## **Ordinary General Meeting held on the 12th February 2024. The meeting was held at the Gallery, 2md Floor, Pontardawe Arts Centre, Herbert Street, Pontardawe with Hybrid facilities by virtual platform Zoom, commencing at 6.45 pm**

## **Present:**

Councillor Mrs L Purcell (presiding 6.45pm-7pm), Councillor P Temblett (presiding from 7pm), B Howells, G Davies, M Vincent and D Brain

## **Present online by Zoom:**

Councillor A Richards and Mrs R Phillips (left the meeting at 7pm due to technical issues), J Nemeth, Mrs J Lord, S Todd, Mrs G Ffrancon and N Davies (Youth Councillors)

## **Apologies:**

Councillor H Davies, M Davies and Mrs E Thomas

## **12441: Appointment of temporary Chair:**

Councillor Temblett had indicated he would be later attending the meeting due to unexpected work commitments. Council then appointed Councillor Mrs L Purcell to Chair the meeting until Councillor Temblett’s arrival

## **Resolved** Councillor Mrs L Purcell to Chair the meeting until the arrival of the Mayor**.**

## **12442: Disclosure of Personal and Pecuniary Interests:**

Councillor S Todd declared an interest in the Grant applications from Pontardawe Conservation volunteers as he was the applicant.

He took no part in any of the discussions or decisions on these grant applications.

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

## **12443: Signing of the Minutes of the Ordinary General Meeting held on the 8th January 2024**

## **Resolved** that the minutes of the Ordinary General Meeting held on the 8th January 2024, having been read and confirmed as a true record be accepted by Council.

## **12444: Matters raised by Members of the Public:**

None

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

## **12445: Police Matters:**

PCSO Jeremy Burns attended the meeting and introduced himself. He then explained the actions being carried out to address speeding on Swansea Road, Trebanos and Brecon Road, Pontardawe.

Council were reminded that dashcam footage of dangerous driving could be forwarded to South Wales Police via a report to 101 or South Wales Police online.

Pontardawe Statistics: 34 crimes in December, down from 37 crimes in November, (11 Violence, 11 Anti-social behaviour, 2 other theft, 4 Public Order)

Trebanos Statistics: 1 crime in December, up from 0 crimes in November (Violence)

## **Resolved** that details of the method of reporting dashcam footage would be added to the Town Council’s Social media feed.

## **12446: Monthly update from the Neath Port Talbot Council Members:**

No County Borough Members were available at this point in the meeting

**Resolved** to be noted.

## **12447: Grant Applications:**

Councillor S Todd took no part in any discussions or decisions on grant for Pontardawe Conservation Volunteers.

* Pontardawe Conservation volunteers – A request had been made to alter the terms of the grant previously awarded for litter picking equipment (£180) – Due to insurance issues the equipment would be for the use of the group and volunteers of the group rather than Members of the Public due to insurance issues. This amendment was with the full co-operation of My Green Valley – Council agreed to the alteration.
* Pontardawe Conservation volunteers – New Grant request for £420 for materials /equipment required for the ongoing maintenance of the Town Council land in Cwmdu by the volunteers – Grant Agreed
* Menter Iaith Castell Nedd - £100 requested to assist with the St David’s day Christmas window competition – Grant Agreed
* Pontardawe RFC – Grant request for £1800 towards finance for fencing at the club to deter dog fouling on the pitch – As there were sufficient funds available from the grant budget and it was close to the end of the fiscal year, Council agreed the funding in principle however three quotes would be required – Grant Agreed in principle ( three quotes would be required)

Grants are provided to benefit some or all of the residents of the Pontardawe Town Council area

## **Resolved** that the alteration of the Pontardawe Conservation volunteers grant for £180 will be agreed. The grants for £420 to the Pontardawe Conservation volunteers, £100 to Menter Iaith Castell Nedd will be agreed. The grant to the Pontardawe RFC of £1800 will also be agreed however three quotes would be required prior to payment (to show value for money)

## **12448: Clerks update on Eco and Wellbeing Committee including Cwmdu:**

Short Term projects identified and action required:

* MUGA at George V Park – Expression of interest for the grant had been submitted and consultation with local residents carried out.
* Street Art Graffiti trail – The grant providers had agreed to a further extension to the grant completion date due to issues surrounding the extreme weather. An article giving details of the grant had been created and would be published in the Community Mag and Llais.
* Heritage trail project – The extreme weather had delated completion, however the Bench would be placed as soon as possible
* CCTV Project – The Operation Manager at Neath Port Talbot was in the process of creating a procurement pathway and would then create a small public consultation further to the requirement of the grant. Further information would be made available when received.
* Gwachel Roundabout – A site meeting had been held with Neath Port Talbot Council and Councillor ideas had been forwarded – Awaiting further feedback
* Biodiversity grants – George V Park had already been surveyed. A Management Plan in conjunction with Neath Port Talbot Council was also in place to co-ordinate management throughout Cwmdu & the Glanrhyd estate. (This had been in place for many years to ensure that land owned by Neath Port Talbot and Pontardawe Town Council was managed in a similar fashion). Gellionen common was considered a viable applicant for a survey.) Trees at Cwmdu were managed under a separate Pontardawe Town Council management plan
* Riverside / Glanrhyd – Neath Port Talbot Council were in the process of reviewing this land although no formal plans were currently available

## **Resolved** that a Biodiversity grant be applied for (£8k contractors to tackle invasive Rhododendron plant areas too intensive for the Pontardawe Conservation volunteers, 1.5k to place nest boxes suggested by the management plan for Cwmdu and 0.5k for tow Bat surveys.

