## **Ordinary General Meeting held on the 12th May 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), Ms G Ffrancon, B Howells, M Vincent, M Davies, G Davies, N Davies (Youth Councillor),Mrs L Purcell, S Todd, J Watkins, D Brain and P Temblett

## **Present online by Zoom:**

Councillor J Nemeth, A Richards, H Davies, Ms E Harper (Youth Councillor) and Mrs R Phillips

## **Apologies:**

None

## **12819: Disclosure of Personal and Pecuniary Interests**

Councillor Mrs J Lord –Friends of George V Park, Councillor B Howells and D Brain – Pontardawe Chamber of Commerce

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

## **12820: Signing of the Minutes of the Ordinary General Meeting held on the 14th April 2025**

## **Resolved** that the minutes of the Ordinary General Meeting held on the 14th April 2025, having been read and confirmed as a true record be accepted by Council

## **12821: Matters raised by Members of the Public:**

None

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

## **12822: Presentation by ‘Brighter Futures (Cariad)’:**

A representative of the new Charity based in Pontardawe ‘ Brighter Futures’ provided Council with an overview of the objectives of the Charity.

Council was advised that the Charity was relatively new and would be for the support of local children from 0 years to 18 yrs. Providing ‘baby boxes’ for new born babies and school supplies and back packs for older children.

The Charity will be working with PANTRY (the local foodbank) to identify those in need and also received referrals from local midwives and health visitors.

They had been awarded several small grants and had both large and smaller grant applications in progress. They were also organising coffee mornings and other events in order to generate revenue.

The Charity would be grateful for financial help from the Town Council, however, they would also be grateful if the Town Council could assist with identifying a secure locked room, for storage, in the local area, that could be utilised by the Charity.

It was also agreed that the Charity would forward details of the grants in progress to Council for review.

Council thanked the representative for attending the meeting, and providing an update on the work being carried out

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

## **12823: Police Matters:**

Pontardawe – 24 crimes in March down from 47 crimes in February (14 Violence, 4 Drugs, 4 other theft and 5 Public Order)

Trebanos –17 crimes in March up from 9 Crimes in February (15 Violence, 1 Anti-social behaviour, 1 burglary)

Council was concerned that there seemed to be a significant spike in violent crime in Trebanos during March. They requested the Clerk identify if this was due to a change in reporting methods, or a genuine increase

## **Resolved** that the Clerk will contact the Neighbourhood Policing team to determine the reason for the increase in violent crime in Trebanos.

## **12824: Monthly update from the Neath Port Talbot Council Members:**

Councillor A Richards

* A project had been completed to ‘save Swifts’ instigated by the Welsh Government, to increase nesting opportunities in local areas. Ten nesting boxes had therefore been added to the Pontardawe Library building.
* A new ‘Events’ policy and resource had been created to assist local communities with organising Events. A specific online portal had also been created. Local organisations were asked to review the new site and to provide feedback directly to Neath Port Talbot Council Special Events team.
* Councillor Richards was asked to provide feedback on the CCTV camera adjacent to the Canal which had been out of service
* Councillor Richards was also asked if the damaged parking meter at the Bypass car park could be repaired or removed.

Councillor Mrs R Phillips

* There continued to be issues with Refuse and recycling due to vehicular problems. Residents had been asked to contact their local County Borough Member, if they were experiencing problems with current collections
* Neath Port Talbot Council was in the process of discussing the landslide at Swansea Road with the land owners
* The County Borough Member had also been dealing with several Highway issues.
* Councillor Phillips had also been elected as Chair for the Neath Port Talbot Council Education scrutiny Committee
* A request was made to determine if road speed signage in Trebanos could be made clearer. She explained that there was currently no sign replacement permitted, as the review of the 20 mph road changes was still in progress
* Councillor Phillips also explained that the damaged speed cameras on the bypass road were the responsibility of the City and County of Swansea

