

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Pontardawe Town Council held on Monday 14th December 2015, at Trebanos Hall, Swansea Road, Trebanos commencing at 6.45pm

10069. Present Councillors D B Thomas (presiding), Mrs J Bowen, V Hotten, G Davies, Ms C Ford, P Williams, A Nicholson, Mrs E Puzey, Ms S Northcott, H Pickrell
Youth Representatives – Harri Evans-Mason and T Hutchins

Apologies: Councillor B Williams, Mrs R Phillips, D Harris and Mrs L Purcell.

10070. Disclosure of Personal and Pecuniary interests: Councillors Mrs J Bowen, A Nicholson, Ms S Northcott, G Davies and V Hotten declared an interest in the Pontardawe and District Youth Facility, as they are Trustees.

Resolved this be noted.

10071. Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on the 9th November 2015:

Resolved that the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on the 9th November 2015, having been read and confirmed as a true record, be accepted by Council.

10072. Presentation by Neath Port Talbot CVS: Cara gave a presentation detailing the work carried out by the CVS in the Neath Port Talbot area and provided instances where partnership working with other organizations had been utilised with good effect in the area. She asked that the Town Council advise her of any organizations that they believe might benefit from a collaboration with the CVS.

Resolved to be noted.

10073. Matters raised by members of the public: Dr Jones requested an update on Cwmdu Glen.

Resolved to be noted.

10074. Police Matters:

Council was advised that the Trebanos PACT meeting had been held on the 10th December. There were no new PACT priorities and the statistics for September as illustrated by the UK Crime statistic web site showed a total of 4 crimes reported.

The Pontardawe PACT meeting had been held on the 10th December. There were no new PACT priorities and the statistics for September as illustrated by the UK Crime statistics web site showed a total of 45 Crimes reported.

The Clerk also advised Council that Steve Rees was to be a new Chief Inspector for Western BCU. There had been no response from Neath Port Talbot Council with regard to the CCTV Cameras.

Resolved that the Clerk will contact the County Borough for a second time to request that the Planning Department enforce the planning obligations in respect of CCTV Cameras. She will also write to Sergeant James to request that the Police also contact the County Borough to support this action.

10075. Pontardawe & District Youth Facility: Councillors V Hotten, G Davies, Ms S Northcott, A Nicholson and Mrs J Bowen expressed an interest. Council was advised that a further £1000 had been transferred to the Youth Facility account, which left £7000 still available from the budget.

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

10076. Pelican/Zebra crossing requests: Council was advised that Cwmtawe School had responded but were unable to assist with a contribution for a Road Crossing warden at Swansea Road.

Resolved that the Clerk will contact the Board of Governors at Cwmtawe School.

10077. Highway Seat Placement: Council was advised that there had been no objections received at the Town Council Office from Members of the Public to the proposed placement of the seat on Alltycham Drive close to West/East Crossways and therefore the bench could be sighted as soon as weather permitted.

Resolved to be noted.

10078. Cwmdu Glen: Council was advised that no response had been received from Neath Port Talbot Council with regard to the survey of the boundaries. With regard to the 'Working for Nature' project, Council felt there was still insufficient information on the level of work that would be dedicated to Town Council Projects should a financial commitment be made, despite the response from the Countryside and Wildlife Team at Neath Port Talbot Council.

Resolved that the Clerk will contact Cwmllynfell Community Council to determine the level of their contribution and will also re write to Neath Port Talbot Council to request more details on the level of financial commitment expected.

10079. Planning meeting held on the 30h November 2015:

P2015/0996

Applicant: Mr David Jones, 78 Heol Gleien, Upper Cwmtwrch, Swansea, SA9 2TZ

Site Location: Tyn y Coed Cae Farm, Pontardawe Road, Pontardawe, Swansea, SA8 4SX

Proposed Development: Steel framed agricultural building for storage of agricultural machinery and housing of sheep.

Resolved – No Objection

P2015/0159

Applicants: Mr Michael Forzani, The Care Home, Randalls Way, Leatherhead, Surrey, KT22 7TW.

Site Location: Trebanos House, The Drive, Trebanos, Pontardawe, Swansea, SA8 4BB.

Proposed Development: Demolition of existing care home (C2 Use) following construction of new replacement two storey residential care home for 6 adults (C2 Use) and associated works (Amended plans 20.11.15 and 23.11.15)

Resolved - As per previous comments. The Committee has reservations due to access, parking, loss of privacy for neighbouring properties, together with the impact of large vehicles during construction on the access road.

P2015/0915

Applicant: Telecom Holdings Ltd, Palladium House, 1-4 Argyll Street, London, W1F 7LD.

Site Location: Land to the North West of Perthigwynion Farm, Rhyd y Fro, Neath, SA8 4TA.

Proposed Development: Erection of single wind turbine (height to tip 86.5m) and ancillary works.

Resolved – No Objection.

P2015/1033

Applicant: Mr Tony Garthwaite, Spa House, Gellionen Road, Trebanos, Pontardawe, SA8 4RN

Site Location: Spa House, Gellionen Road, Trebanos, Pontardawe, SA8 4RN

Proposed Development: Retrospective application for a private stable and proposed front extension to the stables.

Resolved No Objection.

P2015/0922

Applicant: Mr Phil Moore, First Property Sterling General, C/O Cerda Planning.

