## **Ordinary General Meeting held on the 12th June 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), B Howells, M Vincent, D Brain, M Davies, G Davies, Mrs L Purcell and D Fitzgerald (Youth Councillor)

## **Present online by Zoom:**

Ms E Thomas, J Nemeth, A Richards (left the meeting at 8pm) , Mrs J Lord and S Todd

## **Apologies:**

Councillor Mrs G Ffrancon, H Davies, Mrs R Phillips, J Watkins and O Brandrick (Youth Councillor)

## **12269: Disclosure of Personal and Pecuniary Interests:**

Councillor Mrs J Lord declared and interest in any discussion on the Friends of George V Park as she is Chair of the Committee

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

## **12270: Signing of the Minutes of the Ordinary General Meeting and Annual General meeting held on the 15th May 2023**

## **Resolved** that the minutes of the Ordinary General Meeting and Annual General meeting held on the 15th May 2023 having been read and confirmed as a true record be accepted by Council.

## **12271: Matters raised by Members of the Public:**

None

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

## **12272: Presentation by Awel Aman Tawe:**

Mike Switzer attended by Zoom to provide some guidance on the potential for green energy at the Town Council Community Halls. He explained that the roof space was sufficient on all three halls and no Planning Permission would be required.

Agreement from Western Power may be required and surveys would need to be conducted to ensure that suitability of each roof. Battery storage may or may not be required depending on the Halls usage pattern.

Mike suggested that as a first stage to contact EGIN who could provide support and also could help arrange energy surveys and offer advice.

Council thanked Mike for attending the meeting and for providing an overview on the position

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

## **12273: Defibrillator Mapping Project:**

The replacement Zoll unit would be purchased this month from the specific Defibrillator Reserve funds available. The level of the reserve should mostly cover the cost of the unit (any overspend could be drawn from the General Reserve)

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

## **Resolved** that a Zoll defibrillator will be purchased to replace the loaned unit currently in situ at 4 Herbert Street

## **12274: Police Matters:**

Pontardawe Statistics 37 crimes in April down from 53 crimes in March, (12 Violence, 9 Anti-social behaviour, 9 Criminal Damage and 2 Burglary)

Trebanos Statistics 6 crimes in April up from 4 crimes in March (1 Anti-Social behaviour, 2 Violence, 1 Bicycle theft and 1 shoplifting).

**Resolved** to be noted.

## **12275: Monthly update from the Neath Port Talbot Council Members:**

Councillor A Richards:

* Councillor Richards had contacted Officers re the Gwachel Roundabout and was awaiting a response. He would also determine the circumstances surrounding the original Welsh Water reinstatement plan.
* There had been issues in Rhyd y Fro surrounding signage and pot holes which were being addressed

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

## **12276: Grant Applications:**

Councillor Mrs J Lord expressed an interest in the Friends of George V Park application and left the meeting for the duration of the discussion

Mama’s Academy - **£500 awarded**

Friends of George V Park - **£500 – awarded** (the award is conditional on the event going ahead)

Senior Citizens Welfare Association – The organisationhad provided some details on Membership but had not provided details of what the grant would be used for. The Clerk would request additional information.

The Community Clothes swap had been awarded the grant but unfortunately currently the organisations bank account was not yet set up. They requested permission to pay the funds to the sister organisation (My Green Valley) – Council was not prepared to allow this and wished to wait until the specific bank account was available prior to paying the funds

## **Resolved** that the grants to Mama’s Academy and the Friends of George V Park will be awarded.

## **12277: Clerks update on Eco and Wellbeing Committee including Cwmdu:**

Short Term projects identified and action required:

* MUGA at George V Park – Neath Port Talbot Council would now lead on this project
* Christmas Tree Project – A Korean Fir had been identified as a suitable tree for the location as it was very slow growing. A supplier of mature trees had also been identified. The Clerk would look to obtain funding from the 2023 Mynydd y Betws Wind farm grant allocation which was currently open for applications. Council did however wish as a phase two to look at the Cross as a location for another tree.
* The Trebanos to Ynysmeudwy Heritage Art Trail was in the early stages of planning, with the County Borough Members assisting with permission from Neath Port Talbot Council to carrying out work on Council owned benches. The Heritage trail for surrounding Pontardawe had received substantial support from the Heritage Centre at Pontardawe and was engaging with the community

