## **Ordinary General Meeting held on the 10th February 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 Mrs G Ffrancon (presiding), B Howells, D Brain and M Vincent

## **Present online by Zoom:**

Councillor J Nemeth, Mrs J Lord, S Todd, G Davies, H Davies, P Temblett, Ms E Harper (Youth Representative) and A Richards

## **Apologies:**

Councillor N Davies (Youth Representative), M Davies, Mrs L Purcell and Mrs R Phillips

## **12716: Disclosure of Personal and Pecuniary Interests**

Pontardawe Conservation volunteers – Grant Application (Councillor S Todd), Clwb Ieuenctid – Grant application (Councillor Mrs G Ffrancon), Friends of George V Park – Planning application (Councillor Mrs J Lord)

The specified Councillors took no part in the decision or discussion on the stated topics

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

## **12717: Signing of the Minutes of the Ordinary General Meeting held on the 13th January 2025**

## **Resolved** that the minutes of the Ordinary General Meeting held on the 13th January 2025, having been read and confirmed as a true record be accepted by Council

## **12718: Matters raised by Members of the Public:**

None

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

## **12719: Police Matters:**

Pontardawe Statistics: 28 crimes in December up from 26 crimes in November (11 Violence, 2 Anti-social behaviour, 3 other theft and 5 Public Order)

Trebanos Statistics: 5 crimes in December down from 9 crimes in November (2 drugs , 1 ASB 1 burglary & 1 other theft)

Council was also advised that arrests had been made following a spate of vehicle and other thefts in the area

## **Resolved** to be noted.

## **12720: Monthly update from the Neath Port Talbot Council Members:**

Councillor Anthony Richards

* The Neath Port Talbot Events Strategy 2025-2035, had been agreed.
* The Mayor of Neath Port Talbot Citizen awards would celebrate individuals who had contributed widely to their communities – Nominations from Councillors were requested.
* The CCTV Project was now completed
* A large increase in individual case work which had solved numerous individual issues for residents
* Storm damage to trees and Pot Holes were also specific issues for residents. Both were dealt with in a timely manner however road resurfacing work required Welsh Government funding, which delayed more permanent solutions to highway infrastructure issues
* Councillor Richards specifically thanked Councillor Davies for his work on these matters

Councillor H Davies

* Councillor Davies reiterated that individual case work had taken a substantial amount of time this month. There had however been several positive outcomes

**Resolved** that the Clerk will forward details of the Mayor of Neath’s Citizens Award nomination process to Councillors.

## **12721: Grant Applications:**

Councillors Mrs G Ffrancon and S Todd declared interests and took no part in the discussion or decision on the stated grant applications

* My Green Valley – Revenue support and publicity - £910 Awarded
* Clwb Ieuenctid Trebannws – Beanbags - £111.96 Awarded
* Pontardawe Conservation volunteers – Flower Planter for Rhyd y Fro - £777 Awarded
* Gwaun Cae Gurwen Brass Band - £375.12 Awarded
* ALN-Connect – Grant discussion postponed as additional information requested
* Brighter Futures project – Rejected. The Clerk will provide guidance to the group to assist with future applications.

Grants are provided for the benefit of all or some of the residents of the Pontardawe Town Council area. The grant budget for 2024/25 had now been utilised

**Resolved** that grants for £910 to My Green Valley, £111.96 to Clwb Ieuenctid Trebannws, £777 to Pontardawe Conservation Volunteers and £375.12 to the GCG Brass Band will be awarded

## **12722: Clerks update on Eco and Wellbeing Committee including Cwmdu:**

Short Term projects identified and action required:

* MUGA at George V Park – Planning applications would be reviewed later in the meeting
* CCTV Project – The project had been completed. The damaged lighting column was being addressed by Neath Port Talbot Council
* Neath Port Talbot Council Biodiversity grant – Work was in progress at Gellionen Common which should be completed by the end of February 2025. Initial purchases had been refunded by the Grant provider to the Town Council
* Street Art Trail – A budget was available for translation and therefore the Clerk would arrange for the translation by the Town Council contracted translators
* Heritage Trail – The seven trails would be officially opened at the end of February 2025. Two additional benches were in the process of being purchased and placed at Cwmdu as part of the project.

