## **Ordinary General Meeting held on the 10th March 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 R Phillips, B Howells, D Brain, Mrs L Purcell, Ms E Harper (Youth Representative) and G Davies

## **Present online by Zoom:**

Councillor Mrs G Ffrancon (presiding), J Nemeth, Mrs J Lord, S Todd, H Davies, N Davies (Youth Representative) and J Watkins

## **Apologies:**

Councillor A Richards, M Davies and M Vincent

## **12742: Disclosure of Personal and Pecuniary Interests**

None

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

## **12743: Signing of the Minutes of the Ordinary General Meeting held on the 10th February 2025**

## **Resolved** that the minutes of the Ordinary General Meeting held on the 10th February 2025, having been read and confirmed as a true record be accepted by Council

## **12744: Matters raised by Members of the Public:**

None

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

## **12745: Police Matters:**

No Police Statistics for 2025 were available

## **Resolved** that the Clerk will make enquiries to determine when the statistics for 2025 will be available.

## **12746: Monthly update from the Neath Port Talbot Council Members:**

Councillor Mrs R Phillips

* Mural workshops had taken place and further workshops were planned to determine the design for the new Underpass art work
* Neath Port Talbot had contacted the land owner to address rubble and stones that had fallen from their land on to Swansea Road. The Land owner had 28 days to address the issue or Neath Port Talbot Council would address the issue and present an invoice for the work following a further 28 days
* New dog fouling signs were now available. Councillors were asked to give details of any areas they felt that additional signage of this nature would be useful
* YGG Trebannws had vacancies on their board of governors

Councillor H Davies

* Positive news had been received on the future of Tata Steel which would create jobs
* The Police were investigating damage to a local shop window
* Increased Bus services on the X6 route had been agreed

**Resolved** that the Clerk will request Councillor provide any proposed sites for additional Dog Waste signage

## **12747: Grant Applications:**

The Grant budget for 2024/25 had been utilised.

The Clerk did however confirm that the Pontardawe Sport and Recreation Association and the Pontardawe Heritage Centre had forwarded completion statements and could therefore apply for further grants.

**Resolved** to be noted.

## **12748: Clerks update on Eco and Wellbeing Committee including Cwmdu:**

Short Term projects identified and action required:

* MUGA at George V Park – Some issues had been encountered which required additional reports and assurances. The Neath Port Talbot Council Green Infrastructure Project Manager had requested a meeting with Council to discuss
* Neath Port Talbot Council Biodiversity grant – The phase one work at Gellionen Common had been completed and the final invoice paid. The Clerk was also in the process of drawing down the remainder of the grant. Further grants might be available to continue the work at Gellionen Common at a later date.
* Street Art Trail – Welsh translation had been requested and was in progress
* Heritage Trail – Two trees were still causing an issue and had prevented the opening of one of the Trails

**Resolved** that Councillor Todd will advise Council when further Biodiversity grants were available. He will also provide the Clerk with the specific location of the downed trees on the Heritage Path.

## 

**12749: Significant closures - Pontardawe Swimming Pool, the Cross Community Centre and Gelligron House:**

No further information available

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

**12750: Place Plans:**

No further information was available

## **Resolved** to be noted.

## **12751: Remembrance:**

Following discussions with the Royal British Legion and in line with the recommendations by Neath Port Talbot Council the following had been agreed:

Pontardawe Town Council would submit the Neath Port Talbot Special Events forms for a Remembrance Event at the War Memorial which would include a full Herbert Street Road Closure from the Cross to the junction with Tawe Terrace together with the closure of Holly Street from the junction of Tawe Terrace. They would also prepare all the relevant Risk assessments and source any Barriers /Marshalls required.

The Town Council had not agreed to supporting any of the costs associated with the application at this point

The Royal British Legion would be responsible for liaison with St Peters Church and Reverend Gary Green to organise Services at the Church and at the War Memorial.

## **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.

## **12752: Parks:**

Unfortunately, Neath Port Talbot Council had stated that due to the Canal Bridge, they would be unable to collect a Trade Waste Bin from adjacent to Trebanos Park.

Council was also asked to provide agreement to the replacement of the bearing on the basket swing at Parc Chwarae Teg, by the manufacturers in line with the Rospa Recommendation at a cost of £1603.95 (fitted) . Agreement to the cost was provided.

## **Resolved** that the Clerk will review further alternatives for Trade Refuse and Trebanos Park and will arrange for the bearing on the basket swing at Parc Chwarae Teg to be replaced.

