## **Ordinary General Meeting held on the 10th May 2021 by virtual platform zoom due to COVID-19 restrictions commencing at 7.15pm**

## **Present:**

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

Youth Councillor – Ms Issy Williams

## **Apologies:**

None

## **11708: Disclosure of Personal and Pecuniary Interests:**

Councillor H Davies declared an interest in Planning application P2021/0265 as he is a neighbour. Councillor J Jones, R Clapham and A Richards declared and interest in any discussion on Riverside – All left the meeting and took no part in discussions on those matters

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

## **11709: Signing of the Minutes of the Ordinary General Meeting held on the 12th April 2021:**

## **Resolved** that the minutes of the Ordinary General Meeting held on the 12th April 2021 having been read and confirmed as a true record be accepted by Council.

## **11710: Matters raised by Members of the Public:**

None

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

## **11711: Co-Option of Youth Councillor:**

Ms Issy Williams addressed Council. A copy of her application had already been circulated to Council. Council welcomed her to the meeting and unanimously voted her Co-Option as Youth Representative.

## **Resolved** that Ms Issy Williams will be Youth Councillor for 2021/22**.**

## **11712: Defibrillator Mapping Project:**

Council was provided with an update from Councillor R Thomas.

* Agreement had been received from the Ivy Bush for an exterior unit. The Committee was looking into funding for the placement at present
* Agreement had been received from the Management at Home Bargains for either an interior or exterior unit, however Head Office approval was still required for the siting
* There had been agreement received from the Art Centre to an exterior unit and funding was available however a contact at the location was required in order to move that part of the project forward

## **Resolved** that Council will be kept up to date with developments and that the Clerk will provide Councillor Thomas with a contact at the Art Centre

## **11713: Eco and Wellbeing Committee including Cwmdu:**

Councillors Jones and Clapham had walked Cwmdu to discuss ways forward which could link the management of Riverside and Cwmdu. Councillor Clapham’s experience in these matters was particularly welcome. Firm proposals would be provided for Council discussion at a later date

## **Resolved** to be noted.

## **11714: Police Matters:**

Further Virtual PACT meetings were being considered. Details would be forwarded once available

Pontardawe statistics – March crimes 62 up from February crimes of 53 (Most Common: Violence, ASB, and Public Order)

Trebanos statistics –March crimes 6 up from February Crimes of 3, (Most Common: ASB)

There was a full discussion on current issues surrounding Riverside, the Recreation Ground, and additional areas in both Pontardawe and Trebanos. All areas were suffering from increasing cases of Anti-social Behaviour, Criminal damage, and arson, some of the issues were alcohol related. Council felt that the issues were being largely unaddressed for various reasons and were escalating at exponential rate.

A Community Alcohol Partnership (CAP) meeting was due to be held on the 25th May 2021. Councillor Mrs Purcell would be attending however this was open to all Councillors and Youth Councillors.

It was agreed that issues previously reported in Pontardawe Town Centre had reduced however it seemed that the problem had been moved to other areas rather than having been addressed.

It was agreed that this was a complex matter that would require several approaches to address.

The PCSOs needed to have the power of arrest or at least the power to stop and search and to confiscate alcohol or dangerous items.

It was also felt that Neighbourhood Officers in plain clothes were required to identify persons of Interest as uniformed officers were too easily identified at a distance.

It was also important to try to understand why some young people were intent on negative actions and to try to influence them in a more positive way.

Councillor Richards would be liaising with the new Police and Crime Commissioner and the Chief Constable shortly on various matters.

## **Resolved** Council Members will advise Councillor Richards of all instances of Anti-social behaviour, Criminal Damage and Arson that have taken place at Riverside and the Recreation Ground recently.

The Clerk will contact both the Chief Constable and the Police and Crime Commissioner and request that local PCSOs are give the power of Arrest and Stop and Search. She will also suggest that a plain clothes ‘Neighbourhood Officer’ was required to liaise with young people to address the issues that lead to negative behaviours.

## **11715: Web-Site Update:**

The new website was now live, and the previous website had been closed down. Traffic from the old website was being automatically directed to the new site.

Councillor work emails were in the process of being created and would be added to the site once available

The Go-Valley group information was currently held in an administrator only area as many groups were not yet operational and the details held were currently not accurate. Also, the ‘Go Valley’ information was currently not bilingual.

It was agreed that the information would be reviewed in the next few months to confirm accuracy and would be translated prior to being made live on the website.

## **Resolved** to be noted.

## **11716: Planning:**

Meeting held on the 28.4.21

## **P2021/0331**

Applicant’s name and Address: CPR Distribution, York Chambers, York Street, Swansea, SA1 3LZ

Site Location: Land Adjacent to 35 New Road, Ynysmeudwy, Pontardawe, Swansea

Proposed Development: Variation of condition 1 of planning application P2018/0694 (granted 9.10.18) to allow a further 2 years for the commencement of development

## **Resolved** No objection provided there is neighbourhood notification, however Council is concerned that this is the second extension.