Cwmdu Glen

* Under the current risk assessment, work was now required on anther tranche of trees adjacent to properties. Two quotes had bee receive (ARB Team £2500 and Tenderleaf £2640, Monkeytree did not wish to quote due to the terrain)
* We had also undertaken a further assessment on trees adjacent to Gwynfa as there had been some deterioration since the original risk assessment had been carried out. This showed action required on trees 605 and 608.

## **Resolved** that the lowest quote from the ARB Team will be accepted. They would also be asked to address trees 605 and 608 under emergency provisions

## **12278: Annual Report to the 31st March 2023:**

Council had been provided with the draft plan prior to the meeting and the Clerk had received some feedback on type errors.

It was requested that additional information on the Youth Councillors be included in the report and the Clerk will therefore liaise with the Youth Councillors to include additional details. The draft document would then be proofread and translated and then would be available to Councillors for review prior to publication

**Resolved:** That the current draft Report will be agreed with additions to be reviewed.

## **12279: Planning:**

Meeting held on the 5th June 2023

## **P2023/0345**

Applicant’s name and Address: Mrs Rose Rivera, The Quays, Brunel Way, Briton Ferry, SA11 2GG

Site Location: Glantawe Riverside Park, Pontardawe, Swansea SA8 3DP

Proposed Development: 7m High bird nesting tower

## **Resolved** No Objection provided the installation is used for swifts and nesting birds only. The committee would object to boxes for birds of prey.

## **P2023/0327**

Applicant’s name and Address: Mr Layton John Smith, 18 Morgan Street, Trebanos, Swansea SA8 4DW

Site Location: 18 Morgan Street, Trebanos, Swansea SA8 4DW

Proposed Development: Development of detached garage with attic storage within front garden

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

## **P2023/0262**

Applicant’s name and Address: Mrs Vivienne Jones, 1 Oak Hill Way, Pontardawe SA8 4LJ

Site Location: 1 Oak Hill Way, Pontardawe SA8 4LJ

Proposed Development: Proposed single storey rear conservatory

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

## **P2023/0421**

Applicant’s name and Address: Mr Bromhall, Milton Keynes Hub, Clark Road, Milton Keynes, MK1 1JN

Site Location: Junction of Grove Road/ Brecon Road Pontardawe SA8 4HH

Proposed Development: installation of double postal pouch box

## **Resolved** No Objection

## **P2023/0359**

Applicant’s name and Address: Mr Wayne Hopkins, The Quays, Brunel Way, Baglan Energy Park, Neath, SA11 2GG

Site Location: Sports field adjoining Cwmtawe Community School, Ffordd Parc Ynysderw, Pontardawe, Swansea SA8 4EG

Proposed Development: Section 73 application for the variation of condition 1 (to allow a further 2 years) of planning permission P2021/0779 for the siting of temporary classrooms

## **Resolved** No Objection

## **12280: Clerks Report on Community Halls and Caretakers retirement:**

The Caretaker (Facilities Manager) at Trebanos Hall had indicated her wish to retired on the 31st July 2023. She had been the caretaker for a substantial amount of time and would be greatly missed. It was agreed that a gift should be provided for her and a budget set for that gift (*amount redacted)*

All Community Halls were run for community benefit and had Management Committees to allow the communities to engage with the Town Council and to give a sense of community ownership

Trebanos Hall

There was an extremely successful committee that had been in situ for many years however following the announcement of the caretaker’s retirement, the committee had also decided to retire from their roles, from the 31st August 2023.

Ynysmeudwy Hall

Unfortunately, Ynysmeudwy Hall had insufficient numbers to be viable and had been unable to hold their AGM for 2023/24, although some of the original committee had indicated they were happy to retain the Officers positions.

Councillors were asked if they would be willing to volunteer as Committee Members at both Halls to ensure the viability of the management committees.

