had been no further applications for the post of Crossing Warden at Swansea Road despite all efforts to recruit.

Resolved that Councillor Bob Williams will raise the matter with the Cwmtawe Governors to determine if any additional advertisement of the post could be arranged via the School.

10282. Cwmdu Glen: There was no additional information available on the land owned by Pontardawe Town Council, however work was still ongoing by Neath Port Talbot Council to open the path currently closed due to a land slide.

Resolved to be noted.

10283. Circular Walk proposal: The Circular walk was in the process of being created and would be named the 'Pantry Walk'. It was to be officially opened following a sponsored walk in aid of the Pontardawe food bank on the 16th October 2016.

Resolved to be noted.

10284. Trebanos Park: Councillor Mrs R Phillips expressed an interest.

The Clerk confirmed that three companies had been contacted to provide estimates for the installation of a new septic tank at Trebanos Park. One had explained that they were not able to quote for the work for at least 12 weeks and therefore they were deemed to be unacceptable due to the time scales.

Two additional quotes were received:

Oaktree Construction – Quoted £8955

Jenco – Quoted £9141.15 (including community discount)

As Council had already agreed to employ the company with the lowest quote, this was deemed to be Oaktree Construction. The Clerk confirmed that the Company had been informed and time scales were awaited.

Resolved that the decision to contract Oaktree construction to install the septic tank at Trebanos Park be ratified.

10285. Speeding at Rhyd y Fro: Councillor Purcell did confirm that she had witnessed a 'Go Safe' van in the area however there had been no official response received from 'Go Safe' since the original request for a survey had been made. There had also not been any feedback received on any surveys that had been carried out.

Resolved that the Clerk contact 'Go Safe' to one again request feedback. If no response is received to the request, then the Clerk will also contact 'This is South Wales' to publicise the Town Council's displeasure at the lack of response received from the 'Go Safe' team.

10286: Planning: Meetings held on the 25th July 2016, 15th August 2016 also reviewed in the meeting.

P2016/0503

Applicants name: Mount Elim Baptist Chapel, Brecon Road, Pontardawe, Swansea.

Site Location: Mount Elim Baptist Chapel, Brecon Road, Pontardawe, Swansea.

Proposed Development: Front and side extension to existing church/ community facility to provide hall and associated rooms, W.C facilities and ramped access.

Resolved No Objection provided there is neighbourhood notification.

P2016/0584

Applicants name: Mr A Spratt, Blaen Egel fawr farm, Perthigwynion access road from A474 Pontardawe Road, Pontardawe, Swansea, SA8 4TA.

Site Location: Blaen Egel fawr farm, Perthigwynion access road from A474 Pontardawe Road, Pontardawe, Swansea, SA8 4TA.

Proposed Development: Conversion of detached building to holiday accommodation including external alterations, including alteration to eaves levels and fenestration.

Resolved No Objection provided there is neighbourhood notification.

P2016/0457

Applicants name: Mr Martin Hanford, 5 East Crossways, Pontardawe SA8 4NJ.

Site Location: Land adjacent to 103 Brecon Road, Pontardawe, Swansea SA8 4PD.

Proposed Development: Detached two storey dwelling, including rear balcony plus detached garage.

Resolved No Objection provided there is neighbourhood notification.

P2016/0581

Councillors A Nicholson & Mrs J Bowen expressed an interest as the applicants are known to them.

Applicants name: Mrs James, 1 Clos y Cwm, Pontardawe SA8 4JZ.

Site location: 1 Clos y Cwm, Pontardawe SA8 4JZ.

Proposed Development: Single Storey rear extension.

Resolved No Objection provided there is neighbourhood notification.

P2016/0582

Councillors A Nicholson & Mrs J Bowen expressed an interest as the applicants are known to them.

Applicants name: Mrs Booth, 3 Clos y Cwm, Pontardawe SA8 4JZ.

Site location: 3 Clos y Cwm, Pontardawe SA8 4JZ.

Proposed Development: Single Storey rear extension.

Resolved No Objection provided there is neighbourhood notification.

P2016/0673

Applicants name: Mr and Mrs Ian Bain, 5 Clos yr Hen Ysgol, Pontardawe, Swansea, SA8 4AZ.

Site Location: 5 Clos yr Hen Ysgol, Pontardawe, SA84AZ.

Proposed Development: Single storey rear extension.

Resolved No Objection provided there is neighbourhood notification.

P2016/0666

Applicants name: MS Jan Clark, Russell House, Elvicta Business Park, Crickhowell, NP8 1DF.

Site Location: Spar, 25 High Street, Pontardawe, Swansea, SA84HU.

Proposed Development: Retention of illuminated advertisement collar.

Resolved No Objection.

P2016/0669

Applicants name: MS Jan Clark, Russell House, Elvicta Business Park, Crickhowell, NP8 1DF.

Site Location: Spar, 25 High Street, Pontardawe, Swansea, SA84HU.

Proposed Development: Retention of ATM in principal elevation.

