## **Ordinary General Meeting held on the 10th July 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**

## The Mayor requested Council to observe a minute’s silence in memory of the late Councillor and past Mayor of Pontardawe Town Council, Andrew Nicholson, who died recently. Councillor Purcell also addressed Council.

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

Councillor P Temblett (presiding), B Howells, D Brain, G Davies, Mrs L Purcell, Ms J Lord, and D Fitzgerald (Youth Councillor)

## **Present online by Zoom:**

Councillor J Nemeth, Mrs G Ffrancon, H Davies and Mrs R Phillips

## **Apologies:**

Councillor A Richards, M Vincent and M Davies

## **12295: Disclosure of Personal and Pecuniary Interests:**

None

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

## **12296: Signing of the Minutes of the Ordinary General Meeting held on the 12th June 2023**

## **Resolved** that the minutes of the Ordinary General Meeting held on the 12th June 2023 having been read and confirmed as a true record be accepted by Council.

## **12297: Matters raised by Members of the Public:**

None

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

## **12298: Presentation by the One Voice Wales Local places for Nature officer:**

Council was advised that the service specifically supported the Town and Community Council sector and could arrange site visits and provide guidance on creating various environmentally friendly habitats in Urban and other areas, together with community growing and public access drinking water, she also explained that there was grant funding available for both small- and large-scale projects.

Several case studies were discussed which all assisted with Councils Section 6 requirements, biodiversity actions plan and compliance with National Resource Wales area statements.

They also worked closely with the Local Nature Partnership Coordinator for Neath Port Talbot.

Council thanked Rachel for attending the meeting and for providing information on the service.

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

## **12299: Presentation by a representative of the Riverside Centre, Pontardawe:**

Council was advised that the Riverside Centre at Pontardawe managed the land, in an environmentally friendly manner and included food growing in polytunnels, together with an Orchard and had now provided 10 years of outdoor education to children from both Primary and Secondary Schools.

School children benefited by getting out of the classroom and by learning about growing food from seed, the environment and the natural world. The practitioners were experienced and the model was in accordance with the Donaldson Report and could lead Neath Port Talbot in this area within the Welsh Governments new Curriculum for Wales.

The centre had been extremely successful with models to support disengaged and students with special needs but supporting them in obtaining qualifications and building confidence in their ability to learn.

Unfortunately, funding was critical as local schools were no longer utilising the service due to pressure on their budgets and there was a risk that experienced practitioners or the centre as a whole could be lost.

Council explained that the funding required was far about any level that could be supported by the Town Council but would fully support funding requests to the County Borough and other bodies

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

## **12300: Defibrillator Mapping Project:**

As holiday season was approaching, it had been agreed that training would be looked at in September

## **Resolved** to be noted

## **12301: Police Matters:**

Pontardawe Statistics 46 crimes in May up from 37 crimes in April, (19 Violence, 10 Anti-social behaviour, 5 Criminal Damage and 6 Public Order)

Trebanos Statistics 7 crimes in May up from 6 crimes in April (3 Anti-Social behaviour, 2 Violence).

Unfortunately, due to circumstances beyond our Control, Council could not be represented at the CAP Event on the 7th July however the event had been a success and had been well represented in other areas.

Council was made aware that a ticket including a racial slur had been placed on a car at the Bypass Car Park, both the Police and Unitary Authority had been advised. Council was appalled by the report and stated that views and behaviour of that nature would not be tolerated in Pontardawe.

There were significant issues of antisocial behaviour and damage in and around Trebanos Park. The Clerk had been made aware that prior to the club Funday, the wall had been demolished by a catering/supply van and this weekend, the Park Officer had reported a bench demolished by a club members car. CCTV was available for both issues.

The wall still required reinstatement however the bench had been reinstalled over the weekend by the Park Officer as it was a significant danger to small children.

## **Resolved** that the County Borough Member for Trebanos and the Clerk will meet with the Rugby Club Officers to determine a way forward. The Park Officer would also be paid an additional 14 hours, in recompense for work carried out on the Bench at the Park and other ad hoc maintenance work carried out over the month.

## **12302: Monthly update from the Neath Port Talbot Council Members:**

Councillor A Richards was not in attendance.