As Riverside /Glanrhyd had been for many years underutilised and information was not forthcoming from Neath Port Talbot Council as to future plans, the Clerk will contact the Cabinet Member for he Environment at NPT to reiterated the Town Council’s wish to be involved with planning of that area.

## **12449: Winterfest:**

The Arts Centre and Arts Centre forecourt was to undergo significant renovation during 2024 which would prevent the siting of the stage and use of the Arts Centre for the Winterfest in 2024.

**Resolved** that an alternative Winterfest will need to be devised for 2024.

## **12450: Additional Litter bin:**

Councillor Howells and the Clerk had monitored the area closely both during the working week and on weekends. There was very little litter or dog waste in evidence.

The Clerk had also reviewed the number of dog waste and litter bins in the vicinity, which seemed adequate.

**Resolved** that no further action will be taken.

## **12451: Neath Port Talbot Youth Services:**

No further information was available as further guidance from Youth Services was awaited

**Resolved** to be noted.

## **12452: Pontardawe Swimming Pool:**

A meeting between Councillors and Chris Saunders, Head of Service for Leisure, Culture and Tourism would be arranged for early March following discussions with Employees and County Borough Members.

Council however felt that is was vitally important to determine how remedial work was to be completed to prevent the closure of the Pool prior to any major refurbishment or replacement of the current facility especially as funding may be available in the future from Levelling up and Prosperity funding pots

## **Resolved** that the Clerk will contact the Leader to express councils wish for Neath Port Talbot Council to look at all means possible to maintain the Pontardawe Swimming Pool through maintenance, refurbishment or replacement as closure would be catastrophic for the Community

## **12453: Removal of BT box on the junction of Holly Street and Herbert Street due to lack of use:**

The adopt a box scheme referred to iconic red telephone boxes and therefore the box indicated was not suitable

**Resolved** to be noted.

**12454: Planning:**

Planning Committee held on the 29th January 2024

## **P2024/0023**

Applicant’s name and Address: Mr Martin Watts, Avenue Garage, Works road, Pontardawe, Swansea SA8 4AF

Site Location: Avenue Garage, Works road, Pontardawe, Swansea SA8 4AF

Proposed Development: Retention of change of use from petrol filling station to car valeting / hand car wash facility together with removal of 2 no existing canopies, retention of one existing canopy and erection of 1 no new detached canopy, new means of enclosure, floodlighting and timer seating

## **Resolved** No Objection

## **P2023/0876**

Applicant’s name and Address: Mr Peter Hopkin, Crachlwyn Farm, Gwrhyd road, Pontardawe, Swansea, SA9 2SB

Site Location: Crachlwyn Farm, Gwrhyd road, Pontardawe, Swansea, SA9 2SB

Proposed Development: Proposed single storey annex situated on the side elevation of host dwelling

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

## **P2024/0019**

Applicant’s name and Address: Mr Keith Manning, Plat adjacent to 55 Commercial road, Rhyd y Fro SA8 4SL

Site Location: Garage adjacent to 55 Commercial road, Rhyd y Fro SA8 4SL

Proposed Development: 1 no detached dwelling (outline with all matters reserved)

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

## Planning reviewed in the Ordinary Meeting

## **P2024/0087**

Applicants name and address: Canal and River Trust, 3rd Floor, Llanthony Warehouse, The Docks, Gloucester

Site Location: Ynysmeudwy Ganol Bridge (Bridge 8), Swansea Canal, Ynysmeudwy, SA8 4PP

Proposed Development: Listed building consent to attach as cast aluminium name plaque to Ynysmeudwy Ganol Bridge

## **Resolved** No Objection

## **P2024/0088**

Applicants name and address: Canal and River Trust, 3rd Floor, Llanthony Warehouse, The Docks, Gloucester

Site Location: Ynysmeudwy Isaf Bridge, Swansea Canal, Ynysmeudwy, SA8 4PX

Proposed Development: Listed building consent to attach as cast aluminium name plaque to Ynysmeudwy Isaf Bridge

## **Resolved** No Objection

## **P2024/0089**

Applicants name and address: Canal and River Trust, 3rd Floor, Llanthony Warehouse, The Docks, Gloucester

Site Location: Ynysmeudwy Uchaf, Swansea Canal, Ynysmeudwy, SA8 4BW

Proposed Development: Listed building consent to attach as cast aluminium name plaque to Ynysmeudwy Uchaf Bridge

## **Resolved** No Objection

## **P2024/0081**

Applicants name and address: Leyton Russ, Wall Colmonoy, Alloy Industrial Estate, Pontardawe, SA8 4HL

