

**Ordinary Meeting held on the 13th March 2017 at ARCH Hall, Cefn Llan Road, Pontardawe commencing at 6.45pm.**

**10425. 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, P Williams, M James and Mrs E Puzey.

**Apologies:** Councillor A Nicholson and Jamie Edwards (Youth Representative)

**10426. Disclosure of Personal and Pecuniary Interests:** Councillor Mrs R Phillips disclosed an interest in 'Planning' as she is on the Neath Port Talbot Council Planning Committee.

**Resolved** to be noted.

**10427. Minutes of the Ordinary meeting held on the 13<sup>th</sup> February 2017:**

**Resolved** that the minutes of the Ordinary meeting held on the 13<sup>th</sup> February 2017 having been read and confirmed as a true record, be accepted by Council:

**10428. Matters raised by Members of the Public:** None.

**Resolved** to be noted.

**10429. Cwmdu Glen:**

- Encroachment at the top of Cwmdu

The Clerk agreed to meet the Neath Port Talbot Council Surveyor and Ed Tucker from the Working with Nature project at the site on the 16<sup>th</sup> March 2017 to identify if the boundary had been breached. There had been no further movement of earth at the site and therefore residents on the boundary had not yet been contacted.

The Clerk would contact any interested parties if required once the survey had been completed. Council were happy to arrange for outside contractors to place a fence if one was required.

- Working with Nature Project

We had received a response from Neil Hinds regarding the feedback submitted.

They hoped the name of the 'friends' groups would consider of the whole of the nature reserve but the final decision would lie with the 'Friends Group' itself

Neil was having difficulty contacting the correct people in the schools and asked if the School Governors on the Town Council could give details of the contacts and perhaps introduce the concept of the schools getting involved in the project at the Governors meetings.

A Public meeting was to be set up shortly.

Quarterly reports would be made by the team and the Friends group to Council.

The Circular walk and viewing platform for the waterfall may not be available by the end of July as separate funding was being utilised for part of the project but they would attempt to get it completed as soon as possible.

Neil would advise the local media of events in accordance with Neath Port Talbot Council's Communications Departments guidelines.

Events would be planned throughout the Summer

A History walk was to take place on the 28<sup>th</sup> March and they were also considering an exhibition. They were in contact with the Historical Society to facilitate this.

Ed would be considering additional signage together with the Circular walk once he had addressed the tree maintenance and the cutting season had ended as the route had to be made safe prior to placing the markers.

There was no parking available at the site except during volunteer or event days – The gate could not be left open. They would encourage people to park in Pontardawe and then to meet at the Cross rather than at Glanrhyd.

- Working with Nature Project – There were two Service Level Agreements to sign with standard clauses. The agreements stated the period of the project was to be 1/8/16 to 31/7/19 (This had already been agreed by Council). The Clerk would be main contact in the event of issues arising. The Town Council would retain its responsibility as land owner (The Town Council was adequately covered by municipal insurance) and it was agreed that £2000 per year be provided by the Town Council to support the project. (This had already been agreed by Council)

**Resolved** that the Clerk will liaise with the 'Working with Nature' team co-ordinators and will sign the Service Level Agreements on behalf of Pontardawe Town Council. She will liaise with the County Surveyor and the Working with Nature Team to determine if a boundary fence was required.

The Councillors who were minor Authority Governors would advise their schools of the Cwmdu project and would arrange for a liaison contact in each school.

#### **10430. Police Matters:**

There were no further statistics available for either Trebanos or Pontardawe. The PACT priorities remained parking at Ynysderw Road however double yellow lines had now been added to the area. Anti-Social behaviour and vehicles contravening the one-way system were also still a priority.

In Trebanos the PACT priority remained monitoring the Park for anti-social behaviour however there had been no issues lately.

Councillors in Trebanos were however advised of several break-ins to shed and garages in the area with items being stolen. These crimes had been reported to the Police.

In Pontardawe there were reports of drugs being sold and several 'hot spots' had been identified including the Castle Car Park and the river path from the Gwachel Public House to Tesco. There was also some concern that drugs were being sold close to the changing rooms adjacent to Cwmtawe School however it seemed that this was outside of school hours and not while children were present.

