## **Ordinary General Meeting held on the 11th March 2024. The meeting was held at the Gallery, 2nd Floor, Pontardawe Arts Centre, Herbert Street, Pontardawe with Hybrid facilities by virtual platform Zoom, commencing at 6.45 pm**

## **Present:**

Councillor P Temblett (presiding), B Howells, G Davies, M Vincent, Mrs L Purcell, H Davies, M Davies and D Brain

## **Present online by Zoom:**

Councillor A Richards, Mrs R Phillips (from 7.25pm), J Nemeth, Mrs E Thomas, S Todd and Mrs G Ffrancon

## **Apologies:**

Councillor Mrs J Lord, J Watkins and N Davies (Youth Councillor)

## **12465: Disclosure of Personal and Pecuniary Interests:**

Councillor M Davies declared and interest in Planning and Grants for Pontardawe RFC

Councillor E Thomas and J Nemeth declared an interest in items relating to My Green Valley and Pride

Councillors A Richards and Mrs R Phillips declared an interest in any items regarding the Pontardawe Swimming Pool and took no part in any discussions or decisions on this matter

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

## **12466: Signing of the Minutes of the Ordinary General Meeting held on the 12th February 2024**

## **Resolved** that the minutes of the Ordinary General Meeting held on the 12th February 2024, having been read and confirmed as a true record be accepted by Council.

## **12467: Matters raised by Members of the Public:**

None

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

## **12468: Police Matters:**

Pontardawe Statistics: 31 crimes in January down from 34 crimes in December, (13 Violence, 5 Anti-social behaviour, 4 Drugs, 4 Public Order)

Trebanos Statistics: 5 in January up from 1 crime in December, (2 Violence, 2 Anti-social behaviour and 1 Public Order)

## **Resolved** to be noted.

## **12469: Monthly update from the Neath Port Talbot Council Members:**

County Borough Members could not discuss or speak on the Pontardawe Swimming Pool due to the rules on predetermination.

Godrergraig School was not in the Pontardawe Ward however if Councillors had specific questions on the school or its future then these could be directed to Councillor Phillips who was on the Education Committee or Councillor R Davies who was the ward Councillor for Godrergraig.

The Neath Port Talbot Council budget had been approved last week and although there had been tough decisions to be made, the budget was without any significant job losses or cuts to services.

Central bus services had been secured and therefore several bus services were to be reinstated in Pontardawe

The Schools Cleaning teams had received an award for their ‘Clean, Green’ approach however Councillor Richards would suggest to the officers the benefits of refillable cleaning products to further improve their credentials.

The Derelict Church on James street was still being monitored pending action

The Heritage, Culture, Tourism and Events grant funding programme was now available. Details would be forwarded to the Clerk for distribution to full Council

**Resolved** to be noted.

## **12470: Grant Applications:**

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

* Pontardawe RFC – Grant request for £1800 towards finance for fencing at the club to deter dog fouling on the pitch – Agreed in principle during the February Ordinary Meeting. Two quotes were now available which Council felt sufficient to prove value for money. The grant would now be fully approved.
* Empower Inspire CIC – A grant was requested for £200 to assist with family Easter events at Rhyd y Fro school – Grant Agreed

The Grant budge following the above awards now stood at £320.20 – As this was the last meeting prior to the end of the financial year, Council was now willing to consider national and Charity Grant requests

The following grants were therefore awarded

* Eisteddfod Rhondda Cynon Taff 2024 - £160.10 grant awarded
* Urdd fund for all appeal - £160.10 grant awarded

The grant budget for 2023/24 had now been utilised.

A completion statement had been received from the Pontardawe Heritage Centre and therefore they would be permitted to apply for further grant funding in the new year

The following completion statements were awaited:

Pontardawe Sports and recreation ground, Pontardawe HWB and Pontardawe RFC

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

## **Resolved** that the £1800 grant to Pontardawe RFC could go ahead, also £200 to Empower Inspire CIC and ££160.10 each to the Urdd and Eisteddfod Rhondda Cynon Taff 2024

## **12471: Clerks update on Eco and Wellbeing Committee including Cwmdu:**

Short Term projects identified and action required:

