##  **Ordinary General Meeting held on the 14th March 2022 by virtual platform zoom due to Welsh Government restrictions, commencing at 6.45 pm**

## **Present:**

Councillor Ms R Phillips (presiding), Mrs L Purcell, A Richards, D Williams, Heath Davies, Hywel Davies, J Nemeth, A Nicholson, Reverend Ms S Northcott, Ms E Thomas, V Hotten and Ms I Williams (youth councillor)

**Apologies:**

Councillor J Ashton-Mears, G C Davies, J Jones and Ms C Ford

## **11906: Disclosure of Personal and Pecuniary Interests:**

None.

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

## **11907: Signing of the Minutes of the Ordinary General Meeting held on the 14th February 2022:**

## **Resolved** that the minutes of the Ordinary General Meeting held on the 14th February 2022 having been read and confirmed as a true record be accepted by Council.

## **11908: Sergeant Matthew Jones:**

Sergeant Matthew Jones, who was recently appointed Sergeant for the local Policing team introduced himself and addressed Council, providing details of current projects to increase visibility and engagement with both young people and senior members of the community.

Council provided feedback on current issues in all wards and reiterated that communication between the local Policing team, County Borough Members and the Town Council was paramount.

They also suggested that there be closer communication with Neighbouring Policing teams as Pontardawe was close to a boundary

Council looked forward to working closely with Sergeant Jones and thanked him for attending the meeting.

## **Resolved** to be noted.

## **11909: Matters raised by Members of the Public:**

None

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

## **11910: 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.

## **11911: Eco and Wellbeing Committee including Cwmdu:**

Following severe weather, the Town Clerk had requested ‘Tenderleaf’ review all boundary trees adjacent to properties at Cwmdu to ensure that there was no damage that may have made the trees unsafe or a risk to health or property damage.

The main review of Trees adjacent to paths and properties at Cwmdu to determine a management plan for following years (including the Ash dieback plan) would be carried out during the Summer as it was necessary to view trees with a full canopy

## **Resolved** to be noted.

## **11912: Police Matters:**

No PACT meetings had been arranged.

Pontardawe statistics –January 39 up from December 25 (Violence 17, Public Order 4, Criminal Damage 2 and Anti-Social Behaviour 7)

Trebanos statistics –January 1 down from December 4 (ASB)

## **Resolved** to be noted.

## **11913: Grant applications and letters of thanks:**

Thanks, had been received for the grant provided, from Pontardawe Bowls club.

The Grant Application from the Glantawe Outdoor Education was reviewed and agreed in full.

The Grant budget for 2021/22 had now been utilised

All grants are given for the benefit of some or all of the residents of the Pontardawe Town Council area

## **Resolved** that a grant for £350 be awarded to the Glantawe Outdoor Education project

## **11914: Office and Facilities:**

Correspondence from Neath Port Talbot Council was still awaited re Office.

The Clerk had identified a cost-effective solution to the issue surrounding the current incompatibility between the cloud host and email provider.

The Town Council could utilise the ‘Members area’ of the current web site, by uploading all information required for meetings to this encrypted area. This would allow Councillors to utilise personal emails (or to create free Gmail or other ‘Councillor’ emails) as only the link to the encrypted site would forwarded within the email itself.

Only the main email would require transfer to the Microshade system which would have a minimal ongoing cost (£15 transfer fee plus £6.99 per month)

## **Resolved** that the Town Clerk email be transferred to Microshade host.

## **11915: Planning:**

Reviewed in the Ordinary meeting.

## **P2022/0130**

Applicants name – Mrs Lucy Parker, 7 New Road, Ynsymeudwy, Swansea SA8 4PJ

Site location – 7 New Road, Ynsymeudwy, Swansea SA8 4PJ

Proposed Development – Three Storey rear extension

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

Planning Committee held on the 28th February 2022:

## **P2022/0094**

Applicant’s name and Address: Mr Nick Cox, 14 Alltycham Drive, Pontardawe, Swansea SA8 4JR

Site Location: 14 Alltycham Drive, Pontardawe, Swansea SA8 4JR

Proposed Development: Proposed single storey rear extension and creation of balcony with privacy screens

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

## **P2022/0113**

Applicant’s name and Address: Mr & Mrs G Porter, Hafod Wennol Farm, Lane from Baran Road to Hafod Wennol Farm, Rhyd y fro, Pontardawe, Swansea SA8 4RU

Site Location: Hafod Wennol Farm, Lane from Baran Road to Hafod Wennol Farm, Rhyd y fro, Pontardawe, Swansea SA8 4RU

Proposed Development: Construction of rear extension, increase in ridge height, rear dormer extension and construction of detached garage

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

Council was advised of four previous requests for addition to the LDP for candidate sites from Pontardawe Town Council. Two for the Original walled garden at Glanrhyd plantation (Cwmdu), one for land adjacent to Cwmdu at Gelligron and one for Gwyn’s drift adjacent to Tesco at Pontardawe.

On enquiry to Neath Port Talbot Council, the Clerk was informed that none had successfully continued through stage 1 of the review process to a detailed assessment.

