##  **Ordinary General Meeting held on the 9th June 2025. The meeting was held at the Gallery, Pontardawe Arts Centre, Herbert Street, Pontardawe with Hybrid facilities by virtual platform Zoom, and commenced following the Annual General Meeting at 6.45pm**

## **Present:**

Councillor Mrs J Lord (presiding), B Howells, G Davies, J Watkins and T Jones

## **Present online by Zoom:**

Councillor J Nemeth, Mrs G Ffrancon, Mrs L Purcell, S Todd and Ms E Harper (Youth Councillor)

## **Apologies:**

Councillor A Richards, H Davies, M Vincent, M Davies, D Brain and Mrs R Phillips

## **12847: Disclosure of Personal and Pecuniary Interests**

Councillor Mrs J Lord –Friends of George V Park, Councillor Mrs G Ffrancon and J Nemeth – Repair Café, Councillor J Watkins – Swansea Valley Sabres

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

## **12848: Signing of the Minutes of the Ordinary General Meeting and Annual General Meeting held on the 12th May 2025**

## **Resolved** that the minutes of the Ordinary General Meeting and Annual General Meeting held on the 12th May 2025, having been read and confirmed as a true record be accepted by Council

## **12849: Matters raised by Members of the Public:**

None

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

## **12850: Trebanos Ward Co-Option:**

An application had been received from Mr Tudur Jones to be considered for the current Trebanos Ward Vacancy. Details of Mr Jones application had been forwarded to all Councillors prior to the meeting. He also provided Council with a short presentation

## **Resolved** that Mr Tudur Jones will be Co-Opted as a Councillor for the Trebanos Ward**.**

## **12851: Police Matters:**

Pontardawe – 42 crimes in April (20 Violence, 3 Anti-social behaviour, 8 shoplifting and 5 Public Order)

Trebanos –12 crimes in April (4 Violence, 3 Anti-social behaviour, 3 drugs and 2 other)

A response had been received from the Neighbourhood Policing team following a request from the Clerk, for clarification on the increase in crimes at Trebanos in March. (17 crimes reported). Council was advised that due to changes in reporting methods, one incident could generate several crime statistics. This had led to the apparent sharp increase in the figures

## **Resolved** to be noted

## **12852: Monthly update from the Neath Port Talbot Council Members:**

No County Borough Members were in attendance

**Resolved** to be noted

## **12853: Grant Applications:**

Councillor Mrs G Ffrancon and J Nemeth expressed an interest in the Repair café and Councillor J Watkins expressed an interest in the Swansea Valley Sabres. The Councillors left the meeting and took no part in the discussions or decisions on the associated grant applications.

* St Peters Church flower festival – Grant awarded to assist with the Food Festival - £**150 awarded**
* Swansea Valley Sabres Girls rugby hub – Grant request for a heavy duty waterproof gazebo - **£900 awarded**
* Brighter Futures ‘Cariad’ – Grant to provide initial support for the Charity - **£500 awarded** (Council also suggested that the organisation look at more sustainable income streams\_
* Pontardawe Repair Café – Funds required for a pop-up banner and printed forms to advertise the service at local events- Council was happy to award the £150 if the organisation had a bank account in line with the requirement of the grant procedure

Letters of thanks were also received from Heart of the Valley show, Chamber of Trade and Commerce, Pontardawe arena and Pontardawe Pride

**Resolved** that the following grants will be awarded. £150 St Peters Church Flower festival, £900 Swansea Valley Sabres Girls rugby hub, £500 Brighter futures (Cariad). £150 would also be awarded to the Repair Café if they held as suitable bank account.