Councillor H Davies

* Significant case work had been undertaken for individuals
* Councillor Davies had also been elected to the Neath Port Talbot Council Social Services scrutiny committee

**Resolved** that the County Borough Members would provide updates on questions at the next meeting.

## **12825: Grant Applications:**

Councillor B Howells and D Brain – Pontardawe Chamber of Commerce declared an interest and took no part in the discussion or decisions made on the grant application

* Heart of the Valley Show – Grant requested to assist with the vintage buses and Event insurance - £**999.00 awarded**
* Pontardawe Chamber of Trade and Commerce – Grant awarded to assist with the Food Festival - **£834 awarded**
* Pontardawe Arena – Grant request for support of the ‘Green Gathering’ and to assist with building maintenance - **£1000 awarded**
* Pontardawe Pride– Grant to support a two day festival in conjunction with several community and business enterprises - **£500 awarded**

Letters of thanks were also received from Pontardawe Cricket Club, Alltwen Heels WI and Pontardawe Heritage Centre.

Council was also advised that thanks had been received from the Friends of George V Park. The VE Day Event at Pontardawe Rugby Club had been a great success with over £600 raised for the charity ‘Scotty’s little soldiers. Funds were also donated to the Pontardawe Youth Club.

A letter of thanks was also received from the Pontardawe RFC together with a completion statement. Pontardawe RFC could now apply for further grant funding.

**Resolved** that the following grants will be awarded. £999 to Heart of the Valley show, £834 to Pontardawe Chamber of Commerce, £1000 to Pontardawe Arena and £500 to Pontardawe Pride.

## **12826: Clerks update on Eco and Wellbeing Committee including Cwmdu:**

Short Term projects identified and action required:

* MUGA at George V Park – Following the presentation by Neath Port Talbot Green infrastructure representative at the last meeting, and further information received on consultations to be carried out shortly, it was agreed that insufficient information was available, for Council to make decisions on the Partnership. Further discussion would be required following the consultation response
* Neath Port Talbot Council Biodiversity grant – The Steering Committee was to meet with the Pontardawe Conservation volunteers shortly. Councillors would be welcome to attend if they wished.
* Street Art Trail – Vision ICT were in the process of updating the website, the Clerk would request timescales
* Urdd Eisteddfod – Leaflets had been delivered to Town retailers to advertise the Urdd Shop Window Competition

**Resolved** the Clerk will obtain timescales for the update of the website with the Street Art trail.

**12827: Significant closures - Pontardawe Swimming Pool, the Cross Community Centre and Gelligron House:**

No further information on Gelligron House or the Cross Community Centre.

Both Councillor Richards and Councillor Cen Phillips provided an update on Swimming Pool.

There had been a slight delay in the completion of the required report, however this had now been received by the consultants and was currently being checked and considered for feedback. The report was therefore in its final stages and further information would be available shortly.

Councillor Nia Jenkins provided an update on Godrergraig Primary School

A Welsh Language assessment had been submitted as requested, and a letter of mitigation and needs had also been submitted in April 2025. A response was awaited

## **Resolved** to be noted.

**12828: Place Plans:**

No further information was available

## **Resolved** to be noted.

## **12829: Remembrance:**

A meeting had taken place between Neath Port Talbot Council, the Pontardawe Town Council Clerk and the County Borough Member to discuss specifics relating the Town Councils road closure and Special Events application, together with supporting documentation, recently submitted by the Town Council

As all arrangement and relevant documentation had been received and was acceptable. A discussion would take place between the directorates to determine if a way forward could be agreed

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

## **12830: Parks:**

The Clerk confirmed that Biffa could collect a 1100 litre bin from the alternative location adjacent to Trebanos Park, and she had signed the relevant contracts, as per Councils instructions at the last meeting.