* MUGA at George V Park – A contract for design and planning had been signed. The Friends Group would however like a letter of support from the Town Council
* Street Art Graffiti trail – The Completion statement had been forwarded and the grant was to be drawn down by Pontardawe Town Council. There boxes and one bench were still to be completed due to weather issues however feedback on the project from the community had been extremely positive. It was suggested that stickers with QR Codes could be consider to provide information on the subjects of the Art Work.
* Heritage trail project – The project was due to complete by the end of the fiscal year. QR Codes were also being considered for this project and therefore co-ordinated way forward between the two groups could be considered
* CCTV Project – No further information was available
* Gwachel Roundabout – Neath Port Talbot Council had responded stating they were costing various proposals however Councillors were concerned that the original time scales stated fund would need to be utilised by the end of the fiscal year
* Biodiversity grants – A draft application had been prepared and was being scrutinised. Further supporting documentation was also being collated.
* Riverside / Glanrhyd – Councillor Griffiths at Neath Port Talbot Council who was a cabinet Member for biodiversity, had been contacted but no response received

## **Resolved** that the following will be arranged:

* A letter for support for the Friends of George V Park MUGA Project
* The Clerk will contact Neath Port Talbot Council to determine timescales and funding pots for the Gwachel roundabout refurbishment
* The Leader of Neath Port Talbot Council will be contacted re Riverside

## **12472: Winterfest:**

The Clerk confirmed that Neath Port Talbot Council had replaced the lighting column at the Cross that had prevented the Cross-Road Banner from working during the 2023 Winter season. This would not be an issue in 2024

Unfortunately, due to the refurbishment of the Arts Centre, the usual Children’s Parade and light switch on would not be possible for 2024 however an alternative festival was being planned to compensate.

**Resolved** that Council will be kept up to date with developments

## **12473: Neath Port Talbot Youth Services:**

The draft application had been prepared and approved. As the original grant application period had now closed. We would need to await the next application window

**Resolved** to be noted.

## **12474: Pontardawe Swimming Pool:**

The Clerk had contacted the leader and A D Thomas, as requested re the future of Pontardawe Swimming pool but had received no response.

Information was pending from the Head of Service however timescales were resultant on staff and close stakeholders being informed initially.

Council was however aware that assessments were being made.

The County Borough Members could give no information or take part any discussion on the Pontardawe Swimming pool due to the risk of predetermination

## **Resolved** that the Clerk will re-contact the parties requesting information

## **12475: Welcome to Trebanos /Croeso I Drebannws sign:**

Initial investigations on costs, grants and suppliers were in progress. Further information would be available shortly

**Resolved** to be noted

**12476: Planning:**

## **P2024/0060**

Applicant’s name and Address: Jonathon Beddoe, Spooner Close, Coedkernew, Marshfiled, Newport SA10 8FZ

Site Location: Land to the south west of Trebanos Wastewater Treatment works, Trebanos, Neath Port Talbot (Easting 270961, Northing 202127)

Proposed Development: Outfall pipe, flap valve, safety grill, headwall and associated development including steps, repositioning of boulders, ground works including excavation of bank and reprofiling of slopes, handrails and gate all in connection with the Trebanos Treatment works

The Planning committee didn’t feel they had sufficient experience to comment and would trust to the scrutiny by the Neath Port Talbot planning team

## **Resolved** Observation period allowed to lapse without comment

## **P2023/0111**

Applicant’s name and Address: 58-59 Great Marlborough Street, London, W1F7JY

Site Location: 1 James Street, Pontardawe SA8 4LR

Proposed Development: Replacement of an existing illuminated 48-sheet advertisement display with an illuminated 48- sheet digital advertising display

## **Resolved** No Objection

## **P2024/0312**

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

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

Proposed Development: Proposed single storey extension to east elevation and front elevation to provide function room and a single storey extension to the west elevation to lounge (amended plans)

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

**Licensing**

None

## **Resolved** to be noted.

Council briefly discussed the Town Team and proposed Pontardawe Place Plan being created by the Urbanists on behalf of Neath Port Talbot Council.

The Clerk explained that the Town Team was not a committee of Pontardawe Town Council and although she had assisted with routine administration at Council’s request initially, she had no authority over the Committee or authority to request action by the County Borough on the Committees behalf. As Neath Port Talbot Council was now to crate the Place Plan it was felt that the Clerk should no longer be required to assist the committee.

**Resolved** that a special Committee will be convened, open to all Councillors to discuss the Neath Port Talbot Place Plan and to form an official Town Council response to the Urbanists proposals.

