## **Ordinary General Meeting held on the 8th November 2021 by virtual platform zoom due to COVID-19 restrictions, commencing at 6.45 pm**

## **Present:**

Councillor Ms R Phillips (presiding), V Hotten, Mrs L Purcell, A Richards, Mrs J Ashton-Mears, R Thomas, D Williams, H Davies, G C Davies, J Jones, Ms E Thomas and Youth Councillor – Ms Issy Williams (from 7pm)

## **Apologies:**

Councillor A Nicholson and Reverend Ms S Northcott

## **11816: Disclosure of Personal and Pecuniary Interests:**

Councillor V Hotten – PANTRY Grant

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

## **11817: Signing of the Minutes of the Ordinary General Meeting held on the 11th October 2021:**

## **Resolved** that the minutes of the Ordinary General Meeting held on the 11th October 2021 having been read and confirmed as a true record be accepted by Council, with the following amendment:

11797,98,99,800 should state the meeting date as 27th September 2021 and not 27th December 2021.

## **11818: Matters raised by Members of the Public:**

None

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

## **11819: Defibrillator Mapping Project:**

There were no further details available on the project

## **Resolved** to be noted.

## **11820: Eco and Wellbeing Committee including Cwmdu:**

The work required to trees 302 and 356 at Cwmdu had been carried out.

Neil Hinds was no longer the Coed Cymru Officer covering the Pontardawe area. His replacement was Ben Bonham, who had already been in touch to introduce himself

The Friends of Ynysmeudwy Park were arranging a fruit tree planting session later in the month. A small grant was to be made available by Neath Port Talbot Council to purchase the trees and some ancillary equipment

## **Resolved** to be noted.

## **11821: Police Matters:**

No PACT meetings had been arranged and Council was concerned that virtual PACT meetings had not been organised as this would be permissible despite the ongoing Pandemic.

Pontardawe statistics – September 43 down from August 59 (ASB 12, Violence 9, Public Order 8 and Criminal Damage 5)

Trebanos statistics –September 5 up from August 4 (Violence 3, Burglary 1 and Public Order 1)

## **Resolved** to be noted.

## **11822: Christmas 2021:**

The Majority of the Christmas lights would be illuminated on Friday 3rd December however the pea lights, on the trees, adjacent to the Herbert Street car park would be turned on early to coincide with the Farmers market on the last Friday in November.

The date for Santa’s Sleight was still awaited however a route through Pontardawe would be required, prior to the event

The tree was still to be delivered and erected on the 24th November 2021

The minimum price for a Snow Globe at the Art Centre was £1000. Council discussed matters and decided that on this occasion the cost was warranted as the majority of the original Christmas festivities including the Parade, switch on event and Fireworks could not be arranged due to ongoing restrictions

A Santa’s grotto and craft fayre were still to be held at the Art Centre on the 3rd December however details were not available

Glantawe Lions would be happy to judge the Herbert Street and High Street retailer Christmas Window Competition on the 4th December following the dedication ceremony for the Tree of Light in Pontardawe

A market was still to be held at the Heritage Centre on the 4th December 2021.

## **Resolved** that Council obtain a Snow Globe for outside the Art Centre on Friday 3rd December. A route should be planned for Santa’s sleigh. (Council was content to provide plenary powers for the Clerk, Mayor and Councillor Purcell to arrange this route)

A Christmas meeting should be arranged shortly to include the Clerk, Mayor, Art Centre, Chamber of Commerce, NPT Neighbourhood Officer and PCSOs to finalise the Christmas Events.

## **11823: Operation London Bridge:**

Council was provided with the proposed protocol prior to the meeting.

## **Resolved** to be agreed.

## **11824: CCTV:**

The Clerk confirmed that she had attended a meeting with the Police to determine the most effective locations for CCTV cameras in Pontardawe.

To cover the Town Centre and the roads in and out of Pontardawe, the following 180-degree cameras would be required:

* The Cross – to cover Swansea Road, James Street, upper Herbert Street and High Street
* The ART Centre – to cover mid and lower Herbert Street and Holly Street
* Gwachel Roundabout – to cover the Bypass road, entrance to Pontardawe from the Flyover and the bottom of the Alloy industrial estate

A further camera would be required for the area close to the underpass and the Bypass car park.

If funds and technical ability allowed the recreation ground and Riverside could also be considered.

The Police would also find it helpful if a feed only could be available in Neath Police Station.

## **Resolved** that the Clerk discuss proposals with Neath Port Talbot Council and obtain costs.

## **11825: Grants applications and letters of thanks:**

My Green Valley forwarded a letter of thanks for the grant provided to purchase additional litter picking equipment

The Clerk provided additional information on the costs and requirements to accompany the grant application from Pontardawe Bowls Club for a £2000 grant to purchase equipment. The additional information included details of insurance, equipment safety and the skills pool available to the club to maintain the green.

Grant Application from PANTRY for £2000 to tackle energy poverty for individuals in the Pontardawe area via CHARIS hardship vouchers. Council was unsure if the Town Council could support a grant of this nature and therefore additional legal clarification would be required.

## **Resolved** that the application from Pontardawe Bowls club be accepted and the grant for £2000 will be awarded. The Clerk will also contact One Voice Wales for advice on the grant request from PANTRY.

