

**Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Pontardawe Town Council held on Monday, 16<sup>th</sup> April 2012, at ARCH Community Hall commencing at 6.45 p.m.**

**8815. Present:** Councillor B Williams (presiding), Mrs J Bowen, D B Thomas, M James, H Pickrell, Mrs L Purcell, D Harris, Mrs E Puzey, Ms S Northcott, A Nicholson, Mrs C Lambourne.

**Apologies:** A E Williams, V Thomas, H Evans, M Thomas.

**8816. Disclosure of Personal and Pecuniary Interest:** Councillor Purcell declared and interest in Planning and withdrew from the meeting for the duration of the discussion.

**Resolved** to be noted.

**8817. Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on the 12<sup>th</sup> March 2012:**

**Resolved** that the minutes of the meeting held on the 12<sup>th</sup> March 2012, having been read and confirmed as a true record, be accepted by Council.

**8818. Matters raised by members of the public:** None.

**Resolved** to be noted.

**8819. Mark Jones and the Children of the Pontardawe and District Youth Facility:**

Councillor Northcott explained that unfortunately they were unable to attend this evening and apologised on behalf of Mark Jones. She explained that Mark and the children were interested in a mobile Skate park but would like to address Council themselves and hoped that it would be appropriate to attend the next meeting

**Resolved** that an invitation be extended to Mark and the children for a future meeting.

**8820. Mynydd y Betws Wind Farm traffic:**

Council was advised that a letter of thanks had been sent to South Wales Police for their attendance at the March meeting, with an invitation to return to a future meeting once the traffic management plan and 'dummy run' had taken place.

**Resolved** that Council be kept informed of when the 'Traffic Management Plan' is available and when the 'dummy run' has taken place, and that the haulier and Police be invited back to a meeting to discuss specific issues and concerns at that time.

**8821. Police Matters:** The Clerk stated that the next PACT meetings were to be held as follows:

Pontardawe PACT at the Cross Community Centre to commence at 6.30pm on the 28<sup>th</sup> June 2012

The PACT priority was parking in Pontardawe Town Centre. Officers were to continue to operate alongside traffic wardens to deter illegal parking in the Town.

Trebanos PACT at Trebanos Hall to commence at 6.30pm on the 28<sup>th</sup> June 2012.

The PACT priority was general non alcohol youth annoyance. The PCSO did however confirm that patrols were conducted over the bank holiday, with no issues.

**Resolved** to be noted.

**8822. Anti- Social Behaviour in Church Street:** Council was advised by Councillor Purcell that a licence review by the County Borough Council for the 'Football Club' took place in March 2012. It was agreed in that meeting that the licence would be altered to a Public House rather than a club, which would ensure that the named licensee was personally responsible for ensuring that the licensing conditions were followed.

Also following the re-designation of the licence, there would be open access to the Police in the event of any issues arising.

**Resolved** to be monitored.

**8823. Charter Progress:** Councillor Nicholson stated that there were no updates available at present.

**Resolved** to be monitored.

**8824. Grants awarded:** Letters of thanks had been received from the following organisations for grants awarded by the Town Council:

St John's Ambulance, Kidney Wales Foundation, Alzheimer Society, St Peters Flower Festival, National Eisteddfod, Bobath, Urdd, Victim Support, Shelter Cymru, British Heart Foundation, Pontardawe Arts Club, Macmillan Cancer care and Swansea Canal Society.

**Resolved** to be noted.

**8825. Visit to Ystalyfera Community Council:** Councillor Williams and Councillor Nicholson confirmed that they had attended the Community Council meeting and had agreed that Partnership working in the future would be beneficial to both Councils.

**Resolved** to be noted.

**8826. Planning:**

Councillor L Purcell was absent for the entire discussion.

**P2012/0347**

Applicant: Jonathon Hughes, 9 Bryn Onnen, Pontardawe, Swansea SA8 4LH.

Site location: 9 Bryn Onnen, Pontardawe, Swansea SA8 4LH

Proposed Development: Conversion of existing garage to residential accommodation and first floor side extension.

**Resolved** Insufficient documentation however location would require Neighbourhood Notification.

**P2012/0242**

Applicant: Mrs Alison J Lewis, 11 George Street, Pontardawe, Swansea, SA84HQ

Site Location: George Street, Pontardawe, Swansea, SA84HQ

Proposed Development: Retention of pitched roof and flue to rear single storey extension.

**Resolved** No objection.

**8827. Policy and Resources Committee to discuss cost savings:** It was suggested that this committee be arranged following the May meeting.

**Resolved** to be arranged at the May meeting.

**8828. CoRe Funding:** The Clerk provided the following information:

1. Pontardawe Skate Park – The facility cost was over £100,000. The value of the grant was up to £5000. Therefore this would not be a suitable venture.
2. Allotments – This falls within the criteria, however the Town Council did not own suitable land to allow the development. The Clerk had also been advised by the County Borough that they also had no suitable land in this area for Allotments to be developed, and therefore the Council would need to make an extensive survey of private land owners in the area to identify suitable sites, this could take a considerable amount of time and therefore as all projects must have been completed by 2013, its unlikely that Groundwork's would provide a grant for that purpose.
3. A Community Orchard at the land owned by Pontardawe Town Council at Maes Iago – The land at Maes Iago was currently being registered with the Land Registry however there was a dispute over access land to the site. As this was likely to take some considerable time to resolve it would be unwise to attempt to develop the site, at this time.
4. The updating of the equipment in Trebanos Park to develop a natural play area would fall within the criteria of the grant.
5. A 'Bog garden' on the land adjacent to King George V Park – This was reviewed and although the land was naturally boggy in winter, it did dry out in summertime. The Council would therefore need to introduce a yearlong

water supply to top up the bog during dry weather. The Bog garden plants would also require maintenance throughout the year to ensure that the plants remain healthy. The Clerk however stated that at present the grounds man would not be in a position to take on an additional maintenance in this area, and that the Council had not budgeted to employ another grounds man during 2012/13.

