## **Ordinary General Meeting held on the 11th July 2022 with hybrid facilities. The physical meeting was held at the Gallery, 2nd Floor, Pontardawe Arts Centre, Herbert Street, Pontardawe, with support via virtual platform Zoom, in line with Welsh Government requirements, commencing at 6.45 pm**

## **Present at Pontardawe Arts Centre:**

Councillor Ms L Purcell (presiding), Ms J Lord (left the meeting at 8pm), P Temblett, S Todd, H Davies, M Vincent, D Brain, Mrs R Phillips, Ms E Thomas, G Davies, A Richards and Ms I Williams (Youth representative)

## **Present via Zoom**

Councillor J Nemeth and Mrs G Ffrancon

**Apologies:**

Councillor B Howells, M Davies and J Watkins

## **12021: Disclosure of Personal and Pecuniary Interests:**

Councillors Mrs R Phillips and A Richards explained that they could take no part in any discussion on the proposed new English Medium School at Pontardawe or the possible closure of Godrergraig, Alltwen or Llangiwg schools.

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

## **12022: Signing of the Minutes of the Ordinary General Meeting held on the 20th June 2022:**

## **Resolved** that the minutes of the Ordinary General Meeting held on the 20th June 2022 having been read and confirmed as a true record be accepted by Council.

## **12023: Matters raised by Members of the Public:**

Two residents of Pontardawe (Ynysderw Road and Uplands) stated that they were very unhappy with the level of anti-social behaviour being exhibited late at night at the Cross, High Street and adjacent to Ynysderw Road.

The Issues being experienced were:

* Anti-social behaviour of individuals leaving local Public Houses and Clubs
* Extreme noise from individuals leaving local Public Houses and Clubs late at night
* Anti-social behaviour exacerbated by late licences issued to establishments in the town (additional late licences recently issued)
* The lack of a Police presence in Pontardawe at weekends and late at night
* Loud Quad bikes/ other vehicles continually driving through town, especially late at night
* Taxi’s using horns late at night

Despite continual reporting to the Police via 101 no action seemed to have been taken. Residents also believed that the Unitary Authority had enforcement Powers that could be used in these circumstances but that these were currently not utilised.

Council thanked the residents for attending and explained that a discussion on the matter would be forthcoming.

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

## **12024: Defibrillator Mapping Project:**

Council were advised that they were now permitted to arrange the installation of the exterior cabinet at the Arts Centre. A date for installation and for connection to the electricity supply by the Electrician was awaited.

The Heartbeat Trust UK were still reviewing signage

Details of the location of units (both exterior and otherwise) had been emailed to Councillors, posted on Social Media and had formed part of the Town Council Community Mag article for August.

Arrangements would be made to publicise the units placed by the Town Council once the Arts Centre installation had been completed

It had been agreed that the awareness session on defibrillators and CPR would be arranged in September

## **Resolved** to be noted.

## **12025: Eco and Wellbeing Committee including Cwmdu:**

The Clerk was awaiting a second quote prior to carrying out the remedial work at Cwmdu following the creation of the new Management plan.

The Cwmdu Volunteers had confirmed that all work carried out to date had been led by Neath Port Talbot Council. They were also insured and were in contact with NPT Biodiversity. They were however still awaiting a dedicated contact with the County Borough for liaison, to ensure that plans for Town Council land at Cwmdu and plans for Neath Port Talbot land at Cwmdu was cohesive.

Photographs of the work being carried out will be supplied to Council by the Group in due course.

An Eco and Wellbeing Committee should be set up in August to discuss possible projects for Pontardawe that could be created in readiness for grant availability, due to the short timescales for grant submissions. The Committee would also discuss Neath Port Talbot Council’s tree planting policy

## **Resolved** that the Clerk will accept the lowest quote for the remedial work required as stated in the recent Cwmdu Management plan, and will convene an Eco and Wellbeing Committee in August.

## **12026: Police Matters:**

The Clerk confirmed that the meeting attended by a Councillor recently had been the Community Alcohol Partnership and not a PACT meeting.

The Sergeant at Pontardawe had agreed to the reinstatement of the PACT meetings at Pontardawe however they would be monitored for attendance. The PACT meetings would be led by the PCSOs who had requested dates when Town Councillors could attend. Hybrid facilities could not be provided.

A PACT meeting was also to be reinstated at Trebanos from September and every three Months thereafter. An informal ‘walkabout’ by PCSOs would take place between PACT meetings.

