

**Ordinary General Meeting held on the 8<sup>th</sup> of February 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, Ms R Jones, R Clapham, G C Davies, Mrs L Purcell, R Thomas, J Jones, Mrs C Ford, and Mrs J Ashton-Mears

**Apologies:**

Councillor A Richards

**11626: Disclosure of Personal and Pecuniary Interests:**

Councillor J Jones and R Clapham expressed an interest on any discussion on Riverside.

**Resolved** to be noted.

**11627: Signing of the Minutes of the Ordinary General Meeting held on the 11<sup>th</sup> January 2021:**

**Resolved** that the minutes of the Ordinary General Meeting held on the 11<sup>th</sup> January 2021 having been read and confirmed as a true record be accepted by Council.

**11628: Matters raised by Members of the Public:**

None

**Resolved** to be noted.

**11629: Defibrillator Mapping Project:**

There had been no response from Western Garage and therefore the box was still unheated. The Clerk did however continue to 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.

Henry at the Heartbeat Trust UK had stated that a new steering committee would be created to consider additional units in the Pontardawe area. The new Committee would comprise of representatives of the Heartbeat Trust, Councillor A Nicholson, Councillor R Thomas, and David Thomas from the NHS Trust.

A virtual meeting was to be arranged.

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

**11630: Eco and Wellbeing Committee including Cwmdu:**

Councillors J Jones and R Clapham expressed an interest in any discussion on Riverside.

A Local Arborist would informally review the Ash Trees forming part of the Ash Dieback plan in Cwmdu shortly to ensure that they remained in a safe condition.

In formal review would be carried out during the Summer months once there was a full canopy of leaves, on Council's behalf, in order to prove due diligence and fulfil Council's responsibilities as the landowner.

A new sign needed to be placed on the path after the picnic area to ensure Members of the Public were aware that the path to Rhyd y Fro after the picnic area was closed. The Clerk confirmed that

notices had been placed in the past on social media and in the Community Mag stating that the path between the picnic area and the Waterfall was not safe and should not be used.

The Clerk would also email newly Co-Opted Councillors with the history of actions carried out at Cwmdu together with details of current Management Plans.

An Eco and Wellbeing Committee would be arranged to include Councillor Robert Clapham to discuss Cwmdu and creating a synergy of actions between Riverside, Cwmdu and other areas within the Pontardawe Town Council area. This could also be incorporated in a Town Council Community Plan

### **Resolved**

- that both an informal and formal plan of the remaining Ash Trees at Cwmdu under the 'Ash Dieback Plan' will be carried out.
- A new sign will be placed on the path following the picnic area.
- An email will be forwarded to new Councillors providing details of the history and current Management Plans at Cwmdu
- An Eco and Wellbeing Committee will be arranged.

### **11631: 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 –December total crimes 44 up from November total crime of 37 (Most Common: Violence, ASB, Criminal Damage and Public Order)

Trebanos statistics –December total crimes 3 down from November total crimes of 6 (Most Common: Violence and ASB)

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

A request had been made from the local Police for Parc Chwarae Teg to be closed and locked at night to deter anti-social behaviour in the area. Unfortunately, since the death of the volunteer who had taken charge of opening and closing the Park it had needed to remain open.

Councillor J Jones agreed to open and close the park Monday to Friday and Councillor J Nemeth agreed to do so on Saturday and Sunday as a temporary measure. The Clerk would then attempt to arrange a rota of local volunteers going forward.

**Resolved** that Park Keys would be provided for both Councillors and that the Clerk will request volunteers for a rota going forward.

### **11632: Christmas:**

The final invoice from Lite would be settled once all the lights had been removed. Lite had also agreed to remove and dispose of the Christmas Tree for an additional cost.

**Resolved** that Lite will be contracted to remove and dispose of the Christmas tree.

**11633: Possible relaxation of Lockdown Restrictions:**

The Community Halls were closed due to Lockdown Restrictions under Level 4. Hopefully one restrictions had been eased to level 3, the halls could reopen in a limited way.

The next review was due to take place by the Welsh Assembly Government on the 19<sup>th</sup> February 2021.

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

**11634: Junction of Road to Recreation Ground and Canal Bank:**

The initial sign for the post adjacent to the canal bridge had been received and placed.

Councillor Hotten had received verbal confirmation from the landowner at the top of the road, that they would be content with the placement of a post and sign.

The Clerk was awaiting agreement from Neath Port Talbot Estates Department for the post and sign at the bottom of the hill.

There was a further discussion on the possibility of placing road markings, but these would be reviewed at a later date.

**Resolved** that Councillor Hotten will obtain contact details from the landowner at the top of the unadopted road from Brecon Road to the Recreation Ground, so that written agreement can be obtained.

