

**Ordinary General Meeting held on the 9<sup>th</sup> November 2020 by virtual platform zoom due to COVID-19 restrictions commencing at 6.45pm**

Present:

Councillor A Nicholson (presiding), Reverend Ms S Northcott, J Jones, Ms C Ford, R Thomas, V Hotten, G Davies, Mrs L Purcell, A Richards, Mrs R Phillips, D Williams, H Davies, R Clapman and Mrs J Ashton-Mears

Apologies:

None

**11564: Disclosure of Personal and Pecuniary Interests:**

Councillor R Chapman declared an interest in the Riverside Project

**Resolved** to be noted.

**11565: Signing of the Minutes of the Ordinary General Meeting held on the 12<sup>th</sup> October 2020:**

**Resolved** that the minutes of the Ordinary General Meeting held on the 12<sup>th</sup> October 2020 having been read and confirmed as a true record be accepted by Council.

**11566: Matters raised by Members of the Public:**

None

**Resolved** to be noted.

**11567: Co-Option:**

Council was advised that no request for Election had been received by the County Borough for the vacant seat in the Trebanos Ward. This seat would now be advertised for Co-Option.

There were two candidates for the two vacant seats on the Pontardawe Ward. Mr R Chapman and Ms J Ashton-Mears. Council voted unanimously to Co-Opt both to Pontardawe Town Council

**Resolved** that Mr R Chapman and Ms J Ashton-Mears will be Co-Opted as Town Councillors for the Pontardawe Ward.

**11568: Defibrillator Mapping Project:**

The Clerk has spoken to Henry at the Heartbeat Trust UK. They would arrange for missing signage to be placed and would then consider the project completed. The Clerk had thanked them on behalf of Council for their work within the Partnership.

The AED box at Herbert Street had now been attached to the electricity supply and was therefore heated.

Confirmation was awaited from Western Garage for a date to attach the box to the electricity supply at Western Road. The AED Box was therefore not heated at present.

The Clerk also confirmed that all AED boxes owned by Pontardawe Town Council were registered with the Circuit.

NHS Ambulance Services had defibrillator databases for their area, however 'The Circuit' connected them together to provide a single national view. She would also review the 'Good Sam' app to determine if the units needed to be registered on other databases.

Units were checked weekly by the Clerk to ensure they were operational and details of expiry dates for batteries and pads were maintained on the database. A warning was therefore received when any reached expiry.

No training had taken place as yet due to COVID-19 restrictions, however the Clerk had placed online training videos on the Town Council social media pages and had provided details in a Community Mag article.

There were no details on the proposal to move the interior unit at the Art Centre to an exterior box, however the placement of the unit at Herbert Street had improved the coverage in the Town Centre.

**Resolved** that the Clerk will arrange the following:

- Connect the unit at Western Road to the electricity supply
- Determine the position with the relocation of the Art Centre unit
- Discuss training with David Thomas (NHS Ambulance Service)
- Discuss a Press release and photo opportunity within social distancing

**11569: Eco and Wellbeing Committee including Cwmdu:**

Councillor Clapham declared an interest.

The volunteer day at Ynysmeudwy Park was to take place on the 28<sup>th</sup> November. Posters and social media posts advertising the event would be available this week and the event would be conducted in accordance with social distancing guidelines.

The Clerk also confirmed that plans were being considered for a similar event at Trebanos Park.

It was also agreed that future events could be carried out on land not owned by the Town Council but in Partnership with other organisations such as the Riverside Academy and the local Schools.

**Resolved** to be noted.

**11570: Police Matters:**

PACT Meetings were still not taking place due to COVID-19 Restrictions

Pontardawe statistics –September total crime 47 was up from August total crime 41

Trebanos statistics – September total crime 7 which was equal to August

There had been no recent spikes in either Pontardawe or Trebanos, but Violence, Anti-social behaviour and Criminal damage continued to be the top three crime types.

A possible issue with gatherings over Bonfire night had been prevented by effective partnership working between the local Police, the Riverside Centre, and the Local Unitary authority.

**Resolved** that the Clerk will provide breakdowns of the statistics for review at the next meeting.

### **11571: Christmas:**

An additional charge had been levied by the County Borough for work to be carried out to allow the Christmas lights and festoons to be placed on the lamp posts. Following agreement by the Mayor this additional cost was settled from Reserves as agreement to place the lights would have been withdrawn should the work not be carried out.

Lite was already in the process of placing the lights at Pontardawe. The tree had been delivered to Vale and transport to Pontardawe Art Centre had been arranged for the 11<sup>th</sup> November.