Pontardawe statistics –Total of 37 crimes in May which was up from 20 in April (Violence 14, ASB 11, Public Order 8 and Burglary 2)

Trebanos statistics –Total of 4 crimes in May, up from 2 in April (No themes)

One of the residents who attended the Ordinary meeting had also emailed the Town Council with their concerns over late night anti-social behaviour, noise and vehicular disturbance.

Council was advised that ‘door to door’ surveys were being carried out with residents in the centre of Pontardawe, at present by PCSOs

Council believed that the reinstatement of PACT meetings would allow members of the Community to provide first hand knowledge of the issues being experienced which could become ‘PACT priorities’ and would then form a basis for action by both the Police and the County Borough.

**Resolved** that Councillors will provide dates when they will be available for PACT meetings (Thursdays in September) – The Clerk will then advise the Pontardawe PCSOs. The residents will be invited to the PACT meetings at Pontardawe to discuss the current issues.

## **12027: Grant applications and letters of thanks:**

It was agreed to set up a Finance Committee to discuss applications. The Finance Committee would be awarded Plenary Powers to award grant for Events, to ensure that funds were available to allow volunteers and groups to organise Events during the Council recess

## **Resolved** that the Clerk will convene a Finance Committee to discuss Grant Applications (the Committee will have plenary powers to award Revenue Grants for Events for up to £500 per Event)

## **12028: Christmas 2022:**

Council previously requested that a Christmas tree be purchased from a local source in order to support the local economy and to limit emissions from the transportation of the tree. The tree would however need to be 25-foot-tall, the supplier insured for transport, and the tree cost effective.

Council was provided with options for the supply and erection of the Christmas Tree for the Winter festival in 2022:

* Wood Farm (Kidderminster) £450 (2021 price) – Transport to Clydach free of charge and kindly covered by VALE Clydach however transport from Clydach to Pontardawe estimated at approximately £350
* Gower Fresh in Three Crosses was £13 per foot but 18 ft was the maximum they supply.
* Old School Nursery could supply Nordmann Firs however they were unsure of the maximum height and cost. Lliw building merchants had stated they were happy to transport and erect the tree free of charge. They also offered a £50 donation towards the tree.
* Wrenvale Nurseries at Cwmllynfell offered to supply and erect a 25-foot Christmas tree for £550.

## **Resolved:** that Wrenvale Nursery be contracted to supply and erect the Christmas tree subject to evidence of suitable condition and adequate insurance.

## **12029: Investment Policy:**

The Clerk confirmed that she had an update on the queries surrounding the Credit Union Account.

## **Resolved** to be discussed at a forthcoming Finance Committee.

## **12030: Training Policy:**

Council was informed that the training policy needed to be reviewed.

## **Resolved** to be discussed at a forthcoming Policy and Resources Committee.

## **12031: Neath Port Talbot Council Members monthly Update:**

Councillor Anthony Richards confirmed that Council wanted a high-level review of actions and discussions in the County Borough that might affect the Pontardawe Town Council area.

Council was advised that the ‘Rainbow Coalition’ had been formed following the 2022 Election.

Their priorities in Neath Port Talbot were Physical Environment, Education, Generation of Revenue, Boost investment, Ease cost of living crisis, Valleys initiative and improving the economy.

The NPT Hardship fund would also target the most in need in this current financial year. As there was no administrative capacity at the County Borough the scheme would be administered in conjunction with ‘Warm Wales’. The scheme would be far reaching and would support those in crisis who often were not supported by other benefits.

Councillor Phillips provided details of actions specific to Trebanos which included additional patrols by the PCSOs during the Summer to deter anti-social behaviour, the Community Garden, addressing speeding on Swansea Road and Parking at Heol y Llwynau

Councillor Heath Davies advised Council that in Pontardawe the Chief Inspector was in discussion with the Cricket Club to address significant Anti-social behaviour and damage at the ground. He had also met with Tai Tarian, consulted with local people in conjunction with Councillor Richards, and had addressed individuals’ issues with overgrown hedges and pot holes

## **Resolved** to be noted.

## **12032: Monthly Update on the proposed new English medium Primary school at Pontardawe:**

The County Borough Members took no part in any discussion on these matters.

The Clerk read the Neath Port Talbot County Borough press release dated 30th June 2022 which had already been circulated to Council Members.

