

Ordinary General Meeting held on the 8th April 2019 at Ynysmeudwy Community Hall, Old Road, Ynysmeudwy, commencing at 6.45pm

Present: Councillor Mrs L Purcell (presiding), A Richards, D Williams, A Nicholson, Ms S Northcott, V Hotten, G Davies, Ms R Jones, J Jones, Ms C Ford, G Nicholson and W Thomas

Apologies: Councillor K Flynn, Mrs R Phillips, R Thomas and B McCarthy (Youth Representative)

11151. Disclosure of Personal and Pecuniary Interests: None.

Resolved to be noted.

11152. Signing of the minutes of the Ordinary General Meeting held on the 11th March 2019:

Resolved that the minutes of the Ordinary General Meeting held on the 11th March 2019, having been read and confirmed as a true record, be accepted by Council.

11153. Matters Raised by Members of the Public: None.

Resolved to be noted.

11154. Cwmdu Glen: The work to risk assess and make safe the trees adjacent to the path from the 'green bridge' to the proposed picnic area had been carried out. The Clerk was in the process of purchasing the picnic set, which would be erected by the 'Working with Nature' team when received. The path from the 'Green Bridge' to the Picnic area would then be reopened. The opening would be advertised in the Community Mag and on social media and would take place at the beginning of the Summer Season.

The official 'Working with Nature' project would complete in July 2019 however we had been informed by the County Borough that they had secured funding for additional years. As they would be present at Cwmdu, they were happy for the Town Council to remain as unofficial partners during this period, without remuneration.

Resolved that the Town Council will remain unofficial partners at Cwmdu with Neath Port Talbot Council following the completion of the current 'Working with Nature' Project.

11155. Police Matters: The next PACT meetings were both to be held on the 25th April 2019 at 6.30pm. (Trebanos Hall and Pontardawe Art Centre)
Council was advised that there had been no new issues raised at the previous Pontardawe PACT meeting.

Statistics for Pontardawe:

Total Crime for December 22 (6 Violent, 4 Public Order and 4 Criminal Damage).

Total Crime for January 27 (16 Violent and 7 Anti- Social Behaviour)

The Clerk had been advised by the PCSO in Pontardawe that a litter picking exercise had been carried out in conjunction with Cwmtawe School in the area around the Retail Park. The event had been well attended and a great deal of litter collected and disposed of.

PAWs on Patrol was due to take place at the Pontardawe Recreation Ground from 2.00pm on the 16th May 2019 and additional Police Patrols were scheduled during the Easter Holidays to deter anti-social behaviour.

Statistics for Trebanos:

Total Crime for December 8 (4 Violent)

Total Crime for January 8 (4 Violent)

Resolved to be noted.

11156. Email received Monthly Market at Pontardawe: Council was very pleased with the prospect of the Monthly Market and was supportive of the work that had been carried out. They were advised that issues surrounding road closures had been addressed and that the Special Events Team was only awaiting evidence that the specified stakeholders (residents, Chamber of Commerce etc) had been consulted prior to agreement to the event being given.

Urban Foundry (the organising company) had also requested financial assistance from the Town Council to support some of the start-up costs.

The Town Council discussed the matter at length. They were very supportive of the market but as there were at present no guarantees that the market would take place, they were unable at this point to agree to any financial contribution.

The would however be happy to consider an application for grant funding once the company could confirm that the monthly markets would go ahead.

Resolved to await developments.

11157. Planning:

P2019/0322

Applicants: Mr Leighton Young, 30 Maes yr Ysgol, Pontardawe SA8 4JS.

Site Location: 30 Maes yr Ysgol, Pontardawe SA8 4JS.

Proposed Development: Single storey rear extension.

Resolved No Objection provided there is neighbourhood notification

P2019/0194

Applicants name: Mr Evans & R Lewis, c/o Agent.

