

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Pontardawe Town Council held on Monday 13th July 2015, at Arch Hall, Cefn Llan Road, Pontardawe commencing at 6.45pm

9952. Present Councillors D B Thomas (presiding), P Williams, Mrs J Bowen, V Hotten, B Williams, H Evans, Mrs L Purcell, Ms C Ford, G Davies, Mrs E Puzey, A Nicholson, Ms S Northcott, M James, Mrs R Phillips and H Pickrell
Youth Representatives – Harri Evans-Mason.

Apologies: Councillor D Harris.

9953. Disclosure of Personal and Pecuniary interests: Councillors Mrs J Bowen, G Davies, A Nicholson, Ms S Northcott and V Hotten declared an interest in the Pontardawe and District Youth Facility, as they are Trustees. Councillor Ms S Northcott and A Nicholson also expressed an interest in any discussion regarding Ynysderw Road in Pontardawe as they are residents

Resolved this be noted.

9954. Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on the 8th June 2015:

Resolved that the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on the 8th June 2015, having been read and confirmed as a true record, be accepted by Council.

9955. Matters raised by members of the public: Members of the Public expressed concern over fencing and unauthorised tree felling by a private individual at Cwmdu Glen. They also wished the area designated as a registered woodland in order to protect the trees.

Resolved that the matter will be reviewed.

9956. Police Matters: The Clerk provided the following information:

The next Trebanos PACT meeting was to be held on the 20/8/15 at Trebanos Hall commencing at 6.30pm. The next Pontardawe PACT meeting was to be held at the Pontardawe Art Centre on the 20/8/15 at 6.30pm.

Councillor Nicholson expressed serious concern over the lack of effective policing in the Pontardawe area. He explained that the PCSOs did not attend the previous Pontardawe PACT meeting which was reconvened following a complaint to South Wales Police.

He was advised that neighbourhood policing in Pontardawe was carried out exclusively by the PCSOs as the Constables were office based only. In the event of a call out for back up police officers from Neath or Swansea would need to respond.

An incident in Ynysderw Road recently clearly identified the lack of policing when a brawl broke out between a large numbers of people. Despite a number of calls to the Police it took over thirty minutes for an adequate response.

Councillor Purcell confirmed that there had been plans for a 'temporary Police Station' at designated 'hot spots' together with other local initiatives however it seemed that the plans did not develop due to lack of resource.

Resolved that the Clerk, in partnership with Councillor Nicholson and the County Borough Councillors will contact Peter Vaughan, Chief Constable providing details of the issues at Pontardawe and requesting action taken to address.

9957. Pontardawe & District Youth Facility: Councillors V Hotten, G Davies, A Nicholson. Ms S Northcott and Mrs J Bowen expressed an interest.

Council was advised that the Pontardawe and District Youth Facility had received a £500 grant to assist with liquidity for 2015/16. The budget for the remainder of the year was therefore £9500.

Resolved to be noted.

9958. Trebanos Park: Council was advised that an official opening of the refurbished park had taken place with the Mayor, Mayoress and a number of Councillors in attendance. The School Children and teachers at YGG Trebannws had also attended and provided entertainment for the event. Following the official opening the children had the opportunity to utilise the equipment followed by drinks and cakes supplied by the Town Council at the School.

The adult attendees were welcomed by the organizers of the Trebanos Hall Coffee morning who provide tea and cakes for the event.

Resolved that Council will thank the Trebanos Hall Coffee Morning organizers for their support of the event.

9959. Cwmdu Management: The Clerk provided an update on the position at Cwmdu. She explained that there had been a number of problems over many years which had prevented the registration of the land at Cwmdu. This had now been resolved. As the registration problems had been resolved the Council's plans to join in partnership with Neath Port Talbot Council to designate the land as a nature reserve could go ahead. Following designation the Council would have far greater powers to protect the environment and would also have the expertise of the County Borough to call on.

The Clerk also confirmed that following correspondence from a member of the public she had requested the fence surrounding 'Gwynfa' checked by the County Borough to ensure that it was in the correct location. The County Borough had verbally confirmed its correct location. The

Councils Solicitors had also discussed the unauthorised tree felling and waste disposal with the private individuals involved in the incident.

The Clerk has also requested that the 'Cwmdu Committee' be called by the County Borough as soon as possible to enable adequate communication of the joint plans to the partners.

She also confirmed a site meeting was to take place in order identify a cost effective method of improving the top path at Cwmdu which was virtually impassable.

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

9960. Pelican/Zebra crossing requests: Councillor Phillips explained that she had discussed matters with the County Boroughs engineering department and had been advised to request a feasibility study.

Resolved that the Clerk will request a feasibility study.

9961. Christmas 2015: The Clerk confirmed that no additional information was available at present.

Resolved to be noted.

9962. Missing Signage at 'The Cross': Councillor Purcell confirmed that the County Borough were still investigating if the sign had been removed during regeneration.

Resolved that Council request the sign replaced if the original was unavailable.

9963. Planning:

P2015/0488

Applicants Name: Brian Birch, The Bungalow, Baran Road, Pontardawe.

Site Location: The Bungalow, Baran Road, Pontardawe

Proposed Development: Proposed detached dwelling and garage above.

Resolved – No Objection.

P2015/0433

Applicants Name: David Watts, 37 Swansea Road, Pontardawe.