Site Location: Wall Colmonoy, Alloy Industrial Estate, Pontardawe, SA8 4HL

Proposed Development: Certificate of lawfulness, for proposed installation of anew cryogenic plant on a piled concrete plinth and the erection of a new nitrogen tank and associated plant including vaporisers, accumulators and pumps sited adjacent to an existing cryogenic plant (to be decommissioned), within existing area of hardstanding within g the curtilage of the existing Wall Colmonoy buildings. The dimensions of the plinth are 17.8m x 11.5m. The total height of the nitrogen tank when mounted on the plinth is 14.93m, the tank is 3m diameter

## **Resolved** No Objection

## **P2024/0048**

Applicant’s name and Address: Rory and Alys Morgan Williams & Jones, 12 Grove road, Pontardawe SA8 4HH

Site Location: 12 Grove road, Pontardawe SA8 4HH

Proposed Development: Demolish outbuilding and construct as single storey wrap around extension

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

**Licensing**

None

## **Resolved** to be noted.

The Clerk also reminded Councillors of the Workshop reviewing the draft Place Plan to be held from 2pm on Friday the 16th February at Neath Town Hall.

## **12455:Policy and Resources Committee held on the 22nd January 2024: This Committee discussed Hanging baskets and flower displays for the Summer of 2024:**

The City and County of Swansea provided a fully maintained service providing hanging baskets and planters for Pontardawe and the Pontardawe area.

The following costs had been provided based on the 2024 scheme (all ex vat)

67 Hanging baskets at £96.60 – For Pontardawe Town Centre

1 three tier planter at £434.16 – To be situated at Heol y Fflin in Trebanos

1 single tier planter at £72.41 on a supply only basis - To be situated on or near the boundary with Rhyd y Fro

The Clerk confirmed that the City and County of Swansea would only provide a ‘supply only’ planter for Rhyd y Fro and there were no additional three tier planters available

The Clerk also confirmed that funds had been allocated in the budget for a scheme for 2024

The Committee recommended that the Council place the same planters/baskets for the Summer of 2024 as for the Summer of 2023

One resident had stated that the location of the Rhyd y Fro planter on the corner of Waun Sterw was not technically in Rhyd y Fro (The junction does fall between the sign stating leaving Pontardawe and entering Rhyd y Fro) however there were limited areas which were suitable under both the suppliers and County Borough rules. The junction with Waun Sterw was the most suitable flat area close to the boundary.

## This Committee recommended the same number and placement of hanging baskets and planters as had been carried out for the 2023 Summer scheme

## **Resolved** that Council will ratify the Committees decision

## **12456: Financial Regulations and Financial Risk Assessment:**

Councillor were provided with both prior to the meeting

## **Resolved** that the Financial Regulations and Financial Risk Assessment will be agreed.

## **12457: Community Hall, sanitary bin refuse contract:**

Following changes to the recycling /refuse contracts due to Welsh Government legislation due to commence on the 1st April 2024, it was necessary to employ as sanitary waste collection company for the Community Halls.

The Clerk had approached three local companies:

PHS Systems – Despite two requests for quotes and several telephone calls, no quotes were forthcoming

Direct 365 – The Company was unable to guarantee collection dates and therefore was unsuitable as the halls were not constantly manned

Cathedral Hygiene - £780 per annum in total for all Community Halls with a guaranteed collection time/date for each hall

## **Resolved** that Cathedral Hygiene will be contracted from the 1st April 2024

## **12458: Account Schedule 411, Budget /Actual Report for quarter 3, Statement of Internal Control and Bank Reconciliation:**

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

## **Resolved** that Account Schedule 411 totalling £17362.60 together with bank reconciliation, Budget/Actual report for quarter 3 and statement of Internal Control will be accepted by Council in line with Standing Orders.

## **12459: Crossing Patrol Officer for Swansea Road:**

Council agreed to sign the Service Level Agreement for the Swansea Road Crossing Patrol Officer for 2024/25

**Resolved** that the Mayor will sign on behalf of Council.

## **12460: Welcome to Trebanos /Croeso I Drebannws sign:**

Trebanos Councillors were keen for a sign to welcome people to Trebanos placed at Heol y Fflin.

Local authority agreement would be required and details of the type of sign required were needed and there was no current budget for a sign of this nature in 2024/25

**Resolved** that further details of the proposal will be obtained from Councillors.

## **12461: Post Toppers:**

Council was advised that a local group would be looking to place knitted ‘post toppers’ on the posts outside the Arts Centre and at the Cross during 2024. This would look to commemorate days such as St David’s day, Easter, Remembrance etc.

It was proposed that post toppers would accompany seasonal flags / hanging baskets and Christmas lights to improve a continually changing, visual presentation of the Town

**Resolved** to be noted.

## **12462: Open Consultations:**

Councillors were provided with links to the consultation prior to the meeting

* Martyn’s law presentation

Councillors were asked to review and respond to the consultation individually

**Resolved** to be noted.

## **12463: Urgent Road Safety Matters and responses:**

None

## **Resolved** to be noted.

## **12464: Next Meeting:**

The next Ordinary Meeting will take place on the 11th March 2024 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 ……………………………………………………………………..