## **12477: Clerks Annual Leave:**

The Clerk requested annual leave from the 27th March to the 5th April 2024. No relief cover would be necessary however both them Mayor and Deputy would have access to contact details for emergency personnel

## **Resolved** that the Clerks holiday request will be agreed.

## **12478: Change of Date for the April Ordinary General Meeting:**

Due to the Easter Bank Holiday and the Clerks Holiday it was agreed to alter the April Ordinary General meeting to the 15th April 2024

## **Resolved** that the April Ordinary General meeting will be held on the 15th April 2024.

## **12479: Independent remuneration Panel for Wales Annual Report:**

The Report had been provided for Councillor review prior to the meeting.

## **Resolved** to be noted

## **12480: Report on the One Voice Wales Area Committee meeting held on the 6th March:**

Youth Councillor Noel Davies was unfortunately not at the meeting

**Resolved** to be noted

## **12481: Annual Policy Review:**

The Health and Safety statement and the Training Policy had been provided for Councillor review prior to the meeting.

**Resolved** that both the Health and Safety statement and the Training policy will be agreed.

## **12482: Hall Caretaker:**

The probation period for the Hall Caretaker would come to an end on the 19th March 2024, with no issues.

**Resolved** that the Hall Caretaker employment will become permanent following the end of the probation period.

## **12483: Account Schedule 412 and Bank Reconciliations:**

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

## **Resolved** that Account Schedule 412 totalling £19436.26 together with bank reconciliation, will be accepted by Council in line with Standing Orders. Council was also advised that the bank reconciliation for quarter 3 had been independently checked by Councillor Gary Davies.

## **12484: Dog waste at Coed Alltycham:**

There was a significant issue with dog waste being left in bags at Coed Alltycham off Heathfield Road

**Resolved** that the Clerk will request and dog waste bin placed close to the entrance to the wood at Upper Heathfield

## **12485: Permission requested for an Anti-Litter sign at Parc Chwarae Teg:**

My Green Valley requested permission for an anti-litter sign at Parc Chwarae Teg as there was a significant litter problem at that area.

**Resolved** permission would be granted however Council requests that it is bilingual.

## **12486: D-Day flag of Peace:**

Flags of Peace were available for purchase for the 80th anniversary of the D-Day landing in June this year. Unfortunately, the main flag pole at the Arts Centre was likely to be not available due to the building refurbishment and therefore a flag purchase was not prudent.

**Resolved** to be noted.

## **12487: Pontardawe Pride Flag replacement:**

Pontardawe Pride would take place on the 14th,15th and 16th June this year and the group had requested permission to place Pride flags in the flag holders within Pontardawe. The Town Council does not own any of the flags in Pontardawe, however they were happy to give permission for the flag holders to be used.

They also confirmed that grant funding would be available from the 1st April 2024 for groups to purchase flags however a prerequisite was a group bank account.

**Resolved** permission will be provided for flags to be placed in the flag holders during Pontardawe Pride.

## **12488: Neath Port Talbot Road Closure process:**

The Neath Port Talbot Council process for road closure was extremely expensive and prohibitive, which seemed at odds with other counties. Council was advised that this was due to Welsh Government regulations and not the County Borough itself

**Resolved** that details of the specific legislation / regulation will be forwarded to the Clerk for information

## **12489: Request for nomination for the Kings New Year 2025 honours :**

A request for nominations for the Kings New Year 2025 honours list. This would be forwarded to all Councillors for individual nominations if so wished.

**Resolved** to be noted.

## **12490: King Charles 111 Portrait :**

A portrait of King Charles 111 was available on request for public authorities.

**Resolved** to be noted.

## **12491: Issues with flooding at the footpath adjacent to Cwmtawe School car park:**

The County Borough and County Borough Member was aware of the issue and some remedial maintenance and cleaning was to take place, however, the issue would require a more permanent solution once funds were available

**Resolved** to be noted

## **12492: Proposal to alter the grant completion rule:**

The current limit for the requirement of a Completion statement was £500, however, due to increased costs this placed a heavy bureaucratic burden on groups for a relatively small grant and therefore it was suggested that the grant limit which would trigger the need for a completion statement should be raised to £1000

**Resolved** that a completion statement would be required for grants over £1000.

## **12493: Open Consultations:**

None

**Resolved** to be noted.

## **12494: Urgent Road Safety Matters and responses:**

None

## **Resolved** to be noted.

## **12495: Next Meeting:**

The next Ordinary Meeting will take place on the 15th April 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 ……………………………………………………………………..