Site Location: 37 Swansea Road, Pontardawe.

Proposed Development: Proposed one dwelling (outline) on land adj to above.

Resolved – to express concerns over vehicular access to the new property between Derw Road and Swansea Road. Council also wishes to see neighbourhood notification.

9964. Planning (LDP): Councillor Purcell also advised Council of a Matter Arising Change to the LDP which indicated that a parcel of land at Parc Ynysderw would be designated as suitable for housing (Councillors A Nicholson and Ms S Northcott expressed an interest) – The consultation was to run until the 10th August 2015.

Resolved that the Town Council object due to issues with drainage and access. Council will also make it known that there has been insufficient communication with local residents.

9965. Planning (Footpath): Council was advised that the County Borough were looking for local information on an alleged footpath from Lloyds Street Trebanos to footpath number 3. They were specifically looking for evidence that the footpath had existed and had been used for a number of years.

Resolved that the Clerk will respond in the affirmative.

9966. Policy and Resources Committee on the 15th June 2015 – Developments of National Significance

The Consultation had been reviewed prior to the meeting and was determined to be very in depth. The Committee therefore felt that they had insufficient direct knowledge of the subject matter to make a meaningful contribution to the consultation.

They were however keen the consultation acknowledged that both Town and Community Councils were statutory bodies for consultation. It was also recommended that Councillor Ford review the document given her experience in the field.

It was therefore recommended that the consultation be noted however any observations by Councillor Ford should be reviewed by Council at the next meeting and submitted if appropriate. It was further suggested that feedback be provided requesting that that both Town and Community Councils were statutory bodies for consultation

Resolved that the Committees recommendations be ratified.

9967. Policy and Resources Committee on the 15th June 2015 – Protecting Community Assets

The Committee reviewed the consultation prior to the meeting and decided on the following response:

Question 1 – Do you feel the definition of Assets of Community Value contained in the Localism Act 2011 is appropriate for use in relation to protecting assets in Wales?

No – The Committee was concerned about the lack of clarity in the wording ('social Interests', 'social Wellbeing' and 'recent past')

Question 2 – Please indicate your views on the following questions:

- Should Community Asset Registers be administered by Local Authorities or at a National level? – National
- Should Communities have power to initiate asset transfer from Public Sector Bodies? – No
- Should Communities have greater opportunity than England to bid and purchase privately owned community assets when they are put up for sale (first refusal)? – There is no clear definition of 'community groups' so are unable to provide an opinion.

Question 3 – What is your preferred option to protect community Assets? – C.

Question 4 – What issues related to resources (including costs and community support) do you feel are most important in protecting community assets?

- Issues with TUPE'd staff transferred?
- Long term funding issues
- Confirmed continuation of provision of service should the original project fail
- Practical as well as financial advice available for organisations considering asset transfer

One additional observation was that time scales still referred to 28 days without indicating if these were calendar or working days.

Resolved that the Committees recommendations be ratified

9968. Internet Banking: Council was advised that the Unity Bank Signatories were to be Councillors Mrs J Bowen, H Pickrell, Mike James, Vince Hotten and Bob Williams. The Unity Bank online account authorisers were to be Councillors Mrs S Northcott, Mrs R Phillips, P Williams and A Nicholson. The Clerk was to be the primary user with authorization for both cheques and electronic payments.

Resolved to be noted.

9969. Cwmdu Glen Committee: The Clerk confirmed that the committee had been requested but that as yet no date had been arranged.

Resolved that the Clerk request once again the County Borough arrange a meeting.

9970. Insurance Provision: The Clerk confirmed that there had been no material changes.

Resolved to be noted.

9971. Clerks Report on Ynysmeudwy Hall: Councillor Mike James provided details of the proposed lighting change for Ynysmeudwy Hall and confirmed that the cost of the alterations would be borne from the Ynysmeudwy Hall account.

Resolved to be noted.

9972. Access to Information – Community and Town Councils: The Clerk confirmed that the 'Register of Members Interests' was now available on the web site. She also reiterated that it was each individual Councillors responsibility to ensure that their information was kept up to date.

Resolved to be noted.

9973. Accounts Schedule 313:

Resolved to accept the schedule 313 totaling £ 71722.42 in line with Standing Orders.

9974. Deed of Variation: Council was advised she had signed the 'Deed of Variation' on behalf of Council.

Resolved to be noted.

9975. Letter received from Neath Port Talbot Council re erection of Christmas lights: Council was advised that a letter had been received requesting confirmation that Pontardawe Town Council wished to employ the County Borough to put up and take down the Christmas Lights for 2015.

Resolved that the Clerk request prices.

9976. Email re Trebanos Service station and Post Office: It was confirmed that the pedestrian walkway was to be painted on the forecourt at Trebanos Post Office in August. Council was also advised that the Post Office at Pontardawe was due to relocate to 18 High Street in September 2015.

Resolved to be noted.

9977. Urgent Road Safety Matters:

- Police cones at Ynysderw Road had been removed. It was requested that they were returned.
- Overhanging branches at the Herbert Street Car Park were causing a slipping hazard which needed to be addressed

Resolved that the Clerk approach the appropriate bodies.

9978. Date and time of next meeting: The date of the next Ordinary Meeting of Council will be Monday 14th September 2015 at Trebanos Hall commencing at 6.45pm.

Signed **Dated**