**Resolved** that a gift be purchased for the retiring caretaker at Trebanos Hall and that the job be advertised in accordance with procedure.

Trebanos Ward Councillors would be asked to volunteer for the Trebanos Hall Committee (Councillors E Thomas (confirmed willing), R Phillips, G Ffrancon and J Watkins)

The following Pontardawe Councillors agreed to volunteer for the Ynysmeudwy Hall Committee: Meirion Davies, Bleddyn Howells and Linet Purcell

## **12281: Public Service Board - Local Wellbeing Plan:**

The plan was made available to Councillors prior to the meeting.

**Resolved** to be noted.

## **12282: Voter ID and the Elections Act 2022:**

A presentation was made available to Councillors prior to the meeting.

**Resolved** to be noted.

## **12283: Account Schedule 404 and Bank Reconciliation:**

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

## **Resolved** that Account Schedule 404 totalling £17735.24 together with bank reconciliation, will be accepted by Council in line with Standing Orders.

## **12284: Correspondence re James Street Chapel:**

A request had been made for the Town Council and County Borough Members to liaise with the local Police and Fire Officer to work with Neath Port Talbot Council to compel the Owners to act, due to the derelict state of the building

## **Resolved** that the County Borough Members for Pontardawe will be asked to assist.

## **12285: Letter from the Ombudsman:**

A Code of Conduct complaint had been made about a Pontardawe Town Councillor however the Ombudsman had confirmed that they had decided not to investigate

**Resolved** to be noted.

## **12286: Email received from Neath Port Talbot Council re joint working:**

The letter requested details of any particular areas of Joint working between Neath Port Talbot Council and Pontardawe Town Council that could be put forward for consideration

Council listed the following in order of preference:

* Changing rooms at the Recreation Ground in Pontardawe
* Gwachel Roundabout
* Real Christmas tree at the Cross

**Resolved** that the Clerk will advise the County Borough

## **12287: Email re LGBTQ+ Pride – Neath Port Talbot:**

The first Neath Port Talbot Pride event was to take place from the 29th June to the 2nd July and the Committee wished to know if any events were to be arranged in Pontardawe.

Unfortunately, due to the tight time scales there was not sufficient time to organise an event however the Town Council would like to support the event and would ask if the ‘Pride’ flag could be displayed on the Arts Centre flagpole for the week. They would also donate £50 to the cause if a suitable bank account was available

**Resolved** that the Town Council will donate £50 to Neath Port Talbot Pride, if a suitable bank account was available.

## **12288: Friends of Pontardawe Arts Centre:**

The Friends of Pontardawe Arts Centre wished to thank all the Councillors who had volunteered to attend their committee however following a reorganisation they wished to obtain Council input via reports and feedback from Full Council

**Resolved** to be noted.

## **12289: Friends of George V Park:**

Councillor Mrs J Lord declared and interest and took no part in the discussion

The ‘Friends of George V Park’ requested the Town Council support their request to Neath Port Talbot Council to add Picnic benches within George V Park

**Resolved** that the Town Council will support the proposal

## **12290: Email re Memorials:**

An email had been received expressing concern over the Memorial stones at the ‘Cross’

**Resolved** that the Town Council will request the County Borough to review and possibly refurbish.

## **12291: Email re Publications:**

The following proposal had been made:

‘That the Town Council only advertise with publications that adhere to the IPSO (Independent Press standards Association) to ensure high standards of protection for elected representatives’

Council briefly discussed matters but felt that insufficient information was available on the ramifications of the proposal.

**Resolved** that the Clerk will provide a report on any ramifications of the proposal at the next meeting.

## **12292: Open Consultations:**

None

**Resolved** to be noted

## **12293: Urgent Road Safety Matters and responses:**

Re: Extremely dangerous driving (often on the pavement) adjacent to YGG Pontardawe during drop of and pick up- The Clerk confirmed that both County Borough Members and the Police were looking into matters.

## **Resolved** to be noted.

## **12294: Next Meeting:**

The next Ordinary Meeting will take place on the 10th July 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 ……………………………………………………………………..