The following points were raised:

* Council was unsure who would be considered ‘Stakeholders’ in the proposals, as the effects of a new school on the infrastructure and traffic in the area would affect all residents, and those traveling through the area
* What was the date of the new review and would the review actually be another Consultation?
* As stage 1 had taken place what were the costs, and how had they been funded?
* What alternatives and ideas were available, and would alternatives be fully reviewed to determine viability?
* In the event that it was decided not to go ahead, would funding be made available to replace the swimming pool, obtain support for those on the Autism spectrum, and to invest in the current primary schools
* Currently Godrergraig School was in temporary accommodation which was not fit for purpose over the longer term. Additional funds were required specifically for this school to ensure that it remained a viable primary school.
* The effects of the review would impact on all the schools under threat of closure. It was imperative that the review timescale was not extended and that action was taken this year to limit impact on pupil numbers.

## **Resolved** that the Council’s concerns and questions will be submitted to Neath Port Talbot Council

## **12033: Planning:**

Meeting held on the 4th July 2022 with Plenary Powers

## **P2022/0501**

Applicant’s name and Address: Ms Lauren Colvin, 5 Francis Street, Pontardawe SA8 4EQ

Site Location: 5 Francis Street, Pontardawe SA8 4EQ

Proposed Development: First floor rear extension with under croft

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

## **P2022/0515**

Applicant’s name and Address: Pobl Group, Pobl House, Phoenix Way, Llansamlet, Swansea SA7 9EQ

Site Location: Ty Mawr Ynysderw Road, Pontardawe SA8 4EG

Proposed Development: Construct two storey side extension and convert existing building to provide 12no self-contained flats (mix 1 and 2 bedroom) including addition of solar panels on rear elevation, new access and parking arrangements

The Committee was concerned that the building was not listed and would have liked to review the possibility of a retrospective listing

## **Resolved** Council is pleased that the building will be renovated and is happy with a multi-occupancy project however they do have certain concerns:

* The Property has significant historic value. Council was aware that the building is not listed but believes it should be, and therefore should very sympathetically renovated
* They were therefore concerned about the two-storey extension
* They were unsure if the project was viable without the extension, but renovation without an extension would be their preference
* Neighbourhood notification was paramount
* The application was for one and two bed apartments however this indicated family dwellings – Council however felt that given the location, which is surrounded by senior housing, the apartments should be designated ‘over 50 years’
* The Welsh language assessment stated the project had neutral impact however it was felt that by designating the building ‘over 50 years’, the project was likely to have a positive impact on the Welsh Language
* Council would like a full discussion in committee rather than Officer decision due to the sensitive nature of the development.

## **P2022/0539**

Applicant’s name and Address: Mrs Sarah Davies, 27 Gelligron Road, Pontardawe, SA8 4LU

Site Location: 27 Gelligron Road, Pontardawe, SA8 4LU

Proposed Development: Creation of new vehicular access and 1no off road parking space

## **Resolved** Council has concerns over this access due to both the flow of traffic and the possibility of accident due to the location on Gelligron Road. They also wish neighbourhood notification

## **P2022/0507**

Applicant’s name and Address: Mr Damian Alexander, 74 Heol y Llwynau, Trebanos SA8 4DD

Site Location: 74 Heol y Llwynau, Trebanos SA8 4DD

Proposed Development: Proposed single storey rear extension and two storey rear extension, and proposed rear dormer extension to facilitate loft conversion. The works for which include a partial demolition of an existing single storey rear extension

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

Application discussed during Ordinary Meeting

## **P2022/0431**

Applicant’s name and Address: Mr Lee Hopkins, 170 Swansea Road, Trebanos, SA8 4BU

Site Location: 170 Swansea Road, Trebanos, SA8 4BU

Proposed Development: Proposed two storey rear and side extension, with first floor rear balcony and raised decking area with privacy screening, the works for which include the demolition of an existing single storey rear extension.

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

## **Neath Port Talbot Council Planning response**

A response had also been received regarding P2022/0515 which had been discussed in the meeting dated 4th July 2022.

The response stated that Council would need to contact Cadw regarding the listing of buildings however the application would not be referred to the Planning Committee at Neath Port Talbot Council without a request from a local ward Councillor and the agreement of the Head of Planning. Councillor Anthony Richards confirmed that he had made the appropriate request.

## **Town Team**

No Members of the Town Team were available to provide a report and therefore this would be deferred until a following meeting. The Clerk did however have a request from the Town Team.

They were looking to consult with both young people in Pontardawe via the Schools and later with the whole population via mixture of online and paper questionnaires. Currently however they had no funds to support this consultation.

