## **Ordinary General Meeting held on the 12TH April 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, R Clapham, Mrs R Phillips, J Jones, R Thomas, and Mrs J Ashton-Mears

## **Apologies:**

Councillor Mrs L Purcell, Ms C Ford, and A Richards

## **11664: Disclosure of Personal and Pecuniary Interests:**

None.

## **Resolved** to be noted**.**

## **11665: Signing of the Minutes of the Ordinary General Meeting held on the 8th March 2021:**

## **Resolved** that the minutes of the Ordinary General Meeting held on the 8th March 2021 having been read and confirmed as a true record be accepted by Council.

## **11666: Matters raised by Members of the Public:**

None

## **Resolved** to be noted**.**

## **11667: Defibrillator Mapping Project:**

Council was reminded of the need to have several units within the area to allow rapid access, in the case of a request for use.

They were informed that the Committee was looking into the following:

* Obtaining agreement from the owners, to relocate interior units, to exterior heated cabinets to allow 24-hour access. (Home Bargains and the Ivy Bush were mentioned)
* Prioritisation within available funding
* Grant applications to various bodies
* The Committee were aware that Pontardawe Town Council had agreed to the purchase and fitting of a heated cabinet at Pontardawe Art Centre
* The Committee would look to organise community training once current restrictions allowed

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

## **11668: Eco and Wellbeing Committee including Cwmdu:**

There had been damage to the saplings recently planted at Trebanos Park. We are now unsure of the number of the trees that will survive in the long term. The Coed Cymru Officer believes that it is unlikely that Trebanos Park would be a viable location for future planting due to the high risk of vandalism.

ROSPA reports had been received for all three Parks recommending work required to maintain safety.

As the Town Council no longer employed a groundsman, larger work would need to be carried out by outside contractors.

A price had been received to carry out some of work required, by the current Park and Footpath maintenance contractor. The prices were as follows:

Ynysmeudwy Park

Removal and replacement of bank steps adjacent to the slide - £750 + vat

Trebanos Park

Removal of wooden fencing from the Park as this was now in a poor state of repair. Replacement was unnecessary as there were effective railings between the Play area and the road - £320 + vat

Supply and fit one metal bin to replace the bin that had been vandalised adjacent to the Youth Shelter (Street master, Cardiff 110 bin) - £620 + vat (supply and fitting)

Parc Chwarae Teg

The Pendulum swing had been disabled. The Clerk was in correspondence with Wicksteed due to issues with the pins within the shackles that had been recently replaced. Other maintenance at the Park would be covered by Section 106 funds that were due via Neath Port Talbot Council.

Small maintenance and cleaning required at the parks would continue to be carried out by the Town Council’s Park Operative.

The Clerk was also in the process of obtaining quotes to repair or replace the safety surfacing below the swings at Trebanos Park as this had worn

## **Resolved** that the work at Trebanos and Ynysmeudwy Park will be carried out by Matthew Thomas as quoted.

## **11669: Police Matters:**

The virtual PACT meeting at Trebanos has been cancelled due to Pre-Election rules. No virtual meeting had been scheduled for Pontardawe.

Two PCSO’s were now covering the Pontardawe area. PCSO Jess Ford would now accompany PCSO Maria Elias.

Pontardawe statistics – February crimes 53 equal to January 2021 (Most Common: Violence, ASB, and Criminal Damage)

Trebanos statistics –February Crimes 3, up from January total crimes of 2 (Most Common: ASB)

## **Resolved** to be noted.

## **11670: Junction of Road to Recreation Ground and Canal Bank:**

The Clerk was awaiting a licence to place signs on the road to the Recreation Ground from Brecon Road.

## **Resolved** to be noted.

## **11671: Web-Site Update:**

The Town Clerk was awaiting a launch date which is imminent.

## **Resolved** to be noted.

## **11672: One Voice Wales Area Committee:**

Details available from the minutes:

* NPT Liaison Committee – The pandemic had dominated discussions
* Swansea Bay UHB Stakeholder group- Issues surrounding remote access to meetings
* Save a Life Cymru – Defibrillator networks – Pontardawe Town Council was working with a similar organisation (Heartbeat Trust UK)
* Public Service Board Report – Pandemic dominated discussions and therefore there had been little progress in other matters
* Audit Wales would directly administer the process from 2020/21 with a three-year rolling programme for all Town and Community Councils in Wales
* Covid 19 – The vaccination programme was proceeding very well with Age Connect assisting with older residents.
* One Voice Wales was continuing to negotiate with the HMRC over the taxation of Town and Community Councillor payments
* One Voice Wales Councillor Training
* Neath Port Talbot and Swansea Public Service Boards may merge at some future date.
* Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021

1. From April 2022 Town and Community Councils had a duty to prepare and publish an Annual Report
2. From 5th May 2022 Community and Town Councils would have the power to pass resolution to become eligible to exercise the ‘General Power of Competence’ – There would however be eligibility criteria
3. From 5th May 2022 Community and Town Councils would need to consider and publish a training plan for Councillors and staff (First training plans by November 2022)
4. The ‘power of wellbeing’ will be repealed at the same time that the General Power of Competence becomes eligible
5. Members of the public must be provided with a reasonable opportunity to address Council at meetings (From May 2022)

## **Resolved** to be noted.

## **11673: Planning:**

Meeting held on the 22nd March 2021

## **P2021/0082:**

Applicant’s name: Peter Ryan, Mount Pleasant, Llanguicke Road, Pontardawe, Swansea SA8 4PS

Site Location: Mount Pleasant, Llanguicke Road, Pontardawe, Swansea SA8 4PS

Proposed Development: Single Storey side extension.

