## **Ordinary General Meeting held on the 15th May 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 P Temblett (presiding), Mrs L Purcell , B Howells, P Temblett, S Todd, Ms G Ffrancon, M Vincent, D Brain and D Fitzgerald (Youth Councillor)

## **Present online by Zoom:**

Ms E Thomas, J Nemeth, A Richards, H Davies and Mrs R Phillips

## **Apologies:**

Councillor Mrs J Lord, M Davies, G Davies, O Brandrick (Youth Councillor)

## **12247: Disclosure of Personal and Pecuniary Interests:**

None

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

## **12248: Signing of the Minutes of the Ordinary General Meeting held on the 17th April 2023**

## **Resolved** that the minutes of the Ordinary General Meeting held on the 17th April 2023 having been read and confirmed as a true record be accepted by Council.

## **12249: Matters raised by Members of the Public:**

None

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

## **12250: Defibrillator Mapping Project:**

Unfortunately, Zoll technical had advised the Town Council that the original unit from 4 Herbert Street was not salvageable.

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

## **Resolved** that Zoll will be advised that they could scrap the damaged unit. A new unit will be purchased for the exterior of 4 Herbert Street

## **12251: Police Matters:**

Pontardawe Statistics 53 crimes in March up from 32 in February, (21 Violence, 4 Anti-social behaviour, 7 Public Order and 4 drugs)

Trebanos Statistics -4 crimes in March up from 3 in February (3 Anti-Social behaviour and 1 Violence).

Youth Councillor Dylan Fitzgerald would be attending the CAP day carousel on the 7th July 2023 as the Town Council representative.

He would be promoting the ‘Go Valley’ section of the Town Council website and would also be giving details of his experience of working with the Council to year 10 and 11 pupils

The local Police Service had confirmed that they would be ringfencing resource for both the day and evening for the Pontardawe Music Festival. The festival in 2022 was very well managed with only a few minor issues experienced.

Council was informed that following past issues with noise pollution investigated by Neath Port Talbot Council Environmental health, the music venues had now been permitted to continue to hold live music events.

**Resolved** to be noted.

## **12252: Monthly update from the Neath Port Talbot Council Members:**

Councillor A Richards:

* Neath Port Talbot Council’s Cabinet had approved the next steps in establishing the newly approved Celtic Freeport
* Neath Port Talbot Council was seeking applications for projects that can be delivered as part of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF)
* A funded plan had been agreed to renovate approximately 100 empty homes, to increase rental housing stock.
* The Urdd Eisteddfod was due to be held in Margam Park in 2025 and it was hoped that local schools would take part in the proceedings

Councillor R Phillips:

* The 21st Century schools’ debate had taken place with the original plans being rejected.
* YGG Pontardawe had attended the Trebanos Community Garden
* A site meeting had taken place with the County Borough Member, residents and Neath Port Talbot planning to discuss the proposals for a small residential care home in the Uplands, Pontardawe
* Housing issues had been discussed with Tai Tarian
* There was increased traffic and traffic speed on Swansea Road in Trebanos following the introduction of the average speed cameras on the A4067. This would be monitored by Neath Port Talbot Council following the introduction of the 20-mph limit on Swansea Road from September

**Resolved** that for future months Councillor Rebeca Phillips would provide local information on the Trebanos ward. Councillor Heath Davies would provide local information on the Pontardawe ward and Councillor Anthony Richards would provide high level strategic information from Neath Port Talbot Council during Ordinary meetings.

## **12253: Grant Applications:**

Twinning organisation of Pontardawe – Locmine visit Events - **£300 awarded**

Community Clothes swap - **£484.80 – awarded**

Senior Citizens Welfare Association – The organisationrequested a grant for £500 to support its ongoing events. Although the Town Council wished to support the organisation which provided a much-needed venue for local seniors, they did request additional details of the number of local people supported and details of exactly what the fund would be used for, as the organisation had significant funds in reserve.