A date for the delivery of the bin was awaited

## **Resolved** that Council will be advised once the alternative arrangements had been completed for waste removal at the Park

**12831: Emergency Protocol :**

Councillors had been provided with the response from the Neath Port Talbot Emergency Management team prior to the meeting

**Resolved** that a Policy and Resources Committee will be arranged to discuss

## **12832: Blue Plaque scheme:**

Councillor Phillips explained that two ‘blue plaque’ recommendations could be made each period (to the 31st December each year) to be funded by Neath Port Talbot Council.

The recommendations could be for an event, a place or a person who had been deceased for over 20 years.

Eight recommendations were current available and Councillors were asked to indicate which two they wished to support by the next meeting

**Resolved** that the Clerk will advise Council of the two preferred plaques at the next meeting

## **12833: Trebanos Ward Vacancy:**

Unfortunately, there had been no applicants for the Trebanos Ward vacancy. The Clerk will once again advertise the vacancy

**Resolved** to be noted.

## **12834: Minor Authority Governor at YGG Trebannws:**

It was agreed to delay appointing the Minor Authority Governor until the next meeting

**Resolved** that the appointment will be delayed until the next meeting

**12835: Planning:**

# **P2025/0282**

Applicant: Mr Neil Avery, 7 New Road, Ynysmeudwy SA8 4PJ

Site location: 7 New Road, Ynysmeudwy SA8 4PJ

Proposed Development: Change of use of existing dwelling (Use class C3) into three self contained one bedroom flats (Use class C3). Plus, construction of a part three storey , part single storey rear extension and alterations to existing fenestration.

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

## **12836: Annual Return for the year ended 31st March 2025:**

The Annual Return completed and signed by the Clerk/RFO and completed by the Internal Auditor had been made available to Councillor prior to the meeting.

**Resolved** that the Annual Return for the year ended 31st March 2025 will be agreed and signed on behalf of Council by the Mayor

## **12837: Internal Auditors Report to the 31st March 2025:**

The Internal Auditors report had been made available to Councillors prior to the meeting. The recommendations were also discussed

**Resolved** that Internal Auditors Report will be agreed by Council in line with Standing Orders and recommendations will be reviewed an implemented if necessary by the Clerk/RFO

## **12838:Draft Annual Report 2024/25:**

The Draft Annual Report had been reviewed by Councillors prior to the Meeting. No additional changes were requested

**Resolved** that the Annual Report for 2024/25 will be presented completed for agreement at the next meeting

## **12839: Terrorism (Protection of Premises bill) – Martyn’s Law:**

Council was advised that the law had received royal ascent but there would be some time until the requirements would become necessary.

**Resolved** to await specific guidance from One Voice Wales prior to making any changes to process or procedure

## **12840: Youth Councillors:**

Esther Harper’s one year term as a Youth Councillor would conclude shortly, however she had expressed the wish to continue for another term in line with current regulations.

**Resolved** that Esther Harper will continue as Youth Councillor for a second term.

**12841: Account Schedule 425, together with Bank Reconciliation:**

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

## **Resolved** that Account Schedule 425 totalling £36079.76 together with Bank Reconciliation, will be agreed in line with Standing Orders.

## **12842: Dog Waste bin adjacent to Rhyd y Fro Post Office:**

A local dog walker had expressed dismay that a dog waste bin adjacent to Rhyd y Fro Post Office had been removed. Unfortunately, it seemed that the land on which the bin was placed was not owned by Neath Port Talbot Council

**Resolved** that the Clerk will make enquiries to determine if there is an alternative site for a dog waste bin in this area.

## **12843: Correspondence received from David Chadwick MP:**

David Chadwick MP introduced himself and provided contact details, stating that he was available to help with any issues experienced by the Town Council

He also confirmed that he was supporting additional safety measures on the disposal of Lithium-Ion batteries

**Resolved** to be noted.

## **12844: Consultations:**

None

**Resolved** to be noted.

## **12845: Urgent Road Safety Matters and responses:**

* None

## **Resolved** to be noted

## **12846: Next Meeting:**

The next Ordinary Meeting would be held on the 9th June 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 ……………………………………………………………………..