

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Pontardawe Town Council held on Monday 9th
September 2013,
at ARCH Hall, Cefn Llan Road, Pontardawe commencing at 6.45pm

9252. Present Councillors Sue Northcott (presiding), G Davies, D Harris, D B Thomas, Mrs E Puzey, Mrs J Bowen, Mrs L Purcell, A Nicholson, H Pickrell, V Hotten, B Williams, H Evans, Ms R Lewis, P Williams.

Apologies: Councillor M Thomas and M James.

9253. Disclosure of Personal and Pecuniary interests:

Councillors Linet Purcell, R Lewis and S Northcott declared an interest in planning and Councillors Jean Bowen, Andrew Nicholson, Sue Northcott, Vince Hotten and Gary Davies declared an interest in the Pontardawe and District Youth Facility.

Resolved this be noted.

9254. Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on the 9th July 2013:

Resolved that the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 9th July 2013, having been read and confirmed as a true record, be accepted by Council.

9255. Presentation by Bethan Jenkins AM: Council was advised that unfortunately Bethan Jenkins AM had given her apologies, and would not be attending the meeting due to ill health. The presentation would be re-scheduled for another date.

Resolved to be noted.

9256. Matters raised by members of the public: None

Resolved to be noted.

9257. Police Matters: The Clerk provided the following information:

The Council's suggestion for Traffic Wardens to become enforcement officers for traffic, litter and dog fouling had been forwarded to the Head of Engineering. A response was still outstanding

Trebanos:

The Clerk confirmed that a letter had been received from Neath Port Talbot Council stating that in their opinion the signage on Swansea Road was sufficient. Speeding on Swansea Road was however still a PACT priority as was dog fouling, littering and parking at school drop off points. The total number of crimes for July and August were six, and the next PACT meeting was due to be held on the 17th October 2013 at 6.30pm at Trebanos Hall.

Pontardawe:

The PACT priorities remain, speeding outside Llanguick School, Anti- Social Behaviour at Pontardawe Recreation Ground and Parc Chwarae Teg, an overgrown tree on the junction of Tawe Terrace and the Alloy Industrial Estate causing an obstruction, and a request for a pedestrian crossing on Tawe Terrace.

The total number of crimes for July and August were sixty four and the next PACT meeting was due to be held on the 17th October 2013 at 6.30pm.

Council also confirmed that there had been some issues with vehicles travelling the wrong way on Grove Road following its designation as a one way street.

PCSO Mark Jones had confirmed by letter that he was to be promoted to PC and would therefore be moving from the Pontardawe area for approximately two years. He thanked the Town Council for their support over the years and confirmed that he was to be replaced by PCSO's Carys Pudner and Holly Probert.

Resolved that the Clerk will write again to the County Borough to determine if Traffic Wardens could become multi-enforcement officers. She will also request a pedestrian Movement survey for Tawe Terrace and formally write to PC Mark Jones to thank him for his work with the youth in Pontardawe.

9258. Pontardawe & District Youth Facility: Council was advised that to the 31st August 2013 the Town Council had provided financial support totaling £2500. This left £7500 still available from the budget. Funds of approximately £1000 had been received from 'Crossroads' and £3000 from 'Engage'. Engage had also expressed an interest in utilising the facility until March 2014.

The Clerk had not however received any information from the County Borough with regard to her request for a valuation of the building with the view to a possible purchase.

Resolved that the Clerk will provide information of the building valuation when it is available.

9259. Parking in Pontardawe: Council was advised that the following information had been received from the County Borough.

- Surveys were planned later in the year to determine like for like comparisons between the use of the car parks before and after the introduction of the charges in Pontardawe.
- As the half yearly accounts had not yet been collated the projected income position was not yet known. The figures would also not be accurate as the lower Herbert Street car park was still within the regeneration process.
- The additional signage was now installed.
- Civil enforcement officers were not intended to be funded through charges as they were employed prior to the introduction of charges.

Council was advised that it was unlikely that accurate figures would be available within the first twelve months. Council was also informed of issues with parking on the double yellow lines

outside the Medical Centre at the top of Herbert Street, but that the practice manager would put up signs requesting patients not park illegally. The PCSO's were to monitor.

Resolved to be noted.

9260. Abandoned property off Brecon Road, Pontardawe: The Clerk confirmed that she had been contacted by Environmental Health at Neath Port Talbot Council. They were liaising with the Planning department and action would be taken shortly.

Resolved Council be kept informed of developments.

