## **Ordinary General Meeting held on the 13th January 2025. The meeting was held at the Gallery, Pontardawe Arts Centre, Herbert Street, Pontardawe with Hybrid facilities by virtual platform Zoom, and commenced at 6.45pm**

## **Present:**

Councillor D Brain (presiding), B Howells, Ms E Harper (Youth representative) and G Davies

## **Present online by Zoom:**

Councillor J Nemeth, Mrs J Lord and Mrs L Purcell

## **Apologies:**

Councillor Mrs G Ffrancon, N Davies (Youth Representative), S Todd, Mrs E Thomas, A Richards, M Vincent, M Davies, H Davies and Mrs R Phillips

## **12697: Disclosure of Personal and Pecuniary Interests**

None

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

## **12698: Signing of the Minutes of the Ordinary General Meeting held on the 9th December 2024**

## **Resolved** that the minutes of the Ordinary General Meeting held on the 9th December 2024, having been read and confirmed as a true record be accepted by Council

## **12699: Matters raised by Members of the Public:**

None

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

## **12700: Police Matters:**

Pontardawe Statistics: 26 crimes in November down from 41 crimes in October (9 Violence, 6 Anti-social behaviour, 4 other theft and 3 Criminal Damage)

Trebanos Statistics: 9 crimes in November up from 4 crimes in October (7 Violence, 1 ASB & 1 other theft)

## **Resolved** to be noted.

## **12701: Monthly update from the Neath Port Talbot Council Members:**

No County Borough Members were in the meeting

**Resolved** to be noted.

## **12702: Grant Applications:**

There were funds available from the grant budget to be utilised prior to the 31st March 2025. No applications were however available for review at this meeting

**Resolved** that the Clerk will advertise the availability of grant funds on social media

## **12703: Clerks update on Eco and Wellbeing Committee including Cwmdu:**

Short Term projects identified and action required:

* MUGA at George V Park – Planning was currently being finalised, with tenders from prospective contractors being requested this month, it was hoped that the project could begin onsite in March 2025
* CCTV Project – All cameras were now in situ with the final electrical/network connection and testing in progress. One instance of criminal damage to an electrical column was being addressed and was being investigated by the Police.
* Neath Port Talbot Council Biodiversity grant – Work had commenced at Gelligron Common and all small purchases required for the Pontardawe Conservation volunteers had been made. Volunteer days were in the process of being arranged.
* Street Art Trail – The information would be translated and added to the website early 2025
* Heritage Trail – No further information at present

With regard to the Town Council land.

* A review of boundary trees had taken place by the Neath Port Talbot County Borough arborist following Storm Darragh. All recommended emergency maintenance had been carried out on tree adjacent to properties
* Pontardawe Town Council carried out maintenance work on Neath Port Talbot County Boroughs behalf on local footpaths. Several trees now blocked a proportion of these footpaths. This work was outside the scope of the maintenance agreement and therefore details of the affected footpaths had been forwarded to Neath Port Talbot Council (Countryside)
* The Circular path at Cwmdu was open, however, some areas required work that were outside the scope of the Pontardawe Conservation volunteers, who were making improvements to the path. The Town Council contractor (M Thomas at Tawe Landscapes) attended the site and determined that it might be possible to utilise machinery at the site however the river would need to be low and a full review of the site made in the Summer
* Councillor could provide the Clerk with agenda points for the NPTCBC / Town and Community Council meeting

**Resolved** that the Clerk will request details of agenda points for the NPTCBC / Town and Community Council meeting from Councillors.

## 

**12704: Significant closures - Pontardawe Swimming Pool, the Cross Community Centre and Gelligron House:**

Council wised details of the feasibility assessments carried out on all three buildings

## **Resolved** that the Clerk will determine what assessments were available and would report back to Council

## **12705: Welcome to Trebanos /Croeso I Drebannws sign:**

Councillor Thomas was not at the meeting and therefore this project would be discussed at a later meeting

**Resolved** that the project will be discussed at a later meeting

**12706: Place Plans:**

Further details had been provided on the project however draft plans would not yet be available. Councillors were made aware of the current position

## **Resolved** that the email from Neath Port Talbot Council providing details of the current position will be circulated to all Councillors

## **12707: Remembrance:**

Members of the Royal British Legion, Pontardawe Town Council and Neath Port Talbot Council were to meet to discuss Remembrance in Pontardawe for 2025 and for future years. Dates in January were currently being reviewed. A report to full Council would then be made prior to any decisions being made.

## **Resolved** that the Clerk would attend the meeting on behalf of Pontardawe Town Council, however Councillors would also attend if they were able.

