## **Ordinary General Meeting held on the 14th June 2021 by virtual platform zoom due to COVID-19 restrictions commencing at 6.45 pm**

## **Present:**

Councillor Mrs R Phillips (presiding), J Nemeth, R Clapham, J Jones, A Richards, V Hotten, A Nicholson and Mrs J Ashton-Mears

Youth Councillor – Ms Issy Williams

## **Apologies:**

Councillor Mrs L Purcell, Reverend Ms S Northcott, R Thomas, H Davies, G C Davies, and D Williams

## **11724: Disclosure of Personal and Pecuniary Interests:**

Councillor J Jones declared an interest in discussions on the Pontardawe Chamber of Commerce/ Heritage Centre. Councillors Mrs R Phillips and A Richards declared an interest in discussions on the proposed new 3-11year English Medium School – All took no part in discussions on those matters

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

## **11725: Signing of the Minutes of the Ordinary General Meeting and Annual General Meeting held on the 10th May 2021:**

## **Resolved** that the minutes of the Ordinary General Meeting and Annual General Meeting held on the 10th May 2021 having been read and confirmed as a true record be accepted by Council.

## **11726: Matters raised by Members of the Public:**

None

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

## **11727: Defibrillator Mapping Project:**

Councillor R Thomas was not at be meeting but provided an update for the Clerk to read at the meeting.

* The Ivy Bush was currently closed but action could be taken to site the unit once it had reopened
* 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
* Councillor Thomas had arranged a meeting with representatives of the Art Centre

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

## **11728: Eco and Wellbeing Committee including Cwmdu:**

The remaining trees at Trebanos Rugby ground had unfortunately been destroyed, however the trees at Ynysmeudwy Park were thriving. There was however now no assistance available for maintenance from the ‘Working with Nature’ project as this had now finished. It was agreed that there was a synergy between the work being carried out at Riverside and the projects being undertaken by the Town Council. It was therefore prudent to work more closely.

## **Resolved** to set up a separate Eco & Wellbeing Committee to review closer working between Riverside and the Town Council

## **11729: Police Matters:**

No PACT meetings had taken place.

Pontardawe statistics – April total crimes 54 down from March crimes of 62 (Most Common: Violence, ASB, and Criminal Damage)

Trebanos statistics –April total crimes 2 down from March crimes 6 (Most Common: ASB)

The Clerk confirmed that a conformation of receipt had been received from the Police and Crime Commissioners office but there had been no response to the issues raised.

There continued to be issues surrounding the Riverside and Recreation ground with some Police action being taken but at the wrong time.

The Police had also undertaken targeted action which seemed to have achieved results however there was still insufficient communication and incorrect information on the web sites.

It was agreed that Members of the Public needed to telephone 101 when witnessing issues and to obtain a crime number. This could then be monitored for action.

It would also ensure that issues were being recorded by the Police, who used these statistics to allocate resource

## **Resolved** to be noted

## **11730: Web-Site Update:**

The Web site was now live, and information was up to date. The ‘Go Valley’ information on groups would be added over the next few months as restrictions were easing. The Councillors specific emails were also active, and all Council specific information would be directed to these emails rather than the private emails, due to GDPR.

The Members Only area was being set up, which would contain information useful to Councillors

The Current Cloud storage needed to be reviewed due to changes in the regulations for storing data. It would therefore be prudent to review a more professional relationship as currently a free Microsoft service was used, but this would not be suitable in the future.

Neath Town Council used ‘Microshade’ which they recommended.

## **Resolved**

## The Clerk will review Microshade Cloud Storage.

## A bilingual answerphone message will be created in place of the current generic message.

## Some additional technical assistance on the emails was also required.

**11731: Grants:**

Councillor J Jones declared and Interest and took no part in the discussion on the Chamber of Commerce/Heritage Centre

The grants awarded were as follows:

* Veteran’s Essentials - £500
* Pontardawe Community Sport and Recreation Associate - £500 for grass cutting (Council was also willing to match fund £1500 for the Rugby Posts if the Association were willing to place an application for £1500 with the forthcoming Mynydd y Betws Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund)

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

Council was also advised that the Royal British Legion were unable to hold the craft days as originally anticipated and wished instead to host Canal activity days for local primary schools- Council agreed to the re-allocation of funds.

The Chamber of Commerce and Heritage Centre also wished to re-allocate £2500 from the festival budget as the usual festivals could not take place during the Spring and Summer of 2021. They wished these funds to be instead allocated to the Rose Window Project in addition to the £4500 awarded by the Mynydd y Betws Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund. The remaining £500 would assist with a much smaller Winter Festival for 2021

## **Resolved** that the above grants will be awarded from the 2021/22 Grant budget, and the re-allocation of grants awarded will be agreed.