9261. Pontardawe Food Bank: Councillor Hotten reiterated that an open meeting was to be held on the 10th September 2013 at 7.00pm at Pontardawe Leisure Centre and would Council Member attend to show their support.

The Mayor advised Council that the Pontardawe Food Bank was the Mayors Charity for 2013/14 and that the proceeds of the Mayors Civic Service collection would be donated to the Pontardawe Food Bank once a bank account had been set up.

Resolved to be noted.

9262. Public Service Ombudsman for Wales Annual Report 2012/13: Councillor Nicholson gave a brief overview.

Resolved to be noted.

9263. Pontardawe Festivals: Councillor Purcell provided feedback on the Neath Port Talbot Special Events budget, which showed only one event supported in Pontardawe.

The Clerk provided details of a complaint received over loud music on the Saturday night past midnight and Council was informed that the funding of the Christmas Lights in Pontardawe by Neath Port Talbot Council had been cut but that no official notification had been received by the Town Council despite the County Boroughs liaison with the Chamber of Commerce and a press release to the Evening Post.

Councillor Purcell confirmed that with regard to noise. The Police and unitary authority had operated a pro-active approach at the festival and would be conducting a joint briefing this week. Action would be taken against Public Houses who did not address issues.

Resolved that the Clerk contact the County Borough to request the following:

- That information is provided on the events that area self funded.
- That the Special Events Team initiate more events in the Pontardawe area as these seem to be predominately in Neath and Port Talbot.

- That the County Borough give details of the limitations of the Christmas lights and explain Why the Town Council was not advised of the restrictions and asked to contribute when this was offered to the Chamber of Commerce?

9264. Planning: Planning meeting 15th July 2013.

P2013/0312 Mr Brian Birch C/O Agent.

Site Location: The Bungalow, Baran Road, Pontardawe SA8 4RR.

Proposed Development: One detached dwelling and garage (Reserved matter pursuant to outline planning permission P2011/1019 granted 4/12/12)(Foul and surface water schemes Rec 9/7/13)

Resolved: No Objection.

P2012/0046 Dwr Cymru Welsh Water, Pentwyn Road, Nelson, Treharris, CF46 6LY.

Site Location: River Tawe rear of Tesco Supermarket, A4067 from Glais to Pontardawe, Alltwn Pontardawe, Swansea SA8 3AZ.

Proposed Development: Installation of above ground sewer connecting pipe bridge across river.

Resolved No Objection provided that this is a replacement for an existing pipe system.

P2013/0567 Mr Gareth Jones, 4 Holly Street, Pontardawe, Swansea SA8 4ET.

Site Location: 4 Holly Street, Pontardawe, Swansea SA8 4ET.

Proposed Development: Single Storey rear extension and new pitched roof over existing two storey extension.

Resolved No objection provided there is neighbourhood notification.

P2013/0390 Mr Keith Griffiths, 54 Grove Road, Pontardawe, Swansea SA8 4HH.

Site Location: 54 Grove Road, Pontardawe, Swansea SA8 4HH.

Proposed Development: Demolition of existing rear extension and two storey rear extension and raised timber deck.

Resolved No Objection provided there is neighbourhood notification.

P2013/0592 Tony Francis, Marshalls Mono Ltd, Gwrhyd Quarry, Rhiwfawr, Neath SA9 2SB.

Site Location: Gwrhyd Quarry, Rhiwfawr, Neath SA9 2SB.

Proposed Development: Details relating to condition 55 (site liaison committee) and 56 (Technical working party) of planning application P2010/0026 granted on the 18th August 2011.

Resolved No Objection.

P2013/0487 Mr Nigel Thomas, 2 Llys Gwilym, Clydach Swansea SA6 5PX.

Site Location: 7 Compass Row, James Street, Pontardawe SA8 4LAS.

Proposed Development: Conversion of existing detached dwelling into a pair of semi detached dwellings and associated alterations to rear elevation fenestration, demolition of two detached garden outbuildings and widening of front access (Amended plans received 9th July 2013)

Resolved No Objection provided there is neighbourhood notification.

P2013/0421 Mrs E C Davies, 2 Glyn Meirch Road, Trebanos, Pontardawe, Swansea SA8 4AP.

Site Location: 2 Glyn Meirch Road, Trebanos, Pontardawe, Swansea SA8 4AP.

Proposed Development: Single Storey rear extension.

Resolved No Objection provided there is neighbourhood notification.

Planning meeting 12th August 2013.

