



Minutes of 2021 – 22 Budget and Precept meeting on the 7th January 2021

Virtual Meeting during the Covid 19 Restrictions

Present:

Cllr Arwel Roberts (Mayor in the Chair)
Cllr Mike Elgin (Deputy Mayor)
Cllr Jackie Burnham
Cllr Ann Davies
Cllr Reg Davies
Cllr Syd Gaskin
Cllr Mike Kermode
Cllr Gareth Rowlands
Cllr Andrew Smith
Cllr Bleddyn Williams
Town Clerk
Clerical Assistant/Minute Clerk
Project Officer

1. Apologies

Cllr Charlotte Frobisher

2. Declaration of Interest

None given

3. Urgent Matters

None

4. Planning Application – 44/2020/0974 Mount Clear, Pentre Lane.

Cllr Ann Davies declared an interest

Cllr Mike Kermode abstained

Cllr Jackie Burnham abstained

Cllr Andrew Smith abstained

It was proposed that there were no objections by Cllr Syd Gaskin, seconded by Cllr Bleddyn Williams. **Resolved.**

5. Setting the Precept for 2021/22

The Town Clerk had distributed a spreadsheet to each Member and went through the various budget lines one by one asking Members for their comments and/or agreement to each line.

There were 5 new budget proposals - vehicle speed signs, translation services, town plan initiatives, Coed y Brain adaptations and running costs.

There were the following increased budget lines:

Salaries / PAYE & NI, Pension – to cover new Project Officer Post

Subscriptions & membership – to cover cost of One Voice Wales membership

Telephone & broadband costs – to cover an additional mobile phone for Project Officer.

Along with 1 overspend - the A55 tourist sign costs.

It was noted that nearly all of the new, increased and overspend costs had been resolved by Full Council at previous meetings. Translation Services / Welsh Policy and Anti Speeding initiatives being the exceptions yet to be resolved fully but they are future agenda items.

The Town Clerk informed Members that the reconciliation of Council accounts at 31/12/2020 showed that the Deposit Account had £62,692 and the Current Account had £87,261. When all commitments are accounted for, this leaves a sum of £137,050 with another quarter to come.

Four options of precept were presented for Band D households for discussion.

Members had a lengthy and robust discussion on several aspects of the above information which especially considered the Council's balances being held in the bank. This is governed by a requirement by the Auditor General and CIPFA of around 10% being considered adequate.

In addition, the County Library Service was offering a discount of 50% for the service Council subsidy for 20/21 if agreement could be made to subsidise £12,000 for the next 3 years.

Cllr Mike Kermode proposed that the offer be accepted, seconded by Cllr Gareth Rowlands.

Resolved.

Cllr Mike Kermode proposed that Option D of £87.09 per Band D household be approved, seconded by Cllr Bleddyn Williams.

Cllr Gareth Rowlands proposed an amendment that Option C of £92.33 be approved, seconded by Cllr Mike Elgin. The vote proved 6 against, 4 for. The amendment was defeated.

The original proposal by Cllr Mike Kermode was **Resolved**.

6. Date of Next Meeting – Thursday 14th January 2021 at 7pm