## **Ordinary General Meeting held on the 17th April 2023 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 Mrs L Purcell (presiding), D Brain, M Vincent, B Howells, Mrs G Ffrancon, Ms E Thomas, and Dylan Fitzgerald (Youth Representative)

## **Present via Zoom**

Councillor Mrs J Lord, A Richards, Mrs R Phillips (left the meeting at 8pm), S Todd and J Nemeth

**Apologies:**

Councillor G Davies, H Davies, M Davies and J Watkins

## **12198: Disclosure of Personal and Pecuniary Interests:**

* Councillor S Todd declared an interest in the Pontardawe Conservation volunteer grant applications as he was the applicant and left the meeting for the duration of the discussion
* Councillors A Richards and Mrs R Phillips declared an interest at the beginning of the meeting in any discussions on the proposed new English Medium Primary school at Pontardawe as they were County Borough Members although, ultimately no discussion took place.
* Councillors Mrs G Ffrancon, S Todd and Mrs J Lord declared an interest in discussion on planning application P2023/0240 as they were neighbours

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

## **12199: Signing of the Minutes of the Ordinary General Meeting held on the 13th March 2023:**

## **Resolved** that the minutes of the Ordinary General Meeting held on the 13th March 2023 having been read and confirmed as a true record be accepted by Council.

## **12200: Matters raised by Members of the Public:**

None

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

## **12201: Defibrillator Mapping Project:**

The damaged unit had been forwarded to Zoll for refurbishment shortly. A loaned unit was still in situ at 4 Herbert Street, Pontardawe.

Details of training were still not available but Councillors would be advised once arranged

## **Resolved** to be noted.

## **12202: Police Matters:**

Pontardawe Statistics 32 crimes in February down from 37 crimes in January, (8 Violence, 12 Anti-social behaviour, 6 Public Order and 4 other theft)

Trebanos Statistics -3 in February down from 5 in January (1 Anti-Social behaviour, 1 Vehicle crime and 1 Other theft).

Council was advised that a CAP day carousel was due to be held in the Pontardawe Leisure Centre on the 7th July 2023 from 2-3pm. This event which engaged with year 10s showed what activities were available in an area for them to experience in order to divert young people from activities which were likely to cause criminal damage or antisocial behaviour during the Summer school holidays.

The Police wished to know if the Town Council Youth Representatives would like to attend.

**Resolved** that Dylan Fitzgerald (Youth Councillor) could liaise with the local PCSO’s to form part of the event on the Town Council’s behalf.

## **12203: Monthly update from the Neath Port Talbot Council Members:**

Councillor A Richards:

* Free school meals for school year 3 & 4 were to commence this week
* There was a significant increase in County Borough Councillors caseload due to the cost of living crisis however Councillors were still available to signpost members of community to the assistance they required.

Councillor R Phillips

* Neath Port Talbot Council had appointed a new Corporate Director for Strategy
* The discussion on the proposed new English Medium school at Pontardawe would be discussed in the County Borough on Wednesday 19th April
* The Trebanos Community Garden project was in progress
* The Easter Events at Trebanos park and Parc Chwarae Teg had been very well attended and received by the communities. Councillor Phillips thanked the Councillors involved and the volunteers who assisted.

**Resolved** to be noted.

## **12204: Monthly Update on English Medium Primary School Changes:**

Councillors R Phillips and A Richards declared an interest at the beginning of the meeting and confirmed that they would take not part in any discussion on the proposal and would leave the meeting for the duration.

No discussion took place on the proposal

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

## **12205: Grant Applications:**

Councillor Todd left the meeting for the duration of the discussion on the Pontardawe Conservation volunteer grant requests as he was the applicant.

Pontardawe Conservation volunteers – Rhyd y Fro Annual Summer Family fete - **£700 awarded**

Pontardawe Conservation volunteers – Cwmdu Glen path improvements - **£500 – awarded**

Menter Iaith requested an amendment to the grant for the St David’s day shop window competition from a cash prize to the purchase of a shield that could be used for future years, a hamper of welsh goods and a voucher for a local eatery – **Council agreed to the amendment.**

The Pontardawe Bowls Club had produced a copy of the invoice for he mower cassette and had asked if the Town Council would support their request to Neath Port Talbot Council to place sponsorship notices at the green to assist with their income generation – **Council agreed to support the initiative.**

## **Resolved** to be noted.

## **12206: Clerks update on Eco and Wellbeing Committee including Cwmdu:**

Short Term projects identified and action required:

No updates available at present

## **Resolved** to be noted.

## **12207: Christmas Lights contract for 2023:**

‘Lite’ the preferred Christmas Lights supplier would provide options for a new three-year rental contract by the May Ordinary meeting

**Resolved:** to be noted.

## **12208: Dog Fouling:**

There had been a very serious case of infection of a young person locally due to dog waste on playing fields. Although the injury had occurred on a field outside the Town Council’s control, It was agreed that the position needed to be discussed at a priority.

The local MS Member was also to raise the issue at the Senedd

The Clerk confirmed that the Trebanos Park and Rugby Ground had a ‘no dogs’ policy for the whole of the rugby ground and park due to concerns about dog waste. This had been instated several years ago with local residents being encouraged to utilise instead the country paths and canal bank walks to exercise their pets.

Council was advised that there was no specific issue at Trebanos however a reminder of the ‘no dogs’ policy would be prudent.

The Pontardawe Playing fields did not currently ban dogs, however although the majority of dog walkers were respectful of the pitches there was a minority who ignored the risk and still allowed dogs off lead on the playing fields.

