**Minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on 1st December 2014.**

Present: Chairman: Mr. L.C. Jenkins.

 Councillors: Mr. D. Francis Mr. M. Rivers.

 Mr. S.K. Hunt Mrs. G. Smith.

 Miss. C. Freeman Mr. D.C. Thomas.

 Others: Mr. B. Lloyd.

The Chairman welcomed Miss Freeman to the Council.

The Chairman presented Mr. Lloyd with an inscribed plaque and thanked him for his

10 years service as a community councillor.

**1. Apologies for Absence**.

 Mr. B. Mackenzie and Miss M. Rivers.

**2. Declarations of Interests**. None

**3. Policing Matters and NPT Homes**.

(i) The last PACT meeting was held on 19th November 2014 when Mr. Francis and Mr. Rivers attended. Priorities drawn up were off-road motorcycles, drug dealing and house burglaries, there being a spate of these in Dyffryn Cellwen recently. It was confirmed that Sgt. James was seeking to have an additional PC at Glynneath dealing with the Dulais Valley.

(ii) Mr. Hunt informed members that a meeting is scheduled for 8th December between NPT CBC and NPT Housing when a Draft Joint Housing Policy is to be drawn up with regard to the allocation of social housing. Members considered that NPT Homes have a responsibility to their existing tenants and to the community at large when allocating housing to problem families from elsewhere and in this respect the Draft Policy must include for consultations with, and information to, community councils and the police.

(iii) The clerk to contact Sgt. James and Mr. Windos of NPT Homes with regard to a meeting in February 2015, as promised in the meeting held on 4th November last.

**4. Minutes of the meeting with NPT Homes held on 4th November 2014**.

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

**5. Matters Arising**. None.

**6. Minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on 3rd November 2014**.

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

**7. Matters Arising**. None

**8. Brynbedd Cemetery**. Nothing to report.

**9. Recreation Ground**.

**(i)** Seven Sisters AFC had complained that the car park was wet and muddy near the bottom gate and that drainage work was required. Mr. Francis would advise the AFC to apply to the Nant Helen Fund for a sum of £500 which should cover the cost. Mr. Hunt would advise the AFC on the application format if requested.

**(ii)** The clerk had forwarded details of the Articles of Association of CHAOSS to CISWO and was awaiting a reply.

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**(iii)** Mr. Michael, Head of Legal at NPT CBC, had informed that there was a new procedure whereby an Order could be made for byelaws, at no cost to this council, but the Order would expire after 3 years. The clerk was asked to make enquiries with Mr. Michael as to whether the Order could be renewed every 3 years and, if not, to request a quotation for the legal work in setting up byelaws.

**(iv)** The clerk was asked to make enquiries with Groundwork as to whether it had the facilities available to upright the hippo.

**10. Community Hall and CHAOSS**.

**(i)** The central heating pump had recently been replaced at a cost of £497 + VAT. CHAOSS would reimburse Council.

**(ii)** Mr. Hunt and Mr. Thomas had attended a consultation event with NPT Council regarding the future of Youth Services at the Hall and had been informed that there was a proposal to cut £100k from the Youth Services budget. It was possible, perhaps with a contribution from this council, that the Thursday evening youth club could continue.

**(iii)** From information received by Mr. Hunt from NPT CBC the annual cost of running the youth club for 2 nights at the Hall was £10,289 consisting of staff costs at £8,309 and room hire at £1,980. Similarly, the cost of the summer playscheme was £2,200 for 20 x 2 hour sessions.

**(iv)** The clerk had contacted Dean Cawsey and Jan Thomas enquiring as to whether there were funds available from other sources that could sustain the youth club. He had been informed that there were small pots available from CVS and Youth Cymru totaling some £800. These pots would, possibly, not be available every year and there were certain conditions attached to the funding.

**11. Meetings attended by Members**.

 In addition to the above.

**(i)** Mr. Thomas had attended a consultation event on summer playschemes at the hall but left at 5.15pm as staff from NPT CBC did not turn up at 5.00 pm as advertised.

**(ii)** Mr. Francis and Mrs. Smith had attended an unscheduled governors meeting at Ysgol Gymraeg called to discuss items raised by the Director of Education.