P2013/0633 Mr & Mrs Gethin Jones, 9 Davies Road, Pontardawe, Swansea, SA8 4PH.

Site Location: 9 Davies Road, Pontardawe, Swansea, SA8 4PH.

Proposed Development: Single Storey extensions to each side elevation.

Resolved: No Objection provided there is neighbourhood notification.

P2013/0357 The Parochial Council Parish of Llangiwg, The Vicarage, St Peters Place, Pontardawe SA8 4AZ.

Site Location: Oak Cottage, High Street, Pontardawe, Swansea SA8 4JN.

Proposed Development: Reinstatement of front porch and installation of new conservation roof light on the northern elevation (Application for listed buildings consent)

Councillor Sue Northcott expressed an interest.

Resolved No Objection.

P2013/0552 Mr Lee and Mrs Leah Hopkins, Tan yr Allt Farm, Pheasant Road, Trebanos, Pontardawe, Swansea SA8 4DP.

Site Location: Tan yr Allt Farm, Pheasant Road, Trebanos, Pontardawe, Swansea SA8 4DP.

Proposed Development: Proposed glass paneled balcony.

Resolved No objection.

P2013/0674 Mr JK Pedrick, 8 West Crossways, Pontardawe, Swansea, SA8 4NE.

Site Location: 8 West Crossways, Pontardawe, Swansea, SA8 4NE.

Proposed Development: Porch to front elevation.

Resolved No Objection provided there is neighbourhood notification.

Appeal:

Lidl Supermarket, Ffordd Parc Ynysderw, Pontardawe, Swansea, SA8 4EG.

APP/Y6930/A/13/2201685

P2013/0241

Proposed: Single Storey front extension.

The Town Council would like to request that any extension to the current Lidl store include toilets available for the public's use, and also that notifications are provided to all the residents that would have been affected by this consent, as only part of Ynysderw Road received notifications.

P2013/0588 Mr Hussain, Trebanos Service Station, 140-146 Swansea Road, Trebanos, Pontardawe, Swansea SA8 4BN

Site Location: Trebanos Service Station, 140-146 Swansea Road, Trebanos, Pontardawe, Swansea SA8 4BN.

Proposed Development: Single Storey rear extension to provide ancillary storage and retail space.

Resolved Council has significant concerns over the size of the extension and the safety of local residents if gas bottles or other explosive or flammable liquids are likely to be stored.

The Clerk confirmed that in an additional note the Planning authority had confirmed that there would be not gas or other flammable liquids to be stored in the new extension. There was however the intention to incorporate a small Post Office counter. (The planning department confirmed they had no authority over the Post Office Counter)

Resolved No Objection provided there is neighbourhood notification.

Reviewed in the meeting:

P2013/0706 Mrs Susan Peraj, 33 Bronywawr, Pontardawe, Swansea SA8 4JY.

Site location: 33 Bronywawr, Pontardawe, Swansea SA8 4JY.

Proposed Development: Two storey rear and single storey side extension (revision to P200/0721 approved 09/09/2009)

Resolved No Objection provided there is neighbourhood notification.

P23012/0754 Rev Gary Green, The Vicarage, St Peters Place, Pontardawe SA8 4AZ.

Site Location: Oak Cottage, High Street, Pontardawe, Swansea SA8 4JN.

Proposed Development: Reconstruction of front porch.

(Council was concerned that the address stated 'St Peters Place' when road had for a number of years been renamed as 'Clos yr hen Ysgol')

Resolved No Objection provided there is neighbourhood notification.

9265. Policy and Resource Committee 15th July 2013:

- Welsh Assembly Government grant of £500 for Town and Community Council web sites:

The Committee agreed that the Town Council's web site was currently sufficient for the Town Council's needs and was already able to provide the correct forum for publishing information and providing an electronic means for the electorate to contact the Town Council via the internet.

The committee recommended that the Town Council's web administrator be contacted to determine the number of times the web site is accessed and if possible what areas of the web site were most popular, and also what upgrades could be carried out for £500.

- Neath Port Talbot Council's Review of Communities and Electoral Arrangements. (Closing date for submissions is 30/9/13)

The Committee reviewed the information provided which showed that for the past three elections the Pontardawe Ward had been contested, but the Trebanos and Rhyd y Fro wards had not.