## **P2021/0404**

Applicant’s name and Address: Mr Kyle Maunder, 13 St Marys Road, Ynysmeudwy, Pontardawe, SA8 4QH

Site Location: 13 St Marys Road, Ynysmeudwy, Pontardawe, SA8 4QH

Proposed Development: Garden Outbuilding

## **Resolved** No objection provided there is neighbourhood notification, however Council is concerned, due to the size of the building in relation to the size of the original property.

## **P2021/0158**

Applicant’s name and Address: Mr and Mrs Tudur Jones, 10 Greenacre Drive, Glais, Swansea, SA7 9FA

Site Location: 10 Graig Road, Trebanos, Pontardawe, SA8 4BA

Proposed Development: Two storey side extension and increasing roof height to include external alterations and a new retaining wall.

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

## **P2021/0382**

Applicant’s name and Address: Mr Steve Tushtain, 123 Herbert Street, Pontardawe SA8 4ED

Site Location: 123 Herbert Street, Pontardawe SA8 4ED

Proposed Development: Temporary shelter for use of customers associated with Public House (Temporary Consent for 2 years).

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

Discussed in the meeting

## **P2021/0425:**

Applicant’s name: Carwyn Hopton, Pontardawe Art Centre, Herbert Street, Pontardawe SA8 4ED

Site Location: Pontardawe Art Centre, Herbert Street, Pontardawe SA8 4ED

Proposed Development: Erection of illuminated digital advertisement to front elevation

## **Resolved** No Objection.

## **P2021/0265:**

Councillor H Davies declared and interest

Applicant’s name – Steven Musk, 19 Gelligron Road, Pontardawe SA8 4LU

Site Location: 19 Gelligron Road, Pontardawe SA8 4LU

Development – Two storey side extension to include integral garage. Proposed creation of hard standing and the demolition of an existing wall to provide means of access

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

## **P2021/0390:**

Applicant’s name – Mr Damian Evans, 16 High Street, Pontardawe SA8 4HU

Site Location: 16 High Street, Pontardawe SA8 4HU

Development – Change of use of former bank (Class A2) to café/wine bar with living accommodation to upper floors, two on first floor, single on second floor, to include alterations.

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

## **11717: Community / Place Plans:**

A physical meeting of the Steering Committee was to take place shortly

## **Resolved** to be noted.

**11718: Grants:**

Council was aware that organisations who requested grant funding for events that were cancelled during 2020 would retain those funds for events to be carried out during 2021. However other local organisations would require additional funding to assist them following extended lockdowns that had impacted on their ability to raise revenue.

Council was also aware that organisations would open at different rates and therefore funds may be required at short notice. As a result, the deadline for receiving applications had been removed and grant applications would be reviewed monthly at the Ordinary meeting. Grants would be awarded on a first come first served basis, but with priority being given to local rather than national groups and Charities. Requests from National groups/Charities would be reviewed at the end of the year if funds were still available from the budget.

The grants awarded were as follows:

* Swansea Valley History Society - £60.00
* Pontardawe Town AFC - £450
* Glantawe Outdoor Education Facility (Councillors Rob Clapham, John Jones and Anthony Richards declared and interest and left the meeting during the discussion) - £2000.00

The Grants are awarded for the benefit of the area and some or all of the residents of Pontardawe Town Council.

## **Resolved** that the above grants will be awarded from the 2021/22 Grant budget

## **11719: Budget/Actual Report for the 3rd third of 2020/21:**

Council was provided with the report for review prior to the meeting.

## **Resolved** that Council will agree the Budget/Actual report for the 3rd third of 2020/21.

## **11720: Councillor Vacancy:**

Council was advised that Neath Port Talbot Council had been advised of the Councillor Vacancy in Trebanos on the 7th May 2021. The notice of Vacancy had been placed in the Office window, the website and on social media on the same day.

If ten Local Government electors from the Trebanos Ward request do not request a By Election by the 27th May 2021, the seat can be filled via Co-Option

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

## **11721: Account Schedule 380:**

## **Resolved** that Account Schedule 380 totalling £24280.38 together with bank reconciliation.

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

## **11722: Urgent Road Safety Matters:**

* A request was made for an update on the status of the new Disabled Bay on Herbert Street
* A request had once again been made for reasons why a Pedestrian Crossing could not be placed on the Pontardawe Bypass Road. Council was advised that work would be carried out during the 2021/22 fiscal year to improve the pedestrian refuge in that area however there were no plans for a Pedestrian Crossing – An agenda point would be made for the June Ordinary meeting to discuss

## **Resolved** to be noted.

## **11723: Next Meeting:**

The next Ordinary Meeting will take place on the 14th June 2021 by virtual platform commencing at 6.45pm.

Signed ………………………………………………………………………

Dated ……………………………………………………………………..