## **11732: Councillor Vacancy:**

Council was advised that there had been no request for a By Election and therefore the vacant Trebanos seat would be filled by Co-Option

## **Resolved** to be noted.

## **11733: Planning:**

Meeting held on the 24.5.21

## **P2021/0417**

Applicant’s name and Address: Mr A Newton, 128 Walter Road, Swansea SA1 5RG

Site Location: 2 Swansea Road, Pontardawe SA8 4AB

Proposed Development: Change of use of ground floor from former hairdresser (A1) to café/bar (A3)

## **Resolved** No objection however Council is concerned about the lack of parking and current congestion in the area. Ongoing monitoring may be required

## **P2021/0514**

Applicant’s name and Address: Mr J Hartland, 51 Graig Road, Alltwen, Pontardawe SA8 3DA

Site Location: 261A Swansea Road, Trebanos SA8 4BY

Proposed Development: Two storey rear extension, porch, and roof to dormers to front elevation, window to side elevation, installation of roof lights and patio doors to rear and provision of two parking spaces

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

## **P2021/0187**

Applicant’s name and Address: Mr M Thomas, 40 Hawthorn Ave, Cimla, Neath SA11 3NW

Site Location: 241 Swansea Road, Trebanos, SA8 4BT

Proposed Development: Retention of existing engineering and retaining works together with proposed vehicular access and hardstanding to form new parking area

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

Discussed in the meeting

## **P2021/0601:**

Applicant’s name: M Price, 61 High Street, Pontardawe SA8 4JH

Site Location: 61 High Street, Pontardawe SA8 4JH

Proposed Development: Conversion of existing 4-bedroom dwelling into 1no. 1 bedroom dwelling and 1no. 2-bedroom dwelling

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

## **P2021/0539:**

Applicant’s name – Owain Gilbert, Pontardawe Primary Care, Alloy Industrial Estate, Pontardawe SA8 4JU

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

Development – Variation of condition 2 of planning permission P2020/1103 granted 20/1/21 to amend the elevations as approved

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

## **P2021/0571:**

Applicant’s name – Ryan Davies, Trem y Dderwen, Llanedi, Swansea SA4 0YT

Site Location: 5 Smithfield Road, Pontardawe, SA8 4LA

Development – Works to 1x Oak (identified as T1) covered by Tree Preservation order T 218/T2 – Reduce 1 large overextending oak branch by 3.5m

## **Resolved** There was insufficient and confusing information available, however, Council objects to work of this nature unless it is due to safety concerns.

## Application to change the register of Common Land – CL25A Entry 340 -Application number NPT 0074 –The register had been amended

## **11734: Community / Place Plans:**

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

## **Resolved** to be noted.

**11735: Council Insurance 2021/22:**

The Insurance position had been reviewed by Brokers as in previous years. They recommended no changes to the current insurance provision

RSA Municipal Insurance, Directors and Officers cover for the Management Committees of the Halls and separate Cyber Insurance to cover main exemptions from the original policy

The Premium had increased slightly from 2020/21 to £8212.03

## **Resolved** to be noted.

## **11736: Internal Audit Report 2020/21:**

Council was provided with the report for review prior to the meeting. There were no issues raised by the Internal Auditor. It was however recommended that all forms of Internal Control were reviewed during 2021/22

## **Resolved** that Council will agree the Internal Auditors Report for 2020/21and will request the Clerk provide a Report on possible additional Internal Controls for review.

## **11737: Annual Return 2020/21:**

Council was provided with the report for review prior to the meeting. Councillors reviewed the document in full but had no queries

## **Resolved** that the Annual Return for 2020/21 will be agreed and signed by the Mayor on behalf of Council

## **11738: Christmas 2021:**

A P&R Committee was required to discuss Christmas 2021

## **Resolved** that a P&R Committee will be organised

## **11739: Proposals for a new English Medium Primary School for 3–11-year-olds:**

Councillors Mrs R Phillips and A Richards took no part in the discussion.

Councillors were made aware that Neath Port Talbot County Borough Members would be discussing the proposals on Wednesday 16th June 2021. Any representations should therefore be made by Members of the Public to their County Borough Representatives prior to this date

## **Resolved** to be noted.

## **11740: Account Schedule 381:**

## **Resolved** that Account Schedule 381 totalling £19832.22 together with bank reconciliation.

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

## **11741: Llangiwg Primary School Minor Authority Governor:**

Councillor Gary Davies term as Minor Authority Governor had ended. Council however nominated him for a further term

## **Resolved** that Councillor Gary Davies will be the Minor Authority Governor for Llangiwg School

## **11742: Ynysmeudwy Hall Fence:**

It was suggested that the replacement Fence and Gate required at Ynysmeudwy Hall could be financed jointly by the Management Committee and the Town Council.

## **Resolved** that the cost of the gates at Ynysmeudwy Hall will be funded by the Town Council at a cost of approximately £2600 + VAT if the replacement fence is financed via the Hall Committee funds.

## **11743: Letters of Thanks:**

A letter of Thanks for grants awarded was received from the Riverside Centre and the Swansea Valley History Society

## **Resolved** to be noted.

## **11744: Bypass Crossing Point - Pontardawe:**

Councillors were provided with plans for the proposed improvement to the pedestrian island on the Bypass Road in Pontardawe which unfortunately did not seem to address the issue of a ‘lip’ between pavements and edges of the island which made crossing for disabled people/wheelchair users and pram users difficult.

## **Resolved** that the County Borough will be contacted to ensure that their plans address levelling issue

## **11745: Urgent Road Safety Matters:**

* A request was made for an update on the status of the new Disabled Bay on Herbert Street – Councillor A Richards will provide details for the Clerk to forward to all Councillors

## **Resolved** to be noted.

## **11746: Next Meeting:**

The next Ordinary Meeting will take place on the 12th July 2021 by virtual platform commencing at 6.45pm.

Signed ………………………………………………………………………

Dated ……………………………………………………………………..