It also provided the following information:

Council electorate – 5267 (Pontardawe 3594, Rhyd y Fro 550 & Trebanos 1123)

Number of Councillors – 16 (Pontardawe - 7, Rhyd y Fro - 3, Trebanos – 6)

Councillor /Elector Ratio – 329 (Pontardawe – 513, Rhyd y Fro – 183, Trebanos – 187)

The committee recommended that at this point the position should be noted as no changes needed to be made.

- Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011 Part 7: Communities and Community Councils

The Clerk confirmed that the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011 was already Welsh Law, but that the document under consideration included guidance, both statutory and otherwise.

The document provided information on the following:

Community meetings and polls.

Organisation of Communities and their Councils

Co-Option of Members

Appointment of Community Youth Representatives

Reviews of Community Areas and Boundaries

Community Councils Powers to promote wellbeing.

Councillor Nicholson reviewed the specific guidance and found no cause for concern.

The committee recommended no amendments but that Councillor Nicholson provide an overview at the next full council meeting.

Resolved that the Committees recommendations be ratified and also that Non-Voting Youth representatives be discussed in the next P&R Committee on the 16th September.

9266. 'Out of School Activities' pamphlet: The Clerk confirmed that feedback had been very positive and that Cilybebyll Community Council had provided £150 as their contribution to the pamphlet. The Town Council confirmed that they were interested in producing a pamphlet in 2014 and perhaps increasing its scope to adult classes and to the wider Swansea Valley Community.

Council formally thanked Councillor Vince Hotten for his work on collating and creating the pamphlet.

Resolved that Cilybebyll, GCG and Ystalyfera Community Councils be approached to determine if they would like to produce a joint leaflet in 2014, with perhaps two Councillors from each area as part of an organizational committee.

9267. Pontardawe Graffiti Project: During the Summer Break the Clerk had been approached by Angie Dickenson at Pontardawe Art Centre with a request that the Town Council submit an application to the Mynydd y Betws Wind Farm Community Benefit fund for grant funding of £5000 to support a project to paint the underpass in Pontardawe.

The Project would involve local young people with a graffiti artist to design and paint the underpass.

The County Borough had confirmed that the Art Centre would project manage and would support the 'touch up' of the graffiti from their budget. The County Borough had also confirmed that should the project obtain funding there would be no change in the County Boroughs responsibility for the maintenance of the underpass.

Under Standing Orders the Clerk, Mayor and Deputy Mayor agreed that an application should be submitted by the Town Council

Resolved that the decision be ratified.

9268. Gwrhyd Quarry Liaison Committee: The Clerk confirmed that the following Councillors had put their name forward as representatives on this committee:
Councillors M Thomas, B Williams, H Evans.

Resolved that they be elected as representatives.

9269. Dog Fouling: The Clerk requested clarification on Councils wishes in regard to the purchase of Dog fouling bins. Council confirmed that it was not their intention to take over the County Boroughs responsibility for supplying dog waste bins and they were aware that the Town Council was not able to empty these bins.

Councillor Lewis confirmed that the dog waste bins were priced as approximately £135 each but that did not include posts or fixings.

The Clerk also confirmed that the County Borough had in place the facility to request dog waste bins and to request that a specific dog waste bin be emptied. They had also confirmed that dog waste bins were ordinarily emptied weekly.

Resolved that Council Members provide details of a proposed site for an additional dog waste bin. The Clerk will then request a dog waste bin placed at that site. If the County Borough refuse she will then suggest that the Town Council purchase the bin if the County Borough is willing to empty it.

The Clerk will also contact the County Borough and 'Keep Wales tidy' to determine if they have any suggestions as to how to reduce the amount of dog fouling in a given area.

9270. Trebanos Park: The Clerk confirmed that Groundworks were attempting to obtain additional grant funding in order to complete the upgrade of the Park. Council was also informed that she had received a letter from a disabled resident requesting a more wheelchair friendly entrance to the rugby field at Trebanos Park.

The Clerk confirmed that Groundworks had been contacted and had confirmed that the plans could be altered to include a shallow gradient entrance as part of the new build plan.

Council Members were however concerned that the momentum for the project was being lost.

In a previous meeting a request was made for a brown tourist sign to be placed on the main road to direct members of the public to the park. Councillor Lewis advised Council that the cost

for a sign was at least £450. Council decided not to consider additional signage until the park improvements had been carried out.

Resolved that the Clerk will invite a representative of 'Groundworks' to the next meeting to provide revised time scales for the park improvement.

9271. Personnel and Finance meetings required: It was agreed to schedule a Personnel and Finance meeting for the 23rd September 2013, Personnel at 6.00pm and Finance at 6.30pm.

