## **Ordinary General Meeting held on the 13th September 2021 by virtual platform zoom due to COVID-19 restrictions commencing at 6.45 pm**

## **Present:**

Councillor Ms R Phillips (presiding), J Nemeth, J Jones, V Hotten, A Nicholson, Reverend Ms S Northcott, H Davies, G C Davies, Ms C Ford, Mrs L Purcell, Ms E Thomas, R Thomas, and Youth Councillor – Ms Issy Williams (from 7pm)

## **Apologies:**

Councillor A Richards

## **11763: Disclosure of Personal and Pecuniary Interests:**

Planning reference Councillor H Davies (neighbour)

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

## **11764: Signing of the Minutes of the Ordinary General Meeting held on the 12th July 2021:**

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

## **11765: Matters raised by Members of the Public:**

None

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

## **11766: Presentation by Welsh Water on their ‘Cartref’ service:**

Council was advised that Welsh Waters ‘Cartref’ programme would be providing free in-home water repairs and information on saving water in our area from the 1st October 2021. They had already had success with organisations such as schools and housing associations but needed to reach the wider community (domestic customers, local groups etc)

They had various methods of obtaining customer information such as QR codes for reporting information but needed assistance for the placement of banners etc.

Council advised them that Highways Department at Neath Port Talbot Council would need to be contacted for permission to place banners on Highways but that private organisations were able to place banners on Private fences etc

The engagement portion of the project was to run from the 1st October with work to be conducted from the first week of November 2021

Slides for the presentation were available and would be forwarded to the Clerk for distribution to Councillors

## **Resolved** to be noted.

## **11767: Defibrillator Mapping Project:**

Councillor Thomas confirmed that there was good coverage in the Pontardawe area, but various units were being moved or placed in exterior cabinets to ensure 24-hour coverage. The Art Centre unit was to be placed outside with funding for the cabinet from the Town Council.

The unit at ‘The Pink Geranium’ was to be moved to an alternative location and businesses at the retail park were being contacted to determine if they would be willing to host a unit.

In the short term a unit would be placed at Pontardawe Rugby Club. Funding for cabinets was also being sourced.

A meeting of the Heartbeat trust and partners was to be held shortly to determine actions required and time scales.

David Thomas had confirmed that he could offer training on the use of Defibrillators, but the venue would need to be sufficient for social distancing, they would need to be held on evenings and weekends with a maximum of 6 per group. Each session was approximately one hour.

## **Resolved** the Clerk will consult with Councillor Thomas to determine if David could ‘train’ a trainer to allow daytime sessions and also to organise training as part of the Heartbeat Trust project.

## **11768: Eco and Wellbeing Committee including Cwmdu:**

Tenderleaf had reviewed the tree Ash trees at Cwmdu under the monitoring programme.

Of the three trees, one should be felled due to decay at the base and its lean towards property. (302), The second (356) although only considered class 1 decay should be considered for felling within the next year due to poor access and risk to operators if the tree were to progress to class 3 or 4.

The final tree (408) could continue to be monitored

## **Resolved** that the Clerk will obtain quotes to fell both tree 302 and 356

## **11769: Police Matters:**

No PACT meetings had taken place.

Pontardawe statistics – July total of 49 down from June at 59 (Violence 23, Antisocial behaviour 10 and Public Order 8)

Trebanos statistics –July total of 8 up from June at 7 (Violence 4 and Antisocial behaviour 2)

The Clerk confirmed that the response from the Police Commissioner re the Town Council’s request for additional powers for PCSOs was in relation to both the request to the Commissioner and the Chief Constable

It was clear that more initiative-taking rather than reactive policing was required, however, it seemed that there were insufficient Police Officers and PCSOs in the area due to them being called away to different areas in the Neath Valley.

A new ‘Neighbourhood’ senior Officer had been employed within the wider area who had been helpful however the lack of PACT meetings or feedback on crimes and actions being taken was causing issues.

## **Resolved** to be noted.

## **11770: Christmas 2021:**

Council was advised that on the advice of the suppliers the maximum height of the tree at the Art Centre should be 25 feet due to the size of the holder. The Clerk had therefore ordered a 25-foot tree. The proposed delivery date would be the 24th November.

She had also been in discussion with the Swansea Round Table who had for many years provided a Santa’s sleigh and who would be willing to extend their route to include Pontardawe and the surrounding area.

