

**MINUTES OF THE PONTARDDULAIS TOWN COUNCIL MEETING ON
THURSDAY 28 MARCH 2024
FINAL**

Present:

Councillors	Cllr C. Evans (Chair)	Cllr D. Beynon	Cllr D. Hardy
	Cllr K. Williams	Cllr J. Beynon	Cllr P Downing
	Cllr K. Griffiths	Cllr A. Owen	Cllr R. Harris (remotely)
	Cllr H. Roberts	Cllr A. Wilson	Cllr J. John
Apologies	Cllr G. Chambers	Cllr S. Lloyd-Janes	Cllr J. Johnstone
Absent	Cllr J. Harris		

The Chair informed members that the meeting was being recorded for minuting purposes. Recordings are deleted once minutes are agreed.

Prior to the commencement of business an address was received from Mr John Hallett, HICO, and Ms Bethan Dardecker, Economic Regeneration, Swansea Council.

Mr Hallett informed members of the work undertaken in the vision setting workshop and the importance of setting a vision for the Town Council. The focus for the follow-up suggestion was discussed and all councillors were urged to be present. The date of the follow-up workshop will be scheduled.

Ms Dardecker discussed the work being undertaken to outline the economic regeneration issues of the centre of Pontarddulais. The idea is to discuss Pontarddulais in its wider geographical context but identify specific target areas of interest in the retail core, as well as the opportunities arising from the location and identify actions that would be of benefit.

Some of the key points that need to be focussed on, are:

- The positive points that Pontarddulais has to offer
- Concerns & Issues affecting St. Teilo St/Water St
- Ideas/Actions for improvements to the District Centre
- Ideas/Actions to improve footfall

Ms Dardecker has been going out with a member of Swansea Council Business Team calling with the shops and speaking with businesses. Funding for this work is only available until December 2024, therefore it's important to achieve as much as possible during the forthcoming months.

BUSINESS

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

For Agenda item 8 a personal disclosure was received from Cllr Downing and Cllr Wilson, and a personal and prejudicial disclosure was received from Cllr Evans.

136. To receive an address from the Police.

The Police Sergeant was unable to be present, however PCSO Coslett-Hughes attended and provided an update on crime figures for the month.

All complaints should be reported to 101 or sent by email, as this is then entered into the police system and assigned accordingly.

The following information was reported:

76 Occurrences for the period 1/3/24- 28/3/24

6 ASB related.

21 crimes of violence.

No dwelling burglaries and no current trends

In comparison there 85 occurrences in the month of March 2023

9 ASB related.

21 crimes of violence

No dwelling burglaries.

137. To approve and sign as a correct record the minutes of the Council meeting held on 29 February 2024.

It was **RESOLVED** to accept the above minutes as a true record subject to the following amendment:

- a) Cllr D. Hardy was not present.

138. Receive and consider the minutes of the Policy, Compliance & Finance committee meeting held on 14 March 2024.

It was **RESOLVED** to accept the above minutes as a true record subject to the following amendment:

- a. Point 58 (b) last bullet point should state 'Unadopted Roads' and not 'Donations'.
- b. Point 59 (a) first bullet point. It was agreed that this be changed to: Councillors will have the option to decline the £156 payment. Payment will be made every six months and paid in arrears, and pro rata.
- c. Point 59 (a) second bullet point. It was agreed that this be changed to: Councillors will have the option to decline the £52 payment. Payment will be made every six months and paid in arrears, and pro rata.

- a. Financial Reports (discussion under agenda item 16)
- b. IRPW Annual Report 2024-25. It was **RESOLVED** to approve the recommendations outlined in the minutes.
- c. Meeting attendance. It was **RESOLVED** to approve the recommendations outlined in the minutes.
- d. Recording of meetings. It was **RESOLVED** to approve the recommendations outlined in the minutes.

139. Receive and consider the minutes of the Special Events committee meeting held on 19 March 2024.

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

It was noted that Cllr Downing and Cllr D Beynon were against the clerk receiving a one-off payment for undertaking the role of Events Organiser for the festival organisation, which had been proposed and agreed at the committee meeting under plenary powers. Cllr Harris emphasised the volume of work required to organise the event which was in addition to the Clerk's work, and being done single-handedly compared to historic Pontarddulais carnivals which were organised by a large festival committee of approximately ten people.

Cllr Downing stated that in his opinion this should have come to Council for approval.

Cllr Downing asked if it was viable to earmark spend in the current year from next year's budget.

140. Receive and consider the Grants Consultancy Report.

Cllr Evans had declared a personal and prejudicial interest and left the room for this item.

