

Ordinary General Meeting held on the 10<sup>th</sup> February 2020 at Ynysmeudwy Hall, Old Road, Ynysmeudwy commencing at 6.45pm

Present:

Councillor A Nicholson (presiding), G Nicholson, Mrs L Purcell, Ms C Ford, H Davies, K Flynn, J Jones, V Hotten, G Davies and B O McCarthy (Youth Representative)

Apologies:

Councillor A Richards, Mrs R Phillips, W Thomas and Ms S Northcott

11366: Disclosure of Personal and Pecuniary Interests:

None

**Resolved** to be noted.

11367: Signing of Minutes of the Ordinary General Meeting held on the 13<sup>th</sup> January 2020:

**Resolved** that the minutes of the Ordinary General Meeting held on the 13<sup>th</sup> January 2020 having been read and confirmed as a true record be accepted by Council.

11368: Consider matters raised by Members of the Public:

Serious concerns were raised by a Member of the Public over the Junction of James Street and Alltycham Drive in Pontardawe, due to parking bays that had recently been added to James Street opposite the said Junction. Council was asked to investigate the matter and discuss the issues with Neath Port Talbot Council.

It was confirmed that Council would discuss the matter and would respond in due course.

**Resolved** to be noted.

11369: Defibrillator Mapping Project:

The Clerk confirmed that the application to Councillor Richards Community Benefit fund for funds to provide additional accessible units in central Pontardawe had been awarded.

There had been an issue with the proposed application for funding from Councillor Phillips Community Benefit fund for an additional unit in Trebanos as the location had been found to be unsuitable. An alternative location had recently been identified and therefore it was likely that an application could be submitted for this unit prior to the end of the financial year.

**Resolved** to be noted.

11370: Cwmdu and the Working with Nature Project:

The Tree planting session at Ynysmeudwy Park had been well attended and well received by the Community.

Arbourum was to complete the final work specified by the Cwmdu Management plan. They would also risk assess the Ash trees that would be managed under the Ash Dieback plan, the trees from the green bridge to the picnic area and the trees on the boundary with properties to ensure safety. An assessment of the trees being reviewed would be provided for action by Council shortly.

**Resolved** to be noted.

### **11371: Police Matters:**

Pontardawe Statistics

Total Crimes in December 22 (12 violent and 4 Antisocial behaviour) was down from 32 crimes in November.

Pontardawe PACT – 13<sup>th</sup> February 2020 at 6.30pm at Pontardawe Art Centre

Trebanos Statistics

Total Crimes in December 3 (No pattern) was up from 1 crime in November.

Trebanos PACT – 27<sup>th</sup> February 2020 at 6.30pm at Trebanos Hall

Council was advised that a specialist in Antisocial Behaviour Officer had been appointed to address 'hot spots' however it was still vitally important that Members of the Public report crime via 101 to ensure that statistics were accurate, and that those statistics highlighted issues that needed additional resources.

Council was also advised that certain businesses in the Swansea Valley had been targeted by 'hate mail'. This was currently being investigated by South Wales Police.

Many of the targeted businesses had been extremely supportive of community ventures and were often hosts for the Town Council defibrillator network.

Council was therefore very concerned that valued businesses and members of the community had been subjected to such behaviour.

The Town Council reiterated that hate crime would not be tolerated in our community and should be reported to the Police on 101 whenever it was identified.

**Resolved** hate crime should be reported to the Police on 101 whenever it was identified by letter, email or social media and will not be tolerated in our community

### **11372: Alltycham Bench:**

Council was asked to provide the wording of the memorial to Mrs Marion Comasky.

**Resolved** that the Clerk will advise Councillors of the number of characters available within the memorial plaque.

### **11373: Planning:**

Planning Committee held on the 27<sup>th</sup> January 2020

P2020/0032

Applicant: Mr Damian Williams, 159 Swansea Road, Trebanos, Swansea SA8 4BS.

