## **Ordinary General Meeting held on the 10th January 2022 by virtual platform zoom due to COVID-19 restrictions, commencing at 6.45 pm**

## **Present:**

Councillor Ms R Phillips (presiding), Mrs L Purcell (left the meeting at 7.20pm), A Richards (left the meeting at 7pm), D Williams, G C Davies, J Jones, Ms E Thomas, A Nicholson, Reverend Ms S Northcott, J Nemeth, R Thomas and Heath Davies

**Apologies:**

Councillor V Hotten, Mrs J Ashton-Mears and Hywel Davies

## **11863: Disclosure of Personal and Pecuniary Interests:**

Councillor J Nemeth declared and interest in the Consultation on Planning legislation for second homes and short-term holiday lets. Councillor R Thomas declared an interest in Grants

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

## **11864: Signing of the Minutes of the Ordinary General Meeting held on the 13th December 2021:**

## **Resolved** that the minutes of the Ordinary General Meeting held on the 13th December 2021 having been read and confirmed as a true record be accepted by Council.

## **11865: Matters raised by Members of the Public:**

None

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

## **11866: Defibrillator Mapping Project:**

The Clerk was still awaiting a licence to place the external box at Pontardawe Art Centre from Neath Port Talbot Council.

## **Resolved** to be noted.

## **11867: Eco and Wellbeing Committee including Cwmdu:**

Both Councillors John Jones and Eira Thomas had agreed to represent the Town Council in the Neath Port Talbot Nature workshop. The first meeting was due to be held on the 18th January 2022

## **Resolved** to be noted.

## **11868: Police Matters:**

No PACT meetings had been arranged.

Pontardawe statistics –November 44 down from October 56 (Violence 19, Public Order 6, Other theft 3 and Anti-Social Behaviour 9)

Trebanos statistics –November 6 up from October 5 (All Violence)

There had been a minor break in at ARCH Hall which had been reported to the Police via the 101 number. No damage had occurred at the hall during the event.

## **Resolved** to be noted.

## **11869: Grants applications and letters of thanks:**

Councillor R Thomas declared an interest

A Grant application had been received from the Leon Heart fund/Heartbeat Trust UK for a grant of £2500 to fund external cabinets for five Defibrillators that had been awarded under separate grants for the Pontardawe Town Council area

Council was advised that following the placement of these units and the unit at the Art Centre, the Pontardawe Town Council area would have sufficient coverage to allow the project to close

The Clerk confirmed that a social media post had been included advising the community of available grants and several application forms had been forwarded for completion which were awaited

## **Resolved** that the Grant request for £2500 for external defibrillator cabinets by the Leon Heart fund and Heartbeat Trust UK will be awarded.

## **11870: Office and Facilities:**

Correspondence from Neath Port Talbot Council was still awaited

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

## **11871: Personnel Committee:**

It was agreed to arrange a Personnel Committee to discuss Contracts of Employment and additional staffing policies (as suggested by the Internal Audit report)

## **Resolved** that the Clerk will arrange a Personnel Committee

## **11872: Planning:**

There were not Planning applications to review

The consultation period for P2021/1189 received prior to Christmas had been allowed to lapse on the instruction of the planning committee as they had no comment

## **Resolved** to be noted.

## **11873: Councillor Code of Conduct:**

Council reviewed the Code of Conduct prior to the meeting and agreed once again to adopt and abide by it.

## **Resolved:** that Pontardawe Town Councillors will abide by the Councillor Code of Conduct

## **11874: Clerks Report re Office Laptop:**

The Town Council’s Chromebook was now nine years old which placed it close to its end of life. There were also difficulties with the current cloud based working methods due to the size of the hard drive. It would also not support Windows 11.

Council agreed that an upgrade was required to allow the Clerk to carry out her work effectively and provided a budget to purchase a replacement lap top. The current machine would be retained as a spare.

## **Resolved:** that a new laptop/Chromebook will be purchased with a maximum budget of £800.00

## **11875: Clerks Report re Parks and Play areas:**

The Clerk confirmed that the Parks/footpaths contractor used in 2021/22 had carried out the maintenance to a high standard. He had also been asked to carry out some small additional maintenance such as painting at the Parks during the Winter (Additional quotes were not required as this was an addition to a current contractual arrangement)

The replacement safety surface had not yet been completed at Trebanos Park due to difficulties with supply and poor weather. It was hoped that work could be carried out once the weather was drier

In line with the Internal Auditors suggestion, alternatives to the traditional Hanging Basket Contract with the City and County of Swansea were being reviewed however the current supplier was currently the only fully serviced operator available

## **Resolved:** that Matthew Thomas (Tawe Landscapes) continue to carry out the Park/Footpath Maintenance for the 2022/23 Summer season.

## **11876: Local Resolution Protocol:**

Council was provided with the standard Local Resolution protocol from One Voice Wales prior to the meeting.

It was suggested that this also be reviewed and agreed by the incoming Councillors following the May Election.

## **Resolved:** that this will be adopted and diarised for agreement by the incoming Councillors following the May 2022 Election

## **11877: Account Schedule 388:**

## **Resolved** that Account Schedule 388 totalling £11763.70 together with bank reconciliation will be accepted by Council in line with Standing Orders.

## **11878: Consultation violence against women, domestic abuse, and sexual violence:**

To be reviewed at Committee with Plenary Powers

## **Resolved** that a Committee with Plenary Powers will be arranged to discuss

## **11879: Local Government and Elections Wales Act 2021 – Community and Town Council statutory guidance:**

This was discussed however additional clarification was required

## **Resolved** that a Committee with Plenary Powers will be arranged to discuss

## **11880: Consultation planning legislation and policy for second homes and short term lets:**

Councillor J Nemeth declared an interest

To be reviewed at Committee with Plenary Powers

## **Resolved** that a Committee with Plenary Powers will be arranged to discuss

## **11881: Urgent Road Safety Matters:**

Councillor Nemeth wished information on a road traffic accident that he believed had taken place between Pontardawe Cross and the Ynysmeudwy Arms (the area current being reviewed by ‘Go Safe’)

## **Resolved** that the Council Borough Members will be asked for any information available

## **11882: Next Meeting:**

The next Ordinary Meeting will take place on the 14th February 2022 by virtual platform commencing at 6.45pm.

Signed ………………………………………………………………………

Dated ……………………………………………………………………..