With regard to the Town Council land.

* Neath Port Talbot Council had confirmed that the trees blocking footpaths maintained by Pontardawe Town Council had now been addressed

**Resolved** to be noted.

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**12723: Significant closures - Pontardawe Swimming Pool, the Cross Community Centre and Gelligron House:**

Gelligron House and the Cross community centre were currently held under the Neath Port Talbot Council, Estates Portfolio. Several different directorships were however working to secure their futures.

Council had provided feedback to Councillor Cen Phillips, to assist with the creation of a Feasibility study for the proposed new Pontardawe Swimming pool. The study should be available by the end of the Fiscal Year

## **Resolved** will be advised of developments

## **12724: 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

**12725: Place Plans:**

No further information was available

## **Resolved** to be noted.

## **12726: Remembrance:**

A productive meeting had been held between Pontardawe Town Councillors and Clerk, Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council, the Pontardawe County Borough Council Member for Pontardawe and the Royal British Legion, Pontardawe Branch.

The discussions surrounded the Remembrance observances for Pontardawe in 2025 and for future years.

The current issues were discussed in full, including:

* the Police Service requirement for a full road closure on safety grounds of the junction of Holly Street, with upper and lower Herbert Street, for any Remembrance Event.
* the County Borough Council’s Special Events requirements, for Professional performance Management and Road Management input into any application for road closures in Neath Port Talbot and the associated costs
* The central Royal British Legion’s Policy change which prevented local branches from applying for any road closures
* The lack of parity between Pontardawe and Neath and Port Talbot (whose Remembrance Events were arranged and financed by Neath Port Talbot Council), despite Pontardawe’ s distinction as the third main Town in Neath Port Talbot County Borough

The Officers confirmed that changes were in the process of being made to the procedure for Events held within Neath Port Talbot Council areas which should significantly reduce the associated cost. They also confirmed that internal discussion would take place within the various directorates to ensure that communities were property supported and assisted to hold events.

This was especially important for the Remembrance events for 2025 as this would be the 80th anniversary.

It was therefore suggested that initially the following should take place:

* The Royal British Legion would plan a Remembrance Event at the War Memorial at Pontardawe, but would exclude any applications for road closures
* Neath Port Talbot Policy support would forward useful documents to assist with the Road closure documentation.
* The Town Council would personally submit a road closure application for the junction of Holly Street with upper and lower Herbert Street (without input from outside commercial performance companies). Discussions would then take place internally between the various Neath Port Talbot Council directorates to determine issues and to find solutions.
* The Town Council submission would not include agreement to any costs
* The Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council Member for Pontardawe would petition the County Borough to obtain parity for Pontardawe in line with its position as third Town within the borough.

The Clerk confirmed that some documentation had been received from Neath Port Talbot Council. Councillor Richards confirmed that a strongly worded letter had also been sent requesting a meeting to discuss the current lack of parity.

## **Resolved** that the Clerk will complete road closure and associated documentation for a Remembrance Event at the War Memorial, and submit them to allow internal discussions to take place within Neath Port Talbot Council.

## **12727: Parks:**

A site meeting had been held with Neath Port Talbot Council, Trade Waste. They would now discuss the proposed internally.

No action had been taken by the deadline on the Trees adjacent to Trebanos Park by the ARB Team. The Clerk would contact he company to obtain further details.

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

**12728: Storm Darragh :**

The residents at Waun Gron had been provided with the Town Council’s insurance details, to allow a third party liability claim to be made by their insurance company, for damage to their property by the Town Councils tree.

Emergency tree work and fences at ARCH Hall were not covered by the Town Council insurance policy.

