## **Ordinary General Meeting held on the 14th April 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, Mrs L Purcell, M Vincent, S Todd and Mrs J Lord

## **Present online by Zoom:**

Councillor J Nemeth, H Davies, A Richards, Ms E Harper (Youth Representative) and Mrs R Phillips (left the meeting 8.15pm)

## **Apologies:**

Councillor J Watkins, G Davies, Mrs G Ffrancon and N Davies (Youth Representative)

## **12769: Disclosure of Personal and Pecuniary Interests**

Councillor Mrs J Lord – Grant application from the Friends of George V Park

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

## **12770: Signing of the Minutes of the Ordinary General Meeting held on the 10th March 2025**

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

## **12771: Matters raised by Members of the Public:**

One Member of the Public had several queries:

* Additional uses for Trebanos Community Hall
* Entrance to the Canal footpath from Graig Road, Trebanos
* Overgrown Path under the bridge at Glynmeirch Road, Trebanos
* Overgrown cemetery at Gellionen Chapel, Trebanos

Council thanked the member of the public for attending the meeting and stated that they would look into the various concerns and respond in due course

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

## **12772: Green Infrastructure Project Manager – Neath Port Talbot Council**

Presentation slides were made available to Councillors prior to the meeting re the King George V Park tennis Courts remodelling update.

Two Members of the Project team then addressed Council. They explained that originally consultation had taken place with local residents, park users and young people following open days and meetings at Cwmtawe School which had led to the current design. Unfortunately, a complaint from a local resident had necessitated a noise assessment. The issues were difficult to mitigate. There was also issues with ongoing maintenance due to cuts at Neath Port Talbot Council.

The team would like both input from the Town Council to determine changes to the plan that might mitigate the noise issues and partnership working going forward to address the maintenance issue.

The Project Managers were aware that several meetings might be required in order to fully review the issues and to determine solutions but wished to initially advise Council of the current position.

Council thanked the team and confirmed that they would review matters.

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

## **12773: Police Matters:**

Pontardawe – 47 Crimes in February up from 33 in January (16 Violence, 8 Drugs, 5 Criminal Damage and 5 Public Order)

Trebanos – 9 Crimes in February up from 8 in January (3 Violence, 2 Anti-social behaviour, 1 drugs and 1 Possession of weapons)

A new message platform had also been created to inform the local community of neighbourhood policing matters. ‘South Wales listens’ had now been set up. Messages would be emailed directly to the Town Council email address

## **Resolved** to be noted.

## **12774: Monthly update from the Neath Port Talbot Council Members:**

Councillor A Richards

* Investment in Roads, footpaths and bridges in Neath Port Talbot had been approved. Pontardawe had been allocated a significant portion of this budget
* £100,000 had been allocated to the new Cinema and improvements to Pontardawe Arts Centre
* Several individual cases had been addressed and had been successful, including pot holes, social services and liaison with Tai Tarian

Councillor Mrs R Phillips

* Issues with Refuse and recycling due to vehicular problems. Residents would be asked to contact their local County Borough Member if they were experiencing problems with current collections
* Continual issues with speeding at Heol y Llwynau. Reporting was ongoing.
* The Trebanos Fun day would take place on the 28th June 2025
* Volunteers were required for the Urdd Eisteddfod at Margam

Councillor H Davies

* Significant case work had been undertaken for individuals
* Additional work on individual highway issues and street furniture
* Funds had been received from Welsh Government to expand housing stock within the Borough

**Resolved** to be noted.

## **12775: Grant Applications:**

Councillor Mrs J Lord expressed an interest in the grant application from the Friends of King George V Park and left the meeting during the discussion and decision

* Pontardawe Cricket Club – Grant request to purchase a specialist Mower to cut a wicket - **£1000 awarded** (The Council did suggest groups might liaise to determine if equipment could be shared if the same grounds were being utilised)
* Pontardawe Heritage and Visitors Centre – Grant request to support the monthly exhibitions and the Arts and Crafts Festival- **£1500 awarded**
* Alltwen Heels WI – Grant request for supplies to continue the crochet street decorations in Pontardawe - **£300 awarded**
* Friends of King George V Park ( in partnership with the Royal British Legion and Pontardawe RFC) – Grant to support the 80th Anniversary of VE Day celebrations - **£500 awarded**

A further request had been received from the Brighter Futures project (Cariad) – Council wished to extend an invitation to the group to attend a future meeting to provide more details on the project

**Resolved** that the following grants will be awarded. £1000 to Pontardawe Cricket Club, £1500 to Pontardawe Heritage Centre, £300 to Alltwen WI, £500 to the Friends for George V Park

## **12776: Clerks update on Eco and Wellbeing Committee including Cwmdu:**

Short Term projects identified and action required:

* MUGA at George V Park – No discussion held as further information received at the beginning of the meeting.
* Neath Port Talbot Council Biodiversity grant – The grant had been concluded and the Clerk had submitted the final Completion Statement. The steering committee was to meet with the Pontardawe Conservation volunteers in May. Councillors were welcome to also attend.
* Street Art Trail – Vision ICT were in the process of updating the website
* Urdd Eisteddfod – There was a competition to decorate the High Street. In Pontardawe Planters would display Urdd colours, also the knitted street furniture decorations would have a welsh theme. Welsh flags were also to remain in situ. It was agreed that the Town Council would fund a £100 prize (from Reserve) for local shops to dress their windows and that administrative support for the competition could be provided by the Clerk