## **11826: Planning:**

Meeting held on the 25th October 2021

## **P2021/0973**

Applicant’s name and Address: Mr Lyn Davies, 3 Cherry Grove, Pontardawe, Swansea SA8 4PX

Site Location: 3 Cherry Grove, Pontardawe, Swansea SA8 4PX

Proposed Development: Retention and Completion of three detached dwellings and associated access work

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

## **P2021/1039**

Applicant’s name and Address: Miss Julie Skinner, 165 Swansea Road, Trebanos, Swansea SA8 4BS

Site Location: 165 Swansea Road, Trebanos, Swansea SA8 4BS

Proposed Development: Two Storey rear extension

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

## **P2021/0754**

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

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

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

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

Planning discussed in this meeting:

## **P2021/1104**

Applicant’s name and Address: Mrs Sarah Cox, 16 Quarr Road, Pontardawe, Swansea SA8 4JD

Site Location: 17 High Street, Pontardawe SA8 4HU

Proposed Development: Change of former travel agent (use class A1) to a medical aesthetics clinic (use class sui generis)

## **Resolved** No Objection

## **P2021/0893**

Applicant’s name and Address: Paul Trotter, 64 Commercial Road, Rhyd y Fro, Pontardawe SA8 4SL

Site Location: 64 Commercial Road, Rhyd y Fro, Pontardawe SA8 4SL

Proposed Development: Single storey rear extension

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

Council also discussed the response from the appeal by Medway Pharmacy for a further Pharmacy within Pontardawe

**Resolved** That the Town Council will once again request that the application for a third Pharmacy be agreed.

## **11827: Clerks Report on Facilities:**

The Clerk proposed a dialogue with the Art Centre to determine if the Town Council could utilise space within their building. Requirements were discussed however it was felt that a move of this nature could be mutually beneficial.

## **Resolved:** that the Clerk will discuss proposals with the Art Centre

## **11828: Budget and Precept proposal for 2022/23:**

Council was provided with proposals prior to the meeting which included half yearly expenditure for 2021/22 (appendix 1) and the Budget for 2022/23 (appendix 2). The budget included £4000 towards the proposed CCTV system however Council was aware that the project was likely to be substantially higher than that figure and was comfortable to allocate additional funds from Reserves.

## **Resolved:** That the Precept for 2022/23 will be £208101.00

## **11829: Change of use for Heol y Llwynau ‘Kick about’ area:**

Councillor Phillips proposed utilising part of her County Borough Councillor grant to create a Community Garden at the ‘Kick about’ site. She explained that currently although the Town Council leased the land from Tai Tarian for use by local children it was not well used and a Community Garden would now provide more of a focus for community cohesion. The current ground rent was £395 per annum

## **Resolved:** That the Council will agree for a change of use at Heol y Llwynau from a ‘kick about area’ to a community garden.

## **11830: Account Schedule 386:**

## **Resolved** that Account Schedule 386 totalling £18725.22 together with bank reconciliation will be accepted by Council in line with Standing Orders.

## **11831: Pontardawe ward vacancy:**

Council was advised that the request for an Election to be held to fill the vacancy was not received by the 22nd October deadline. The vacancy could therefore be filled by Co-option

## **Resolved** that the Clerk will advertise a notice of Co-Option with the intention to fill the vacancy at a forthcoming Ordinary meeting.

## **11832: Request for alteration to terms of financial assistance:**

Council had agreed to finance the purchase of new gates for Ynysmeudwy Hall if the Ynysmeudwy Hall committee financed the replacement fence. Following some enquiries however it was found that the cost of the fence and gates were prohibitive. The Hall Committee requested the terms of the assistance be altered to the Hall Committee supporting half the cost of the fence surrounding Ynysmeudwy Hall Car Park, with the Town Council supporting the other half. As the gates were still fit for purpose they would not be replaced

## **Resolved** that Council will accept the change of terms for the replacement fence at Ynysmeudwy Hall.

## **11833: SLCC Membership:**

## **Resolved** that the SLCC Membership will be renewed at a cost of £262.00.

## **11834: Consultation – Review of Neath Port Talbot Council Gambling Police:**

Council was provided with details prior to the meeting

## **Resolved** to be noted.

## **11835: Consultation – Ending homelessness: a high-level action plan 2021-26:**

Council was provided with details prior to the meeting

## **Resolved** to be noted.

## **11836: Consultation – Updating Earnings thresholds for Council Tax recovery:**

Council was provided with details prior to the meeting

## **Resolved** to be noted.

## **11837: Consultation – Updating Earnings thresholds for Council Tax recovery:**

Council was provided with details prior to the meeting

## **Resolved** to be noted.

## **11838: Maes Pentref Pontardawe Proposal:**

Council was provided with details of a proposal to create a ‘Village Green’ in Pontardawe. Council believed that this should form part of the Place Planning and should also be allocated during the forthcoming amendment to the Local Development Plan however they were happy to advise Neath Port Talbot Council that they felt the portion of land within the proposal should remain in public ownership pending completion of the Community/Place plan

## **Resolved** that the Clerk will advise the Town Team Committee and also Neath Port Talbot Council of Council’s wish to retain the portion of land indicated within Public Ownership

## **11839: Urgent Road Safety Matters:**

None

## **Resolved** to be noted.

## **11840: Next Meeting:**

The next Ordinary Meeting will take place on the 13th December 2021 by virtual platform commencing at 6.45pm.

Signed ………………………………………………………………………

Dated ……………………………………………………………………..