Site Location: 159 Swansea Road, Trebanos, Swansea SA8 4BS.

Proposed Development: Two Storey rear extension plus garage to rear boundary.

**Resolved**

Council wishes Neighbourhood notification and is also concern about the vehicular access which is unclear from the plans.

P2019/5510

Applicant: Mr Vernon Steadman, Westville, The Promenade, Penclawdd, Swansea, SA4 3RJ

Site Location: 137 Swansea Road, Trebanos, Swansea, SA8 4BS

Proposed Development: One Detached dwelling: Lawful Development Certificate to confirm permission P2008/0277 remains extant.

**Resolved**

No Additional Comment

P2019/5689

Applicant: Mr Justin Jones, 54 Swansea Road, Pontardawe, SA8 4AL

Site Location: 54 Swansea Road, Pontardawe, SA8 4AL

Proposed Development: Two Storey rear extension (Amended red line – location block plan)

**Resolved**

No Additional Comment

Town and County Planning Act 1990 – Appeal

Mrs Margaret Davies

Land at the rear of 39 Danygraig Road, Trebanos, Pontardawe, Swansea SA84DS

Planning Inspectorate Ref App/Y6930/A/ 19/3244046 (P2019/5215)

**Resolved**

No Additional Comment

Councillors felt that the additional Planning Application for review in the Ordinary Meeting warranted a separate Committee and therefore wished to arrange a Planning Committee for the next week.

**Resolved** that a Planning Committee will be arrange for the 17<sup>th</sup> February 2020.

**11374: Policy & Resources Committee held on the 20<sup>th</sup> January 2020 – Pontardawe in Bloom:**

The Committee was advised that Council had already agreed to the City and County of Swansea providing 70 Hanging Baskets, 10 Lamp Post displays and a display for the pavement outside St Peters Church.

Council had also earmarked additional funds for 2020 Pontardawe in Bloom from the Annual Budget.

The Committee discussed the additional displays that could be included by the Town Council for the 2020 Summer season. The following was suggested:

2 x Beehive Planters for the Cross

Additional barrier troughs for the Cross

Exterior pots for the shops on Upper Herbert Street

Trebanos Councillors were also keen to obtain a Beehive Planter for a suitable place within the Trebanos Community and some barrier troughs

The Committee recommended that the costings and the relevant permissions were to be obtained by the Clerk for the above, within the budget set by Town Council at the Budget Meeting

**Resolved** that the Committees recommendations will be ratified.

**11375: Policy & Resources Committee held on the 20<sup>th</sup> January 2020 – Pavilion at George V Park:**

The Committee was very keen to assist the Bowls club with the Pavilion at George V Park however they still had significant concerns concerning the possible lack of grant funding available from the County Borough if there was a change to the lease holder. The possibility of a steep increase in the rent, issues with Welsh Water and the full repair contract clause in the contract due to ongoing vandalism.

The Town Council would therefore like to have additional discussions with the club to determine if a less structured form of support would be preferable.

The Committee recommended that additional discussions are carried out with the club to determine a way forward.

**Resolved** that the Committees recommendations will be ratified.

**11376: Policy & Resources Committee held on the 20<sup>th</sup> January 2020 – Christmas 2020:**

The Clerk confirmed that the contract with Commercial Christmas ceased following the Christmas 2019 season.

There was a full and frank discussion on the successes and failures encountered during the Christmas 2019 festival.

The Committee also discussed Trebanos where at tree and eve lighting were placed at the Community Hall but not in any other area of the village.

The Clerk reiterated that no festoons/column decorations or illuminated crossroad signs would be permitted at Trebanos by Neath Port Talbot Council due to the construct of the lamp posts in that area.