Councillor Mrs R Phillips:

* Neath Port Talbot Council ‘Lets keep talking’ consultation was ongoing to get people’s views on what matters most to them so their feedback can be used to ensure the council’s future planning and priority setting aligns with what is needed. This will help shape its decision making at what is a challenging time.
* The increase to the Electric vehicle fleet was continuing
* My Green Valley were concerned about the amount of litter around Trebanos Park and the River. A pick had been carried out to include YGG Trebannws. It was hoped that Cwmtawe would be involved with future picks in the area
* The County Borough Member for Trebanos would be meeting with Local Police Inspector Lindsey Sweeney shortly re issues in the area.
* YGG Trebannws was continuing its ‘Preloved’ School uniform scheme
* Welsh speaking outside of school was also being encouraged
* Parking and traffic were a continuing issue at Graig Road, Trebanos
* The mobile library was to commence this month

Councillor H Davies:

* Discussions had been underway re school uniform policy during period of excessive heat
* Parking issues
* The Neath Port Talbot Council area was experiencing a large housing shortage
* Meetings with the local Police Service were to take place re anti-social behaviour

**Resolved** to be noted.

## **12303: Grant Applications:**

Pontardawe Heritage and Visitors Centre - **£1000 awarded** (Council would appreciate more Welsh exhibitions)

Pontardawe Cricket Club - **£500 – awarded** (Council suggested getting several quotes)

Swansea Valley U11s District Rugby – Council requested additional information as it seemed that there were several Town and Community Councils within the district who do not seem to have been approached. They would also like details of specifically what ‘rugby kit’ was required.

The ‘Friends of George V Park’ thanked Council for the grant awarded and invited all to the event on the 13th August.

## **Resolved** that the grants to Pontardawe Cricket Club and the Pontardawe Heritage centre will be awarded.

## **12304: Clerks update on Eco and Wellbeing Committee including Cwmdu:**

Short Term projects identified and action required:

* MUGA at George V Park – Project was ongoing with the Event planned for August and a presentation for September
* Christmas Tree Project – The sourcing of a mature tree was posing difficult as an order could not be placed until grant funds were secured and the very small numbers of mature trees available. Further slow growing conical trees had been identified to ensure availability. A grant application would be submitted to the ‘Mynydd y Betws’ wind farm fund for approx. £5000 and they would require third party funding of 10% from the Town Council. The Clerk would take lead on the project but a Councillor would need to be seconder on the application.
* The Trebanos to Ynysmeudwy ‘street art’ trail project was ongoing with consultation with local school children in progress, wider community consultation would follow. Permission was still being sought for some of the identified locations however it was hoped that painting could commence by the end of July
* The Heritage trail project was also ongoing
* Trebanos Welsh Youth Club had now over 50 Members with regularly 25 children attending. The Youth club would recommence in September however it was hoped that one off events could take place during the Summer period
* The Repair café was to take a break during the Summer, but would recommence in September with monthly workshops in the Pontardawe Town Council and Alltwen areas.

Cwmdu Glen

* It was requested that a warning sign be erected at the beginning of the new steps at Cwmdu

## **Resolved**

## that £500 will be made available from General Reserve at third party funding for the Mynydd y Betws grant application for the Christmas Tree Project and that Councillor Dai Brian would be seconder to the Clerk on the application

* A warning sign would be placed at Cwmdu

## **12305: Vacancy for Caretaker at Trebanos Hall:**

The relief caretaker at Ynysmeudwy Hall would be available to cover Trebanos hall temporarily following the current Caretakers retirement.

The current Management Committee would retire on the 31st August.

The new Management Committee would comprise of the Clerk, Trebanos Councillors, Caretaker and representatives of any groups currently using the Hall. Letters giving details of the committee had already been forwarded to groups. It was hoped that the first meeting could be arranged during August

**Resolved:** That the vacancy for the caretaker at Trebanos Hall will be advertised during July.

## **12306: Publications:**

A motion had been proposed at the last meeting that the Town Council only advertise in publications that adhere to the IPSO (Independent Press Standards Association).

The Clerk advised Council agreement to he motion would likely prevent the publication of articles in community newsletter which were currently the Town Council’s main avenue of community publicity outside of social media.

She also confirmed that to date there had been no concerns raised over the current methods of publication

## **Resolved** that the status quo be maintained and the current method of publication will be retained

## **12307: Planning:**

The meeting held on the 3.7.23 was not quorate however Councillors were advised to submit representation individually (P2023/0394 & P2023/0265) if they wished.

