

**MINUTES OF THE PONTARDDULAIS TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON A
HYBRID BASIS ON THURSDAY 18 JANUARY 2024**

DRAFT

(Some members attended in the Council Chamber and others from another location using the Teams Video Conferencing platform).

Present:

Councillors	Cllr A. Wilson (Chair) Cllr K. Williams Cllr K. Griffiths Cllr S. Lloyd-Janes	Cllr D. Beynon Cllr J. Beynon Cllr A. Owen Cllr J. John	Cllr D. Hardy Cllr P. Downing Cllr G. Chambers
Attending online	Cllr J. Johnstone	Cllr R. Harris	
Apologies	Cllr C. Evans	Cllr H. Roberts	
Not present	Cllr J. Harris		

Prior to commencement of business the Chair informed members that the meeting was being recorded.

BUSINESS

104. Disclosures of personal and prejudicial interests in accordance with the council's code of conduct

No disclosures received at this point in the meeting.

105. To receive an address from Mr Paul Egan, Deputy Chief Executive and Resources Manager, One Voice Wales (OVW)

A presentation was received remotely from Mr Paul Egan and will be circulated to members.

Cllr Downing asked for an explanation as to what was considered as 'smaller Councils'. Mr Egan felt that Pontarddulais was best described as a larger Council.

106. To approve and sign as a correct record the minutes of the Council meeting held on 23 November 2023

The above minutes were accepted as a true record.

107. Receive Declaration of Acceptance of Office from newly co-opted Councillors Mr Gary Chambers and Mr Jacob John

The declaration of acceptance of office were signed and received.

The Chair welcomed the new councillors to the council.

108. Receive and consider the minutes of the Policy, Compliance & Finance committee meeting held on the 14th December 2023 and 5th January 2024

Minutes of meeting held on 14 December to be amended to show Cllr A. Wilson and Cllr H. Roberts as present.
It was **RESOLVED** to accept the above minutes as a true record subject to the above amendment.

- a) It was **RESOLVED** to accept the Reserve Policy
- b) It was **RESOLVED** to accept the precept calculation for 2024-2025
- c) Grants Consultancy Report
Cllr A. Wilson and Cllr P. Downing declared an interest and left the room. The clerk had circulated a report with proposals for consideration. Members discussed the recommendation and a vote was taken. It was **RESOLVED** to accept a grant being donated to the Pontarddulais Partnership, to provide grant consultancy work for the Council, commencing on 1 February 2024 for a twelve-month period.

109. Receive and consider the minutes of the Estates committee meeting held on the 7th December 2023

It was **RESOLVED** to accept the above minutes as a true record. Active Travel Route was discussed. Councillors Kevin Griffiths, Gary Chambers and Andrew Owen will meet to discuss further.

110. Receive and consider the minutes of the HR & Training committee meeting held on the 12th December & 9th January 2023

The minutes of the HR & Training were not accepted but referred to the February meeting

It was **RESOLVED** the Chair of HR & Training Committee be the Line Manager of the Clerk.

It was **RESOLVED** to accept the following policies:

- a. Grievance
- b. Annual Leave
- c. Anti-bullying and Harassment
- d. Performance Improvement & Procedure
- e. Whistleblowing
- f. Equality & Diversity
- g. Sickness Absence

111. Receive and consider the minutes of the Special Events committee meeting held on the 11th December 2023

It was **RESOLVED** to accept the above minutes as a true record

112. Receive and consider reports from County Ward members

Both Councillors provided a donation to replace the hampers for raffle prizes stolen from Pontarddulais Cricket Club.

County Councillor P. Downing – Report since last meeting

Dec 12th At 10 am I attended a workshop on 'Pontarddulais Transport Hub'. The aim of the project is to facilitate bus to rail interchange, improved active travel connections and facilitate alongside improved car parking with EV provision. A list

of options was presented to WelTAG (Welsh Transport Appraisal Guidance) stage 1, which are now being assessed and progressed through WelTAG 2.

Dec 13th At 10 am I attended the Wales Pension Partnership Joint Governance Committee as deputy to the Chair.

This was followed at 2.0pm with a Wales Pension Pool (WPP) training session. At 4.30pm I attended a Full Governors meeting of Pontarddulais Comprehensive School.

Dec 14th At 2pm I attended Economy and Infrastructure Service Transformation Committee (STC) which I am chairperson.

Meeting wise it was a very quiet period.

Dec 18th and 22nd I was involved with the delivery of Christmas Hampers to various people. Dec 19th & 20th we had two full Food Bank days as we brought forward the food bank day on the 27th Dec.