**12753: Storm Darragh :**

The replacement fence at ARCH Hall should be completed this week

**Resolved** to be noted

**12754: Neath Port Talbot Council/Town Council liaison Committee :**

Councillor G Davies had attended on Council’s behalf. He explained that the sole agenda item was the Neath Port Talbot Council budget. Presentation slides were available

**Resolved** that Councillor Davies will forward the slides to the Clerk for distribution to full Council

**12755: Emergency Protocol :**

The Neath Port Talbot Emergency Planning team had responded and offered a two hour training session on Emergency planning however Council felt at his stage only specific questions required clarification

**Resolved** that the Clerk will respond to the NPT Emergency Planning team

**12756: Planning:**

Planning Committee 3rd March 2025 (Plenary Powers)

# **P2025/0097**

Applicant: Mrs Joanne Towle, 18 Lloyd Street, Trebanos, SA8 4DR

Site location: 18 Lloyd Street, Trebanos, SA8 4DR

Proposed Development: Works to two trees protected under TPO T154:

Tree 256 – Oak – located within the rear garden. Reduce the height of the tree by approx. 2 – 2.5 meters.

Tree 271 – Oak – located within the rear garden. Reduce all branches above the neighbouring property by approx. 2.5 meters

# **Resolved - No Objection**

# **P2024/0822**

Applicant: Mr Greg Thomas, 228 Swansea Road, Trebanos, SA8 4BX

Site location: 228 Swansea Road, Trebanos, SA8 4BX

Proposed Development: Demolish existing kitchen and detached garage. Removal of existing dormer extension to facilitate a construction of a two storey side extension with a dormer extension located to the front and rear. Together with raising of the existing ridge. Addition of a raised rear patio area.

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

# **P2025/0096**

Applicant: Mr Jonathon Rees, 62 Herbert Street, Pontardawe SA8 4ED

Site location: 62 Herbert Street, Pontardawe SA8 4ED

Proposed Development: Retrospective application for the installation of a new shop front which includes a prescription dispensing machine.

The Committee discussed the application at length and although retrospective planning was not a preferred method, they agreed that the lack of planning seemed to be an oversight only initially. They were in favour of the prescription dispensing machine, additional disabled access and the use of bilingual signage although they felt the overall colour of the shop front could have been more aesthetically in keeping.

As no there was currently no supplementary planning for Pontardawe giving guidance on the aesthetics of the main Town Centre, the committee believed that some thought should be given to this aspect and which could be directed to the creators of the Pontardawe Place Plan.

# **Resolved - No Objection**

## **12757: Independent remuneration Panel 2025/26:**

Council was advised that £156 would be available to all Councillors for household expenses. Councillor could opt out of the payments, but would need to confirm this is writing.

Council opted to allow Councillors to claim full expenses with receipts once a year (March 2026)

The Mayor would be provided with a £500 Senior role payment plus a £450 Mayoral payment (Total £950)

The Deputy Mayor would be provided with a £300 Deputy Mayor payment

Council was made aware that the Cost of care or personal assistance was a mandatory payment

Council did not opt for Attendance Allowance, Financial loss or Travel and Subsistence

**Resolved** that the above policy decisions will be agreed.

## **12758: Blue Plaque scheme:**

Several recommendation had been made by Councillors with eight within the scope of the scheme.

**Resolved** Councillor Phillips will discuss the method of application with the appropriate Neath Port Talbot Council team, and will provide guidance

## **12759: Heol y Llwyau Kick about area:**

Several suggestions had been made to improve the area. Councillor Phillips was discussing with Tai Tarian the scope of the lease to determine what was feasible

**Resolved** that Councillor Phillips will report back to Council

**12760: Account Schedule 423, together with Bank Reconciliation:**

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

## **Resolved** that Account Schedule 423 totalling £19837.58 together with Bank Reconciliation, and Direct Debit list for 2025/26 be agreed in line with Standing Orders.

## **12761: Letter of Resignation:**

Unfortunately, Councillor Eira Thomas has resigned at a Town Councillor for Trebanos with immediate effect. She passed on her sincerest apologies to the rest of the Councillors

The Clerk then advised Council of the process following a Councillor resignation

**Resolved** that the Clerk will write to former Councillor Thomas thanking her for her work on Council’s behalf at Trebanos and wishing here well for the future.

## **12762: One Voice Wales Membership 2025/26:**

Council was asked if they wished to renew their membership to One Voice Wales at a cost of £1425.00

**Resolved** that the One Voice Wales Membership for 2025/26 will be renewed.

## **12763: Safety of Lithium-Ion batteries Campaign:**

Details of the campaign were made available to Council prior to the meeting

**Resolved** that Council will support the campaign.

## **12764: Cefn Llan Residents Association :**

The Clerk had been advised that the Association had ceased to exist. Under their constitution the funds available in their bank account should be transferred to Pontardawe Town Council and ringfenced for Parc Chwarae Teg

**Resolved** that transferred funds from the former Cefn Llan Residents association will be ringfenced for Parc Chwarae Teg.

## **12765: Neath Port Talbot Free Parking Survey:**

Unfortunately, the Clerk had been unable to access the survey itself. Council therefore provided five suitable dates for submission

**Resolved** to be noted.

## **12766: Consultations:**

DBCC – Electoral Review Programme 2025

**Resolved** to be noted.

## **12767: Urgent Road Safety Matters and responses:**

* None

## **Resolved** to be noted

## **12768: Next Meeting:**

The next Ordinary Meeting would be held on the 14th April 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 ……………………………………………………………………..