Resolved No Objection.

P2016/0643

Applicants name: Dr Wendy Hurst, LIDL UK GmbH, Waterton Industrial Estate, Off Cowbridge Road, Bridgend CF31 3PH.

Site Location: LIDL Supermarket, Ffordd Parc Ynysderw, Pontardawe, Swansea, SA8 4EG.

Proposed Development: 1 no. Internally illuminated freestanding Totem sign. 2 no. internally illuminated gable signs, 2no. non-illuminated advertisement hoardings fixed to north east elevation.

Resolved No Objection.

P2016/0683

Applicants name: Miss Lisa Greenwood, Penwaun Fach Cottage, Rhyd y Fro, Pontardawe, Neath, SA8 4TQ.

Site Location: Penwaun Farm Cottage, Rhyd y Fro, Pontardawe, Neath SA8 4TQ.

Proposed Development: Two storey side and single storey rear extensions.

Resolved No Objection provided there is neighbourhood notification.

P2016/0522

Councillor Ford expressed an interest as she is a neighbour.

Applicants name: Mr Gareth Morgan, 43 Alfred Street, Neath.

Site Location: Land at 9 New Road, Trebanos, Pontardawe, Swansea, SA8 4DL.

Proposed Development: Detached two storey dwelling with off street parking (outline with all matters reserved)

Resolved Objection for the following reasons:

- The plot is very narrow and insufficient for the parking of a larger vehicle.
- Larger vehicles would require parking on the road where there are already significant issues with parking
- Large Emergency vehicles are already experiencing difficulties which would be exacerbated by further residential development.

Discussed in meeting:

P2016/0707

Applicants name: Mr Steve Tucker, NPT Homes, Ty Gwyn, Brunel Way, Baglan Energy Park, Neath, SA112GG.

Site Location: Hafan Brynheulog, Ffordd Brynheulog, Pontardawe.

Proposed Development: External works including installation of refuse and recycling bins, realignment of footpaths and construction of retaining wall.

Resolved No Objection provided there is neighbourhood notification.

P2016/0759

Applicants name: Mr Dean Bowen, 8 Lloyd Street, Trebanos, Pontardawe, Swansea, SA8 4DR.

Site location: 8 Lloyd Street, Trebanos, Pontardawe, Swansea, SA8 4DR.

Proposed Development: Works to 6 trees covered by Woodland Tree Preservation Order T154/W1 comprising of: - Sycamore (TA)- Cut to boundary 1No.long lower branch overhanging fence, Willows (TB & TC) Remove 2 Willows to ground level, Sycamore (TE) Remove lower/basal growth to a height of 2m from lowest point to allow inspection, plus prune canopy (overhanging fence line) to a height of 6m back in line of the fence, Sycamore (TE) Remove to ground level, Ash (TF) Remove to ground level.

Resolved The Council objects to the felling of any trees at this location. With regard to the other maintenance suggested, the Town Council is happy to agree to actions that improve the health of the tree but that consideration needs to be taken when removing branches to the privacy of neighbours.

10287. Policy and Resources Committee held on the 18th July 2016:

The committee reviewed the Charter Agreement with Neath Port Talbot Council terms of reference and Policy/Schedule of fees in relation to external clients.

The committee stated that the wording on the introduction to the Charger Agreement needed clarification as it indicated that all Town and Community Councils in the Neath Port Talbot area had agreed to the Charter. Pontardawe Town Council did not agree with the Charter.

With regard to the draft terms of reference and schedule of fees there seemed to be little to review. The costs were stated and therefore seemed not to be open for discussion. With regard to the terms of reference they seemed to be quite standard.

The Committee once again stated that they felt an opportunity had been lost to create a meaningful document that would allow the unitary authority and Town and Community Council's to work in tandem to improve the service offered to their communities.

The Charter included many emphatic statements which compelled the action or agreement by the Town and Community Councils. There was however no compulsion in the requests for action by the County Borough. Any requests by the Town and Community Councils could be easily ignored, which made the Charter only useful to the County Borough and left the elected members of the Town and Community Councils with no more autonomy than an employee of the unitary authority.

Although the Committee was aware that the Unitary authority could impose the Charter, they still felt that they could not agree the terms of the Charter due to its lack of substance.

The Committee wished that County Borough be made aware of the Town Council's views.

Resolved that the Committee's recommendations be ratified.

10288.Christmas 2016: The Town Council confirmed that they were willing to financially support both the erection of a Christmas Tree outside the Art Centre and also the Christmas Lights for the Town Centre.

The Clerk provided the following information:

- Vale were happy to transport the tree as in previous years. The tree would be delivered on the 21st November to Vale in Clydach. It would then be the Town Council's responsibility to transport it to Pontardawe.
- Neath Port Talbot Council had produced a quote to put up and take down the Christmas lights and tree lights. The total was £6434.32 which was a slight increase from 2015/16.
- A meeting was to be held with the Chamber of Commerce and Art Centre on the 21st September to coordinate the Winter Festival.
- The small pea light strings that had been purchased to light the Cross were inexpensive and did not last more than one season.

