

Ordinary Meeting held on the 13th February 2017 at Ynysmeudwy Hall, Old Road, Pontardawe commencing at 6.45pm.

10401. Present: Councillor Mrs R Phillips (presiding), Mrs L Purcell, G Davies, D B Thomas, H Evans, B Williams, Ms S Northcott, H Pickrell, Ms C Ford, D Harris, Mrs J Bowen, V Hotten and Jamie Edwards (Youth Representative)

Apologies: Councillor A Nicholson, Mrs E Puzey and P Williams

10402. Disclosure of Personal and Pecuniary Interests: None.

Resolved to be noted.

10403. Minutes of the Ordinary meeting held on the 9th January 2017:

Resolved that the minutes of the Ordinary meeting held on the 9th January 2017 having been read and confirmed as a true record, be accepted by Council:

10404. Matters raised by Members of the Public: None.

Resolved to be noted.

10405. Dementia Friendly Communities: Following Marcia Vale's presentation at the last meeting it was agreed that Pontardawe Town Council would begin the application to achieve the British Standards Kite mark award of becoming a Dementia Friendly Community. Councillor Brian Thomas would act as the Councillor to champion the project in the first instance.

Resolved that Pontardawe Town Council will commence the application process to become a Dementia Friendly Community with Councillor Brian Thomas as the cause 'Champion'.

10406. Cwmdu Glen: Council was provided with details of the actions taken at Cwmdu Glen by the 'Working with Nature' project and the Volunteer days that had been planned. Council was also advised that the project co-ordinator had witnessed some unauthorised tree cutting and soil dumping on the boundary of the Council's land and residential properties in Rhyd y Fro.

Resolved that the Clerk will arrange for a surveyor to attend the site to identify the Council's boundary on the site, she will also have plenary powers to write to residents in the area and to put up adequate fences on the boundary depending on the outcome of the surveyor's report.

10407. Cwmdu Glen Committee recommendations – meeting held on the 23rd January 2017: The informal meeting of the Town Council representatives on the Cwmdu Committee met to discuss the 'Working with Nature' project draft work plan and the Partnership Development Plan.

Both plans were reviewed in detail and the following feedback was recommended:

- The 'Friends of Glanrhyd Group' should be renamed 'Friends of Cwmdu Glen'
- Local Schools/Colleges should be contacted about students completing Duke of Edinburgh Awards, as this may be an avenue for young volunteers.
- A public meeting should be convened by the end of April.
- The Town Council should receive quarterly reports.
- Preferred Timescales are for the Circular walk to be signposted and the viewing platform for the Waterfall to be available by the beginning of July to ensure that full advantage can be taken of the school holidays to promote the area.

- The committee felt that publicity was paramount and wished the local schools advised of the activities taking place at the Glen, especially through the School Holidays.
- If events were arranged with separate schools, it was also agreed that the local media should be invited to attend to raise the profile of the area.
- Children's Tree Planting and green woodworking sessions were mentioned as possible avenues to get schools involved in the area.
- There was also a call for a map of the new Circular walk to be created with photographs and possibly historical information on the features in the Glen.
- This could lead to an exhibition at the Art Centre /Heritage Centre.
- On a practical note, there was a need for additional signage from Gelligron to direct Members of the Public to the Cwmdu Path. The path from Gelligron was not signposted and once within the Waun Gron estate there was no indication of where the path to the Glen began.
- Finally, the Committee were unsure of the availability of car parking for the Glanrhyd Estate. Although it was stated that there was car parking the committee was unsure if the gate was locked at specified times.

Resolved that the information will be fed back to the 'Working with Nature Project'.

10408. Police Matters:

The next Pontardawe PACT meeting was to be held on the 27th April 2017 at 6.30pm at the Art Centre.

Future meetings were scheduled for the 22nd June, 17th August, 12th October and 7th December.

There were 40 crimes in December which was up from 32 crimes in November 2016 but down from 47 in October 2016.

The next Trebanos PACT meeting was to be held on the 27th April 2017 at 6.30pm at Trebanos Hall.

Future meetings were scheduled for the 8th June, 17th August, 12th October and 7th December.

There were 4 crimes in December which was down from 10 crimes in November but up from 3 crimes in October. Councillor Phillips had requested an explanation from the PCSO for the large spike in November but the information was not available. She asked him to please obtain the information.

