**Minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on 12th December 2022.**

Present: Chairman: Mr. S. Thomas.

 Councillors: Mr. E. Griffiths, Mr. A. Jones, Mr. G. Llewellyn,

 Mr. L. Reynolds and Ms. A. Thompson.

 Dulais Valley Action Group against the EDF project: Mr. Thomas and Mrs. W. Headon.

Before commencing the Monthly Meeting Members answered several questions put by the Group regarding this Council’s involvement in the management of the Maesgwyn Community Benefits Fund in partnership with NPT Council.

**105. Apologies for Absence**.

 Mr. D. Cawsey, Mrs. S. Coy, Mr. W.G. Hopkins and Ms. R. Stone.

**106. Declaration of Interests**.

 The Chairman in item no.111. Mr. Griffiths and Mr. Jones in item no. 117(ii)

**107. Matters needing urgent attention**.

 Mr. Griffiths reported that the path running from Main Road, near the shop, to the lane at the rear of Ty Maesmarchog is very slippery and in need of attention. The clerk to make enquiries as to its ownership.

**108. Policing Matters**.

 Nothing to report.

**109. To confirm the minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on 14th Nov. 2022**

 It was RESOLVED that the minutes were a true record of the meeting.

**110. Matters Arising**.

(i) Blocked pipe near the pond. The blockage could not be cleared and a new pipe has been placed. The clerk’s report shows the cost. The dowry (opencast account) deposited by British Coal when handing over land to this Council for maintenance purposes could be used for this repair. The clerk to make enquiries at Lloyd’s Bank.

(ii) R of W Moorlands to the bridge. From information recently provided by

 Mr. Jon Griffiths the R of W passes over land registered to Shirlan Construction Ltd. 4 Hornbeam Close, Cimla, Neath. SA11 3XA. The clerk to write to the company requesting permission to make improvements to the path. If accepted by the company, an application be made to the Benefits Fund for the cost.

(iii) Gates on the old railway R of W. Welding of the hinges to be carried out.

(iv) The “Flower Pots”. Bulbs had been purchased at a cost of £332.

 Ms. Thompson and Mr. Wheeler will organise the planting.

(v) Gate and Fence for Mr. J. Williams. Not yet carried out.

(vi) Quotation from the RFC for grass cutting in the vicinity of DOVE. Meeting to take place with the RFC.

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(vii) Repairs to DOVE roof. Other than the quotation of £2,670 from BMCS Carpentry Solutions, Mrs. Bibby had failed to find any other roofer interested in doing the repairs.

 The following additional information had been received from BMCS:-

 Area: 20 sq.m

 Material : £53.50/sq.m

 Labour : £80.00/sq.m

 Guarantee : 25 years.

 Not VAT Registered.

 It was agreed that this quotation be accepted.

**111. Pantyffordd Hall**.

 There was still a problem with the storm water pipe. The clerk to contact NPT Council and request that their jetting machine visits the hall. Mr. Thomas had noticed that an additional area of flooring had risen. The clerk to inform Council’s insurers.

**112. Clerk’s Report**.

 It was RESOLVED that the expenditure for November 2022 be approved.

**113. Members on Outside Bodies**.

(i) Maesmarchog School. Mr. Llewellyn had attended a Governors’ meeting. He reported that the school’s financial situation was satisfactory.

(ii) Washery. Mr. Cawsey and Mr. Griffiths had attended a meeting when the Benefits Fund was wound up.

**114. Planning Matters**.

 There were no objections to the following application:-

 No. P2022/0970

 Mrs. Emma Fry, 45 Main Road.

 Demolition of existing rear extension and construction of a new single storey rear extension.

 **Correspondence.**

**115. Mayor’s Christmas Show**. The Chairman would attend.

**116. Dove. Request for donation for Winter Walk**.

 This had since been retracted.

**117. Benefit’s Fund**.

(i) Result of the Panel meeting held on 7th December 2022.

 The following were approved:-

 Call of the Wild Development Trust. Delivery of a Resilient Pupil Programme at Maesmarchog School. £4,992.

 Banwen RFC. Outdoor Toddler/Family Learning area and Playground. £88,603. Approved on condition that the application to the WRU for £25,000 Match Funding be forthcoming.

 Dove. This application in the sum of £8,738 for further development of the land rented near the round house, including gardening sessions and children’s forest school sessions, was turned down.

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(ii) Council play area at RFC – Indemnity Insurance.

 As previously minuted this may be required due to clauses in the Land Transfer Document between British Coal and Banwen RFC. A copy of the Document is awaited from Council’s solicitors for passing to Council’s insurers.

**118. Play area grass cutting**.

 A quotation for grass cutting was awaited from the Rugby Club. Mr. Griffiths and Mr. Jones will bring this up at the next meeting of the Club committee.

**119. Council Land at the rear of Maesmarchog House.**

Council’s solicitor advised that the threshold of time for Mr. Payne to meet, should he wish to apply to the Land Registry for “adverse possession” of the land, is a continuous period of at least 12 years prior to the 13th October 2003 or, otherwise, a continuous period of 10 years. The Land Registry would notify this Council if such a claim is ever made. As Mr. Payne has had “adverse possession” of the land for a longer period than stated above, it was decided to take no further action at this time.

**120. Precept for 2023/2024.**

As prepared by the clerk, the anticipated current account balance at 31st March 2023 will stand at £16,460. Taking into account , for example, inflation, additional maintenance and insurance and play inspection costs for the new play area, a likely increase in grass cutting costs and the likelihood of match funding requests from applicants to the Benefits Fund it was unanimously agreed that the precept be increased by 10% from the current £25,080 to £27,588. For a Band D property this will result in its council tax contribution to this Council’s precept increasing from £66 to £73 per annum (less for bands A, B and C).

**121. Matters raised by Members**.

 None.

Chairman……………………… Date……………………….

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**Clerk’s Report to the meeting to be held on 16th January 2023.**

**Income.** **£ p**

Precept 31.12.2022. 8,360. 00

Cemetery 225. 00

**Expenditure. Cheque No.**

B.L. Parfitt. Nov.22 2608 226. 30

Wired up Wales. Web site 2609 110. 00

Pipes near the pond ) 275. 02 inc.VAT

Hire of pump ) 2610 18. 76 “ “

Tarmac to path ) 35. 82 “ “

Andrew Jones. Plant & labour 2611 684. 00 “ “

Spick & Span. Gates 2612 380. 00

HMRC PAYE 2613 333. 60

G. Thomas. Heating oil 2614 806. 40 “ “

B.L. Parfitt. Dec. 22 2615 226. 30

B.L. Parfitt 6 mths. expenses “ 110. 16

Play Inspection Co. 2616 382. 62 “ “

Nite Lite. Pantyffordd 2617 438. 00 “ “

Postcrete. Owl Boxes 2618 33. 85 “ “

Dove. Bulbs ) 322. 20

Ranger. 3 months ) 2619 4,379. 01

Dove. Roof repairs ) 2,670. 00

Phil Harvard. Pantyffordd

Gutter repairs 2620 140. 00

**Planning Matters**.

None to date.

**Correspondence**.

NPT Council Legal. Lease. British Coal / Banwen RFC.

**Account Balance**. £

Current Account at 20.12.22. 30,301

Benefits Account at 29.12.22. 7,252 Includes Call of the Wild

Opencast Account at 09.11.22. 56,995

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