

Ordinary General Meeting held on the 8th January 2018 at ARCH Hall, Cefn Llan Road, Pontardawe, commencing at 6.45pm.

Present: Councillor A Nicholson (presiding), G Davies, Ms C Ford, G Nicholson, Mrs L Purcell, V Hotten, Ms R Jones, W Thomas, A Richards, J Jones and K Flynn.

Apologies: Councillor Mrs R Phillips, R Smith, C Morgan and Ms S Northcott.

10681. Disclosure of Personal and Pecuniary Interests: Councillors Mrs L Purcell, P2017/1059 - comment already submitted as County Councillor. Councillor J Jones, NPTCBC Budget Consultation – Comment already submitted on behalf of Chamber of Commerce.

Resolved to be noted.

10682. Minutes of Ordinary meeting held on the 11th December 2017:

Resolved that the minutes of the Ordinary meeting held on the 11th December 2017, having been read and confirmed as a true record, be accepted by Council.

10683. Matters raised by Members of the Public: None.

Resolved to be noted.

10684. Councillor W Thomas on Dementia Friends: Councillor Thomas stated that Marcia Vale had a presentation on Dementia Friends and the ongoing project to provide for Council. Council voted 5 to 4 to arrange a separate meeting rather than invite Marcia to the next Ordinary meeting to ensure there was sufficient time for questions.

Resolved that a separate meeting will be set up with Marcia Vale from Dementia Friends.

10685. Cwmdu Glen: The Clerk confirmed that a meeting had been arranged with Neil from the Working with Nature project to discuss the set up of the Friends group.

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

10686. Police Matters:

The unconfirmed date for the next Pontardawe PACT meeting was the 1st February 2018 at the Art Centre at 6.30pm.

There were 28 crimes reported in Pontardawe for November which was a reduction from 63 in October.

Council Members had noticed an increased level of graffiti in Pontardawe. The Clerk confirmed that the Town Council was regularly removing graffiti from the Underpass at Pontardawe and this would continue. Council did however request that the County Borough be made aware of Graffiti on the pavilion at George V Park.

There were no dates available for the next Trebanos PACT meeting.

There were however 6 crimes reported in November which was an increase from 5 in October.

Resolved that the Clerk advise Neath Port Talbot Council of the Graffiti in George V Park.

10687. Defibrillators: Council was advised that she was awaiting a date from the Electrician for when the units could be installed in Rhyd y Fro and Ynysmeudwy.

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

10688. Town Council Web Site: The Clerk confirmed that the Web site was under construction and that it was currently being populated with the legally required information.

Resolved that Councillor Morgan will give additional information in the next meeting.

10689. One Voice Wales meeting: Unfortunately, Councillor Ford was unable to attend.

Resolved to be noted.

10690. Pontardawe Town Council Brochure: Council was advised that the brochures had been received and were currently stored at the Town Council Office.

Resolved that a local distribution company will be used to distribute the brochures.

10691. Prepaid Bank Card: A SOLDO Prepaid card had been obtained to allow online purchased by the Town Council.

Resolved to be noted.

10692. Planning:

P2017/0962

Applicants name: Mr Dane Lacey, Gwrhyd Stables, Gwrhyd Road, Pontardawe SA8 4SL.

Site Location: Gwrhyd Stables, Gwrhyd Road, Pontardawe SA8 4SL.

Proposed Development: Retention of partly completed and proposed completion of 20x40m fenced Ménage to North West of existing stable block, proposed mix use of adjacent fields to retain agricultural use and provide equine, re-surfacing of existing hard standing and storage area north of existing stable block to and repositioning of existing implements unit from a position adjacent to existing site access to resurfaced hard standing and storage area.

Resolved No Comment.

P2017/0963

Applicants name: Mr Dane Lacey, Gwrhyd Stables, Gwrhyd Road, Pontardawe SA8 4SL.

Site Location: Gwrhyd Stables, Gwrhyd Road, Pontardawe SA8 4SL.

Proposed Development: Retention of Agricultural Track.

Resolved No Comment.

P2017/1059

Applicants name: Mr Manjit, 42 Gelligron Road, Rhyd y Fro, Pontardawe, Swansea SA8 4LU

Site Location: 42 Gelligron Road, Rhyd y Fro, Pontardawe, Swansea SA8 4LU

Proposed Development: Construction of no 2 retail units with no 2 two bed flats above, car parking and associated works.