The following was decided:

- The Clerk would obtain a rental lighting scheme from 'Lite illuminations' for Pontardawe for review by Council
- The Blanchere lights and the Christmas Tree lights currently held by Commercial Christmas should be returned to the Town Council for storage at the Office
- There seemed to be space for a real Christmas tree to be planted in the Garden at the Cross. This could be lit each Christmas and possibly planted mature.
- The cut tree chosen by Vale for the Art Centre should continue to be requested.
- A suitable place in Trebanos should be sourced for a real tree to be planted that could be decorated each Christmas

The Committee recommends that the Clerk will research cost, permission and feasibility of the above.

**Resolved** that the Committees recommendations will be ratified.

**11377: Personnel Committee held on the 20<sup>th</sup> January 2020:**

The Committee was advised that there had been no recommended changes to the job specifications for the Clerk, cleaners or handyman. The current salary scale was based on the NALC recommendations for all employees. These would be reviewed in 2020 once negotiations had been completed.

There was no requirement to alter current working practices including transitional arrangements until a review was made later in the year following the completion of the new Website which would provide opportunities for more effective and compliant booking options for community halls.

The Handyman would officially retire from the post on the 11<sup>th</sup> June however he would remain as Caretaker of Ynysmeudwy Hall.

Following the retirement of the Handyman from the post, the post would be disbanded. A list had been made of tasks currently undertaken by the handyman. Part would be added to the Park Maintenance contract. A list of local tradespeople would be collated who could be called on to carry out other maintenance required.

There would still however be a requirement for a Park Operative to ensure Park Safety.

The post would be for 10 hours per week at SCP 2 which would be in line with the Hall Caretakers but would include travel expenses to allow transport between parks, canal bank etc.

The new post which would commence from July 2020 would include checking the parks for sharps, checking park equipment for damage, litter collection, bin emptying, small graffiti removal, CCTV reviews and liaison with local Police if damage were identified.

This Committee recommended that pay increases for all staff will be made in line with NALC recommendations. The handyman's position will be disbanded following the retirement of the current incumbent on the 11<sup>th</sup> June. A new position of Park Operative would be created to cover safety and sanitary tasks that would not be undertaken by contractors.

**Resolved** that the Committees recommendations will be ratified.

**11378: Development Committee held on the 27<sup>th</sup> January 2020:**

This Committee to discuss various correspondence and ideas received by Council relating to Tourism, Heritage, History, Commerce and the Circular Economy

Peter Ryan attended the meeting to give details of a guide to tourism that he has been working on.

The map/guide is in the process of being constructed and will be initially in electronic format (although hard copies can be created from this) The map will ultimately include details of walks, cycle paths and bridleways. As the map is layered, it could also be used to indicate facilities, restaurants, cafes and places of interest.

At present Peter was merely providing details of the project which could be adopted by the Council later, once fully detailed.

Gorge walking at Cwmdru was also discussed.

Other projects to be discussed were:

- Circular Economy Capital fund
- Terracycling
- Around Pontardawe mapping for commerce
- Requests for Historical markers
- Historical notice boards at the Cross
- Glanrhyd

The Committee felt that currently their projects were reactive however Pontardawe needed an overall strategy to link up projects within an overall plan.

Through creative collaboration with local planning authorities, local communities can develop community-led guidance to help achieve local aspirations and improve community well-being. This would be the Pontardawe Town Council 'Place Plan'.

There would then be a specific plan following community consultation which would provide a signpost for Tourism, Heritage, Ecology and Commerce. This would also link together projects and partners under an umbrella strategy.

Councillor Daniel Williams project on the Observatory on Human Rights of Children can however go ahead as this would not be affected by the Pontardawe Place Plan

This Committee recommends that a 'Place Plan' is created for Pontardawe to provide an overall strategy for the Town Council area for the future. It further recommends that Council goes ahead with a project on the Observatory on Human Rights of Children.

**Resolved** that the Committees recommendations will be ratified. It was further agreed that Planning aide Wales would contacted to provide Council with guidance on setting up a 'Place Plan'. A special Committee would then be set up to oversee the work to be carried out to facilitate the project.