Council agreed to finance consultations, small prizes and other sundry expenses up to the value of £500 as the information obtained would be also useful to the Town Council. They did however wish to view any questionnaires prior to issue.

## **Resolved** that a representative of the Town Team be invited to provide an update for Council in a forthcoming meeting and that the Town Council will support ancillary costs for the Town Team up to £500.00 (Any questionnaires would need to be reviewed by Town Council prior to issue)

## **12034: Civic Service 2022:**

Council was advised that the Annual Civic Service would be held on the third Sunday in September (18th September 2022) at St Peter’s Church. Further information together with invitations would be issued at a later date

## **Resolved** to be noted.

## **12035: Ynysmeudwy Park Hedge:**

A Town Councillor had been approached re a large hedge that was on the boundary of Ynysmeudwy Park and Old Road. The Hedge was very large and required trimming. The Town Council had been under the impression that the Hedge was their responsibility and on their land however subsequent investigations had identified that the hedge was not on Town Council land but was instead on unadopted land between the Highway and the Park.

County Councillor Anthony Richards had arranged for the County Borough to cut the hedge when funds allowed

**Resolved** that no action could be taken to dispose of or replace the hedge as it was not the property of the Town Council.

## **12036: Youth Councillor renumeration:**

Council was advised that although the Town Councillors were entitled to claim £150 per annum for expenses, this was currently not available to the Youth Councillor.

**Resolved** that the Clerk will contact One Voice Wales to determine if there was any reason why there was a discrepancy and if Pontardawe Town Council was permitted to legally offer a Councillor payment to the Youth Councillor.

## **12037 Account Schedule 394 together with Bank Reconciliation:**

All documents were made available to Councillor prior to the meeting.

## **Resolved** that Account Schedule 394 totalling £17405.52 together with bank reconciliation will be accepted by Council in line with Standing Orders.

## **12038: Email received re Pontardawe Town Improvements:**

An email was received with various suggestions to improve the Town Centre

**Resolved** to be discussed during a future Eco and Wellbeing Committee.

## **12039: Email received re seats at Bus Shelter:**

An email was received requesting seating in various bus shelters. The Clerk was in the process of obtaining information on bus shelter seating

**Resolved** that the Clerk will obtain information from Neath Port Talbot Council in order to consider at a future meeting.

## **12040: Email received re Councillor Profiles in Ponty Mag Articles:**

An email was received requesting that individual Councillor profiles in the Pontardawe Town Council section of the Community Mag be limited to 250 words

**Resolved** that individual Councillor profiles in the Pontardawe Town Council section of the Community Mag will be limited to 250 words.

## **12041: Email received re Grants awarded:**

An email was received requesting that a Grant Policy formalising the issuing of grants be created

**Resolved** that this will be discussed in a Policy and Resources Committee.

## **12042: Email received re railings adjacent to the Canal on the path from Herbert Street to the Castle Car Park:**

The railings were in poor condition and required maintenance

**Resolved** that County Borough Councillor Anthony Richards will make enquiries and report back to Council.

## **12043: Email received re Steps from Swansea Road to the Canal:**

An email was received regarding the poor condition of the steps from Swansea Road to the Canal which were a safety concern. County Councillor Rebeca Phillips was currently looking into the issue. Unfortunately, the land owner was unknown and the County Borough was not responsible for maintenance.

Action was being taken to register this as a footpath with Neath Port Talbot Council however this process would be lengthy

**Resolved** that Councillor Phillips will keep Council up to date with developments.

## **12044: Consultation on the further national milestones to measure our nations progress:**

The Consultation was made available to Councillors prior to the meeting

**Resolved** to be noted.

## **12045: Urgent Road Safety Matters:**

* Excessive dust from roadworks at Gelligron Road. Although this was a temporary problem during the roadworks, the extremely dry weather was causing a substantial issue for residents

## **Resolved** that County Councillor Heath Davies will contact Officers at Neath Port Talbot Council to determine the timescales for the completion of work, and request remedial action such as bowsers to be used if completion was not imminent.

## **12046: Next Meeting:**

The next Ordinary Meeting will take place on the 12th September 2022 with hybrid facilities. The physical meeting to take place at the Gallery, 2nd Floor, Pontardawe Arts Centre, Herbert Street, Pontardawe with support from the virtual platform Zoom.

Signed ………………………………………………………………………

Dated ……………………………………………………………………..