**(iii)** Mr. Hunt and Mrs. Smith had attended a governors meeting at Dwr y Felin School.

**(iv)** The Chairman and Mr. Hunt had attended the Remembrance Day service.

**12. Planning Matters**. None.

**13. Correspondence**.

**(i)** The request for a donation from Marie Curie Nurses was noted.

**(ii)** A letter from the clerk tendered his resignation. Members thanked the clerk for his services over the last 12 years. It was decided that the vacancy be advertised with a view to the new clerk commencing duties at the March 2015 meeting.

**14. Clerk’s Report**.

 It was RESOLVED that the following be passed for payment:-

 Cheque No. £ p

Welsh Water. Hall 502354 150. 56.

Y. Roberts. Relief 355 243. 75.

Plaque for Mr. Lloyd 356 49. 00. Inc. VAT

BT phone. Hall 357 86. 36. “ “

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Corona Gas. Hall. November 358 324. 14. “ “

M. Miles. November 2014 359 as per contract

Y. Roberts. Librarian. November 2014 360 83. 00.

B.L. Parfitt. November 2014 361 307. 20.

JNC Fire extinguisher check 362 110. 34. “ “

Wired Up Wales. Domain name 363 80. 00.

BT Redcare Alarm 364 83. 50. “ “

BT Broadband. 3 months 365 86. 40. “ “

Eric Collier. Pump 366 596. 40. “ “

Refuse Collection. Hall 367 118. 95.

Security Centres. Call out 368 35. 74. “ “

Martin’s Electrical. Lighting repairs 369 108. 00. “ “

**15. Land near Marigold**. Nothing to Report.

**16. Roadside Seats etc**.

 Work had commenced on the footbridge near Ynysdawley Farm.

**17. Precept for 2015/2016.**

 It was decided to set the Precept at the January 2015 monthly meeting. The meeting to have an abbreviated agenda so that additional time can be devoted to the Precept. It was noted that the budget cuts proposed by NPT CBC will not have been decided before the January meeting of this Council.

**18. To appoint a Member to the Joint Liaison Committee.**

 This appointment was deferred to the January meeting. Mr. Thomas volunteered to accompany Mr. Rivers to the meeting on 8th December, 2014.

**19. Any Other Business**.

**(i)** It was decided to store the banner from Soar Chapel commemorating the work camp held in the village in 1956.

**(ii)** Mr. Hunt informed Members that the D.V. Silver Band were participating in the switching on of the Christmas lights in Neath.

**(iii)** It was decided to nominate Mr. Emyr Lewis for a UK National Honour. The clerk to request letters of support from the organisations with which he has been associated and from Peter Hain.

**(iv)** Mr. Rivers reported that CISWO were organizing an event for ex miners on

 15th February.

**(v)** The Chairman announced his intention to retire from the council following the May 2015 Annual Meeting.

**(v)** It was agreed that Mr. Morganbe paid £225 for Christmas lights, as last year.

The Chairman wished everyone a Happy Christmas and thanked them for support over the previous 12 months.

Chairman: D.C. Thomas. Signed at the meeting Date: January 2015.

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**Clerk’s Report to the meeting on 5th January 2015.**

**Income £ p**

Cemetery Fees 710. 00.

Bank Interest 7. 08.

**Accounts for Payment**

B.L. Parfitt. December 2014 307. 20.

M. Miles. January 2015 as per contract

Y. Roberts. January 2015 83. 00.

Corona Gas. November 2014 438. 22. Inc. VAT

NIC & PAYE. B.L. Parfitt & M. Miles 1079. 37.

**Correspondence.**

NPT CBC Mayor’s Christmas Card.

SW Police Introduction from new Chief Inspector

Awel Aman Tawe Solar Panels to the Hall.

Martin’s Electrical Quote for work to Hall lights.

**Planning Matters**.

None to Date.

**Year End Balances. £**

Actual at 31.03.14. 18,632.

Forecasted at 31.03.15. 23,800. \*\*

\*\* This assumes that £2,000 of the £4,000 budgeted for the crossing patrol will be paid out before 31.03.15.

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