#### 11379: One Voice Wales Area Committee held on the 4<sup>th</sup> December 2020:

No one was available to attend the meeting

**Resolved** to be noted.

#### 11380: Finance Committee to be held:

Council was advised that a Finance Committee was required to discuss Grant funding for 2020/21, the Financial Regulations and Financial Risk Assessment

**Resolved** that a Finance Committee will be arranged for the 24<sup>th</sup> February 2020.

#### 11381: Clerks Report on the Park/Footpath Maintenance Contract 2019:

The Clerk confirmed that the Contractor had been very successful, and that the Maintenance program had been well managed.

**Resolved** that Tawe Landscapes be asked to continue to cover the Park/Footpath Maintenance for 2020.

**11382: Account Schedule 365 totalling £24410.60 together with Bank Reconciliation:**

**Resolved** that Account Schedule 365 totalling £24410.60 together with the Bank Reconciliation should be accepted by Council in line with Standing Orders.

**11383: Crossing Patrol Officer at Swansea Road:**

Council was advised that Suzy had been re-employed as the Crossing Patrol Officer at Swansea Road and that Cwmtawe School had provided a grant to the Town Council of £1000.00 towards the overall costs of retaining a Crossing Patrol Officer at Swansea Road.

**Resolved** that Pontardawe Town Council continue to fund the Crossing Patrol Officer for Swansea Road for 2020.

**11384: West Glamorgan High Sheriffs Award 2020:**

Council was advised that the High Sheriffs Award for 2020 was now accepting nominations.

**Resolved** that Council Members will forward any nominations to the Clerk prior to the deadline.

**11385: Email re Memories of the Miners' Strike:**

A request had been made to council for £200 to support a project to record the memories of local people of the Miner's Strike for posterity.

Council was keen to support the initiative but was unsure from the email, what the funds were being supplied for, as they were unable to provide finance for technical support from the County Borough, which seemed to be the request.

**Resolved** that the Clerk will clarify the purpose of the grant. Given the short timescale to the event, the next Finance Committee will be provided with plenary powers to decide on this matter.

**11386: Lloyds Bank:**

Councillors were concerned that several local banking branches had been lost both in Pontardawe and the wider Swansea Valley. Councillor Hotten was to complete an article on the matter in the Community Mag to try to encourage the use of local banking branches both in Pontardawe and the wider Swansea Valley.

Although the Town Council could not encourage the Community to use a private financial institution, they did wish to support the concept of 'buying local' which would also include using local facilities to prevent their loss in the future.

**Resolved** to be noted.

**11387: Email re Parking on the A474 on the Junction with Alltycham Drive:**

Council was provided with the background to the issues at James Street and Gelligron and the action being taken by the County Borough to reduce the speed of vehicles on this stretch of the road. The intention of formalising the current informal parking on James Street road with the intention of forcing a reduction in speed in this area. These changes were however to be reviewed after six months to determine if the expected result in speed reduction had been achieved.

Several Councillor had been advised of some difficulties in traffic flow at that junction following the changes and as there was no issue with parking in that area, they would support limited parking directly opposite the junction to improve safety and traffic flow.

**Resolved** that the Town Council will request the parking bay directly opposite the junction of Alltycham Drive from James Street removed and double yellow lines placed in this area. The other parking bays should remain.

**11388: NPT Local Development Plan review:**

Council was advised that this review was in progress.

**Resolved** that a Development Committee will be arranged for the 24<sup>th</sup> February 2020 to review.

**11389: Urgent Road Safety Matters:**

An email had been received requesting the Town Council contact the County Borough to request they review the bus shelter on Swansea Road, Trebanos which had been nudged by a large vehicle. There were concerns that it might be unsafe.

**Resolved** that the Clerk will report the matter to the County Borough.

**11390: Next Meeting:**

The next meeting of Council will take place on the 9<sup>th</sup> March 2020 at ARCH Hall.

Signed ..... Dated.....