

Ordinary General Meeting held on the 11th January 2021 by virtual platform zoom due to COVID-19 restrictions commencing at 6.45pm

Present:

Councillor A Nicholson (presiding), Reverend Ms S Northcott, V Hotten, J Nemeth, H Davies, D Williams, Mrs R Phillips, Ms R Jones, R Clapham, G C Davies, and Mrs J Ashton-Mears

Apologies:

Councillor Mrs L Purcell, A Richards, and R Thomas

11607: Disclosure of Personal and Pecuniary Interests:

None.

Resolved to be noted.

11608: Signing of the Minutes of the Ordinary General Meeting held on the 14th December 2020:

Resolved that the minutes of the Ordinary General Meeting held on the 14th December 2020 having been read and confirmed as a true record be accepted by Council.

11609: Matters raised by Members of the Public:

None

Resolved to be noted.

11610: Defibrillator Mapping Project:

There had been no response from Western Garage and therefore the box was still unheated. The Clerk did however check all units weekly to ensure that they were all operational. She would ensure that any units found not to be operational were removed from the 'Circuit' until the position was rectified.

The Clerk will continue to attempt to obtain permission to connect the unit at Western Garage to the electricity supply.

The Art Centre had confirmed their agreement, to the unit currently held at reception being placed in an exterior cabinet and to this cabinet being attached to the electricity supply. The cost of the cabinet and installation was approximately £900.

Given current lockdown restrictions the proposed photographs with the Heartbeat Trust UK would be postponed.

Resolved that the Clerk contact the Heartbeat Trust to arrange for an exterior cabinet to be purchased then arrange of it to be attached to the Art Centre electricity supply. The cost would be covered from General Reserves.

11611: Eco and Wellbeing Committee including Cwmdu:

Councillor Mrs Phillips had obtained agreement from Trebanos Rugby Club to the hedge planting in March 2021. It was hoped that Lockdown Restrictions would be eased to allow a Volunteer Event to take place at that time.

A local arborist had been asked to conduct a Risk Assessment on the remaining Ash Trees at Cwmdu adjacent to paths and properties to ensure they were not a danger to persons or property.

Resolved to be noted.

11612: Police Matters:

PACT Meetings were not taking place due to COVID-19 Restrictions. There were currently no additional details on the proposal to hold meetings virtually.

Pontardawe statistics –November total crime 37 down from October total crime of 60 (Most Common: Violence, ASB, Criminal Damage and Drugs)

Trebanos statistics –November total crime 6 up from October total crime of 5 (Most Common: Violence and ASB)

A full breakdown of all statistics was forwarded to Councillors prior to the meeting.

The Clerk confirmed that Police Statistics UK had been advised of the incorrect information on the Pontardawe PCSO but as yet, the information had not been updated.

Resolved to be noted.

11613: Christmas:

Both the Clerk and Councillors had received exceptionally good feedback from the Community on the Christmas Lights. The tree at the Cross had been particularly well received.

Resolved to be noted.

11614: Possible relaxation of Lockdown Restrictions:

The Community Halls were closed due to Lockdown Restrictions introduced prior to Christmas.

Resolved that the Community Halls will remain closed until Welsh Government restrictions were lifted.

11615: Junction of Road to Recreation Ground and Canal Bank:

The initial sign for the post adjacent to the canal bridge had been ordered and would be placed once received. The Clerk would arrange for the purchase and placement of the additional sign once the relevant agreement had been received from the landowner.

Resolved that the Clerk will keep Council up to date with developments.

11616: Planning:

P2020/1082:

Applicants name: Mr Harris and Ms Britton 265 Swansea Road, Trebanos SA8 4BY

Site Location: 265 Swansea Road, Trebanos SA8 4BY

Proposed Development: Single story side extension incorporating raised platform and steps.

Resolved No Objection provided there is neighbourhood notification.

P2020/1040:

Applicants name – Mr David Davies, 2 Hopkin Street, Pontardawe SA8 4JQ

Site Location: 2 Hopkin Street, Pontardawe SA8 4JQ

Proposed Development – First Floor rear extension to accommodate two en suite bedrooms.

Resolved No Objection provided there is neighbourhood notification.

P2020/1104:

Applicants name – Barrie Lewis, Llysycoed, 4 Commercial Road, Rhyd y Fro SA8 4SL

Site Location: Llysycoed, 4 Commercial Road, Rhyd y Fro SA8 4SL

Proposed Development – Two Storey rear extension including Juliet balcony.

Resolved No Objection provided there is neighbourhood notification.

Application to change the Register for Common Land NPT 0073

Resolved to be noted.

11617: Planning – Flood Map:

The Clerk was awaiting information from Neath Port Talbot Council.

Natural Resource Wales had however stated that as they were updating the long-term flood risk maps they would not accept any flood map challenges until the work had been completed and a new flood map for Planning had been published.

Resolved that the Clerk will chase the outstanding information as a matter of urgency as Natural Resource Wales were still reviewing models submitted in support of Planning Applications.

Resolved to be noted.

11618: Account Schedule 376:

Resolved that Account Schedule 376 totalling £34810.14 together with bank reconciliation. should be accepted by Council in line with Standing Orders.

11619: Email received re Welsh Water work at the Gwachel Roundabout:

The Letter stated that Phase One had already been agreed and had commenced. The work was likely to take approximately four weeks, which was a longer time frame than the Schools half term holiday. The work was also urgently required.

It was felt that the current Lockdown together with the possibility of schools being closed to the majority of pupils until after the Half Term Holiday would keep the disruption to a minimum.

The traffic lights were also to be manually controlled to reduce congestion as much as possible however given the location, some congestion would be inevitable.

Resolved that the position would be monitored by Council.

11620: Hanging Baskets – Summer 2021:

Council agreed to the usual Hanging Basket display arranged by the City and County of Swansea together with the ten Lamp Post displays, pot at St Peters and wished also to add a three-tier planter at Trebanos as had been provided during 2020.

Resolved to arrange the order and placement of the Hanging Baskets and additional displays for the Summer of 2021.

11621: Residents parking at Herbert Street:

As both Councillors Richards and Jones was absent Council was unable to discuss this matter. The Clerk had been advised however that the initial proposal suggested by Council had been rejected by the residents.

Resolved that Councillor Richards and Jones liaise in order to determine a parking compromise that would be acceptable to residents and businesses in Herbert Street.

11622: Email re By Elections:

The Welsh Government were to introduce regulations that would move the window for postponed by-elections to the 1st March – 6th May 2021. The holding of by-elections in February 2021 would therefore no longer be possible.

Resolved to be noted.

11623: Letter of Thanks:

A letter of Thanks had been received from Pontardawe Youth Club, for all the support offered by the Town Council.

Council expressed their pleasure in the sentiment.

Resolved to be noted.

11624: Urgent Road Safety Matters:

The Clerk confirmed that building control Officer had attended the site adjacent to the demolished 6Js building on Church Street and had reviewed the condition of the wall adjacent to the pavement. He stated that although it was unsightly, it was not a danger.

Resolved to be noted.

11625: Next Meeting:

The next meeting of Council will take place on the 8th February 2021 by virtual platform commencing at 6.45pm.

Signed

Dated