## **12854: Clerks update on Eco and Wellbeing Committee including Cwmdu:**

Short Term projects identified and action required:

* MUGA at George V Park – Significant additional consultation had been carried out the local schools with years 7-10 and further consultation was due from a younger demographic. The consensus from the young people was that the area was currently in poor condition and required refurbishment. Many additional ideas were provided that might be suitable but would not cause a noise issue. It was agreed that the Tennis Court area refurbishment should be primarily for teenagers. Councillors also provided ideas for natural play including a pump track.
* Neath Port Talbot Council Biodiversity grant – The steering committee was very impressed with phase one of the rhododendron removal at Gellionen Common and requested the Town Council submit an expression of interest form for a phase two of the project. The timescales were however extremely tight and therefore the forms were submitted with the agreement of the Clerk and Mayor.
* Street Art Trail – Vision ICT were in the process of updating the website, the draft English version had been reviewed with the Welsh version to be available for review shortly

**Resolved**

* King George V Park – Further discussion would be required with the Green Infrastructure Project Manager at Neath Port Talbot Council to determine which suggestions were feasible and within the scope of the area and the grants. Further discussion with Council could be required
* Neath Port Talbot Council Biodiversity grant phase two expression of interest will be ratified

**12855: Significant closures - Pontardawe Swimming Pool, the Cross Community Centre and Gelligron House:**

No further information was available

## **Resolved** that the Clerk will continue to update Council with developments when available

**12856: Place Plans:**

Additional funding had been received from the Welsh Government which has allowed the project to continue. Draft Place Plans from the Urbanists were expected for review by the County Borough in July 2025

## **Resolved** to be noted.

## **12857: Remembrance:**

A response to the forms submitted was still awaited from Neath Port Talbot Council

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

## **12858: Parks:**

The Biffa bin was now in situ and therefore the contract with Neath Port Talbot Council for the collection of waste from Trebanos Park would be cancelled.

The Friends of Ynysmeudwy Park had commented that the five bird boxes at the park were now not fit for purpose

## **Resolved** that the Refuse Contract at Trebanos Park with Neath Port Talbot Council will not be renewed and that five bird boxes will be purchased for Ynysmeudwy Park

## **12859: Blue Plaque scheme:**

Council decided that Harriet Lewis and Dafydd Rowlands will be submitted for the Blue Plaque scheme

**Resolved** that the Clerk will liaise with the County Borough Member to arrange for the applications to be submitted

## **12860: Minor Authority Governor at YGG Trebannws:**

Councillor Tudur Jones was nominated an accepted the post of Minor Authority Governor at YGG Trebannws

**Resolved** that Councillor Tudur Jones will be the Minor Authority Governor for YGG Trebannws

## **12861 :Draft Annual Report 2024/25:**

The Draft Annual Report was reviewed by Council prior to the meeting

**Resolved** that the draft Annual Report for 2024/25 will be accepted.

## **12862 :Dog Waste bin at Rhyd y Fro:**

No response received from Neath Port Talbot Council

**Resolved** that the Clerk will contact the relevant department.

**12863: Planning:**

None

# **Resolved** – to be noted

## **12864: Policy and Resources Committee held on the 2nd June 2025:**

# Open discussion on a proposed Emergency Plan for Pontardawe Town Council

Background:

Following extensive and delayed power outage following Storm Darragh in December 2024, Council felt that a local Emergency resilience plan was required to ensure that Community Assets such as the Community Halls could be utilised to support the community during an emergency situation.

The Committee was provided with responses to questions raised by the Town Council from the Neath Port Talbot Emergency Planning team and a draft Emergency Plan template for discussion.

Emergency Plan notes based on draft Emergency Plan provided:

Additions and alterations suggested to the draft plan have been included in the Draft Plan V2

Action required prior to the adoption of the plan

* Council should agree on a budget that could be called on to purchase emergency supplies in the event the plan is instigated – These funds could be reimbursed on presentation of receipts
* Publicise utility company priority lists and encourage residents to apply (to be carried out before the Winter)
* Plan should be prioritised during the Summer months as the Town Council’s response to the Storm Darragh emergency so that it is in place prior to the Autumn 2025
* Council to decide on some general contingency rules for the instigation of the plan and actions to be taken in the event of issues

Appendices to the plan:

* Lists of volunteers with the requisite skills and qualifications i.e. DRB checked for childcare etc (Held on the Members area of the Pontardawe Town Council website)
* Emergency contact list would be needed with lists of people with skills, equipment that would be available for emergencies i.e. 4 wheel drive vehicles, willingness to lend generators etc (Held on the Members area of the Pontardawe Town Council website)
* List of vulnerable people required. Contact Social Services NPT, Call to community also liaise with Kirsty (Local Area Co-Ordinator) – List of vulnerable people to be kept on the members area of the website together with the final Resilience plan

Additional Actions required:

* Set up a dedicated WhatsApp group for communication (Would be available provided there is internet of 4G coverage) – This would be the Emergency planning group
* Contact Neath Port Talbot Council to ensure that in future their emergency personnel are contactable and able to instigate their plans 24/7 (currently this is only within business hours)
* Pontardawe Town Council Insurance (Employee and Public liability held) –Insurance company should be advised following creation of plan, to ensure that there would be no insurance issues
* Emergency box for each hall with disposable plates/cups and crockery / foil blankets/ USB Plugs, power banks and phone chargers, cards and games first aid kits, high vi vests, area street maps and signs, and registration docs for completion
* All halls would require Emergency key cabinets
* Publicity will be key (social media, community mag etc)

# The Committee wished Council to ratify proposals for the Emergency plan

**Resolved** that the Committee recommendations will be ratified

## **12865: Community Hall Reports:**

ARCH Hall – The Management Committee had been successful in their application to Tai Tarian for funding to refurbish the kitchen at the Hall

Trebanos Hall – The Hall was very well used but required significant investment due to its advanced age and construction. The original slate roof required continual checks which often required scaffolding at a considerable cost. The downpipes and guttering also required replacement and there was some water ingress in some areas due to cracked rendering.

It was agreed by Council that more significant work was required to ensure the building remained in good condition however it was likely that grants would be required due to the significant cost. It was also agreed that solar panels etc should be considered during the refurbishment

**Resolved** that the Clerk will contact Awel Aman Tawe, Energy Team who were expert in renewable energy projects.

## **12866 :Training and Development Policy:**

The Training and Development Policy was reviewed by Council prior to the meeting

**Resolved** that the Training and Development Policy will be agreed without alteration.

**12867: Account Schedule 426, together with Bank Reconciliation:**

All documents were made available to Councillors prior to the meeting. Council was also advised that the Insurance premium under the long term agreement with Zurich of £4423.75 had been settled, with cover for the 2025/6 year commencing on the 1st June 2025

## **Resolved** that Account Schedule 426 totalling £14783.05 together with Bank Reconciliation, will be agreed in line with Standing Orders.

## **12868: Armed Forces Week:**

Council was advised that due to the significant construction to the exterior of the Arts Centre, not commemoration could take place at that location, this year.

The Mayor would however be attending the celebrations at Neath and would attend the flag raising ceremony at a Pontardawe Rugby Club in Pontardawe

**Resolved** to be noted.

## **12869: The Longest Yarn:**

Pontardawe Heritage Centre was privileged to host ‘The Longest Yarn 2 Britain at War collection’ as one of only two locations in South Wales.

The collection of 28 panels would be exhibited from the 30th to the 21st July this year

The Longest Yarn was created with guidance from historians and historically accurate, with each scene unique and made with care. The Britain at war is a study of social history in Britain during the dark days between the 3rd September 1939 and VE Day on the 8th May 1945.

The Heritage and Visitors Centre had requested a financial donation towards the transport of this iconic exhibition

**Resolved** that a donation will be offered of £800 from General Reserves to assist with the transport of the exhibition. The Town Council would also look to assist with advertising the event.

## **12870: Consultations:**

Administration and enforcement of Council Tax Consultation

**Resolved** to be noted.

## **12871: Urgent Road Safety Matters and responses:**

* Concern over a public footpath from the Uplands to Swansea Road

## **Resolved** the Clerk will make enquiries

## **12872: Next Meeting:**

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