It seemed that reports to the 101 number were not being investigated and it was therefore suggested that if anyone witnessed drugs being sold to children they should report it via 999 as this was a risk to life.

**Resolved** that the Clerk will contact the local Police to advise them of the allegations and will also contact both Cwmtawe School and Celtic Leisure to advise them of the allegations surrounding the changing rooms.

**10431: Pontardawe Town Council 'Good Citizen's Award':** Unfortunately the original presentation date needed to be cancelled and therefore there was an opportunity to improve the event by increasing the number of Councillors who could attend and to open the nomination process for an additional period.

It was therefore agreed that each Councillor would nominate one person. The Councillors nominations would be submitted to the Clerk by the April 2017 meeting. There would also be a further opportunity for Members of the Public to nominate individuals with the closing date for nominations being the end of May.

The new date for the 'Good Citizens Award' evening would be in September 2017.

**Resolved** that the Clerk will re-arrange the 'Good Citizen's Evening' and that the nomination period will be extended.

**10432: Christmas Light Provision:** The Clerks stated that some of the information on suppliers was still outstanding and therefore it would be prudent to re-schedule the discussion.

**Resolved** that the matter will be discussed at the April meeting.

**10433: Planning:**

**P2017/0219**

Applicants name: Mr Carl Rhodes, The Elms, Pheasant Road, Trebanos, Swansea SA8 4DP.

Site Location: Land south east of The Elms, Pheasant Road, Trebanos, Swansea SA8 4DP.

Proposed Development: Retention of Garage/Shed.

**Resolved** No Objection.

**P2017/0133**

Applicants name: Mr Davies, 44 Waun Penlan, Rhyd y Fro, Pontardawe Swansea, SA8 4BB.

Site Location 44 Waun Penlan, Rhyd y Fro, Pontardawe Swansea, SA8 4BB.

Proposed Development: Two No. Dormer extensions.

**Resolved** No Objection provided there is Neighbourhood Notification.

**P2017/0081**

Applicants Name: Mr Blair Fisher, Pensarn Farm, Palleg Road, Lower Cwmtwrch, Swansea SA9 2QL.

Site Location: 159 Heol y Llwynau, Trebanos, Pontardawe, Swansea, SA8 4DB.

Proposed Development: Demolish existing extension and construction of a single storey rear extension.

**Resolved** No Objection provided there is Nighbourhood Notification.

**P2017/0187**

Applicants Name: Mrs Susan Stockley, 7 Ffordd Brynheulog, Pontardawe, Swansea. SA8 4JG.

Site Location: 7 Ffordd Brynheulog, Pontardawe, Swansea SA8 4JG.

Proposed Development: Certificate of Lawful Development (Proposed) for the conversion of a garage into living accommodation.

**Resolved** No Comment due to insufficient information available.

**P2016/0928**

Applicants Name: Mr M Evans, C/O Agent.

Site Location: Yard, Commercial Road, Rhyd Y Fro, Pontardawe, Swansea. SA8 4SL.

Proposed Development: Two no detached and one pair of semi-detached two storey dwellings plus associated infrastructure (Amend description, drawings, and supporting information received 27.2.17)

**Resolved** No Objection provided there is Nighbourhood Notification.

**10434: Policy and Resources Committee held on the 20<sup>th</sup> February 2017 – Discussion on the While Paper ‘Reforming Local Government’:**

The consultation was provided to the Committee prior to the meeting and the following comments were made:

- The Committee was very concerned about the Welsh Language impact assessment and the financial burden on Town and Community Councils that this would produce. The Committee wanted to know what additional and ongoing funding would be made available to Town and Community Councils to support this measure.
- The Committee was very pleased with the inclusion of young people in Town and Community Council’s and was one of the first Town Council’s to elect young representatives. The Committee felt that involving young people in the decision-making process and educating them about local democracy may assist in providing candidates for the governments of the future.
- The Committee felt that the role of Town and Community Councils needed to be better understood by the electorate. One of the main benefits of a Town Council was as an enabler and facilitator. They provided an elected grass roots organisation with available funds and access to expertise, who could work in partnership with larger unitary authorities, the third sector and community groups, to produce bespoke solutions to local issues.