Members were pleased with the report and felt it was well presented.

Following discussion Cllr Evans returned to the meeting and was asked to explain on who decides on what funding is required and for where. It was explained that these were agreed during a meeting with the Partnership Grants committee and as identified by council committees.

141. Consider annual membership of One Voice Wales.

It was unanimously **AGREED** to renew the annual membership with One Voice Wales.

142. Receive and consider reports from County Ward members

County Councillor K. Griffiths reported on the following:

- The team has started work on rectifying the flooding issues at Pentrebach.
- Work is progressing on the Men's Shed and the poly tunnel has been erected.
- Persimmon application call in by Welsh Government.
- Speed awareness sign on Pentre Road is in place and operational.

Councillor Downing reported on the following:

- Attended an annual meeting with Inspector Trick on 1 March 2024
- Council tax will be increased by 5.99%.
- Now a representative on Swansea Pension fund, who recently visited a Bio-energy plant in Margam that the pension fund has recently invested in.
- Brief update on budget matters at Pontarddulais Comprehensive.
- Members to inform County Councillors of any areas in the village that needs cleaning, who will then inform the Cleansing Team.
- Work being carried out on 275 council houses receiving exterior minor repairs.
- Following a request for an explanation on the letter received from Welsh Government Cllr Downing shared the following:

The Welsh Government 'Call in' is a holding direction to the Planning Department not to grant planning permission without authorisation from Welsh Ministers. The Planning department can continue to assess the application and potentially refer to the Planning Committee for consideration. They cannot recommend to grant, but only minded to grant or refuse. If it's minded to grant, everything then goes to Welsh Government who will then look at it and make a decision.

- Sandbags have been delivered to White Springs, but are not for private use. Anyone requiring sandbags are to contact Cllr Downing. Cllr Hardy has a major issue with flooding due to the drop from the road to the pavement. Highways to be asked to review this.

143. Receive and consider any urgent matters from Town Councillors.

Cllr J. John had raised the following question:

'Why as a community do we have 2 food banks and a pay what you can shop? Surely there isn't that much poverty in the area and why can't the 3 work together as one power unit instead of being spread? I'm in understanding that all get donations from the same places so why not operate from one central location under all 3 organisational names?'

Cllr C. Evans provided a response regarding the current food banks and food clouds. It was unclear what Cllr John was raising as a question to this forum, as food banks are not organised by the Town Council. It was agreed to recommend that Cllr John approaches the organisations to visit and learn more about the food bank operations and differences.

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

The following MOTION was received

NOTICE OF MOTION

I propose that the Council elect one councillor into the post of Chair Person to facilitate all monthly Town Council meetings and the Annual Meeting as of May 2024. The post holder would remain in place for the term of office. This will apply only to the full Council meetings and not to the meetings of any sub-committees.

Signed: C. Evans

Signed: A. Wilson

It was **RESOLVED** by a vote that the notice of motion be approved. The details of this will be discussed at Policy, Compliance & Finance committee.

145. Receive and consider reports from the Clerk.

The Clerk reported the following:

1. **Gerallt Davies** achievement award
The winner of the award was Kian Hire, who unfortunately was unable to attend the council meeting to receive the award.

This presentation will take place on Friday 29 March at Pontarddulais RFC at 7pm. All councillors are welcome to attend.
The winner will be publicised over the weekend on the council website & social media.

2. **FILM CLUB**

The Community Cinema group have informed that 6 April will be the last film due to retirement and ill health.
Discussion will follow at Estates committee regarding the screen/equipment.
Clerk reminded members that the TV can be transported into any room and used for presentations or films.

3. **Financial Assistance** – Several organisations have expressed their thanks for receiving the donation.

4. **FESTIVAL** – 15 June 2024

All councillors are required to help at some stage of the day and asked to keep the date free.

5. Members were reminded that they should not use their council title when using their personal emails for personal correspondence. This can be misconstrued as being used to gain advantage due to including their status.

146. Receive and consider reports from the Mayor.

The Mayor reported the following:

- No events attended this month.
- Quote provided to Wales on Line regarding the Planning Application 'Call-in'.
- Declined to comment on Wales On-Line' regarding flooding at Pentrebach.
- Invite received to attend the Cor Meibion Annual Concert in April.

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

Nothing received

148. Financial Reporting.

The bank reconciliations for the month of February 2024 were received and signed (Appendix A).

149. To discuss planning applications previously circulated to all councillors. (attached)

(Appendix B).

There were no observations regarding the applications.