## **Resolved** that a Policy and Resources Committee being arranged to discuss Christmas 2021.

## **11771: Planning:**

Meeting held on the 2nd August 2021

## **P2021/0705**

Applicant’s name and Address: Mr C Davies, 133 Swansea Road, Trebanos, Pontardawe SA84BS

Site Location: 133 Swansea Road, Trebanos, Pontardawe SA8 4BS

Proposed Development: Proposed two-storey and single storey rear extensions. Works to include setting back an existing retaining wall and the demolition or the existing ground floor rear extension and an existing outbuilding

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

## **P2021/0496**

Applicant’s name and Address: Elin Walters, 100 Commercial Road, Rhyd-y-fro Pontardawe SA8 4SS

Site Location: 100 Commercial Road, Rhyd-y-fro Pontardawe SA8 4SS

Proposed Development: Proposed two storey rear extension, two storey side extension and single storey side extension. Works include alterations to the existing dwelling house, increasing the ridge height or original dwelling and the demolition of existing side and rear extensions

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

## **P2021/0741**

Applicant’s name and Address: Mr Morgan Cowles, Llanthony Warehouse, The Docks, Gloucester GL1 2EH

Site Location: Trebannws Multi- Overflow and outlet sluice from the Swansea Canal, Trebanos SA8 4BN

Proposed Development: Listed building consent for repairs to upper spillway step comprising grouting and resetting of stones, rebuild of stonework and repoint using traditional lime mortar (based on NHL-5) using the original salvaged stones augmented with matching where necessary on lower spillway step, reinforced concrete beam withing the structure and clad with salvaged masonry and grouting of voids and new concrete toe beam 400mm x 300mm deep buried below existing outfall invert as required

## **Resolved** No objection.

## **P2021/0779**

Councillor Ms S Northcott declared an interest

Applicant’s name and Address: Wayne Hopkins, The Quays, Brunel Way, Neath SA8 4EG

Site Location: Sports field adj to Cwmtawe Community School, Pontardawe, Swansea SA8 4EG.

Proposed Development: Variation of condition 1 (allow for a further 2 years) of planning permission P2019/5234 for temporary classrooms

## **Resolved** Council is still concerned about the level of additional traffic caused by the placement.

## **P2021/0265**

Councillor H Davies declared an interest

Applicant’s name and Address: Mr Steven Musk, 19 Gelligron Road, Pontardawe SA8 4LU

Site Location: 19 Gelligron Road, Pontardawe SA8 4LU

Proposed Development: Two storey and single storey side extensions to include integral garage. Works include the creation of a hard standing and the demolition of the existing forecourt wall to provide action (Amended scheme)

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

Reviewed in the Ordinary Meeting due to time limits

## **P2021/0827**

Councillor H Davies declared an interest

Applicant’s name and Address: Miss Juliet Clutton, 40 Gelligron Road, Pontardawe SA8 4LU

Site Location: 40 Gelligron Road, Pontardawe SA8 4LU

Proposed Development: Demolition of existing garage and construction of new garage and resurfaced driveway

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

## **P2021/0029**

Applicant’s name and Address: M Evans, Garage adj to 87 Commercial Road, Pontardawe SA8 4SL

Site Location: Garage adj 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 with a 1.15-metre-high timer fence together with re-profiling of adjacent land (additional information received 21.4.21) (Additional information – Construction Management statement and Ecology report Rec 19.8.21)

## **Resolved** No objection.

## **P2021/0605**

Applicant’s name and Address: Mr G Porter, Unit 2, Gilbertson Court, Alloy Industrial Estate, Pontardawe, SA8 4EZ

Site Location: Unit 2, Gilbertson Court, Alloy Industrial Estate, Pontardawe, SA8 4EZ

Proposed Development: Proposed construction of a light industrial building

## **Resolved** No objection.

## **P2021/0604**

Applicant’s name and Address: Mr G Porter, Unit 2, Gilbertson Court, Alloy Industrial Estate, Pontardawe, SA8 4EZ

Site Location: Unit 2, Gilbertson Court, Alloy Industrial Estate, Pontardawe, SA8 4EZ

Proposed Development: Proposed construction of front and side extension to existing unit

## **Resolved** No objection.

## **P2021/0754**

Applicant’s name and Address: Paulette Eynon, 8 Morgan Street, Trebanos Pontardawe, Swansea SA8 4DW

Site Location: Paulette Eynon, 8 Morgan Street, Trebanos Pontardawe, Swansea SA8 4DW

Proposed Development: Proposed alternations and two storey side and rear extension to existing dwelling and the construction of an outbuilding in rear garden

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

## **P2021/0705**

Applicant’s name and Address: Mr C Davies, 133 Swansea Road, Trebanos, Pontardawe, SA8 4BS

Site Location: 133 Swansea Road, Trebanos, Pontardawe, SA8 4BS

Proposed Development: Proposed two-storey and single storey rear extensions. Works include setting back an existing retaining wall and the demolition of the existing ground floor rear extension (Amended description of works and amended plans received 24/8/21)