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

Proposed Development: Two detached dwellings (Revision to house type and layout approved by P2016/0928)

Resolved No Objection provided there is neighbourhood notification

P2019/0263

Applicants name: Mr Morris, 49 Heol y Llwynau, Trebanos Pontardawe SA8 4DH.

Site Location: 49 Heol y Llwynau, Trebanos Pontardawe SA8 4DH.

Proposed Development: First Floor Rear Extension.

Resolved No Objection provided there is neighbourhood notification

P2019/0264

Applicants name: Mr Chris Davies, 47 Heol y Llwynau, Trebanos Pontardawe SA8 4DH.

Site Location: 47 Heol y Llwynau, Trebanos Pontardawe SA8 4DH.

Proposed Development: First Floor Rear Extension.

Resolved No Objection provided there is neighbourhood notification

P2019/0228

Applicants name: Richard Digby, First Property Sterling General c/o Agent.

Site Location: Pontardawe Retail Park, Ynysderw Road, Pontardawe SA8 4EG.

Proposed Development: Retention of use of land for the siting of a mobile hot food van.

Resolved that the following issues need to be addressed:

- Council is not sure if the request is for a specific amount of time or is for a permanent site.
- The address on the application is incorrect as the site is not Off Ynysderw Road by off Ffordd Parc Ynysderw.
- The Town Council wishes to encourage people into the Town Centre and therefore objects to any food vendor at the Retail Park
- The food vendor at the Retail Park encourages young people from Cwmtawe School to leave school grounds at lunch time to eat unhealthy food
- The application states that order is for 'retention' however they food van has been operating despite the original orders expiry and therefore the Town Council feels that this needs to be addressed.

Application to change the register of Common Land – CL25A Entry 164 and modified by Entry 207. Application nos NPT 0047

Application to change the register of Common Land – CL64A Entry 34. Application nos NPT 0051

Application to change the register of Common Land – CL64 Entry 28. Application nos NPT 0051

Resolved to be noted.

11158. Development Committee held on the 25th March 2019:

The Committee to discuss ideas for the Winterfest 2020

The committee was advised that the contract with Commercial Christmas for Christmas Lights hire will expire following Christmas 2019. The Committee was interested in identifying alternative provisions for the Winterfest following the end of the hire contract.

The following was discussed in full:

- The possibility of the purchase of Lamp post displays (issues and additional costs such as storage, pat testing, repairs and installation would need to be identified)
- The committee felt the festoons were both more expensive to purchase and to erect.
- The real Christmas tree outside the Art Centre was very successful and should be retained. It was suggested that coloured lights could be added to the ice white lights already owned by the Town Council
- An artificial tree could be sourced and purchased for the Cross
- There were limited contractors authorised by Neath Port Talbot Council to erect Christmas lights so costs would need to be sourced.
- Large snow globes / domes were considered a fun addition. Costs to purchase or hire could be sourced.
- The fireworks were very well received and should be continued. The Town Councils actions to advise residents of the fireworks such as the social media campaign and the leaflet distribution were well received and should be continued.

The Committee would like Council to agree to investigations being made into the above so that accurate costs could be obtained and precepted during 2019 should Council wish to go ahead.

The Committee to discuss ideas for 'Pontardawe in Bloom' 2020

The Committee discussed the Town Council's possible role in 'Pontardawe in Bloom' 2020.

The Town Council already supplies hanging baskets and lamp post displays together with static displays at St Peters Church entrance. It was therefore suggested that additional displays could be added for the 2020 season subject to cost, on roadside barriers and possibly at the Cross and Art Centre.

There Chamber of Commerce Festival Committee together with Community Partner groups would then look to organise additional floral displays on the entrance to Pontardawe, and in liaising with residents and shop holders within the Town Centre. A delegation of Councillors would liaise with the Chamber of Commerce Festival Committee.

The Committee would like Council to agree a delegation of Councillors to attend Chamber of Commerce Festival Committee meetings and for the Clerk to research additional costs of displays.