It was agreed that the PACT meetings needed to be more effectively advertised as they were sometimes poorly attended.

The CAP Project conducted an event at Cwmtawe School for the year 10 pupils. Jamie confirmed that the event has been well received at the school and had provided a great deal of information. She stated that other years would benefit from similar events if they could be organised.

Resolved that details of the years PACT meetings will be added to the Town Councils web site and that we suggest the Police also advise of PACT meeting dates via social media.

10409: Planning:

P2017/0111

Applicants name: Mr Jonathon Hale, Hale Construction, Unit 2 Millands Road Industrial Estate, Neath SA11 1NJ.

Site Location: Land at Waun Sterw, Rhyd Y Fro, Pontardawe SA8 4PG.

Proposed Development: Non- Material amendments to Planning Permission P2015/0778 (18 Dwellings plus 2 flats) re-siting of Plots 1,2,5 & 6 Amended elevations to Plots 13-16, amended roof tile plot 1-12.

Resolved No Comment.

Appeal by Mr Gareth Morgan

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

Ref: APP/Y6930/A/17/3168488 (Planning application code P2016/0522)

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

Resolved that Council's original objections still apply.

10410: Policy and Resources Committee held on the 16th January 2017:

The Committee discussed the Consultation on the Change to the name of the National Assembly for Wales:

The committee stated the following:

The role of the National Assembly for Wales is well understood: Neither Agree or Disagree

The name of an institution is important to explain what it does: Strongly Agree

The National Assembly for Wales should change its name: Strongly Agree

Both the 'Parliament of Wales' and 'Welsh Parliament' were considered as the best alternatives to the National Assembly for Wales.

Member of the Welsh Parliament (MWP) / Aelod o Senedd Cymru (ASC) was considered the best alternative name for Assembly Members.

There were no further Comments.

It was recommended that the above responses be made to the consultation.

The Committee discussed the Consultation on Proposals to ban the use of plastic microbeads in cosmetics and personal care products.

The Committee reviewed the relevant material and agreed to the ban of the use of plastic microbeads in cosmetics and personal care products due to their environmental effect.

It was recommended that the above response be made to the consultation.

The Committee discussed the Welsh Transport Appraisal Guidance (WelTAG) 2017 Consultation.

The subject matter was very specific to transport and other policy makers. The Committee therefore had no additional comments.

It was recommended that the above be noted.

Resolved that the Committee's decisions be ratified.

10411. Development Committee held on the 16th January 2017:

The Committee reviewed the nominations for the Pontardawe Town Council, 'Good Citizens Award' and discussed the format of the award and Awards Evening.

There are currently no specific categories and therefore the nominees were all reviewed under on Category of 'Good Citizen'.

The following were selected to receive the Award for 2017:

- Michelle Davidson (Canal Society, History Society, Friends of Ynysmeudwy)
- Nick Holligan (PANTRY)
- Alex Hanson (PANTRY)
- Mai Rees (PANTRY)
- John Jones (Pontardawe Chamber of Commerce)
- Melanie Humphreys (Pontardawe Chamber of Commerce)
- Meryl Hunt (Pontardawe Chamber of Commerce)

It was agreed that the ground floor studio at the Art Centre should be leased from 7.00pm on the 9th March 2017 to host the Volunteer Event, and that in the first instance the Gatsby tearoom at Art Centre should be asked to prepare a buffet for 30 guests. Soft drinks would be provided but alcoholic beverages could be obtained from the Art Centre Bar.

The Guest list should include the Award winners plus three family members (additional family members could be added if requested) together with the nominees plus guests and the Town Councillors.

The Award should take the form of a framed A4 Certificate which should include the Town Council logo and should be signed by the Mayor.

On the evening of the Awards, the Mayor should open the proceedings and present the awards with the nominators introducing the nominees.

In the Ordinary meeting, Council was advised that the Gatsby tearoom was no longer operational and therefore Council requested that the Blissful Bakes tea room be approached to prepare the buffet.

Resolved that the recommendation made by the Committee be ratified.

10412. Christmas Light provision for 2016 and 2017: Council were advised that the cost for the erection and removal of the Christmas Lights for 2016 had been reduced to £2688.91 including Vat, as the large banners had failed the electrical test and therefore had not been placed. Council was also advised that the Christmas lights held by the County Borough were now not fit for purpose and

had been scrapped. The Clerk had also been advised that in future Neath Port Talbot Council would not be able to erect Christmas Lights on behalf of the Town Council.