**Resolved** that a £100 prize would be provided for a local competition to encourage local shops to dress their windows for the Eisteddfod

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**12777: Significant closures - Pontardawe Swimming Pool, the Cross Community Centre and Gelligron House:**

No further information available

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

**12778: Place Plans:**

No further information was available

## **Resolved** to be noted.

## **12779: Remembrance:**

A further meeting had been arranged between Special Events and various directorates at Neath Port Talbot Council together with the County Borough Member and the Town Clerk to discuss the proposed road closure for Remembrance 2025

The local chapter of the Royal British Legion had been advised and were content to allow the Town Council and County Borough Member to discuss matters on their behalf

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

## **12780: Parks:**

The Clerk had contact two separate companies to determine if a 1100 litre bin could be sited at land adjacent to the Park. The cost for both per annum exceeded £1000. Council was happy for the Clerk to arrange for various site meetings to take place to determine if the bins could be collected from the requested area.

Council requested the cheapest quote accepted but was aware that difficulties with the collection might direct the agreement to a more expensive option to allow a lockable bin at the site.

Council were also advised that the Ash Tree at the entrance of Trebanos Park had now been removed

## **Resolved** that the Clerk will liaise with the various companies to determine if a lockable 1100 litre bin could be sited adjacent to the Park, with waste collected regularly.

**12781: Emergency Protocol :**

A response had been received from the Neath Port Talbot Emergency Planning Team. The Clerk would provide a report for discussion at the next meeting

**Resolved** that the Clerk will provide a report at the May Ordinary Meeting

## **12782: Blue Plaque scheme:**

Councillor Phillips had unfortunately left the meeting prior to the discussion.

**Resolved** that the item will be discussed at the next meeting

## **12783: Trebanos Ward Vacancy:**

Neath Port Talbot Council Democratic Services had confirmed that a By Election had not been requested and that the vacancy could be filled by Co-Option.

The Clerk stated that the Co-Option notice had been placed on the notice board, at the Office and Trebanos Hall, on the 4th April and had also been placed on social media. Councillors would be provided with details of the co-option process, with the intention to Co-opt at the May Ordinary Meeting. (The deadline for submitting letters or interest was the 22nd April 2025

**Resolved** to be noted.

**12784: Planning:**

# **P2025/0175 –** Erection of illuminated sign at Pontardawe Arts Centre – The Planning Committee did not request a review and therefore the consultation period was allowed to lapse

# **P2025/0162**

Applicant: Mr Gavin Marc Jones, Clasemont, 2 Western Road, Pontardawe SA8 4AJ

Site location: Clasemont, 2 Western Road, Pontardawe SA8 4AJ

Proposed Development: Retrospective application for the construction of a part double, part single, storey outbuilding.

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

# **P2025/0125**

Applicant: Mr Adrian White, 77 Parc Gilbertson, Pontardawe SA8 4PT

Site location: 77 Parc Gilbertson, Pontardawe SA8 4PT

Proposed Development: Partial conversion of existing integral garage in the form of the internal enlargement of the office room at the rear of the garage to incorporate an additional bedroom, hence reducing the internal size if the garage. The works for which would include the installation of a single window and a set of patio doors which the western side elevation at ground floor level

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

## **12785: School Crossing Patrol Officer at Swansea Road (Service Level Agreement):**

Council agreed to the terms of the Service Level Agreement for the management of the Crossing Patrol Officer at Swansea Road Pontardawe

**Resolved** Councillor D Brain (Deputy Mayor) will sign the agreement on behalf of Council.

## **12786: Minor Authority Governor at YGG Trebannws:**

Due to the recent Councillor resignation at the Trebanos ward, a new minor authority governor was required for YGG Trebannws

**Resolved** that Councillors will be emailed to request nominations with the intention of appointing at the May Ordinary Meeting

**12787: Account Schedule 424, together with Bank Reconciliation and Budget/Actual report for the year end:**

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

## **Resolved** that Account Schedule 424 totalling £29051.94 together with Bank Reconciliation, and Budget/Actual Report for 2024/25 will be agreed in line with Standing Orders.

## **12788: Correspondence re the Independent Remuneration Panel:**

Council was advised that the Panel had been disbanded on the 31st March 2025. Its functions had been transferred to the Democracy and Boundary Commission Cymru on the 1st April 2025

**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.

## **12789: Parking issues at Home Bargains and others (Retail Park), Pontardawe:**

Significant issue was being experienced by local people following the introduction of parking constraints at the retail park (especially with incorrect charges being issued). There was also the additional issue with out of ours racing at Lidl’s car park due to the new enforcement

**Resolved** that the Town Council will write to the retail establishments at the Retail Park to request details of how they were addressing the continual incorrect parking enforcement.

## **12790: Email re enhanced public safety:**

An email had been received with proposals to introduce a costed scheme for emergency medical cover at Pontardawe Town Centre on weekends.

Council felt that such a scheme would undermine the emergency cover provided by the local NHS and ambulance service, and would not support a scheme of this nature.

**Resolved** to be noted.

## **12791: Consultations:**

Cardiff Capital Regions draft Regional Transport Plan

**Resolved** to be noted.

## **12792: Urgent Road Safety Matters and responses:**

* None

## **Resolved** to be noted

## **12793: Next Meeting:**

The next Ordinary Meeting and Annual General Meeting would be held on the 12th May 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 ……………………………………………………………………..