Council was advised that Commercial Christmas had provided their final account for settlement for the Christmas Lights for 2018. Council was aware that unfortunately the full display had not been erected due to issues at Commercial Christmas but that the company had removed and disposed of the tree, carried out some maintenance on the current lights on trees adjacent to the Herbert Street Car park and would erect the tree lights donated by the Chamber of Commerce free of charge as recompense.

Resolved that Commercial Christmas final account be accepted and settled and that the Committees recommendations will be ratified.

11159. Policy and Resources Committee required to discuss additional policies recommended by the GDPR Project and the Pontardawe Bowls club Pavilion:

Resolved that a Policy and Resources Committee will be arranged.

11160. Finance Committee required to discuss the Financial Risk Assessment and additional LGPS Discretions:

Resolved that a Finance Committee will be arranged.

11161. Account Schedule 355:

Resolved that the Account Schedule 355 totalling £13365.15 together with bank reconciliation be accepted by Council in line with Standing Orders.

11162. 'Go Purple during the May AGM: The Mayor requested that all Council Members wear a purple item during the May AGM and Ordinary meeting, to support the Stroke Associations 'Go Purple' initiative, as the Stroke Association was the Mayors Official Charity for 2018/19

Resolved to be noted.

11163. Email received re planting of Wild Flowers:

A request had been received for permission to take part in the 'Go Wild' scheme and plant wild flowers in Ynysmeudwy Park.

It was also suggested that in future years the Town Council could look to provide seeds for any local schools or children's groups who wished to sow wild seeds on waste ground.

Resolved the permission will be granted to sow wild flower seeds in Ynysmeudwy Park.

11164. Loren Dykes Achievement: Council was advised that a local woman had been only the second person to be capped 100 times. It was suggested that this amazing achievement should be celebrated by the purchase of a commemorative award 'The Loren Dykes award' that could be presented by Pontardawe Rugby Club for outstanding achievement. The first recipient should be Loren Dykes who should receive the award during the Rugby Clubs forthcoming presentation evening.
Resolved that a Commemorative award, 'The Loren Dykes award' will be purchased and presented to Pontardawe Rugby Club.

11165. Councillor Resignation: Unfortunately, due to work pressures Councillor Robert Smith had resigned as Town Councillor for the Rhyd y Fro Ward. Council was sad to accept his resignation but offered their thanks for his work on behalf of Pontardawe Town Council, and wished him well for the future.

Resolved that Neath Port Talbot Council will be advised, and a notice of vacancy will be advertised.

11166. Independent Remuneration Panel Annual Report: Council was advised for the new and updated Determinations contained in the Report relating to Town and Community Councils.

Resolved to be noted.

11167. 'Understanding Welsh Places' Project: Council was advised that a short piece on the Pontardawe Town Council area could be created to add to the UWP Project.

Resolved that Councillor Daniel Williams will create a narrative. The deadline for submission is the 7th May 2019 and therefore plenary powers are awarded.

11168. Email from Aled Evans re Cwmtawe School: Council was advised that no statement was being issued by the local authority, but some informal meetings were being held with Elected Members, Chairs of Governors, and headteachers regarding the potential for reorganisation.
Following the meeting the County Borough will seek Elected Member Approval to progress proposals for further consideration and at that point wider stakeholders such as the Town Council would be engaged.

Resolved to be noted.

11169. Urgent Road Safety:

- Dropped Curb stones have been placed at the Pontardawe Retail Park
- In areas where pedestrian crossings are not permitted perhaps the road could be painted a different colour or an optical illusion created to encourage drivers to reduce speed.

Resolved that the Town Clerk will take all appropriate action.

11170. Next Meeting: The next Ordinary meeting of Council and Annual General Meeting will take place on the 13th May 2019 at ARCH Hall, commencing at 6.45 pm

Signed

Dated