**Minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on 17th April 2023**.

Present: Chairman: Mr. S. Thomas.

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

 Mr. A. Jones, Mr. G. Llewellyn, Ms. R. Stone and

 Ms. A. Thompson.

 Ward Members: Ms. S. Harries and Mr. S. Hunt.

**170. Apologies for Absence**.

 Mr. L. Reynolds.

**171. Ms. Harris and Mr. Hunt were welcomed to the meeting when the following points were discussed:-**

(i) Availability of the £10,000 Ward Member’s grant.

 Mr. Hunt informed that monies previously available for this had been placed elsewhere in the County’s budget for 2023/2024. Ms. Harris and Mr. Hunt considered that allocating funds to the community via the ward member was a better system. They will request a review of the budget for 2024/2025 to reinstate the fund. Mr. Hunt suggested that the Shared Prosperity Fund may be available to fund an extension to the Ranger’s post.

(ii) EDF Proposal.

 The proposal was currently being looked at by various bodies including Welsh Government and NRW. At this time there is not a lot of information available. A previous application for a similar project, some years ago, was turned down due to the possible effects on the safety of Aberpergwm Colliery, which still has a lengthy mining licence to run. The Benefits Fund may be distributed differently to the Maesgwyn Fund. Mr. Hunt had a neutral view on the project whilst Ms. Harris supported the NO group and attended their meetings. A YES group had not been set up.

(iii) Housing at Ty Maesmarchog.

 The stop notice on the site was served on 2nd March 2022. The developers had submitted a scheme to the Sustainable Drainage Approving Body for approval under the Flood Water Management Act and this was currently being considered.

(iv) Nant Helen Stockpile.

 If the GCRE Scheme goes ahead Mr. Simon Jones, the organisation’s CEO, had assured Mr. Hunt that the stockpile will be lowered by 18m, as required by the latest planning consent. If the GCRE scheme fails then there is no money available to lower the stockpile.

(v) Litter. Litter had been cleared on the A645 between Aberdulais and Neath. Ward members appreciated that the programme for street cleaning needed improving. There were no longer dedicated litter pickers in each ward and a great deal of litter was as a result of refuse collection on a Wednesday. Mr. Hunt would speak to the Street Manager at NPT Council and request that a litter team visit the area on a Wednesday following refuse collection. Ward Members were also made aware of the fly tipping problem at the rear of Roman Road.

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(vi) Dog Litter Bin. It was agreed to place a new bin on the Right of Way between the Dove and Walters Arena. The clerk to provide a site location.

(vii) Grass Cutting. As a result of financial cuts NPT Council were short of labour and equipment. Ms. Harris and Mr. Hunt invited members to contact them if there was a particular problem.

 Ms Harris and Mr. Hunt were thanked for attending the meeting.

 Emails: cllr.s.harris@npt.gov.uk cllr.s.k.hunt@npt.gov.uk

**172. Declarations of Interests**.

 The Chairman in item no. 177. Mrs. Coy and Ms. Thompson in items no. 182(i) and (ii).

**173. Matters needing urgent attention.**

 A gate was needed on the exit from the Dove playground onto the access road.

**174. Policing Matters**.

 None.

**175. To confirm the minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on 13th March 2023**.

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

**176. Matters Arising**.

(i) Fence & Gate for Mr. J. Williams. This had been completed at a cost of £150.

(ii) Members Allowance. Mrs. Coy had made a donation to the Turkey/Syria appeal. Ms. Thompson would purchase flowers with Mr. Reynold’s allowance and

 Mr. Thomas had spent £23.45 on St Patrick’s children’s party.

**177. Pantyffordd Hall**.

(i) Oil tank. A replacement quotation of £2,850 (excl. VAT) had been received from Starmultifuels. The clerk was due to meet a rep from Oil for Wales on 24th April for a further quotation.

(ii) Flooring quotations.

 Of the 3 quotations received the preferred quotation was a joint project between County Flooring for the tile finish (£10,300) and Justin Jones Screeds (£5,800) totalling £16,100 (excl VAT). The clerk to write to the Pantyffordd Management Committee requesting that it contributes 50% towards the cost

**178. Clerk’s Report**.

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

**179. Outside Bodies**.

 Mr. Llewellyn had attended a governors’ meeting and reported that the headmistress had resigned and that school finances were satisfactory.

**180. Planning Matters**.

 None.

 **Correspondence.**

**181. Mr. W.G. Hopkins**.

 Mr. Hopkins had tendered his resignation as a member of this Council. The clerk had thanked him for his services. NPT will now be informed and will prepare an advert for the vacancy, with a closing date, to be displayed within the community.

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**182. Benefits Fund**.

(i) Funding of the Ranger after October 2023. This item was brought up at the Panel meeting held on 23rd March last. Mr. Hinder stated that it was unlikely that there would be continued funding for the Ranger’s post and suggested that the post be reinvented as a community development worker, or similar. However, there was no guarantee that this will be acceptable. Further to the meeting with Ward Members it was suggested that an application be made to the NPT Council Shared Prosperity Fund.

(ii) 2 Panel vacancies. No applications had been received by the closing date of 17th April 2023. It was suggested that Mr. Wheeler fill one of the vacancies. If so, Mr. Wheeler needs to make a written application to the clerk before the monthly meeting on 22nd May 2023.

**183. Grass Cutting by RFC**.

 To be discussed at the May Council meeting.

**184. Lease with the RFC**.

 A letter from the Coal Authority stated that it did not object to the Rugby Club leasing the land for the playground to this Council.

**185. Moorland Playground**.

 Mr. Wheeler and the clerk to inspect the safety of the play equipment.

**186. Grounds Maintenance Invoice**.

 NPT Council had proposed that the invoice be paid, a meeting be held to draw up a schedule of work and any overpayment be refunded. Members were not prepared to accept this proposal. The clerk to inform NPT Council.

**187. Public Participation**.

 A circular from Welsh Government reminded that this was still necessary.

**189. Opencast Account**.

 Tying this account up for 12 months will attract 3.0% interest (some £1,750). The clerk to make arrangements with Lloyd’s.

**189. Matters raised by Members**.

 None.

 Chairman………………………….. Date………………….

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**Clerk’s Report to the Monthly Meeting to be held on 22nd May 2023**.

**Income**. £ p

Cemetery. 75. 00

Mr. Harvard. Rent of land. 220. 00

Mrs. Lukas. “ “ “ 50. 00

Ms. Thompson. “ “ “ 250. 00

Precept 31st April 2023. 9,196. 00

**Expenditure.** **Cheque No.**

Alun Keenan, fencing 2631 150. 00

Coleridge Cymru, pageant film 2632 2,000. 00

Walker Fire, Pantyffordd 2633 392. 21 incVAT

SSE, Pantyffordd 2634 113. 87 “ “

Welsh Water, Cemetry 2635 29. 32

 “ “ Pantyffordd “ 59. 50

**Planning Matters**.

Mr. Richard Byng, 103 Main Road, Dyffryn Cellwen.

Certificate of Lawful Development (proposed) for the use of the existing dwelling as a small children’s home for the care of 2 children with 2 live in staff.

**Correspondence.**

Mr. P. Harvard, fencing on rented land.

**Bank Balances**.

Current Account at 31st. April, 57,489

Opencast Account at 11th April, 57,125

Benefits Account at 28th April, 106,751

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