**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF PONTARDDULAIS TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON THE 17TH MARCH 2022**

**PRESENT:** Cllr D. Beynon (Mayor) Cllr K. Griffiths

 Cllr A. Wilson Cllr C. Evans

 Cllr R. Jenkins Cllr H. Roberts

 Cllr G. John Cllr G. Griffiths

 Cllr K. Williams Cllr J. Harris

 Cllr P. Downing

**188. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:**

An apology for absence was received from Councillor R. John.

**189. TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST FROM MEMBERS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE COUNCIL’S CODE OF CONDUCT:**

Cllr G. John declared an interest in agenda item 3 as it applies to the Clerk’s salary. Cllr A. Wilson declared an interest in agenda item 3 as it applies to the Family History Club’s application for financial assistance.

**190. TO RECEIVE AND CONSIDER THE MINUTES OF THE POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON TH 9TH MARCH 2022:**

**(a) Requests for financial assistance:**

The committee recommendation that all fifteen organisations receive £250 (two hundred and fifteen pounds) be accepted by 6 votes to 5.

**(b) Staff salaries:**

The following committee recommendations were accepted:

* Caretaker and cleaner - Salaries to be increased in line with the minimum wage from 1st April 2022;
* Clerk - Salary to be increased by 1.75% in line with the National Joint Council for Local Government Services (NJC) pay award from 1st April 2021. The Clerk is currently on Spinal Column Point 28 of the NJC pay scales;
* Grants Officer - Members were advised that the Grants Officer’s Contract of Employment states that the Council will review the salary annually on the anniversary of the appointment. It was agreed that the Grants Officer’s salary be reviewed in September 2022.

**(c) To review the Council’s budget for the financial year 2021/22:**

Members agreed to accept the budget report.

**(d) Hybrid meeting equipment:**

The Clerk explained that he had a remote access meeting in the morning with a company called CloudyIT who had installed a broadcasting system in Neath Town Council. It was agreed that any equipment installed in the Institute should be completed by the end of June 2022.

**191. TO RECEIVE AND CONSIDER THE MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL EVENTS COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON THE 14TH MARCH 2022:**

Cllr H. Roberts, Chairman of the Special Events Committee, reported on the above minutes. Concern was expressed at the rugby club’s proviso that nobody should be allowed onto the field with their own drinks (alcohol and soft drinks to be purchased from the club). Cllr H. Roberts declared an interest and it was agreed that the Clerk contacts the rugby club concerning the Council’s concerns. Cllr J. Harris agreed to speak to the Friends of Coedbach Park and report back to Council.