The recommendation was therefore to concentrate on improving Trebanos Park with grant funding from the CoRE project, taking advice from Groundwork's about suitable, natural play equipment. It was also suggested that we look to additional small grant funding to match fund the Core Grant, in order to maximize the amount of work that could be carried out on the Park.

**Resolved** that the Clerks recommendation for Trebanos Park be agreed, but that also the Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council is contacted with regard to the possibility of placing allotments at the walled garden on the Glanrhyd estate, and that Groundwork be asked to provide guidance on the creation of bog gardens.

**8829. Cwmdu Glen meeting:** It was suggested at the Cwmdu Glen liaison meeting that the way forward in this area was for a Management plan to be agreed between the Town Council and Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council for the area, but that as Neath Port Talbot currently had funds for dealing with the Rhododendron issue, the Town Council allow Neath Port Talbot Council to deal with this matter on both the land owned by Neath Port Talbot and the Town Council.

**Resolved** that the agreement for Neath Port Talbot Council to address the Rhododendron problem, be ratified by full Council.

It was also agreed that two members be seconded onto the Cwmdu Glen Committee in the Annual General Meeting, and also that the Chair of the meeting be contacted to identify if a regular time scale could be arranged.

**8830. Personnel Matters:** The Clerk confirmed that as the issues that were discussed did not provide any details of employees, there would be no requirement for the press or members of the public to leave.

The Clerk also confirmed that the Personnel meeting that was to have been held during March was not quorate and therefore the Members present formed an informal working party that suggested the following:

- That the Clerk be awarded one increment for the successful completion of the CILCA as stated in her contract of employment.
- That any statutory increases in the Minimum Wage be applied without referral to Council
- That the current mileage allowance be altered to the following:

Clerk – Non essential user – 45p per mile

Grounds man – Essential user – vehicle 1200-1450cc – to receive for 2012/13 a lump sum of £1239 with an additional mileage rate of 50.5p per mile)

**Resolved** that the recommendations are agreed.

**8831. One Voice Wales:** Councillor Nicholson had no updates to provide.

**Resolved** to be noted.

**8832. Account Schedule 276** totalling £10863.23 together with annual direct debit review.

**Resolved** to be agreed under financial regulations.

**8833. Letter received from Welsh Water re Waun Sterw:** Council was advised that a letter had been received from Welsh Water following their investigation of the overflow issues at Waun Sterw.

Welsh Water had confirmed that they had identified a collapse in the sewer that serves Godrer Fro, but had found no further issues. They did however request that residents report all incidents to their 24 hour contact centre, to enable them to maintain an accurate list of the problems being experienced.

**Resolved** that each Councillor is provided with details of emergency numbers in their Councillor pack following the May Election.

**8834. Letter received re Membership of One Voice Wales 2012-13:** Council was requested to confirm that they were happy to continue with their membership of One Voice Wales for 2012/13 at a cost of £796.

**Resolved** that Council is to renew its membership for 2012/13.

**8835. High Sheriffs Award:** The Clerk confirmed that a letter had been received stating that our request for the High Sheriffs award to be awarded to Mark Jones this year had not been accepted.

**Resolved** to be noted.

**8836. Cwm Nant Lleichi proposal for Wind Turbine:** The Clerk provided details of a proposed wind turbine at the Cwm Nant Lleichi quarry in Ynysmeudwy.

**Resolved** that the matter be added to the agenda for the May meeting.

**8837. Changes to bus timetables:** Council was advised of numerous changes to the bus timetables in the area.

**Resolved** that the Clerk contact the Welsh Assembly Government to express their dismay over the effects of the reduction in the Bus Service Operators grant, and also to request that an integrated transport policy is developed for Wales.

**8838. Environmental Matters Event:** Council was advised that an Environmental Matters event was to be held on the 14<sup>th</sup> May 2012 between 10.00am and 16.30am at the SWALEC Stadium in Cardiff.

**Resolved** that two places are booked at the event and that the Councillors who are re-elected can apply for a place on a 'first come first served' basis. The Clerk will also advise the organisers that Council would like to see events outside business hours, as many Councillors are in full time employment.

**8839. Urgent Road Safety:** The following issues were raised:

- Speeding on Swansea Road.
- Speeding between the traffic lights outside the 'Old Star' in Cwmgors.
- Children and Young people at 'The Cross' in Pontardawe using footballs, skateboards and cycles in a dangerous manner.

**Resolved** that the Clerk would contact the proper authorities.

**8840. Date of the next meeting:** The next meeting of Council is due to be held on the 14<sup>th</sup> May 2012 at Trebanos Hall.

The Mayor, Councillor Bob Williams thanked Council for the honour of serving as Mayor for 2011/12, and offered his best wishes for the Election. He also thanked those Councillors who were not standing for the next election and especially Councillor Emlyn Williams who had been both a Community and Town Councillor and had working tirelessly for the community for many years.

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