**Resolved** to be noted

**12729: Planning:**

**P2025/0034**

Councillor Lord declared an interest and took no part in the discussion.

Applicants name: Marie Fowler, The Quays, Brunel Way, Baglan Energy Park SA11 2GG

Site location: King George V Park, Brynawel, Pontardawe

Proposed Development: Redevelopment and removal of existing tennis courts to form a community recreational space incorporating a multi-use games area, play equipment including stepping stones/logs, stone, rock stack, swings, skate ramp, stop log, hollow felled log together with standing stones, 3 no. bridges, seating, green roof shelter, drainage work including swale, rain garden and retention basin, means of enclosure, soft and hard landscaping and associated works.

**Resolved** No Objection

**P2025/0082**

Councillor Lord declared an interest and took no part in the discussion.

Applicants name: Simon Brennan, The Quays, Brunel Way, Baglan Energy Park SA11 2GG

Site location: King George V Park, Hopkin Street, Pontardawe

Proposed Development: Prior approval for the method of demolition and restoration of the site as requirement by Prior Notification Application P2024/0790

**Resolved** No Objection

**Licensing**

None

## **Resolved** to be noted.

## **12730: Town Council/NPT Liaison Committee:**

Councillor G Davies would provide a report at the March Ordinary Meeting

**Resolved** to be noted.

## **12731: ROSPA Report:**

The ROSPA report had been carried out on all three parks

Parc Chwarae Teg Actions:

The Universal Joint/Bearing on the Swing was regularly checked by the Park Officer and was in reasonable condition, however, Wicksteed now recommended that the bearing be replaced every 5 years.

Trebanos Park Actions:

No specific issues

Ynysmeudwy Park Actions:

Main gate to be replaced when funds allow.

Contractors would also clear moss and paint equipment later in the year

**Resolved** that the Clerk will take all appropriate action.

## **12732: Digital Health Check report:**

A digital Health Check had been carried out by One Voice Wales.

Its conclusion was that overall the Town Council had a high standard of digital maturity and ensured compliance with expectations as set out by legislation.

The only recommendation made was that if a larger social media target audience was desired additional platforms could be reviewed

**Resolved** that advice would be sought from the Town Council Youth Councillors on content and platforms that would appeal to younger people.

## **12733: Annual Statement agreements:**

The Health and Safety statement, Financial risk assessment and Statement of Internal Control were provided to Council prior to the meeting.

No recommendations were made for changes

**Resolved** that the Health and Safety statement, Financial risk assessment and Statement of Internal Control will be agreed.

## **12734: Financial Regulations:**

The revised Financial Regulations were reviewed by Councillor prior to the meeting.

**Resolved** that the revisedFinancial Regulations will be agreed.

## **12735: Emergency Protocols:**

As Neath Port Talbot Council had a Civil Protection and Preparedness team who dealt with emergency issue for the whole county, it was suggested that details of their process should be reviewed initially in order to determine where a local plan would sit within the hierarchy

**Resolved** that the Clerk will contact the Civil Protection and Preparedness team.

## **12736: Eco & Wellbeing Committee :**

Unfortunately, the committee was not quorate.

It was suggested that initially individual Councillors provide feedback to the Clerk on the proposals for blue plaques for Pontardawe and for improving the Heol y Llwynau kick about area.

**Resolved** that Councillors will be asked to submit ideas to the Clerk for the blue plaques for Pontardawe and for improving the Heol y Llwynau kick about area. The ideas could then be added to a report for discussion at a future meeting.

**12737: Account Schedule 422, together with Bank Reconciliation:**

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

## **Resolved** that Account Schedule 422 totalling £36626.12 together with Bank Reconciliation, be agreed in line with Standing Orders.

## **12738: Correspondence:**

None

**Resolved** to be noted.

## **12739: Consultations:**

None

**Resolved** to be noted.

## **12740: Urgent Road Safety Matters and responses:**

* None

## **Resolved** to be noted

## **12741: Next Meeting:**

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