## **Resolved** No Objection provided there is neighbourhood notification.

Applications reviewed in the Ordinary Meeting

## **P2021/0318:**

Applicant’s name – Darren Richards, 117 Parc Gilbertson, Rhyd y Fro, Pontardawe SA8 4PT

Site Location: 117 Parc Gilbertson, Rhyd y Fro, Pontardawe SA8 4PT

Development – Conversion of garage to living accommodation and widening of existing drive and vehicle crossing

## **Resolved** No Objection provided there is neighbourhood notification

## **P2021/0328:**

Applicant’s name – Stuart Thomas, Alloy Industrial Estate, Pontardawe, SA8 4EN

Site Location: Alloy Industrial Estate, Pontardawe, SA8 4EN

Development – Single Storey Office Extension

## **Resolved** No Objection (Council wished to fully support local business expansion)

## **P2021/0272:**

Applicant’s name – Janine Cotton, 102 High Street, Pontardawe SA8 4ED

Site Location: 102 High Street, Pontardawe SA8 4ED

Development – Porch Alternation/ Extension

## **Resolved** No Objection provided there is neighbourhood notification.

## **P2021/0332:**

Applicant’s name – Martin Goss, 22 Uplands Road, Pontardawe SA8 4AH

Site Location: 22 Uplands Road, Pontardawe SA8 4AH

Development – Part Alteration and retention of existing decking and mans of enclosure, mew decking area, means of enclosure and steps to the front and side of property together with new gazebo to side elevation (existing gazebo to be removed)

## **Resolved** No Objection provided there is neighbourhood notification. (Council was however concerned that the privacy of neighbours was not compromised)

## **Application to change the register of Common Land – CL25A Entry 340 Application number NPT 0074**

## **Resolved** to be noted.

## **11674: Community / Place Plans:**

The first meeting of the steering Committee had taken place. The Committee structure was flexible to allow partnership with several bodies going forward. The initial meeting discussed a plan for the way forward together with possible partners to be approached

## **Resolved** to be noted.

**11675: Clerks Report on the ARCH Hall Boiler:**

The boiler was no longer functional and had been condemned. The Clerk had arranged for two quotes from local suppliers. The quotes were for comparable boilers.

Westward Energy £2390 inc Vat (including 12 month guarantee on work and a 5-year Warranty together with one year’s free silver star maintenance cover)

M Evans £2475.38 inc vat (10-year Warranty)

## **Resolved** that Westward be contracted to replace the ARCH Hall boiler

## **11676: Neath Port Talbot Standards Forum:**

* During the Pre-Election period for Town and Community Council’s there would be no restrictions on meetings. Care needed to be taken however with publication of material in newsletters or on social media. The Town Council must ensure that information is factual and not Politically biased.
* Six Month Rule clarification for Councillor attendance
* Declarations of Interest – Councillors may obtain dispensation from the Standards Committee
* Dual hatted Members
* Local Government Act 2021 – The majority of changes affecting Town and Community Councils would not take place until 2022. Town Council Terms of Office would be 5 years following the next Election, at which the voting age would also be reduced to 16 years.
* Draft Meeting minutes placed on Web Sites were a requirement for the Ordinary Meetings only, and not other Committees
* Members Code of Conduct was currently being reviewed by the Ombudsman

## **Resolved** to be noted.

## **11677: Clerks Report on Public Participation at Ordinary Meeting:**

The current regulations that allow Town and Community Councils to hold virtual meetings without allowing actual public participation comes to an end at the end of April 2021. From 1st May 2021, Members of the public must be invited to Ordinary meetings and the Annual General Meeting.

## **Resolved** that Members of the Public will be provided with a Zoom link on request.

## **11678: Account Schedule 379:**

## **Resolved** that Account Schedule 379 totalling £9323.98 together with bank reconciliation.

## should be accepted by Council in line with Standing Orders.

## **11679: One Voice Wales Annual Subscription 2021/22:**

The Annual subscription for One Voice Wales had increased to £1143.

## **Resolved** that the subscription for 2021/22 of £1143 will be paid

## **11680: Email received re recognition:**

Council agreed that there should be recognition for Members of the Community due to outstanding contributions in various capacities. This would be especially important with the work being carried out by numerous people during the Covid Pandemic.

Council agreed to honour these Community Members once restrictions allow the organisation of a physical Event.

## **Resolved** to be noted.

## **11681: Email re New Pharmacy Application:**

An update was provided on the current application for an additional late licenced pharmacy in Pontardawe. A decision was likely to be made by the Health Authority within the next three months

## **Resolved** to be noted.

## **11682: Email re Pontardawe AFC:**

A request had been made for financial assistance to support additional storage and meeting space

## **Resolved** that levels of grant funding and the application process will be forwarded to the club.

## **11683: Email re Personal Learning Accounts:**

Details of the new Personal Learning Accounts were provided for Councillors.

## **Resolved** that information would be placed on the Town Council’s social media platforms.

## **11684: Urgent Road Safety Matters:**

None.

## **Resolved** to be noted.

## **11685: Next Meeting:**

The next Ordinary Meeting and Annual General Meeting of Council will take place on the 10th May 2021 by virtual platform commencing at 6.45pm.

Signed ………………………………………………………………………

Dated ……………………………………………………………………..