The Survey was issued by the Welsh Assembly Government and plenary powers were given by full Council to allow the survey to be completed online.

**Resolved** that the Committees recommendations be ratified.

**10435: Finance Committee held on the 20<sup>th</sup> February 2017 – Grants for the 2017/18 fiscal year together with the Financial Risk Assessment:**

- The Committee reviewed the Pontardawe Town Council Financial Risk Assessment.

The Financial Risk Assessment was reviewed in full. It was agreed that the only action point was a further review of the Town Council Office lay out to ensure adequate safety for the Clerk.

The Committee recommended that Council agree the Financial Risk Assessment and its action plan.

- The Committee reviewed the grant allocation for 2017/18.

Councillor Ms Northcott expressed an interest in the St Peters Grant request and took no part that recommendation.

The Committee was advised that no formal requests had yet been received from the Pontardawe Chamber of Commerce or from the Glantawe Lions for the 'Tree of Light'. The Chamber of Commerce had however indicated that a request was to be submitted shortly for £2500. It was also likely that the Glantawe Lions would request a grant of £100 later in the year.

The Committee therefore decided to ring-fence £2600 from the budget of £8000 to support these events.

The Committee recommends the following grants awarded for 2017/18:

Eisteddfod Genedlaethol - £100.00

Cancer Information and Support Centre - £50.00

Shelter Cymru - £50.00

Mcmillian Cancer Support - £50.00

Bobath - £50.00

Action for Children - £50.00

Carers Trust (Swansea Bay) - £50.00

St Peters Flower Festival - £100.00

Heart of the Valley Show - £1000.00

Ystradowen Community Centre (Luncheon Club) -£500.00 Although based in Ystradowen the committee is aware that residents from the Town Council area attend the clubs.

Trebanos RFC (Car Park Project)- £1000.00 (The grant is provided with the understanding that the car park will be available for the community if not a match day)

Pontardawe RFC (Fireworks and Prom) - £2000.

Of the £8000.00 budget, £5000.00 would be allocated in this review. £2600 would be ring fenced for the Chamber of Commerce and Glantawe Lions, and the final £400 would be retained to cover small grant requests that may be received later in the year.

The grants given are in the interest of, and will bring direct benefit to, this area or any part of it, or all, or some of its inhabitants.

During the Ordinary meeting, Council were provided with the actual grant request from the Pontardawe Chamber of Commerce for £2500. It was agreed to award this grant in the Ordinary meeting.

Council was also provided with a request from the Pontardawe Art Club for a grant to assist with club activities. As Council was aware that there was £400 from the grant budget that was still not allocated, they agreed to £100.00 being donated to the club.

**Resolved that** the Financial Risk Assessment and the proposed grants for 2017/18 be accepted.

**10436: ROSPA Reports:** Council was advised that all three parks had been awarded a 'Medium' risk rating which was acceptable. Any maintenance issues for Parc Chwarae Teg and Trebanos Park were in the process of being addressed by the Town Council's groundsman. The issues at Ynysmeudwy Park would be addressed by the forthcoming park refurbishment.

**Resolved** to be noted.

**10437: One Voice Wales Area Committee:** Councillor Mrs J Bowen attended on behalf of Council and provided the following information:

There were four guest speakers and Paul Egan from One Voice Wales Chaired the meeting.

- A representative from NEST (The Welsh warm homes scheme)

Some members of the public may be entitled to help with heating bills. It was suggested that the criteria be added to Town and Community Council web site.

- Speakers 2, 3 and 4 related to the Health Board and Neath Port Talbot Hospital.

The speakers provided information on the proposed plan for integrating services and for building developments. It was noted the proposed Estates developments did not include the Pontardawe or western valleys and therefore consultation would be required in the future for these areas.

Issues with Neath Port Talbot Hospital were discussed, such as available parking and lack of resources however there was positive news on the creation of an infusion Centre and a breast care centre at the hospital.

Other information provided was as follows:

- The Neath Port Talbot Council / Town and Community Council Liaison Charter was available and should be placed on web sites.
- The Code of Conduct needed to be accepted and minuted by Council. A copy should be delivered electronically to each Council Member and placed on the web site. Paper copies should also be displayed in the Halls and at the local library.
- Defibrillators – Grants of up to £5000 were available from 'Awards for All' (Big Lottery Fund)

**Resolved** to be noted.

**10438: Account Schedule 331:** Account Schedule 331 totalling £25651.06 together with a Bank Reconciliation were agreed under Standing Orders.