Resolved No Objection provided there is neighbourhood notification.

P2017/1026

Applicants Name: Mr Stephen Lewis, 59 Heol y Llwynau, Trebanos, Pontardawe, Swansea, SA8 4DB.

Site Location: 59 Heol y Llwynau, Trebanos, Pontardawe, Swansea, SA8 4DB.

Proposed Development: Part two storey, part single storey rear extension.

Resolved No Objection provided there is neighbourhood notification.

**Application to change the register of Common Land – CL25A Entry 74 (as modified by Entry 205)
Application number NPT 0030.**

Resolved - No Comment.

Council also reviewed the documentation from Abergwilli Power re Abergwilli Power Station, land adjacent to the Felindre Gas Compressor Station at Abergwilli Farm, Felindre, Swansea SA5 7NN.

Notification under Regulation 11 of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2009 (as amended)

Resolved - No Comment.

10693. Actual/ Budget Report and Internal Auditor: Council agreed to Lyn Llewellyn conducting the Internal Audit for 2017/18 and future years and accepted the Actual/Budget Report for April to November 2017.

Resolved that Lyn Llewellyn will be contracted to conduct the Internal Audit for Pontardawe Town Council for 2017/18 and future years.

10694. Account Schedule 340:

Resolved that Account Schedule 340 totalling £14399.89 together with the Bank Reconciliation be accepted in accordance with Standing Orders.

10695. Neath Port Talbot Council Budget Consultation:

Council had three major causes for concern over the proposed budget from Neath Port Talbot Council:

- The Art Centre: The Town Council was very concerned about proposed cuts to the Art Centre given the cultural value of the facility together with its support of education and special needs in the Community. Council was aware that there were currently restrictions placed on the Art Centre due to its funding from the Welsh Arts Council and additional funding from the Arts Council or a more commercial approach would need time to organise and to show results. Council was therefore aware of the issues surrounding the Art Centre funding but wished the County Borough to provide flexibility on any cuts to allow alternative funding sources to be identified.
- Council also has concerns over the effects of cuts on the leisure provision in the area (Leisure Centre and Swimming pool)

- Car Parking charges in Pontardawe: Although the Town Council was not against an increase in car parking charges they would like the increases to be phased in and were adamant that the one-hour free parking should remain in Pontardawe.
Unlike Neath and Port Talbot, the Town Centre in Pontardawe has very poor public transport links (busses and trains) and comprises of predominantly small independent retailers and therefore to remove the one-hour free parking would discourage people from entering the Town as they would be more likely to bypass Pontardawe to shop at the large retailers where the parking was free. This would be catastrophic for small retailers and could lead to the closure of many of the retailers permanently.
Without the Art Centre and Town Centre independent retailers there would be no revenue for Neath Port Talbot Council from off-site car parking in Pontardawe.

10696. Buckingham Palace Garden Party: An invitation had been received for the current Mayors name to be entered in the draw for the 2018 Buckingham Palace Garden Party.

Resolved that Councillor A Nicholson will be entered in the draw.

10697. Local Government Pay Awards: Council was advised that employees had been offered a two-year increase starting 2018.
The offer was now being considered by Unions.

Resolved to be noted.

10698. High Sheriffs Award: Council was asked for nominations for the High Sheriffs Award. Councillors nominated Councillor John Jones for his work with young people and Councillor Vince Hotten nominated Alex and Mai who were volunteers with PANTRY.

Resolved that Councillors will provide details for submission for the High Sheriffs Award.

10699. One Voice Wales – Innovative Practice Award: Council decided to submit the ‘Working with Nature’ Project under the category ‘Best Environmental Project’ and the Good Volunteers Award under the Best Community ‘Engagement Initiative project’.

Resolved that the Clerk will arrange the submissions.

10700. Urgent Road Safety Matters:

- There were concerns over the closure of the A474 at Abernant Flats during December when water run-off from adjacent fields froze on the highway. The Local County Borough Councillors were unable to get an update on the position from the Police despite numerous requests.
- There was a hit and run in Herbert Street, Pontardawe however the culprit had been apprehended.

Resolved to be noted.

10701. Date of next Ordinary Meeting: To Confirm that the next Ordinary Meeting of Council will be held on the 12th February 2018 at Trebanos Hall commencing at 6.45pm.

Signed Dated