The Town Team was also reviewing the call for candidate sites at present and a report would be available on their review at the next meeting

**Resolved** to withdraw three of the four historic Candidate Sites. The site adjacent to Tesco known as ‘Gwynne’s Drift’ should remain

## **11916: Policy and Resources Committee held on the 28th February 2022:**

The Committee reviewed the initial draft of the Pontardawe Town Council Annual Report for 2021/22.

The Committee was provided with the initial document which provided details of the structure of the Town Council and actions taken to support the seven goals of the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act 2015 and the Neath Port Talbot Public Service Board Objectives, during the year.

The document was fully reviewed and the following was agreed:

* The paragraph provided by Councillor Williams to support the ‘Understanding Welsh places’ should be included and reference to the inclusion in the Institute of Welsh Affairs should also be added
* The Mayor would produce a ‘Forward’ statement for inclusion in the document
* Photographs should be added prior to the next review
* The Clerk confirmed that a graph of annual expenditure would be added following the year end as it would tie up with the Annual Return and end of year accounts.
* The Annual Report should be translated once completed for inclusion in the Welsh area of the Website

The Committee recommended that the recommendations be ratified by full Council.

Full Council were provided with a copy of the draft document prior to the meeting for review and further requested that an attendance record should be included.

The Clerk confirmed that the draft would be proof read following completion

## **Resolved:** that the second, proof read draft should be provided for Council approval at the April Ordinary Meeting.

## **11917: Finance Committee held on the 21st February 2022:**

## **The Committee discussed the Financial regulations and Statement of Financial Control**

Both documents were circulated to the committee prior to the meeting. The Committee had no recommended changes for either document.

## **The Committee discussed the Financial Risk Assessment**

The document was circulated to the committee prior to the meeting. It was suggested that under the section for Lone Working, that it should state the following:

* That the Clerk will retain a fully charged mobile phone at all time.
* That a ‘Lone Working’ online course is undertaken

## **The Committee discussed the Grant Applications submitted.**

The Committee was aware that there were limited funds now available from the grant budget for 2021/22 and it was likely that some awards although agreed could only be partly funded.

The Clerk confirmed that groups would be made aware that a funding request could be submitted to the Town Council after the 1st April 2022 for consideration from the 2022/23 grant budget

The following Grants were awarded in full:

Pontardawe Conservation volunteers – Grant awarded £237

The following Grants were partially awarded:

Neath Rural District Guiding – Grant awarded £1000

Pontardawe Town FC - £916.72

Pontardawe Cricket Club - £200 (The Committee felt that it was not their function to finance the ongoing grass cutting for individual clubs, however, they wished to show support for these clubs with a small grant in good faith)

Grants are awarded to support some or all of the inhabitants of the Pontardawe Town Council area.

## The Committee requested that Council ratify the above recommendations

## **Resolved:** Council ratify the Committee recommendations.

## **11918: Clerks Report re Pontardawe Partnership:**

The ‘Pontardawe Partnership’ had been created by Neath Port Talbot Council to organise and communicate events within the Pontardawe area. The intent was to ensure that Neath Port Talbot departments, the Town Council, Chamber of Commerce, Heritage Centre, Police and other partners could co-ordinate and advertise events effectively.

Council supported the additional co-operation and communication throughout Neath Port Talbot but felt is was important that details of events within Clydach (City of Swansea) and Ystradgynlais (Powys) should also be considered

## **Resolved:** to be noted

## **11919: Trebanos Park:**

The Safety surface below the swings at Trebanos Park had been partly completed however the ground was waterlogged due to the current weather and could not be completed. The project would be completed once there was a spell of dry weather

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

## **11920: Account Schedule 390:**

## **Resolved** that Account Schedule 390 totalling £14531.67 together with bank reconciliation will be accepted by Council in line with Standing Orders.

## **11921: One Voice Wales:**

Council reviewed the Membership of One Voice Wales for 2022/23 at a cost of £1193

## **Resolved** that the Town Council will continue Membership of One Voice Wales for 2022/23

## **11922: Independent remuneration Panel for Wales:**

A link to the document was forwarded to all Councillors prior to the meeting, however there were no further comments

## **Resolved** to be noted

## **11923: NALC agreed national salary awards for 2021/22:**

Councillors were provided with the agreed rate rises for staff for 2021/22 and agreed the rise. They further agreed to backdate the rise to the 1st April 2021, as recommended.

## **Resolved** that staff be awarded a pay rise in accordance with the recommended NALC rate for 2021/22 backdated to 1st April 2021.

## **11924: Urgent Road Safety Matters:**

* There were issues with incorrect parking at Herbert Street.
* There were still issues with off road bikers creating an issue on the main highways – Residents should be encouraged to forward dashcam stills to the Police
* While Council agreed with the reduced speed and average speed cameras on the A4067 they were concerned that this would cause an increase in traffic in Trebanos

## **Resolved** that the Clerk will take appropriate action

## **11925: Next Meeting:**

The next Ordinary Meeting will take place on the 11th April 2022 by virtual platform commencing at 6.45pm.

Signed ………………………………………………………………………

 Dated ……………………………………………………………………..