The arrangements were discussed in details and a number of additional points were made. It was agreed that a request would be made for the stage not to be placed in front of the tree as it obscured the switch on. Some Council Members would like to see a smaller tree at the Cross and it was also agreed that the small pea lights on the Cross were very effective and should be placed again this year.

Resolved that the Town Council financially support a Christmas Tree and Christmas lights at Pontardawe for the 2016 Christmas season. Neath Port Talbot Council would be contracted to put up and take down the lights and would also attend the official 'switch on'.

The Clerk would arrange for strings of inexpensive pea lights to be placed at the Cross and would also look at costs associated with placing a smaller tree at the Cross.

The Clerk will also contact Celtic Leisure to determine if they would like to sponsor the Christmas Tree for 2016.

10289. Compassionate Leave: The Clerk advised Council that a family member had passed away during August and she had been granted three days' compassionate leave by the Mayor and Deputy Mayor.

Council expressed their condolences and agreed to the three days leave.

Resolved that the three days' compassionate leave be agreed by Council.

10290. Clerks Report on Training: The Clerk confirmed that she had passed her entry level Welsh language course and requested permission to attend the second year of the course.

Council congratulated the Clerk on her achievement.

Resolved that the Clerk will be supported in her Welsh Language learning for the second year.

10291. Independent Auditor: Council was advised that Peter Morgan, our Internal Auditor for many years had retired and therefore a new internal auditor would need to be appointed for this year. The Clerk had made enquiries and had identified an auditor with the skills required to conduct the internal audit on Council's behalf.

Nicola Eyre was already carrying out internal audits for other Town and Community Councils and had previously been employed by One Voice Wales to conduct Internal Audits. She was also previously a Community Council Clerk and is a qualified Chartered Accountant.

The charge for the service is £275 per day plus travel expenses of 0.45p per mile.

Resolved that Nicola Eyre will be employed as Internal Auditor for one year initially with the intention of renewing in future years.

10292. Actual/ Budget Report for April to July 2016: The Clerk provided Council with the report with explanations of a variances.

Resolved to be noted.

10293. Accounts Schedule 325: Account Schedule 325 totalling £30538.78 together with the Bank Reconciliations were agreed under Standing Orders.

Resolved to be noted.

10294. BT Payphone consultation: Council was advised that all BT telephone boxes were to be removed unless they were adopted by local communities. The position was discussed at length however although many uses for telephone boxes could be identified, the continual vandalism was a prohibiting factor.

Resolved that no request to adopt a telephone box be made but instead Council will be happy for the boxes to be removed by BT.

10295. Consultation on the establishment of a Flood and Coastal Erosion Committee: Council was advised of the main points but had no feedback to give.

Resolved to be noted.

10296. Lions Club – Grant: The Lions club requested a grant for the Tree of Light for Pontardawe.

Resolved to award a grant of £100.

10297. Cilybebyll Community Growers: Council was advised that a number of residents of Pontardawe and the surrounding district had allotments in Rhos as the society accepted applications not only from the Cilybebyll Community Council area but also from Pontardawe, Trebanos, Rhyd y Fro and Ynysmeudwy. PANTRY also had been allocated a plot.

The allotment plots were now in the process of being worked and both fences and paths were in the process of being created at the site. A great deal of volunteer work had been utilised to bring the allotment to its current stage however additional funds were now required to complete phase one of the project.

Resolved that a grant of £500.00 be awarded to Cilybebyll Community Growers.

10298. Letter from Neath Port Talbot Council re footpath 42: Council had no objections to the registration.

Resolved to be noted.

10299. Email received from Marcia Vale re Dementia Friendly Communities: A request was received for Council representation on the steering committee.

Resolved that Councillor Brian Thomas will be Council's representative.

10300. Email re Trebanos Rugby Club: A request had been made for a 'Letter of Support' for Trebanos Rugby Club's grant application for funds to refurbish part of the Rugby Club Changing rooms. Both the Mayor and Deputy Mayor agreed to a letter being provided. There was insufficient time to bring the matter to full Council due to grant deadlines.

Resolved that Council ratify the decision.

10301. Awards for Volunteers: Councillor Hotten suggested the creation of specialist Town Council award for volunteers together with an annual presentation evening.

Resolved that this be discussed in a Policy and Resources Committee.

10302. Road Safety:

- Construction lorries from the Lidl site were attempting to access the site via Ynysderw Road.
- Neath Port Talbot Council were not removing cable ties from railings when removing unauthorised banners.
- A second trial run for movement of the wind turbines to the wind farm was in the process of being arranged. Details of the date and time would be forwarded to Council Members when available.

Resolved that the Clerk will take all necessary action.

10303. Time and Date of next meeting: The next Ordinary meeting is due to be held at Trebanos Hall on the 10th October 2016.

Signed Dated