Jan 4th 24 Corporate Briefing 9.0am

Jan 8th I attended Cabinet and Chairs weekly meeting

Jan 9th At 2.0pm I attended Planning meeting

Jan 12th 10.0am Attended Licensing Committee. This was followed at 4.0pm with a presentation and questions on the investment by the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA), and Tennis Wales, to include Coedbach Park

Jan 15th At 10.30 Cabinet and Chairs weekly meeting

Flooding at the humped back bridge. There was correspondence on Jan 3,10,11

On the 3rd Jan it says'

The current situation is that following previous submissions to Natural Resources Wales (NRW) in order to apply for consent to undertake small scale works on a main river to prevent overspill, concerns were raised that the containment works we were planning to undertake, would adversely affect landowners situated downstream. i.e. river bund would direct water elsewhere. This has resulted in a delay as we need to prepare new scheme details to satisfy a landowner on the opposite side of the road who may have been subjected to increase flooding if a bund was constructed in the field where the river is now overtopping . However, we have met the landowner and have agreed an approach acceptable to her.

Consequently, new topographical Surveys had to be undertaken before the Christmas break to inform the new proposal which I am hopeful will be completed this week. It will then be sent to NRW to apply for consent to undertake the remediation works.

Please be aware that the scheme will only offer betterment, so whilst we can attempt to reduce the frequency of flooding in the lesser rainfall events by constructing a small river bund we are not in a position to completely resolve flooding at this location as this area is classified as being located in a zone of high Fluvial flood risk. As you can appreciate we are undertaking a design to resolve flooding from a main river which falls outside the scope of our normal duties and expertise as works on Rivers are usually covered/regulated by NRW who ultimately have the responsibility to manage floodrisk from Main Rivers .

Jan 10th says

Some positive news, NRW have consented to the proposals which we had received earlier this week.

We have met our contractor on site this morning to discuss access arrangements to undertake the works and I am waiting for a date of commencement.

I will let you know when we are due to start as soon as I get a date. All are on board on the necessity to start without any delay especially as weather is improving but I would like to get you a date before sharing to wider the community.

In the meantime, the contractor as he is planning his mobilisation/timing of the works will be undertaking minor works to prevent the current overspill...temporary sand-bagging alongside the river to prevent the overspill which will help with the drying out the ground to support the permanent works. This will be carried out as soon as possible.

Jan 11th The Council emphasise that this is an NRW managed river, with riparian responsibilities, and we are carrying out the works to assist as unfortunately it does not meet with NRW criteria and the land owner is unable to carry out any remedial works. Very happy to support this **but people need to understand.**

County Councillor K. Griffiths – gave a verbal report at the meeting.

Pentrebach – Road is in need of repair. Cllrs Downing & Griffiths will contact Swansea Council to request road repairs are undertaken following completion of the works undertaken on the river.

It was **RESOLVED** the Clerk chase-up meetings between Swansea Council and NRW.

Bus services to Swansea have been reduced. It was **RESOLVED** the Clerk will write to First Cymru regarding the reduction in bus services.

Another building development is being submitted for the Coated Metals site. It was **RESOLVED** that a letter of objection is submitted against any housing development proposal exceeding ten houses. Cllr Phillip Downing abstained from the vote.

It was noted:

The CCTV camera at Dulais Glen Gardens is now operational.

The Clerk will invite the Police Sergeant to the next Council meeting.

113. Receive and consider any urgent matters from Town Councillors

- a. Request received from Cllr S. Lloyd-Janes for an update on Pentrebach flooding.

This was covered under point 112.

114. Answer questions from Councillors (3 clear days' notice of any question having been given to the person to whom it is addressed

None received.

115. Receive and consider reports from the Clerk

a.	The Clerk read the following to Members: Local Government Act 1972 Section 85 Section 85 (1) of the local Government Act 1972 requires a Members of a Local Authority to attend at least one meeting of that Authority within a six-
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	month consecutive period, unless permission for the absence is granted by the Authority in advance, in order to avoid being disqualified as a Councillor. The Clerk suggested to Council that due to the personal circumstances of Cllr Jane Harris, permission be given for absence to avoid disqualification. It was RESOLVED to extend the absence period for six months for Cllr Harris.
b.	A request has been received from a member of the public for sandbags to be provided in strategic positions in Pontarddulais. Areas suggested were top end of Water Street car park; Tesco car park. All councillors to suggest locations and inform Clerk. Once locations have been identified Cllr Downing will contact Swansea Council for sandbags.
c.	Closing date for Financial Assistance applications is 14 February 2024.
d.	Councillors asked to volunteer at the monthly film club.
e.	A complaint has been received and a panel is meeting to investigate comprising of the Chair of Council and Chairs of each Committee.
f.	Police update was provided: 106 occurrences in total of: - 1 Anti-Social Behaviour - 15 Violence related crimes (this also includes offences such as public order/harassment) - 2 Commercial burglaries (0 Dwelling burglaries) Provisional date Friday 26th January for opening new Pobl/SWP hub at flat 69 Robert Davies Court.