## **Resolved** to be noted.

## **12254: Clerks update on Eco and Wellbeing Committee including Cwmdu:**

Short Term projects identified and action required:

* MUGA at George V Park – Discussion underway as to whether the grant funding requested would be led by Pontardawe Town Council or Neath Port Talbot Council
* Christmas Tree Project – Agreement had been received from Neath Port Talbot Estates department. The Town Council contractors and the Christmas Lights contractors had agreed the project was viable however there was difficulties in identifying a suitable tree type due to the location.
* The Youth Club at Trebanos Hall was very well supported. Recently Bronwen Lewis had attended and had encouraged the young people in their musical performances
* The repair café had also been well attended and had already been held in Rhyd y Fro, Pontardawe, Trebanos and Ynysmeudwy. Agreement had now been received to hold events in Alltwen
* The Heritage Art Trail was in the early stages of planning. Difficulties had however been experienced obtaining permission from Neath Port Talbot Council to carrying out work on Council owned benches.

## **Resolved** that Councillor Paul Temblett and Dai Brain will make enquiries regarding alternative varieties of Christmas tree. Neath Port Talbot Council Members will be asked to assist in obtaining permissions for the Heritage project.

## **12255: Christmas Lights contract for 2023:**

The Christmas Lights from ‘Lite’ and Centregreat had been very well received over the past three years. ‘Lite’ had confirmed that a new three-year contract could be arranged with the same display at approximately the same price (£18409). The display could continue to be coloured or changed to warm white.

**Resolved:** That the three-year contract with ‘Lite’ and ‘Centregreat’ be agreed, with a coloured display. It was requested that the ‘Nadolig Llawen’ banner at lower Herbert Street be turned so that it was visible from Herbert Street rather than from the Bypass Road

## **12256: Planning:**

Meeting held on the 2nd May 2023

## **P2023/0292**

Applicant’s name and Address: Mr Rhys Thomas, 18 Bronywawr Pontardawe SA8 4JY

Site Location: 18 Bronywawr Pontardawe SA8 4JY

Proposed Development: Proposed single storey detached garage, the work for which would include the demolition of an existing detached garage

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

## **P2023/0312**

Applicant’s name and Address: Mr Anthony Thomas, The Clubhouse, Ynysderw Road, Pontardawe SA8 4EG

Site Location: Pontardawe Rugby Club, Ynysderw Road, Pontardawe SA8 4EG

Proposed Development: Proposed single storey extension to the east to provide a function room and a single storey extension to west elevation to lounge

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

## **P2023/0315**

Applicant’s name and Address: Gallivan 450 Longwater Avenue, Reading, RG2 6GF

Site Location: Land at the junction of Alltywerin and Lon y Coed, Pontardawe

Proposed Development: Erection of a 15-meter-high H3G telecommunication pole with associated apparatus cabinets and ancillary works

## **Resolved** Council Objects for the following reasons:

* Page 4 states that neighbours have been consulted however it seems that the consultation was not with the residents but only with Neath Port Talbot Council – The residents need to be properly consulted about these proposals
* Site specific supplement – Page 3 states that YGG Pontardawe were consulted but that the outcome of the issues raised were not applicable – Was YGG Pontardawe properly consulted and if so what were the issues and why were they considered ‘not applicable’
* Site specific supplement – Page 9 states that several sites were discounted due to their proximity to residential properties. This site should also have been discounted due to the proximity of residential properties as it is similarly surrounded. (The photographic angle does not show the surrounding properties)

Planning applications discussed in the meeting:

## **P2023/0321**

Applicant’s name and Address: Miss Kayleigh Williams, 241 Swansea Road, Trebanos SA8 4BT

Site Location: 241 Swansea Road, Trebanos SA8 4BT

Proposed Development: Retrospective application for existing engineering and retaining works, together with proposed installation of iron railings and pedestrian access gate to enclose front amenity area.