The Clerk will arrange for the placement of both post and signs once agreements received.

**11635: Welsh Water works at the Gwachel Roundabout:**

The work was underway however Council would like an update on the current plans and time scale.

**Resolved** that the Clerk will request details from Welsh Water.

**11636: Planning:**

**P2020/1103:**

Applicants name: Mr Owain Gimblett, Pontardawe Primary Care Centre, Tawe Terrace, Alloy Industrial Estate, Pontardawe, SA8 4JU

Site Location: Pontardawe Primary Care Centre, Tawe Terrace, Alloy Industrial Estate, Pontardawe, SA8 4JU

Proposed Development: Proposed rear extension to provide additional 2 no clinical rooms and additional 5 car parking spaces.

**Resolved** No Objection however, Council would like to see additional disabled space. They were also concerned about traffic flow during construction given the location.

**P2021/0029:**

Applicants name – Mr M Evans, Garage adjacent to 87 Commercial Road, Pontardawe SA8 4SL.

Site Location: Garage adjacent to 87 Commercial Road, Pontardawe SA8 4SL.

Proposed Development – Reconstruction of riverbank retaining wall comprising of 3-metre-high gabion baskets and raising of existing block wall to a height of 1 metre and topped off with a 1.15-metre-high timber fence together with re-profiling of adjacent land.

**Resolved** No Objection.

**11637: Planning – Flood Map:**

There were no additional statistics available from Neath Port Talbot Council as the underlying statistics and modelling for the flood plan were the domain of Natural Resource Wales.

Councillor Thomas had reviewed the flood map from a Planning point of view at the Clerks request and provided details of how the Flood maps at Riverside would be reviewed by the Planning authority. The conclusion would be that the area would not be considered suitable as a location for a new school.

Although the Tan 15 designation as a Zone C2 limited the type of development that could take place at the site there were various projects that the Clerk believed would be welcomed by the County Borough.

**Resolved** that the area at Riverside will be reviewed by Committee to determine projects for land within the current restrictions and that could form part of the Pontardawe Town Council Community or Place Plan

**Resolved** to be noted.

**11638: Web-Site Update:**

The majority of the English portion of the web site was now created. The team were now looking at the most effective way to amalgamate the 'Go Valley' Information. Councillor emails and the new .gov email designation for the Town Council was also in progress.

Councillor Daniel Williams was thanked for his work on the Welsh Translation and confirmed that he would be happy to review and provide additional translation for the final Welsh portion of the web site once available.

**Resolved** to be noted.

**11639: Account Schedule 377:**

**Resolved** that Account Schedule 377 totalling £9990.50 together with bank reconciliation. should be accepted by Council in line with Standing Orders.

**11640: Pontardawe Town Emergency plans:**

Councillor Nicholson was concerned that there had been no details on Emergency Plans from the County Borough for some time.

**Resolved** that the Clerk will request details of Emergency Planning for Pontardawe from the County Borough.

**11641: Internal Audit:**

Council had been previously made aware that there was a three-year additional scrutiny project in progress by the External Auditors which also placed additional requirements on Internal Auditors. As a result, the Internal Auditor had increased the fees charged.

**Resolved** to agree the increase in the Internal Auditors annual charge.

**11642: School Crossing Patrol at Swansea Road, Pontardawe:**

Council confirmed that they wished to continue to finance a Crossing Patrol Officer at Swansea Road, Pontardawe for 2021/22.

Cwmtawe School had been asked if they were happy to provide a contribution to the cost as they had contributed to previous years, but a response was still awaited.

**Resolved** that Council will finance a Crossing Patrol Officer at Swansea Road, Pontardawe for 2021/22.

**11643: Smoking at School Grounds and Playgrounds:**

Voluntary Smoking bans were often in place at local schools and playgrounds however from March 2021 it will become an offence to smoke in these areas. Enforcement of this legislation would be via local Unitary authorities who would have powers to issue fixed-penalty notices.

**Resolved** to be noted.

**11644: Urgent Road Safety Matters:**

Councillors wished information on the temporary Disabled Bay at Herbert Street. Councillor Purcell would obtain an update.

Some local residents wished to comment on the proposal for a new English Medium Primary school, but the consultation was closed. It was suggested they contact the Cabinet Members at Neath Port Talbot Council

The Road Sign to Bryn Celyn had been damaged and was no longer visible – The Clerk confirmed she would advise the County Borough.

There was significant fly tipping at the site of the demolished 6J's club. As this was private land the County Borough would not clear, but they would look to issue enforcement notices if evidence could be found – The Clerk would contact the County Borough.

**Resolved** to be noted.

**11645: Next Meeting:**

The next meeting of Council will take place on the 8<sup>th</sup> of March 2021 by virtual platform commencing at 6.45pm.

Signed .....

Dated .....