

**Ordinary General Meeting held on the 14<sup>th</sup> January 2019 at Ynysmeudwy Hall, Old Road, Ynysmeudwy, commencing at 6.45pm**

**Present:** Councillor Mrs L Purcell (presiding), R Thomas, R Smith, J Jones, K Flynn, G Davies, Ms C Ford, A Richards, W Thomas and B McCarthy (Youth Representative)

**Apologies:** Councillor Mrs R Phillips, V Hotten, A Nicholson, Ms S Northcott, D Williams

**11096. Disclosure of Personal and Pecuniary Interests:** None.

**Resolved** to be noted.

**11097. Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on the 10<sup>th</sup> December 2018:**

**Resolved** that the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on the 10<sup>th</sup> December 2018, having been read and confirmed as a true record, be accepted by Council.

**11098. Matters raised by Members of the Public:** None.

**Resolved** to be noted.

**11099. Cwmdu Glen and the Working with Nature Project:** The work recommended by the Cwmdu Tree Risk Assessment under the 'Up to 3 months' and 'Up to 6 Months' recommended work category were to be carried out by the ARB Team shortly.

A risk assessment was to be carried out on the trees on the closed section of path from the Green bridge to the proposed picnic area under the 'Working with Nature' Project. In future years however, this would be included in the overall risk assessment carried out on behalf of the Town Council for the whole of the land owned in Cwmdu Glen.

Unfortunately, the bench chosen by Council for the picnic area was not suitable as could not be easily transported to the site and would be difficult to secure. The 'Working with Nature Team' suggested the 'Cannock Chase' picnic bench which would be easy to transport and secure at the site.

Council agreed with the compromise and hoped that the new picnic area would be available by the Summer of 2019.

**Resolved** that the Clerk will purchase the 'Cannock Chase' picnic bench for the Cwmdu picnic area.

**11100. Police Matters:** Council was advised of the following dates for the 2019 PACT meetings:

Pontardawe PACT - Pontardawe Art Centre commencing at 6.30pm. 21<sup>st</sup> February 25<sup>th</sup> April 13<sup>th</sup> June 15<sup>th</sup> August 10<sup>th</sup> October and 5<sup>th</sup> December.

Trebanos PACT – Trebanos Community Hall commencing at 6.30pm. 28<sup>th</sup> February 25<sup>th</sup> April 20<sup>th</sup> June 15<sup>th</sup> August 10<sup>th</sup> October and 5<sup>th</sup> December.

Council were also advised that there had been some damage to fences at Trebanos Park prior to Christmas. This was being investigated by the local Police.

Police Statistics were as follows:

Pontardawe – 42 crimes in November which was down from 50 in October 2018.

Trebanos – 10 crimes in November which was up from 3 in October 2018.

**Resolved** to be noted.

**11101. Pontardawe Fire Station:** Council was advised that following information from Alun Llewellyn and the Public Services Board. The original letters requested by Council were therefore not required. A letter had also been received from the Mid and West Wales Fire Authority late in December although this seemed to be in response to a request from the Local Service Board Member. Insufficient information was included in the letter however on issues raised by Members.

Council wished the following questions asked:

- Pontardawe is Neath Port Talbot's third biggest principal town. Why was it not decided to discuss the proposals with the Town and County Councillors before the decision was made?
- The drop-in sessions to discuss the corporate plan were scheduled for Neath and Port Talbot but not Pontardawe. The drop-in session for Pontardawe was not scheduled until requested by the County Borough Member
- The letter forwarded on the 20<sup>th</sup> December had little actual details and the following questions still required answers:
- What evidence was held of Stations staffed by part time firefighters being unable to respond to a call?
- What is the expected time delay between fire fighters being requested to respond and their arrival at the station?
- How often had Pontardawe been called upon to support other stations in the last three years (including this fiscal year)?
- To what extent do you anticipate that Pontardawe will be called upon for assistance but will not be able to do so?
- How will this new system affect the co-located ambulance service?