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

Two additional Planning applications and the draft delivery agreement for the Local Development Plan for 2021-2026 shout be discussed in a Planning Committee

## **Resolved** arrange Planning Committee

## **11772: Community / Place Plans – Pharmacy provision:**

Following legal advice, the discussion on this matter was held privately. Members of the Public and the Press were therefore excluded from this portion of the meeting by resolution

## **Resolved** that the discussion on the Pharmacy provision for Pontardawe will be discussed privately. All Members of the Press and Public will be excluded for this portion of the meeting

**11773: Internal Auditor – Clerks Report:**

Lyn Llewellyn had advised the Clerk, that he would no longer be in a position to conduct the internal audit for larger councils.

The role of Internal Auditor for Town and Community Councils was quite specialist and she had been advised that some general auditors where not sufficiently experienced in the sector or the differences between systems in Wales and England.

KLH Internal Auditor was however a specialist in the Welsh sector with several years’ experience. She had also obtained testimonials from Newcastle Higher Community Council and Llantwit Major Town Council who had been pleased with the service provided.

The fee summary for a remote Audit had been quoted as £820.00, with and In-Person Audit of £843.94

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| As the previous year’s audit conducted by Lyn Llewellyn had been invoiced at £840.00. Both quotes were considered reasonable. |

## **Resolved** that KLG Internal Auditor will be contracted to complete the Internal Audit for 2021/22

## **11774: Grants Requested:**

There were no additional grants requested, however several application forms had been forwarded to various organisations.

During the Summer break, Pontardawe RFC had requested the alteration of the terms of their grant. All Councillors were approached by the Clerk to determine their thoughts and as there was no material difference to the grant value or the assistance to the community, the request was agreed, and the grant paid.

## **Resolved** that the decision will be ratified

## **11775: Statement of Internal Control:**

The proposed Statement of Internal Control was forwarded to Councillors prior the meeting.

## **Resolved** that Council will adopt the Statement of Internal Control

## **11776: Budget/Actual 1st Quarter 2021/22**

The Report was forwarded to Councillors prior to the meeting. The Clerk then explained the variances

## **Resolved** that the report will be accepted.

## **11777: Quotation for the replacement of safety surfacing at Trebanos Park**

Two quotes were received from ‘Adventure Playgrounds’ and ‘Miracle design and Play.’ Council discussed both the price and actions to be undertaken and decided to contract Miracle Design and Play.

## **Resolved** that Miracle Design and Play will be contracted to replace the damaged safety surface at Trebanos Park at a cost of £3120 ex VAT.

## **11778: Account Schedule 383 & 384:**

## **Resolved** that Account Schedule 383 totalling £10731.81 and 384 totalling 6825.87 together with bank reconciliations should be accepted by Council in line with Standing Orders.

## **11779: Consultation on the Active travel map:**

Councillors were provided with details of the consultation prior to the Meeting.

## **Resolved** that the consultation should be discussed in Committee.

## **11780: Consultation on local taxes for second homes and self-catering accommodation:**

Councillors were provided with details of the consultation prior to the Meeting.

## **Resolved** that the consultation should be discussed in Committee.

## **11781: CCTV for Pontardawe:**

## **Resolved** that the proposal should be discussed in Committee.

## **11782: Pontardawe – A smart town (Enterprise Hub):**

## **Resolved** that the item should be discussed in Committee.

## **11783: Councillor resignation:**

Council was advised that Councillor Robert Clapham would need to step down as a Town Councillor for the Pontardawe Ward due to personal reasons.

Councillor Clapham stated that he felt extremely fortunate in his brief time to have been part of the organisation.

Council was very sorry to hear of his decision but thanked him for all his work during his term in Office and wished him well in his future endeavours

## **Resolved** that the Clerk will forward a letter of thanks to Councillor Clapham and then take the appropriate action to advertise a vacancy.

## **11784: Speeding at Swansea Road:**

An email had been received from a Brecon Road resident expressing concern over the speed of traffic.

The County Borough Member did however have an update on the situation as the Police had confirmed that the ‘Go Safe’ team together with PCSOs with handheld devices would be attending the site shortly

## **Resolved** to be noted.

## **11785: Operation ‘London Bridge’:**

## **Resolved** that the item should be discussed in Committee.

## **11786: Brooklands Garden Art Display**

## **Resolved** that the item should be discussed in Committee.

## **11787: Urgent Road Safety Matters:**

None.

## **Resolved** to be noted.

## **11788: Next Meeting:**

The next Ordinary Meeting will take place on the 11th October 2021. Venue to be advised commencing at 6.45pm.

Signed ………………………………………………………………………

Dated ……………………………………………………………………..