## **P2023/0345**

Applicant’s name and Address: Tony Garthwaite, Spa House, Gellionen Road, Trebanos, SA8 4RN

Site Location: Spa House, Gellionen Road, Trebanos, SA8 4RN

Proposed Development: Proposed first floor extension above existing single storey extension

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

## **P2023/0522**

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

Site Location: Sportsfield adjacent to Cwmtawe Community School, Ffordd Parc Ynysderw, Pontardawe SA8 4EG

Proposed Development: Section 73 application for the variation of condition 1 of planning permission P2022/0254 approved on the 21.6.22 to allow for a further 2 years for the siting of a demountable unit to existing temporary classroom

## **Resolved** No Objection.

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## **12308: Model Standing Orders / Finance and Government Toolkit:**

Both documents were made available to Councillor prior to the meeting. The Clerk had also completed the ‘Clerk’s’ area of the toolkit.

**Resolved** that the Standing Order 2023 be adopted and the Finance and Government toolkit be reviewed in September by Committee.

## **12309: Clerk’s Holiday:**

The Clerk requested five days holiday prior to the next Ordinary General Meeting (date to be advised) no cover would be necessary

**Resolved** that the Clerk’s holiday request will be agreed.

## **12310: Pharmacy Update:**

Council was advised that the Pharmacy to replace the current Lloyds Pharmacy was still awaited however should be opening soon.

**Resolved** to be noted.

## **12311: Town Planning:**

It was suggested by the Mayor that a monthly ‘walkabout’ take place in Pontardawe and the surrounding areas to raise the profile of the Town Council and to allow Councillors to speak to residents/businesses in the area.

It was also suggested that the Town Council create a 1,3- and 5-year plan which should compliment the Community/Place Plan currently being created by Neath Port Talbot Council.

**Resolved:**

* that informal non-political monthly walks will be carried out by the Mayor and other Councillors.
* The Clerk continue to request a timeline for the creation of the Community/Place Plan from Neath Port Talbot Council
* Councillors think of ideas / views re the Town Council plan during the Summer for discussion during a P&R Committee after the Summer break

## **12312: Account Schedule 405 and Bank Reconciliation:**

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

## **Resolved** that Account Schedule 405 totalling £21565.76 together with bank reconciliation, will be accepted by Council in line with Standing Orders.

## **12313: Request re St David’s day flags:**

A request had been made for the Town Council to place St David’s day flags in the current flag holders

## **Resolved** that the Clerk will determine if Planning permission is required and if so apply.

## **12314: Floral Displays in Rhyd y Fro:**

The single tier planter had been placed at Waun Sterw and was appreciated, however, it had been requested that a three-tier planter could be provided for 2024 to match the planter at Trebanos.

Council discussed the proposal but were concerned that Rhyd y Fro planter unlike Trebanos was watered by volunteers, and that there would be the risk of volunteers falling if a 3-tiered planter were provided

It was however suggested that the provision of floral displays outside of the current contract could be considered for Rhyd y Fro at a later date.

**Resolved** to be noted.

## **12315: Request for Letters to landlords in lower Herbert Street:**

A request was made for official Town Council letters to be forwarded to lower Herbert Street landlords requesting that the lane behind the premises be kept in a clean and tidy condition

**Resolved** that the Clerk will create and distribute letters

## **12316: Request for alternative bins at Ynysmeudwy Park:**

It was requested that the wire bins at Ynysmeudwy Park be replaced with lidded bins due to continual dispersal of refuse by wild animals and birds

**Resolved** that the wire bins will be replace with lidded/covered bins with the cost being taken from General Reserve

## **12317: Open Consultations:**

Noise and Soundscape plan for Wales 2023-2028

**Resolved** to be noted

## **12318: 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 a response had been received from Neath Port Talbot Highways. The matter would be discussed at the Members Surgery in November

## **Resolved** to be noted.

## **12319: Next Meeting:**

Council thanked Dylan Fitzgerald (Youth Councillor) for his work on behalf of Council during his term in Office as Youth Councillor terms would come to an end on the 31at August

The next Ordinary Meeting will take place on the 11th September 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 ……………………………………………………………………..