**Resolved** to be noted.

**10439: Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales:** Council decided that there should be no payments to Pontardawe Town Councillors apart from the Mayors payment which was reviewed in the Annual General Meeting each year. The Town Councillors wished to remain totally voluntary.

**Resolved** that the Pontardawe Town Councillors be provide with no remuneration apart from the Mayor as in previous years. The Mayors payment will be decided at the Annual General Meeting each year.

**10440: Defibrillator for Trebanos:** Council was advised that Trebanos Service Station may be a good location of a defibrillator as currently there were none in Trebanos but a number in Pontardawe. Although grants were available through 'Awards for All' it was agreed that to utilise one of the few grant streams on one defibrillator was not cost effective and therefore the defibrillators should be funded from Town Council reserves.

It was also suggested that the defibrillator be sourced from 'Cariad' the charity as they offered a full maintenance service.

**Resolved** that a defibrillator be purchased for Trebanos from the charity 'Cariad'. The cost will be supported through the Town Council reserves.

**10441: Letter received re the 2018 Review of Parliamentary Constituencies in Wales:** Councillors were provided with details prior to the meeting.

**Resolved** to be noted.

**10442: Consultation on planning for Gypsy, traveller, and show people sites:** Councillors were provided with details prior to the meeting.

**Resolved** to be noted.

**10443: Letter received re the Once Voice Wales subscription for 2017/18:** Council was advised that the cost of the subscription was £933.00

**Resolved** that that the Town Council subscribe to One Voice Wales for 2017/18.

**10444: Email from Mark Jones re Wi-fi at Ynysmeudwy Hall:** The Pontardawe Youth club wished to install wi-fi at Ynysmeudwy Hall. They would support all costs.

**Resolved** that agreement will be given for the Youth club to install wi-fi at Ynysmeudwy Hall

**10445: Email received re 5k road run:** An email was received requesting Council agreement to a £5k road race from Herbert Street, Pontardawe at the end of 2017.

Council had no objection to the race but wanted to ensure that the correct agreements had been received from Neath Port Talbot Council and that the Chamber of Commerce were aware.

**Resolved** to be noted.

**10446: Local Service Revisions and Bus Services:** Council was advised of the changes to the bus time tables for the First 56 bus and the SWT 122. They were pleased to note that the early morning service was available for people wishing to begin work in Neath at 8.00am.

Council also discussed the possibility of the Welsh Assembly Government creating a card that would be available for bus and train services like the London 'Oyster Card' to promote public transport.

**Resolved** that the Service Revisions be noted and that the Clerk contact the Welsh Assembly Government to support the creation of a card which would be suitable for all forms of public transport. The Clerk will copy in Jeremy Miles AM.

**10447: School Crossing Patrol Officer – Swansea Road, Pontardawe:** Council confirmed that they were happy to fund the Crossing Patrol Officer for 2017/18. The Clerk stated that £250 had been received from Cwmtawe School for the period from January to March 2017 and a further £1000 had been received for the period from April 2017 to March 2018.

**Resolved** that the Town Council will fund the Crossing Patrol Officer for Swansea Road for 2017/18.

**10448. Road Safety:**

- Councillor Northcott expressed concern over dangers crossing the road adjacent to Ynysderw Road.
- The Cycle Smart events had been widely accepted by young cyclists with further events planned. Unfortunately, there was no action that could be taken for adult cyclists who were cycling in a dangerous manner.
- The Heavy vehicles currently accessing the housing development adjacent to YGG Pontardawe were in contravention of their planning consent as no large vehicles should deliver to the site between 8.00am and 9.00am and 3.00pm and 4.00pm in order to avoid traffic congestion. Neath Port Talbot Council had now put in a place a Traffic Regulation Order and had issued a breach of condition notice to the contractors.

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

**10449. Time and Date of next meeting:** The next Ordinary meeting is due to be held Trebanos Hall on the 10<sup>th</sup> April 2017.

Signed ..... Dated .....