Council wished a letter drafted to the Mid and West Wales Fire Authority requesting answers to their questions. The County Borough Members would also ask the questions at the meeting to be held with the Mid and West Wales Fire Authority at the end of January.

**Resolved** that the Clerk will write to the Mid and West Wales Fire Authority.

**11102. Hanging Basket Scheme – Summer 2019:**

Council discussed the scheme in detail. This year they decided to arrange for most of the hanging baskets as usual but would not place baskets in areas that were causing difficulties to local retailers and areas that were not aesthetically pleasing. They would however also utilise an additional £1000 to place displays on lamp posts in the Town Centre. Council was made aware that there were some lamp posts that were not suitable due to signage and therefore due to the tight time scales they provided the Clerk with plenary powers to decide on the specific lamp posts to dress. Council also agreed to planters being placed outside St Peters Church.

**Resolved** that the Clerk will order Summer Hanging Baskets for the 2019 season, together with the displays for outside St Peters Church. She will also arrange for lamp post displays up to a value of £1000.

**11103. Planning:**

P2019/0034

Applicants name: Mr Sean Coughlan, 4 Sunnymead Close, Townhill, Swansea SA1 6SD

Site Location: 11 Ynysderw Road, Pontardawe, Swansea SA8 4EG

Proposed Development: Detached two storey dwelling (Reserved matters following outline approval P2015/1133 approved on the 24/5/16) including details for condition 5 (drainage), condition 6 (drainage) and condition 8 (land contamination)

**Resolved** Design is not in accordance with the traditional nature of the other properties. Aesthetically not in keeping with the neighbourhood. Neighbourhood notification required.

**11104. NALC Salary Awards:**

Council was advised that there would be new SCP Scales from 6.4.19 and the recommendations were as follows:

Old Scale SCP 8 for 2018/19 £16626 to New Scale SCP 2 2019/20 £17711

Old Scale SCP 15 for 2018/19 £17972 to New Scale SCP 5 2019/20 £18795

Old Scale SCP 25 for 2018/19 £23111 to New Scale SCP 17 2019/20 £23836

**Resolved** to accept the NALC recommended wage increases for 2019/20 to commence from the 6.4.19

**11105. Report Actual/ Budget Apr- Nov 2018:**

The Clerk advised Council of the Actual/Budget figures for the period from April to November 2018 together with the budget variance. The variances were in part due to one off payments made early in the fiscal year and additional expenditure authorised by Council to be withdrawn from Reserves.

**Resolved** to accept the Actual/ Budget Report for Apr-Nov 2018.

**11106. Account Schedule 352:**

**Resolved** that the Accounts Schedule 352 totalling £8732.95 together with the Bank Reconciliation be accepted by Council in line with Standing Orders.

**11107. Improving Public Transport Consultation:** It was agreed to discuss this in a forthcoming P&R Committee.

**Resolved** to discuss in a forthcoming P&R Committee.

**11108. Welsh Governments Review on Town and Community Councils:** Council Members were provided with the relevant documents prior to the meeting.

**Resolved** to be noted.

**11109. Letters of Thanks:** Letters of Thanks were received from Trebanos RFC and Swansea Valley U11 District Rugby, for grants provided. A letter of thanks was also received from the Trebanos Hall Committee for the Town Councils assistance in obtaining Christmas lights and a tree for Trebanos Hall.

**Resolved** to be noted.

**11110. Urgent Road Safety Matters:** Council was advised that there were no traffic orders in place at the junction of the B4603 and Gellyfowy Road and therefore enforcement officers were unable to assist however the Police could deal with matters of obstruction if this was an issue.

**Resolved** to be noted.

**11111. Next Meeting:** The next meeting of Council will take place on the 11<sup>th</sup> February 2019 at ARCH Hall commencing at 6.45pm.

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