Resolved to be noted.

9272. Annual Return: The Clerk confirmed that the Annual Return had been reviewed by the External Auditors. They had stated ' There are no issues in respect of which we propose to qualify our audit opinion on the Annual Return for the year ended 31st March 2013.' They had however stated that 'One Voice Wales' were due to issue revised model Standing Orders and Financial Standing Orders this year and suggested we look to adopt them.

Resolved that the Annual Return be accepted by Council and signed by the Chair.

9273. Accounts Schedule 291 together with Bank Reconciliation and Report of Actual/Budget to 31st March 2013:

Resolved to accept the schedule totaling £24489.89, and also the Bank Reconciliation to the 30th June 2013 and the Report of Actual Expenditure against budget to the 31st March 2013

9274. Swansea LDP, Carmarthen LDP and Neath Port Talbot LDP: To be discussed in P&R meeting, this meeting was to have plenary powers due to the short time scale.

Resolved that a P&R Committee be scheduled for 16th September 2013 at 6.00pm.

9275. Pwllfawtkin Liaison Committee: Council had advised that the meeting was quorate but there was nothing to report.

Resolved to be noted.

9276. 'Tree of Light': A letter had been received from the Lions Club International requesting a grant to help in the administration of the 'Tree of Light'. As this was a regular yearly request Council made the decision to provide a grant without waiting for the second grant funding meeting which was due to be held at the end of the year.

Resolved that a grant of £100 be awarded to the Lions Club to support the 'Tree of Light', Council also requested the Clerk determine where the 'Tree of Light' was likely to be situate this year.

9277. Neath Port Talbot Bus Service: Council was provided with alternative bus times for service 132 to Neath on Sundays and Bank Holidays.

Resolved to be noted.

9278. Pontardawe Prom – A letter had been received from the Pontardawe RFC thanking the Town Council for their financial assistance. Councillor Williams who attended on behalf of Council stated that the evening had been delightful.

Resolved that the club be asked to inform Council as soon as possible of the date of the next concert.

9279. RWE npower Proposed Atlantic Array Offshore Wind Farm: Council was advised of the notice of acceptance of application given under S 56(2) of the Planning Act 2008.

Resolved to be noted.

9280. Request from Cilybebyll Community Council: The Clerk advised Council that Cilybebyll Community Council had requested the use of the Town Council Photocopier. Council was advised of the Town Council costs and confirmed they were happy for the Clerk to negotiate a price

Resolved that the Clerk negotiate a price per copy with the Clerk of Cilybebyll Community Council.

9281. Changes to the Householder Permitted Development Rights in Wales: Councillor Nicholson to review and provide Council with an overview.

Resolved that the Overview will be provided in the October meeting.

9282. Letter from Eisteddfod Geneglaethol: Council was advised that a letter of thanks had been received.

Resolved to be noted.

9283. Lidl Pontardawe: The Clerk confirmed that a letter had been received from Lidl Pontardawe stating that they had altered the address on their web site and had advised their drivers of the correct address however they were aware that the Royal Mail also had an incorrect address which was in the process of being altered.

Resolved that Council monitor the number of large vehicles still attempting to access Ynysderw Road.

9284. Cwmtawe District Youth Band: A letter was received requesting grant income.

Resolved that a response will be forwarded explaining that the main grant meeting was at the beginning of the year but that there would be another opportunity to request grant income in November/December 2013.

Resolved arrange grant meeting for November/December 2013

9285. Designated Persons Order (1) overview: To be reviewed in P&R Committee scheduled for the 16th September 2013 at 6.00pm.

Resolved to be noted.

9286. Ystalyfera Community Council Partnership working: A request was made for a letter to be sent to Ystalyfera Community Council requesting details of any projects they felt may work under a partnership agreement with Pontardawe Town Council.

Resolved to forward a letter.

9287. Road Safety Matters:

- Councillor Lewis confirmed that double yellow lines adjacent to the Post Office and at Heol y Ffin in Trebanos were due to be completed shortly.
- Brambles adjacent to the derelict chapel in Trebanos were obscuring the pavement – Councillor Lewis to address.
- Arrows were needed on the Grove Road following its designation as a one way street – Councillor Purcell to address.

Resolved to be noted.

9288. Date and Time of Next Meeting:

The date of the next Ordinary Meeting of Council will be Monday 14th October 2013 at Trebanos Community Hall commencing at 6.45pm.

Signed **Dated**