Exclusion of Public and Press – S.1(2) Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 for the following item:

150. Receive and consider the minutes of the HR & Training committee meeting held on the 12 March 2024.

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

The following matters were brought for Recommendation to Approve.

a. RECOMMENDATION to accept Job descriptions:

- Facilities Manager
- Relief Caretaker/Cleaner

It was **RESOLVED** the above job descriptions were approved.

Chairs of committees will be involved in the short-listing and interviewing selection.

b. RECOMMENDATION to accept Safeguarding Policy

It was **RESOLVED** the Safeguarding Policy be approved

The Chair of HR & Training read out a letter received from the Clerk informing of her resignation. In order to avoid leaving the council in a detrimental position as there are currently no staff to hand over to, the Clerk will extend her notice period to three months in order to complete the audit, annual report and festival.

This was formally accepted by Council.

It was agreed that advertising for the new clerk will be managed by One Voice Wales.

The meeting ended at 21.15

HJ Davies

(Appendix A).

Bank Account Reconciled Statement

Current Account (£1) + Deposit Acc

Statement Number	26	Bank Statement No.	26
Statement Opening Balance	£76,964.66	Opening Date	01/02/24
Statement Closing Balance	£70,184.50	Closing Date	29/02/24
True/ Cashbook Closing Balance	£70,184.50		

Bank Account Reconciled Statement

Reserve Account

Statement Number	23	Bank Statement No.	23
Statement Opening Balance	£31,502.19	Opening Date	01/02/24
Statement Closing Balance	£31,536.97	Closing Date	29/02/24
True/ Cashbook Closing Balance	£31,536.97		

Date	Cheque/ Ref.	Supplier/ Customer	Debit (£)	Credit (£)	Balance (£)
09/02/24	FPS240209LB	Lloyds Bank	0.00	34.78	31,536.97

(Appendix B)

Planning Applications February 2024

WEEKLY APPLICATIONS - WEEK ENDING: 2 February 2024

Application No:	2024/0124/FUL	Date Registered:	31.01.2024
Electoral Division:	Pontarddulais - Area 1	Status:	Being Considered
Map Ref:	260709 206964		
Development Type:	All Other Minor Dev		
Location:	Y Fferm Fach, Garnswilt Road, Pontarddulais, Swansea, SA4 8QH		
Proposal:	Retention of 3 agricultural sheds, two access gates and an amount of hardstanding. The land will be used for agricultural, and tourism purposes.		
Applicant:	Mr Nick Dymond	Agent:	

Application No:	2024/0163/FUL	Date Registered:	30.01.2024
Electoral Division:	Pontarddulais - Area 1	Status:	Being Considered
Map Ref:	259035 203711		
Development Type:	All Other Minor Dev		
Location:	74 St Teilo Street, Pontarddulais, Swansea, SA4 8ST		
Proposal:	Renewal of old shop front with slight change to window and door style		
Applicant:	Ken Richards	Agent:	

WEEKLY APPLICATIONS - WEEK ENDING: 9 February 2024

No applications for ward

WEEKLY APPLICATIONS - WEEK ENDING: 16 February 2024

Application No:	2024/0124/FUL	Date Registered:	13.02.2024
Electoral Division:	Pontarddulais - Area 1	Status:	Being Considered
Map Ref:	260709 206964		
Development Type:	All Other Minor Dev		
Location:	Y Fferm Fach, Garnswllt Road, Pontarddulais, Swansea, SA4 8QH		
Proposal:	Retention of 3 agricultural sheds, two access gates and an amount of hardstanding. The land will be used for agricultural, and tourism purposes.		
Applicant:	Mr Nick Dymond	Agent:	

Application No:	2024/0286/FUL	Date Registered:	15.02.2024
Electoral Division:	Pontarddulais - Area 1	Status:	Being Considered
Map Ref:	258932 203861		
Development Type:	All Other Minor Dev		
Location:	Land Part Of Dulais Glen , Water Street, Pontarddulais, Swansea, SA4 8TH		
Proposal:	Installation of a Freestanding Memorial Column and Plinth		
Applicant:	Pontarddulais Town Council	Agent:	Richard Banks

WEEKLY APPLICATIONS - WEEK ENDING: 23 February 2024

Application No:	2024/0317/FUL	Date Registered:	20.02.2024
Electoral Division:	Pontarddulais - Area 1	Status:	Being Considered
Map Ref:	260405 204723		
Development Type:	Householder		
Location:	Pen Y Banc, Heol Ddwr, Pontarddulais, Swansea, SA4 8QB		
Proposal:	Two storey side extension and single storey porch		
Applicant:	Mr Craig Davies	Agent:	Mr Michael Cahill
