## **Ordinary General Meeting held on the 11th September 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**

Councillor S Thomas, Neath Port Talbot Standards Committee viewed the meeting as an invited guest.

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

Councillor H Davies (presiding), B Howells, G Davies, Mrs L Purcell, M Vincent, Ms E Thomas and M Davies

## **Present online by Zoom:**

Councillor J Nemeth, Mrs G Ffrancon, S Todd and A Richards

## **Apologies:**

Councillor Mrs J Lord, P Temblett, D Brain, Mrs R Phillips and J Watkins

## **12320: Disclosure of Personal and Pecuniary Interests:**

None

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

## **12321: Signing of the Minutes of the Ordinary General Meeting held on the 10th July 2023**

## **Resolved** that the minutes of the Ordinary General Meeting held on the 10th July 2023 having been read and confirmed as a true record be accepted by Council.

## **12322: Matters raised by Members of the Public:**

None

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

## **12323: Police Matters:**

Pontardawe Statistics 39 crimes in June, down from 46 in May (18 Violence, 7 Anti-social behaviour, 4 Oher theft, 4 Public Order)

Trebanos Statistics 9 crimes in June, up from 7 in May (4 Anti-social behaviour, 2 Violence, 1 Burglary and 1 Public Order)

An email was also read from the Acting Neighbourhood Policing Inspector following his secondment into the post.

## **Resolved** to be noted.

## **12324: Monthly update from the Neath Port Talbot Council Members:**

Councillor Mrs R Phillips was not in attendance.

Councillor A Richards:

* Neath Port Talbot Council had been short listed for ‘Council of the Year’ for Public Service excellence in several categories
* The local schools had posted excellent GCSE and A Level results
* A full review had found no Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete in any schools in the Neath Port Talbot Council area.
* There had been several very successful Community Events including the Heart of the Valley show, Pontardawe Music Festival, Pontardawe Flower festival, George V Park Open day and Rhyd y Fro School family fun day
* The Mynydd y Betws Wind Farm community benefit fund had met recently and had provided grant funding for local groups

Council was also congratulated Councillor Richards on receiving the Happy Place Hero Award at the Happy Place Festival in London

**Resolved** that the Town Council will contact Neath Port Talbot Council to thank the staff for the work carried out by them that led to the short listing for Council of the year.

## **12325: Grant Applications:**

Councillors were advised that there was £8465.20 of the 2023/24 budget remaining

Pontardawe AFC - **£500 awarded** towards a storage shed

Swansea Valley U11s district Rugby - **£395 – awarded** to support the promotion of Girls rugby in local Primary Schools

A letter of thanks was also received from Pontardawe Cricket Club for the grant awarded

## **Resolved** that the grants to Pontardawe AFC and Swansea Valley U11s district Rugby will be awarded

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

## **12326: Clerks update on Eco and Wellbeing Committee including Cwmdu:**

Short Term projects identified and action required:

* MUGA at George V Park – The Event in August was well attended and successful. Jeremy Miles MS also attended the event.
* Christmas Tree Project – The Clerk confirmed that the grant funding from the Mynydd y Betws wind farm had been successful further details would be available at the next meeting
* The Trebanos to Ynysmeudwy ‘street art’ trail project consultation had been completed and designs were in the process of being created. Unfortunately, it had been impossible to obtain agreement from Neath Port Talbot Council for two of the benches in Trebanos and therefore alternative locations had been identified
* The Heritage trail project was also ongoing
* Trebanos Welsh Youth Club had recommenced following the summer break
* The Repair café had now reconvened
* Cwmdu Glen – The Clerk had obtained advise following Council’s request to place additional signage at Cwmdu- As the signs already placed were in accordance with the Risk Assessment commissioned, we were advised not to add further signs.

## **Resolved** to be noted.

## **12327: Alteration to the order of discussion:**

As the vacancy for the caretaker and the Clerks report on Events needed to be discussed within a closed session (confidential personnel information and Commercial interests) it was agreed to discuss both points at the end of the meeting

## **Resolved** that the discussion on the employment of the caretaker and the Clerks Report on Events would be considered at the end of the Ordinary Meeting and in closed session due to personnel details and commercial interest.

## **12328: Town Planning:**

The 1,3- and 5-year plan needed to be discussed following review of the Finance and Government toolkit (Councillor area) and in conjunction with Neath Port Talbot Council’s Community/Place Plan which was in the process of being developed

## **Resolved** that the matter should be discussed with Policy and Resource Committee

## **12329: Request re St David’s day flags:**

The Clerk confirmed that Planning Permission would not be required for the placing of flags of this nature.

As there was no budget for flags it was agreed that the Clerk would approach the Chamber of Commerce to determine if they were looking to expand the current flag project

## **Resolved** that the Clerk will discuss the project with the Chamber of Commerce and report to Council

## **12330: Request for Letters to landlords in lower Herbert Street:**

Following discussion with the County Borough Member, it had been brought to Council’s attention that Neath Port Talbot Council had already contacted both the business and residential addresses regarding this matter.