## **Resolved** No Objection

## **P2023/0316**

Applicant’s name and Address: Mr Richard Bevan, 34 Parc Gilbertson, Rhyd y Fro, Pontardawe SA8 4PU

Site Location: 34 Parc Gilbertson, Rhyd y Fro, Pontardawe SA8 4PU

Proposed Development: Demolition of existing conservatory and construction of a part two storey/part single storey rear extension, with additional windows to existing dwelling and increasing window size to front of existing dwelling.

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

## **12257: Annual Return 2022/23:**

Council was provided with the Annual Return for the year ended 31st March 2023 prior to the meeting and the Clerk provided clarification on any issues raised

**Resolved** that the Annual Return for 2022/23 will be agreed and signed by the Mayor on behalf of Council.

## **12258: Internal Auditors Report 2022/23:**

Council was provided with the Internal Auditors report for the year ended 31st March 2023 prior to the meeting and the Clerk provided clarification on any issues raised

**Resolved** that the Internal Auditors Report for 2022/23 will be agreed by Council

## **12259: Annual Report to the 31st March 2023:**

The Draft Report was made available to Councillor prior to the meeting. It was agreed that Council Members would review the current draft and provide proposed changes or additions by the June Ordinary meeting

The Clerk confirmed that the final agreed report would be translated into Welsh prior to both versions being published on the Town Council website

**Resolved** to be noted.

## **12260: Insurance Cover 2023/24:**

The Clerk suggested that additional cyber cover obtained for previous years was unlikely to be needed following the subscription to Microshade and the move to business Cloud working, as there was professional grade encryption on the system. The municipal policy should therefore be sufficient.

The Clerk provided details of costs for insurance cover from both RSA and Zurich for municipal cover for review by Council.

The costs from Zurich were substantially cheaper and were further reduced if a three-year long-term agreement would be accepted

**Resolved** that the three-year long-term Insurance agreement with Zurich will be accepted from the 1st June 2023

## **12261: Report on the One Voice Wales Committee held on the 27th April 2023:**

Youth Councillor Dylan Fitzgerald attended the meeting on behalf of Council and provided information on the following:

* Annual Report
* Training plans and Councillor training (including code of conduct and civility and respect)
* NALC (Pay, annual leave and flexible working)
* NPT Liaison and charters
* Cost of living team at Neath Port Talbot Council
* Issues surrounding Councillor demographics and Election turnouts
* Requests for motions for the Annual General Meeting
* Hybrid costs review (Pontardawe has hybrid system supplied as part of office rental)

**Resolved** to be noted

## **12262: Account Schedule 403 and Bank Reconciliation:**

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

## **Resolved** that Account Schedule 403 totalling £12994.19 together with bank reconciliation, will be accepted by Council in line with Standing Orders.

## **12263: Email from Unison:**

Email received from Unison under the Trade Union and labour relations (consolidation act 1992 – Notice to Employer of an official industrial action ballot

## **Resolved** to be noted .

## **12264: Email from One Voice Wales – request for motions for the AGM:**

Council proposed a motion for Youth Councillors to be awarded the £156 Annual Councillor payment as at present they were not entitled to this payment

**Resolved** that a motion be put forward at the One Voice Wales AGM for youth councillors to be entitled to the £156 Councillor payment

## **12265: Email re Bypass Car Park:**

An email was received re the state of the Pay and display machines and signage at the Bypass Car Park in Pontardawe. One of the machines had been inoperative for over a year and the signage was graffiti covered.

The state of the machines and signage gave a very poor impression of Pontardawe to visitors who were likely to encounter this car park as a first impression

**Resolved** that the Clerk will contact the County Borough to request remedial action taken

## **12266: Open Consultations:**

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

None

**Resolved** to be noted

## **12267: Urgent Road Safety Matters and responses:**

Extremely dangerous driving (often on the pavement) adjacent to YGG Pontardawe during drop of and pick up.

A letter had been received by Councillor Purcell from a concerned member of the community. Councillor Purcell will request that the email is forwarded to the Clerk

## **Resolved** that the Clerk will contact the County Borough with concerns over the lack of safety outside the school

## **12268: Next Meeting:**

The next Ordinary Meeting will take place on the 12th June 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 ……………………………………………………………………..