## **12708: Parks:**

The site meeting between Pontardawe Town Council, Trebanos Rugby Club, Neath Port Talbot County Council Member for Trebanos, and My Green valley was to take place on the 16th January 2025. Council would be advised of the result of the meeting in February

The ARB Team had explained that the takeover of National Grid by Western Power had created the extreme delay in carrying out the work on the tree adjacent to Trebanos Park as the company was unable to organise the removal of electrical wires to allow the work to take place. They had however now received confirmation that the work could take place at the end of January 2025.

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

**12709: Flower Displays:**

The City and County of Swansea had explained that the display for 2025 could not be aligned with the Urdd colours as plant ordering had already taken place. The colours would be Pink, red, yellow, blue, peach and apricot.

The order for baskets and planters for the 2025 Summer season had been made

**Resolved** to be noticed

**12710 Planning:**

None

**Licensing**

None

## **Resolved** to be noted.

## **12711: Clerks report on damage due to Storm Darragh (December 2024):**

ARCH Hall

The bottom fence (originally wooden) had been destroyed by the storm. The Clerk had confirmed that the fence was owned and the responsibility of the Town Council

The fences at ARCH were mesh however the fence at the bottom edge of the car park and adjacent to a residential property were double sided feather edged wooden slats. This had been placed by the contractors who had built the residential properties, following damage to the original mesh fence.

Unfortunately storm damage to fences and gates were specifically excluded from the Town Council’s municipal insurance and therefore funds to replace the fence would be taken Reserve.

The Town Council’s contractors (Tawe landscaping) had attended that site and placed temporary security fencing however they confirmed that they would be unable to carry out the work to replace the fence.

The Clerk had determined that to replace the fence with a mesh fence would not provide any privacy for the neighbouring property and would not be significantly cheaper than a single sided feather edged fence.

Council determined that a single sided wooden fence (feather edge to the Community Hall) would provide the security and privacy required by the neighbouring property. The single sided fence would also not be unattractive from the view of the neighbouring property. The property owners would however be provided with permission to add a feather edge to the reverse of the fence at their own expense if they wished.

The neighbouring property owners had also originally requested the work carried out as a matter of urgency due to security and privacy issues.

Abbey Building supplies had attended the site and had provided a cost to replace the fencing with a 1.8 meter high single sided feather edged fencing with capping. 24 meters in length at a cost of £2180 ex Vat. They could also carry out the work in a timely manner.

The Clerk had determined that this was a competitive price for work of this type. Councillor Brain concurred as he was experienced in these matters.

49 Waun Gron

One of the Boundary trees in Cwmdu had fallen during storm Darragh and had destroyed the fence and damaged the roof of 49 Waun Gron. The tree had, following the storm been left suspended from the roof of the property.

The Neath Port Talbot County Council arborist had bee asked to review all boundary trees at Waun Gron to access the risk to persons and property following the storm. The ARB team had then been contracted as a matter of urgency to carry out the work. The ARB Team had also carried out the previous risk assessments and created the management plan of the boundary trees. They were familiar with the site and the difficult terrain.

Following a discussion with the Town Council’s insurance company it was also determined that the work should be carried out immediately regardless of the status of any Insurance claim

The Mayor and Deputy Mayor had agreed that due to danger to life and property, the work should be considered an emergency with standing orders suspended to allow the work to be carried out by the contractor with the most experience of the site as a matter of urgency.

A local roofing contractor had also been asked to attend the site to determine if emergency work would be required to make safe the roof, however the damage was cosmetic an there was no moisture ingress.

The Clerk confirmed that and application had been submitted to the Town Councils insurance Company for the emergency tree work, fence and roof. A response was awaited.

**Resolved** that ABS Swansea will be contracted to replace the Fence to the rear of ARCH Hall as soon as possible.

**12712: Account Schedule 421, together with Bank Reconciliation and Budget/Actual report for Quarter 3:**

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

## **Resolved** that Account Schedule 421 totalling £27346.53 together with Bank Reconciliation, and Budget/ Actual Report for Quarter 3 will be accepted by Council, in line with Standing Orders.

## **12713: Consultations:**

None

**Resolved** to be noted.

## **12714: Urgent Road Safety Matters and responses:**

* Councillor Davies requested an update on the Double yellow lines at Thomas street which were being addressed by Councillor Anthony Richards
* Councillor Nemeth had requests from residents about the criteria for the gritting of roads and the placement of grit bins. Council was advised that requests for grit bins could be submitted via County Borough Councillors.

## **Resolved** that the Clerk will request an update from Councillor Richards on the double yellow lines at Thomas Street. She will also determine the process for prioritising roads for gritting and the placement of grit bins by Neath Port Talbot Council

## **12715: Next Meeting:**

The next Ordinary Meeting would be held on the 10th February 2025 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 ……………………………………………………………………..