Site Location: Pontardawe Retail Park, or Ffordd Parc Ynysderw Road, Pontardawe, Neath SA8 4EG.

Proposed Development: Retention of use of land for the siting of a mobile hot food van for a temporary period of 5 year, removal of existing unauthorised bollards and the erection of 4 new drop down bollards.

Resolved No Objection.

P2015/0218

Applicant: Aggregate Industries UK Ltd, Bardon Hall, Markfield, Leicestershire, LE97 1TL.

Site Location: Cwm Lleici Quarry, Gellifowy Road, Ynysmeudwy, Pontardawe, SA8 4TU.

Proposed Development: Construction of roadway (approx 335m in length)

Resolved No Objection.

P2015/0997

Applicant: William Hill Organisation Ltd, C/O Agent

Site Location: 25 High Street, Pontardawe, Swansea, SA8 4HU

Proposed Development: Change of use from a Betting Office (Class A2) to food and drink (Class A3)

Resolved No Objection however the Committee did have reservations about an additional food and drink outlet in Pontardawe given the high number already in situ. They were also concerned that there was not adequate parking on High Street following the relocation of the Post Office.

Planning discussed in the meeting:

P2015/0433

Applicant: Mr David Watts, 37 Swansea Road, Pontardawe, Swansea, SA8 4AL.

Site Location: Plot adjacent to 37 Swansea Road, Pontardawe, Swansea, SA8 4AL.

Proposed Development: One Dwelling.

Resolved Council objected on the grounds that the site had difficult access, insufficient parking and was on a narrow road.

P2015/1072

Applicant: Mr Lee Gould, 10 Maesgwyn, Aberdulais, Neath, SA10 8LD.

Site Location: 26-28 New Road, Ynysmeudwy, Pontardawe, Swansea, SA8 4PJ.

Proposed Development: Lawful Development Certificate (proposed) for a MOT testing bay within an existing vehicle repair workshop.

Resolved No Objection provided there is Neighbourhood Notification.

10080. Policy and Resources Committee held on the 16th November 2015:

- The meeting to review the proposed changes in the remuneration of members of Community and Town Councils. (Plenary Powers awarded due to 30th November deadline)

The Consultation document was reviewed in full prior to the meeting and there were no comments made on the proposals.

The Committee recommended that Pontardawe Town Council not provide Member remuneration with the exception of the Mayor. The amount of the Mayors remuneration was to be decided by full Council in the Annual General Meeting each year.

- The meeting to also discussed the Consultation on the draft Public Services Ombudsman (Wales) Bill

The Consultation was reviewed in full prior to the meeting. Only two concerns were raised, and these were:

Firstly that the document mentioned Community Council's but did not specifically mention 'Town Council's' and secondly the proposals indicated that Town and Community Council's could not raise concerns directly with the Ombudsman but needed to direct these concerns via the County Borough.

The Committee recommended that the above concerns are reported to the Commission.

Resolved that the Committees recommendations be ratified.

10081. Christmas Tree Festival: The Clerk advised Council that following agreement from the Mayor, a Christmas Tree for the Town Council had been included in the festival. The theme was 'A Childs Christmas in Wales' by Dylan Thomas.

Resolved that the decision be ratified.

10082. Youth Representatives 2016: Both Harri Evans-Mason and Thomas Hutchins addressed Council and requested that they be considered for the posts for 2016. Both were unanimously re-elected and thanked by Council for their work during 2015.

Resolved that Harri Evans-Mason and Thomas Hutchins be elected as the Youth Representatives for 2016.

10083. Ynysmeudwy Park: The Clerk advised Council that funding streams were likely to get substantially more difficult to obtain in future and therefore requested permission to apply for a £50000 Wren Grant to improve the facilities at Ynysmeudwy Park.

Resolved that the Clerk apply for a £50000 WREN Grant to improve the facilities at Ynysmeudwy Park.

10084. Clerks Holiday: The Clerk requested holidays for the period from the 24th December 2015 to the day after New Year.

Resolved that the holiday request be granted.

10085. Accounts Schedule 317:

Resolved to accept the schedule 317 totaling £15108.79 plus the Bank Reconciliation statement in accordance with Standing Orders.

10086. Local Service Revision: Council was advised of a slight change to the service from Neath College to Pontardawe.

Resolved to be noted.

10087. Financial Service Compensation Scheme: Council was advised that small Local Authorities were now entitled to £75,000 of cover should their financial institutions be forced into liquidation.

Resolved that the Clerk contact 'One Voice Wales' to determine what action need to be carried out and also if Credit Unions were included in the scheme.

10088. Consultation on the Draft Local Government (Wales) Bill: Council requested this be added to the agenda for the January 2016 meeting.

Resolved that the consultation be added to the January 2016 meeting agenda.

10089. Letter received from Llangollen 2016: Council was advised that a letter of thanks had been received for the grant provided.

Resolved to be noted.

10090. Urgent Road Safety Matters:

- The Area Manager of Farm Foods had responded to our concerns over 'Farm Foods' lorries in Ynysderw Road and confirmed that action had been taken.
- Covers had been taken off bollards/cones on the bypass close to the Retail Park.

Resolved that the Clerk will contact Neath Port Talbot Highways re the bypass issue.

10091. Date and time of next meeting: The date of the next Ordinary Meeting of Council will be Monday 11th January 2016 at Ynysmeudwy Hall commencing at 6.45pm.

Signed **Dated**