**Minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on 13th March 2023.**

Present: Chairman: Mr. S. Thomas.

 Councillors: Mr. D. Cawsey, Mrs. S. Coy, Mr. E. Griffiths,

 Mr. G. Llewellyn, Ms. A. Thompson and Mr. L. Reynolds.

**153. Apologies for Absence**.

 Mr. W.G. Hopkins, Mr. A. Jones and Ms. R. Stone.

**154. Declarations of Interests**.

 Mr. Thomas in item no.158. Mrs. Coy in item no.167.

**155. Policing Matters**.

(i) Police had stressed the need to ring 101 to report non-urgent crimes/antisocial behaviour. A callback system was in operation.

(ii) A Cuppa with a Coppa was due to be held at Dove on 15th March next.

**156. To confirm the minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on 13th February 2023**.

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

**157. Matters Arising**.

(i) Opencast account. The current interest rate is 0.7%. The clerk to make further inquiries.

(ii) Gate and fence for Mr. J. Williams. Arrangements had been made with

 Mr. Keenan to carry out the work.

(iii) Grounds maintenance invoice. A reply from NPT Council explained that the 60% increase from 2021 was due to additional grass cutting taking place since the lifting of covid restrictions. The clerk to request details of areas cut, with dates.

**158. Pantyffordd Hall**.

(i) Quotes for flooring. These do not include for taking up the existing timber floor.

\* CGL Services, Baglan £12,297 Flooring and screed.

\* County Contracts, Swansea £10,300 Flooring.

 Justin Jones Floor Screeds, Pontardawe £5,800 Screed.

\* Glamorgan Services, Neath £29,134 Flooring and screed.

It was suggested that the Pantyffordd Community Hall Company contribute to the repair costs.

At the March 22nd Benefits Panel meeting Mr. Hinder to be asked if an application to the Benefits Fund to cover the flooring costs would be considered.

(ii) Oil Storage tank. The existing oil tank was showing signs of corrosion and needed replacing. The clerk to seek quotations for a new tank.

**159. Clerk’s Report**.

 It was RESOLVED that the expenditure for February 2023 be approved.

**160. Outside Bodies – GCRE Ltd.**

 GCRE had informed that Rights of Way at the Washery would remain.

 Mr. Cawsey had been informed by Mr. Simon Jones of GCRE that Celtic Energy had vacated the Washery and the Nant Helen site.

 No meetings had been attended.

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**161. Planning Matters**.

 Application No. P2023/0173 – GCRE Ltd.

 Details re. dust management, noise monitoring and contamination assessment.

 There were no objections.

 **Correspondence**

**162. 2021/2022 Audit**.

 The Auditor’s Report was attached to the minutes and will be displayed on Council’s Website. The Report states “ in my opinion no matters have come to my attention giving cause for concern.”

**163. Request for donation. Cwmdulais Historical Society**.

 Under section 137 of the LG Act 1972 it was decided to donate £100.

**164. Benefits Fund**.

(i) 22nd March Panel Meeting.

 Applications to be considered:-

 No. 100 Banwen RFC. Graffiti to containers - £1,880

 No. 101 Onllwyn Welfare. Solar batteries - £15,000

 No. 102 SSOAFC Solar Panels - £14,752

(ii) Resignations. Mr. Kemeys and Mr. Thomas had resigned as lay members of the Benefits Panel. Adverts for applicants had been placed on notice boards and on Council’s website. Closing date is 17th April 2023.

**165. Grass cutting by the Rugby Club**.

 To be discussed when the weather improves.

**166. Lease with the Rugby Club**.

 Mr. Cawsey informed that he had spoken to his contact at the Coal Authority and had been informed that the Authority were supportive of the Council leasing the area and would not impose clause 4 of the transfer. (See minute 136 of the Council meeting held on 13th February). The Authority would correspond with the Rugby Club.

**167. Rent of Land. Ms. Thompson.**

 The rent agreement was signed by Mr. Thomas and Mr. Llewellyn.

**168. Invitation to Cllrs. Ms. Harris and Mr. Hunt**.

 The following to be on the 17th April agenda.

(i) Availability of the £10,000 grant previously received by Mr. Cawsey.

(ii) Latest knowledge on the EDF proposal.

(iii) Latest knowledge on the old Ty Maesmarchog housing.

(iv) Latest knowledge on the Nant Helen overburden stockpile.

(v) Litter in the community, on the A4109 and on the A465 from Aberdulais to the Neath roundabout.

(vi) Dog litter bin near the pond.

(vii) Grass cutting of verges in the area.

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**169. Matters raised by Members**. £50 Chairperson’s allowance.

(i) Mr. Thomas agreed to finance refreshments for the children attending the

 St. Patrick’s Day celebration.

(ii) Mrs. Coy wished to make a donation to the Turkey/Syria appeal.

(iii) Mr. Reynolds wished to make a donation to “The Flower Pots.”

 Chairman:…………………….. Date:……………….

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**Clerk’s Report to the Monthly Meeting to be held on 17th April 2022**

**Income. £ p** Dove. Rent for land and Banwen Community Centre**.** 662. 50

VAT Refund. (mainly from new play area drainage and equipment) 24,292. 56

Rent. Banwen Gardening Club. 25. 00

Rent. Mr. G. Llewellyn. 50. 00

**Expenditure. Cheque no.**

Mrs. Coy. Chairperson’s allowance. 2626 50. 00

Cwmdulais Historical Society. 2627 100. 00

HMRC PAYE. 2628 333. 60

B.L. Parfitt. March. 2629 226. 30

Charterbrook Signs. Cemetery. 2630 96. 00 incVAT

**Planning Matters**.

None.

**Correspondence £ p**

Star Multifuels. Quote for a new oil tank at Pantyffordd - 3,420. 00

Walker Fire. Service to extinguishers at Pantyffordd - 392. 21 inc.VAT

NPT Council. Grounds maintenance. Request to pay the invoice, meet to draw up a schedule of works, and refund any overpayment if necessary.

Banwen RFC. Copy of the letter from the Coal Authority re. the lease of play area land.

**Bank Balances. £**

Current Account at 09.03.2023. 48,624

Opencast Account at 09.03.2023 57,089

Benefits Account at 10.04.2023 121,790 This includes the 22nd March approvals and £88,603 for the RFC Tot’s play area.

**Benefits Fund**.

Following the approvals at the 22nd March meeting there is £1,161.85 left in the Fund. Normally, the next round of applications would be considered at a June 2023 meeting. However, the Fund will not be replenished until late June. Therefore, the next round opens on 3rd July, closes on 11th August with the Panel meeting on 20th September.

Mr. Hinder informed the 22nd March meeting that since the first Panel meeting on 17th January 2013 the Fund had paid out £1,006,344. This had attracted £564,017 of match funding making a total of £1,570,361 distributed in the community.

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