The virtual switch on would be filmed on the 4<sup>th</sup> December. It would then be edited by Councillor Reverend Sue Northcott prior to being placed on the Town Council social media pages.

The Clerk had emailed the local schools to request their assistance in judging the Christmas frontage/Window competition however no response had been received as yet.

Councillor Jones had identified various location for Christmas Banners however in his experience it seemed unlikely that the County Borough Highways department would provide agreement in time for this year's celebration. It was therefore agreed to review banners for a future year.

**Resolved** that the Clerk will telephone the Headteachers at the Schools to request participation. The Minor Authority Governors will also encourage the local schools to participate.

### **11572: Possible relaxation of Lockdown Restrictions:**

The Clerk confirmed that Age Concern would be attending ARCH Hall to conduct chiropody sessions however the Cylch at Trebanos and the Brownies and Rainbows at Ynysmeudwy had already stated they would not be commencing until the New Year.

The Youth Club may be interested in re-commencing however it would depend on the restrictions and the views of the volunteers.

Currently guidance was awaited to determine if under 11-year olds were included in the maximum of 15 people allowed to meet in an organised session indoors and if the restriction on the types of groups had been lifted.

Council was happy for the Clerk and Mayor to decide if the Halls could re-open within guidelines once the written guidance had been provided by One Voice Wales and the Welsh Government.

**Resolved** that the Community Halls will be allowed to re-open for all groups that can comply with the current restrictions once written clarification has been received.

### **11573: My Green Valley:**

Council was informed that there was only approximately £362 available from the 2020/21 grant budget prior to the agreement for £246.00 (inc vat) to be awarded to 'My Green Valley'

**Resolved** that the grant to 'My Green Valley' will be increased to cover the balance available from the 2020/21 Grant budget.

**11574: Dog fouling:**

A response had been received from Neath Port Talbot Council, confirming that there were a limited number of larger metal signs available that could be placed at the location.

**Resolved** that the County Borough be asked to place the larger signs at 'Oak Hill Way' in Pontardawe.

**11575: Junction of Road to Recreation Ground and Canal Bank:**

There had been some confusion about actions to be taken in this area. Council reiterated that the action required was:

- Whose agreement was required to place signs on an unadopted road?
- What was the cost of suitable signage?
- Were any grants available?

**Resolved** that the Clerk will obtain the required information.

**11576: Planning:**

The Planning Committee that was due to be held on the 26<sup>th</sup> October 2020 was not quorate. The two applications for review P2020/0851 and P2020/0431 were not considered contentious and therefore the consultation period was allowed to lapse without comment following correspondence with the Mayor and Members of the Planning Committee.

**Resolved** to be noted.

**P2020/0727:**

Applicants name – Mr Alan Thomas, 40a Derwen Road, Pontardawe SA8 3AY

Site Location: Land adjacent to Dan y Bryn Residential Home, Brecon Road, Pontardawe, SA8 4PD

Proposed Development – New Community Church building (Class D2), car parking and associated works. (Amended engineering layout plan Rec 2/11/20)

**Resolved** No comment.

**11577: Account Schedule 374:**

**Resolved** that Account Schedule 374 totalling £10671.38 together with bank reconciliation should be accepted by Council in line with Standing Orders.

**11578: SLCC Membership:**

Council agreed to the continuation of membership of the SLCC for another year

**Resolved** that the subscription of £254.00 will be paid

**11579: re Draft Licencing Policy 2021:**

Council Members were provided with details of the policy prior to the meeting.

**Resolved** to be noted.

**11580: Consultation on Establishing Town and County Planning (Strategic Development Plan) (Wales) 2021:**

Councillors were provided with detail prior to the meeting however felt that this needed to be discussed at Committee

**Resolved** to organise a Policy and Resources Committee to discuss

**11581: Email re dangerous riding:**

An email had been received re issues with dangerous cycling causing injury on Cycle Route 43. Councillor Purcell had contacted Sustran, who had agreed to place additional signs on this portion of the network

**Resolved** to be noted.

**11582: Consultation on the proposal to establish an English-Medium 3-11 school to replace Godrergraig, Llangiwig and Alltwen Primary Schools:**

Due to the importance of this consultation, it was agreed that all Councillors should be invited to a special meeting to discuss.

**Resolved** that a Special Meeting open to all Councillors will be arranged to discuss.

**11583: Urgent Road Safety Matters:**

None.

**Resolved** to be noted.

**11584: Next Meeting:**

The next meeting of Council will take place on the 14<sup>th</sup> December 2020 by virtual platform commencing at 6.45pm.

Signed .....

Dated .....