**Resolved** that for the present no additional letters would be forwarded however Council will continue to review the situation

## **12331: Request for alternative bins at Ynysmeudwy Park:**

Replacement bins for Ynysmeudwy Park had been ordered from a local supplier. There was a twelve-week lead time

**Resolved** that the bins would be replaced as soon as available.

**12332: Planning:**

Committee held on the 31st July 2023

## **P2023/0471**

Applicant’s name and Address: Mr Gwyn Griffiths, The Bungalow, Baran Road, Pontardawe, Swansea SA8 4RR

Site Location: The Bungalow, Baran Road, Pontardawe, Swansea SA8 4RR

Proposed Development: Section 73 application to amend condition 3 (restricting occupancy of dwelling) of application number 2/2/94/0237/03 granted consent on the 22/9/1994 to restrict occupancy to those persons solely or mainly working or last working on a rural enterprise in the locality where there is/was a defined functional need; or if it can be demonstrated that there are no such eligible occupiers, to those widows, widowers, or civil partners of the above and any resident dependents

## **Resolved** Council has sympathy with the issues being experienced but does not feel that they have the experience to make a comment, due to the complexity of the position, and the possibility of a precedent being created which may be detrimental in future.

Committee held on the 30th August 2023

## **P2023/0628**

Applicant’s name and Address: Mr Steffan Davies, 31 Orchard Street, Pontardawe SA8 4ER

Site Location: 31 Orchard Street, Pontardawe SA8 4ER

Proposed Development: Single storey timer outbuilding (retrospective) and single storey pre-fabricated garage to side of existing dwelling house

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

## **P2023/0296**

Applicant’s name and Address: Mr David Tudur Jones, 10 Graig Road, Trebanos SA8 4BA

Site Location: 10 Graig Road, Trebanos SA8 4BA

Proposed Development: Retention of two storey side extension, increase in roof height, external alterations and retaining wall (as built on site)

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

## **P2023/0619**

Applicant’s name and Address: Mr Chris Bowen, 17 Bryn Derwen, Pontardawe SA8 4LF

Site Location: 17 Bryn Derwen, Pontardawe SA8 4LF

Proposed Development: Convert garage to habitable room (lounge) and associated internal works to enlarge kitchen

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

Applications reviewed in the Ordinary General Meeting

## **P2023/0616**

Applicant’s name and Address: Mr David Davies, 48 Brecon Road, Pontardawe SA8 4PD

Site Location: 50 Brecon Road, Pontardawe SA8 4PD

Proposed Development: Demolition of front bay window, single storey rear lean-to and attached side store building, and construction of a new two storey front extension, external alterations including insertion of new ground and first floor window/ door openings to front, rear and side elevations together with detached double garage, driveway surfacing, side patio and associated works

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

## **12333: Youth Councillors:**

The application deadline for 2023 had been extended to 24th September however the Policy needed to be reviewed

**Resolved** that a Policy and Resources Committee with Plenary Powers would be arranged to review the Policy

## **12334: One Voice Wales Representative :**

As our former Youth Councillor’s term of office had finished, we now required a new One Voice Wales representative

**Resolved** that the vacancy will be reviewed at the next meeting.

## **12335: Account Schedule 406, Bank Reconciliation and Budget/Actual Statement for Quarter 1:**

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

## **Resolved** that Account Schedule 406 totalling £26062.79 together with bank reconciliation, and Budget/ Actual statement for Quarter 1 will be accepted by Council in line with Standing Orders.

## **12336: Letter of Thanks:**

A letter of thanks was received from the Trebanos Hall Management Committee for the gift on their retirement

**Resolved** to be noted.

## **12337: Pontardawe Primary Schools:**

Council was advised that residents were concerned that Godrergraig school pupils would continue to be taught in portacabins at Ynysderw for the next two years as time scales for a new school were not available. They also wished to know what investment would now be made in both Alltwen and Llangiwg Schools to bring them up to 31st Century standards

In addition, residents wished to know if the new specialist ASD unit would be created

**Resolved** that the Clerk will write to Neath Port Talbot Council

## **12338: Pontardawe Swimming Pool:**

Residents wished to know what plans had been created for a replacement swimming pool at Pontardawe.

**Resolved** that the Clerk will write to Neath Port Talbot Council

## **12339: Open Consultations:**

Councillor were provided with the information prior to the meeting

**Heat Strategy Wales** -Given the wide-ranging changes indicated by the Welsh Government Heat Strategy, significant changes to Community Hall energy supplies should be delayed until the High-level plan had been completed as any changes at this time might be superseded by Government legislation.

**Neath Port Talbot draft Housing and Homelessness Plan** – noted.

**Resolved** that the Clerk will continue to ensure that energy efficiency is considered in all Community Halls

## **12340: Urgent Road Safety Matters and responses:**

Many residents were unsure of the roads that would be affected by the Welsh Governments new 20 mph scheme

## **Resolved** that Councillor Richards will provide clarification on the roads affected.

## **12341: Employment of Caretaker at Trebanos Hall (closed session – Personnel details):**

Candidate applications were reviewed and a decision was made *(information redacted)*

## **Resolved** that an offer of Employment will be made to the preferred candidate *(information redacted)*

## **12342: Clerks Report on Event Management including the Pontardawe Winterfest (closed session – Commercial Interest):**

The Clerk explained that Neath Port Talbot Council had introduced extremely restrictive and expensive mandatory conditions to allow road closures for events. She had contacted several companies in order to discuss the requirements to allow the Pontardawe Winterfest to take place in 2023. As discussions were commercially sensitive, companies had requested that information be kept confidential

**Resolved** Council discussed the process and cost in detail and agreed on the companies to submit and oversee the road closure application *(information redacted)*Council will also cover the costs associated with obtaining a road closure from General Reserve for 2023 to allow the Winterfest to continue

## **12343: Next Meeting:**

The next Ordinary Meeting will take place on the 9th October 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 ……………………………………………………………………..