116. Receive and consider reports from the Mayor.

Provided a donation to replace the hampers for raffle prizes stolen from Pontarddulais Cricket Club.

Attended the following:

- Christmas parade and switched on lights.
- Senior citizens Christmas lunch at Pontarddulais Rugby Club.
- Council Christmas quiz. Well attended by various organisations in Pontarddulais.
- Pontarddulais Primary school Christmas concert.

117. Receive and consider reports from representatives on outside bodies.

I. Swansea Area Committee meeting 15th January 23

The Clerk provided the following information from the meeting:

- Presentation given by Julie Jones, OVW, on the Cost-of-Living Crisis project, with information on positive projects to alleviate the crisis. A survey and more information to follow from OVW.
- One Voice Wales will be holding its National Awards Conference on **Wednesday 27th March 2024** at Hafod a Hendre, Royal Welsh Showground, Llanelwedd, Builth Wells, LD2 3SY. This is an opportunity for Council's to

showcase services provided in its community. Closing date for entries 16 February.

- Free DIGITAL SKILLS training available between February – March. Extremely beneficial for Councillors to attend.
- OVW will have completed their new website soon.
- Consultations:
 - Discussion around grant payments to churches being unlawful if it is for the maintenance of the property or land. Law 1894.
- Update given from all councils who attended.

118. Financial Reporting

The bank reconciliations for the month of December 2023 were received and signed (Appendix A).

119. To discuss planning applications previously circulated to all councillors (Appendix B).

There were no observations regarding the applications.

The meeting ended at 21.26

HJ Davies

(Appendix A).

Bank Account Reconciled Statement

Current Account (£1) + Deposit Acc

Statement Number	24	Bank Statement No.	24
Statement Opening Balance	£54,742.63	Opening Date	01/12/23
Statement Closing Balance	£80,625.34	Closing Date	31/12/23
True/ Cashbook Closing Balance	£80,625.34		

Bank Account Reconciled Statement

Reserve Account

Statement Number	21	Bank Statement No.	21
Statement Opening Balance	£31,433.86	Opening Date	01/12/23
Statement Closing Balance	£31,469.69	Closing Date	31/12/23
True/ Cashbook Closing Balance	£31,469.69		

(Appendix B)

Planning Decisions and Applications December 2023

WEEKLY APPLICATIONS - WEEK ENDING: 8 December 2023

Application No:	2023/2454/FUL	Date Registered:	07.12.2023
Electoral Division:	Pontarddulais - Area 1	Status:	Being Considered
Map Ref:	259206 202994		
Development Type:	All Other Minor Dev		
Location:	Land Rear Of Rugby/Football Ground Off Pentre Road , Pontarddulais, Swansea		
Proposal:	Cycle/footpath to provide an additional link to shared use path between Pentre Road and the county boundary in Pontarddulais.		
Applicant:	Mr Stuart Davies	Agent:	Mr Robbie Meredith

Application No:	2023/2455/FUL	Date Registered:	07.12.2023
Electoral Division:	Pontarddulais - Area 1	Status:	Being Considered
Map Ref:	259470 203918		
Development Type:	All Other Minor Dev		
Location:	Pontarddulais Comprehensive School, Caecerrig Road, Pontarddulais, Swansea, SA4 8PD		
Proposal:	Cycle/footpath connecting link by way of a Shared Use Path between Maesgwyn Drive and Pontarddulais Comprehensive School		
Applicant:	Mr Stuart Davies	Agent:	Mr Robbie Meredith

Application No:	2023/2456/FUL	Date Registered:	07.12.2023
Electoral Division:	Pontarddulais - Area 1	Status:	Being Considered
Map Ref:	260069 203435		
Development Type:	All Other Minor Dev		
Location:	Land Between Bolgoed Road And Bryniago Road, Pontarddulais, Swansea		
Proposal:	Cycle/footpath to provide an Active Travel Shared Use Path between Bolgoed Road and the Bryniago estate in Pontarddulais		
Applicant:	Mr Stuart Davies	Agent:	Mr Robbie Meredith

WEEKLY APPLICATIONS - WEEK ENDING: 15 December 2023

No applications for Pontarddulais ward

WEEKLY APPLICATIONS - WEEK ENDING: 22 December 2023

No applications for Pontarddulais ward

WEEKLY APPLICATIONS - WEEK ENDING: 29 December 2023

Application No: 2023/2657/FUL Date Registered: 28.12.2023
Electoral Division: Pontarddulais - Area 1 Status: Being Considered
Map Ref: 259597 205423
Development Type: Minor
Industry/Storage/Dist.B1(b&c)B2 B8
Location: Unit 8 , Lye Industrial Estate, Pontarddulais, Swansea, SA4 8QD
Proposal: Erection of minor extension (123 sq.m) to facilitate new vertical store.
Applicant: MacMillan Distribution Agent: Mr Mike Hughes

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