

Ordinary General Meeting held on the 9th December 2019 at ARCH Hall, Cefn Llan Road, Pontardawe commencing at 6.45pm

Present:

Councillor A Nicholson (presiding), Ms S Northcott, G Nicholson, V Hotten, J Jones, H Davies, R Thomas and Ms R Jones

Apologies:

Councillor W Thomas, Mrs L Purcell, G Davies, Ms C Ford and B McCarthy (Youth Representative)

11324: Disclosure of Personal and Pecuniary Interests:

None

Resolved to be noted

11325: Signing of the minutes of the Ordinary General Meeting held on the 11th November 2019:

Resolved that the minutes of the Ordinary General Meeting held on the 11th November 2019 having been read and confirmed as a true record, be accepted by Council.

11326: Consider Matters raised by Members of the Public:

None

Resolved to be noted

11327: Defibrillator Mapping:

Council was advised that the project was ongoing with funding being sourced for additional 24-hour units in the Pontardawe Town Centre. The spare unit current held at the Town Council Office would be utilised during this phase of the project. Mailshots and Leaflets for the community would be funded by the trust.

Resolved to be noted

11328: Cwmdu Glen:

There were no additional issues at the Glen however the Clerk requested authorisation to obtain a risk assessment on the boundary trees and the Ash trees adjacent to the paths that had not been felled as we were awaiting the Ash Dieback plan from Neath Port Talbot Council.

Resolved that for consistency Arborum will be asked to carry out a risk assessment on the trees on the boundary of properties and on the Ash Trees that have been retained to ensure that they will not cause a risk to life or property.

11329: Police Matters:

Pontardawe Statistics

October 2019 – 38

September 2019 – 44

Council was also advised that the following action would be taken by BT at the High Street tower office following issues with Antisocial behaviour:

- High gate at the entrance which will be locked by employees
- Side access lane to be blocked
- Rear electric light to be disconnected to discourage youths meeting in that area
- Site clearance to remove rubbish
- New rear fence
- CCTV to be considered

Trebanos Statistics

October 2019 – 8

September – 3

Resolved to be noted

11330: Bench at Alltycham Drive:

Council had already agreed to a bench outside the Fire Station at Alltycham Drive, which would be placed in the New Year. Council further decided that the bench should be constructed from recycled plastic and should be purchased from a local supplier. The preferred colour was black and green

Resolved that a Black and Green recycled plastic bench will be purchased from a local supplier.

11331: Christmas 2019:

Council was advised that the Winterfest had been well attended and had been very successful. There was an issue with the Christmas tree lights as the streetlight to which the lights were attached had developed a fault. The County Borough had been advised and hopefully the issue could be rectified shortly.

It had also been suggested that the Town Council donate a Jabot to the Town Crier

Council offered their thanks to the organisers and volunteers who had worked tirelessly for the Pontardawe Winterfest.

Resolved that the spare jabot will be donated to the Town Crier.

11332: Web Site Accessibility Statement:

The Clerk produced a Web Site Accessibility Statement that had been compiled following on site testing by the Clerk and Pontardawe's Youth Representative. Councillors were also encouraged to test the web site themselves and to provide any feedback that could be added to the statement. The Clerk confirmed that there were several issues with the web site and that it was not compliant with the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines version 2.1 AA Standard.

The Town Council did however have a budget for a new Web Site to be created during 2020 to address the issues raised.

Resolved to accept the Web Site Accessibility Statement.

11333: Civic Service:

The Parochial Church Council had confirmed that the Mayors Civic Service could take place on the third Sunday in September each year at St Peters Church

Resolved to be noted

11334: Planning:

Appeal Inspectorate number 3241583 (P2019/5303):

Proposed Felling for no1 Copper Beach Tree protected by TPO T229/T1

Council originally objected to the felling of any trees unless they were a danger to life of property and wished replacement trees planted if this was the case.

Resolved that the original objection is still valid

Application to change the register of Common Land – CL25A Entry number 310, Application No: NPT0058:

Resolved to be noted.

P2019/5565:

Applicants name: Mr Evans, 16 High Street, Pontardawe SA8 4HU

Site Location: 16 High Street, Pontardawe SA8 4HU

Proposed Development: Change of use of former bank (class A2) to café/wine bar with living accommodation to upper floors and construction of single storey rear extension.

Resolved No objection provided there is neighbourhood notification.

11335: One Voice Wales Area Committee:

The Council's representative was not at the Ordinary Meeting

Resolved to be noted.

11336: Account Schedule 363 totalling £14475.53 and Bank reconciliation:

Resolved that Account schedule £363 totalling £14475.53 together with the bank reconciliation should be accepted by Council in line with standing orders.

11337: Hanging Basket Scheme:

Council was advised that during 2019 the total cost of the Summer Scheme for Pontardawe which consisted of 70 baskets, 10 lamp post displays and one flower tub outside St Peters had been £6659. The cost of the same display in 2020 would be £6830.

Councillor Jones from Trebanos expressed a wish for flower baskets to be considered in Trebanos together with additional Christmas decorations (lamp post displays would not be permitted by the County Borough at Trebanos as the streetlights were not of a suitable construction)

Resolved that the Hanging Basket displays for Pontardawe at a cost of £6830 will be financed by the Town Council. A committee meeting will also be arranged in the new year to discuss flowers and decorations in Trebanos

11338: Review of Electoral Arrangements for the County Borough of Neath Port Talbot:

Councillor requested additional time to review the document. As the closing date was the 19th February this was possible.

Resolved that this item will be added to the agenda for the January Meeting however Councillors will be required to decide at that meeting.

11339: Welsh Government Consultation – A more equal Wales:

Councillors were provided with details prior to the meeting.

Resolved to be noted.

11340: Local Service Revisions:

From the 5th January 2020

First 56

Pontardawe to Neath Victoria Gardens

The 15.55 journey will depart at 16.05

The 16.55,17.55,18.55 and 19.55 journey will depart at 17.10,18.10,19.10, and 20.10

Neath Victoria Gardens to Pontardawe

The 15.25 journey will depart at 15.30

The 16.25,17.25,18.20 and 19.20 journey will depart at 16.40,17.40,18.40 and 19.40

Resolved to be noted.

11341: Urgent Road Safety Matters:

None

Resolved to be noted.

11342: Next Meeting:

The next meeting of Council will be held on the 13th January 2019 at Trebanos Hall, commencing at 6.45pm

Signed Dated