Given the difficulties with storage and testing it was agreed that the Town Council should look at the commercial rental of lights although the Christmas Tree lights could be used as these were still operational and were owned by the Town Council. Neath Town Council utilised a local company from Llanelli and recommended them. It was therefore suggested that in the first instance we contact this company to determine what decorations could be provided and for what cost. It was also suggested that perhaps store keepers might wish to place lighted Christmas trees in the tree holders above their buildings.

Resolved that the Clerk will contact 'Commercial Christmas' to obtain details of rental prices for Christmas lights and would also contact neighbouring community councils who had erected lighted Christmas trees in their town.

10413. Internal Audit 2017: Unfortunately, Nicola Eyre who was to carry out the 2017 Internal Audit was now not able to proceed. The Clerk provided details of Lyn Llewellyn who was currently conducting the Internal Audits for several local Town and Community Councils and who could conduct the Town Council's Internal Audit if Council requested it.

Resolved that Lyn Llewellyn Internal Audit Services be contracted to complete the Pontardawe Town Council's Internal Audit for the 2016/2017 year.

10414. Clerks Report on Ynysmeudwy Park: Council was advised that there was some ground work to be carried out prior to the commencement of work to install the new equipment however it was hoped that work would commence this Spring. There had been some issue with the colours chosen for the scheme and the Community had therefore requested a scheme with safety surfaced in a more natural colour. The Community consultation suggested that the green and muted reds be substituted for the bright primary colours originally provided.

Resolved that the new colour scheme be accepted and that Council will be kept up to date with developments.

10415. Town Council/ County Borough Council Liaison Committee: Councillor Hotten confirmed that he had attended the meeting. Information had been provided that confirmed that Town Councils would now be able to speak in County Borough Planning Meetings provided the development fit the criteria for a 'large development'.

Resolved to be noted.

10416. Finance Committee required: It was agreed that a Finance Committee would be arranged to discuss Grant funding for 2018 and the Financial Risk Assessment.

Resolved to be noted.

10417. Account Schedule 330: Account Schedule 330 totalling £11011.13 together with a Bank Reconciliation were agreed under Standing Orders.

Resolved to be noted.

10418. Email received from Carl Jones re PUG (Pontardawe User Group): This group had been set up to support the Cross Community Centre. It was suggested that a member of the Town Council attend the meetings.

Resolved that due to the proximity of the Elections this matter should be deferred until after May 2017.

10419. Letter received re the High Sheriffs Award: It was agreed that two young members of PANTRY should be put forward for the award.

Resolved Councillor Hotten will forward the nominations as he is associated with the group.

10420. Email received from Neath Port Talbot Council re Culvert at Lloyd Street, Trebanos:

Council was advised that new barriers had been erected around the culvert however these were standard barriers and not mesh. The barriers should prevent a person accidentally falling into the culvert however it was stated that it was considered the Parents responsibility to prevent children from climbing under the barrier.

Resolved to be noted.

10421. Community and Town Council Survey: It was agreed to that the survey would be completed in a forthcoming Policy and Resources Committee. The Committee will have plenary powers to allow the survey to be completed on line.

Resolved that a Policy and Resources Committee be arranged with Plenary Powers.

10422. Reforming local Government Consultation: It was agreed that this would be discussed in the forthcoming Policy and Resources Committee.

Resolved that a Policy and Resources Committee be arranged.

10423. Road Safety:

- There was an issue with large construction vehicles passing YGG Pontardawe during the start and finish of the school day which Council believed was in violation of the Planning Agreement.
- A pot hole had appeared in the road at the entrance to Pontardawe Swimming Pool.
- There was a significant amount of dog waste on the Canal Bank between Herbert Street and Holly Street despite a dog waste bin at the beginning and end of the walk- It was suggested that the Dog Warden should be asked to attend the site.
- Cars parked on Pavements in Hopkin Street, Pontardawe, were causing issues.
- Cars parked at one junction were causing a significant issue due to lack of visibility – It was suggested that double yellow lines should be extended to include this area.

Resolved that the Clerk will take all appropriate action to inform the Police and County Borough.

10424. Time and Date of next meeting: The next Ordinary meeting is due to be held ARCH Hall on the 13th March 2017.

Signed Dated