There had been several exercises carried out by the County Borough Dog wardens and fixed notice penalties had been issued however this was not widely publicised.

It was also suggested that dog walkers should be advised of alternatives to playing fields for exercising their pets in the Pontardawe area.

## **Resolved:** that the profile of the issue should be raised by the following:

* Letters to the owners of the Playing fields in the Town Council area.
* Social media campaign
* Article in the Community Mag

## **12209: Planning:**

## **P2023/0240**

Councillor Mrs G Ffrancon, S Todd and Mrs J Lord expressed an interest.

Applicant’s name and Address: C/o Agents

Site Location: Craig y Rhedyn, 9 Uplands Road, Pontardawe SA8 4AH

Proposed Development: Change of use from a single dwelling house (class C3) to residential care home (class C2) for up to four children and their carers.

Residents had been encouraged to advise Neath Port Talbot Council of their concerns over the proposals and the County Borough Councillor wished to organise a site visit with the planning department.

## **Resolved** Council had significant concerns for the following reasons:

* Although parking had been factored into the application it was felt to be insufficient for this type of residential care home were there were multiple staff and visitors in an area where there was very limited on street parking
* The main road to the property was single track with double yellow lines. This would be unsuitable for the delivery vehicles frequenting a residential facility
* A site visit by planning officials was paramount prior to any decisions being made.

**P2023/0248**

Applicants name: Mrs Christine Thomas, 93 Trallwn Road, Llansamlet, SA7 9XA

Site Location: Ty Gwyn Farm, Penlan Road, Rhyd y Fro SA8 4RP

Proposed Development: Cutting and removing Rhododendron in T309/W3 area. Stump injection – hand weeding for small plants. Treatment for all established bushes manual cutting (cut material stacked) mulching of leaves and small branches.

**Resolved:** No objection

**P2023/0192**

Applicants name: Mr Steven Hyett, 3 Court Lane, Pontardawe SA8 4JL

Site location: 3 Court Lane, Pontardawe SA8 4JL

Proposed Development: Proposed single storey extension to existing outbuilding for home office/storage use

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

**P2023/0236**

Applicants name: Mr Abel Leaman, Ground and first floor flat, 17 Grosvenor Hill, Mayfair, London W1K 3QB

Site Location: 9-11 James Street, Pontardawe SA8 4LR

Proposed Development: Change of use from a residential care home (class C2) to 5 supported living accommodation units (class C3b)

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

Mount Elim Church thanked Pontardawe Town Council for their support for the new Community Church building and confirmed that work was now underway

**Resolved:** to be noted

## **12210: Personnel Matters:**

* Council agreed to the National Joint Council for Local Government recommendation for annual leave entitlement for all staff to increase by one day from 1st April 2023
* There had been no recommended changes to staff contracts of Employment or agreed pay rises and therefore no changes should be considered apart from the increase to the annual leave entitlement at present
* Council agreed to five days compassionate leave for the Clerk following a close family bereavement

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## **Resolved:** that staff Annual Leave will increase by one day from the 1st April 2023 and that the Clerk will be awarded compassionate leave of five days following her bereavement.

## **12211: Account Schedule 402 and Bank Reconciliation:**

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

## **Resolved** that Account Schedule 402 totalling £14106.80 together with bank reconciliation, Budget /Actual Report for end of year and Direct Debit schedule for 2023/24 will be accepted by Council in line with Standing Orders.

## **12212 Email re Catasauqua:**

An email has been received re the possible creation of formal ties with the American town due to its similarity to Pontardawe and the link with David Thomas (father of the American iron industry) who originated from the Pontardawe area.

## **Resolved** that the Town Council will support the initiative and will allow the group to utilise the Town Council’s virtual platform to carry out online meetings.

## **12213: Email re daffodils:**

Council was asked to consider placing daffodils in various location throughout Pontardawe, and although the Town Council was sympathetic, had little control over the locations stated.

* Roundabouts – These were under Neath Port Talbot Council control. The Town Council had no authority over planting at these locations
* The Cross – Any planting scheme would require Neath Port Talbot Council approval and if planters were considered, then staff would be required to ensure watering was carried out.
* Arts Centre - Any planting scheme would require Neath Port Talbot Council approval and if planters were considered, then staff would be required to ensure watering was carried out

There were some daffodils planted on roundabouts and verges in Pontardawe however in a very limited way. There were also planters adjacent to the Herbert Street Car Park which did contain daffodils

**Resolved** that the residents be advised to contact the Director and Cabinet Member for the Environment and their County Borough Member at Neath Port Talbot Council.

The Town Council would also look to incorporate daffodils in any environmental planting project undertaken.

## **12214: Email re derelict buildings in Pontardawe:**

Council was asked what action was being taken with regard to specific derelict buildings in Pontardawe:

Large House adjacent to the former Dynevor Public House – Planning application P2023/0236 currently in progress

Chapel (James Street, Pontardawe) – Owners identified. Individual Town Councillors currently attempting to obtain some action

Ynysderw Road, Former offices - Planning application P2022/0515 approved March 2023

**Resolved** to be noted.

## **12215: Onshore Wind Farm Email :**

Council was read an email regarding onshore wind farms

**Resolved** to be noted.

## **12216: Open Consultations:**

Councillors were provided with all the relevant information on the consultations prior to the meeting

Recommendations of the Independent Review of the Ethical standards framework (Richard Penn report)

**Resolved** to be noted

## **12217 Urgent Road Safety Matters and responses:**

None

## **Resolved** to be noted

## **12218: Next Meeting:**

The next Ordinary Meeting and Annual General Meeting will take place on the 15th May 2023 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 ……………………………………………………………………..