



Cyngor Tref
Rhuddlan
Town Council

**Rhuddlan Town Council – Minutes of the Budget & Precept meeting on the 10th January
2023**

Hybrid Meeting

Present:

Cllr Mike Elgin (Mayor)
Cllr Mike Kermode (Deputy Mayor)
Cllr Ivor Beech
Cllr Jackie Burnham (virtual)
Cllr Reg Davies
Cllr Gareth Rowlands (virtual)
Cllr Val Simmons
Town Clerk
Clerical Assistant/Minute Clerk (virtual)

1. Apologies

Cllrs Ann Davies, Arwel Roberts, and Bleddyn Williams

2. Declaration of Interest

None offered

3. Urgent Matters

None

4. Setting of Precept 2023/4

The Town Clerk had circulated a spreadsheet to each Member which was shared on screen in the Chamber and virtually. He then went through the various budget lines one by one asking Members for their comments on each line.

Several of the budget lines were commented on by Members such as:-

- The inclusion of £5k for further road safety initiatives.
- An increase of the website and social media budget to cover the agreed tourism website costs.
- Increase of the library financial support budget to help meet any potential DCC library cuts for this valued service.
- The removal of the elections & election booklet budget as no election expected.
- Removal of the new cemetery budget.
- Reduction of the Town Plan budget whilst working on a new town plan.
- Provision for Hwb Rhuddlan running costs net of any income.
- Reduction in budget for dog fouling issues.

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- Increase the MUGA electricity budget to accommodate the imminent energy costs rise

There were 5 new budget proposals totalling £22,748.00 – MUGA lights upgrade to LED bulbs to save on energy costs, Admiral's Field circulatory path (from commuted sums), Vicarage Lane tree maintenance, Admiral's Field gate refurbishment, High Street planters, additional Christmas lights and commuted sums match funding.

The Town Clerk informed Members that the proposed budget as discussed would total £213,045.00 and provided four options of how the budget could be achieved via the precept, based on 1719 properties in Rhuddlan, and an anticipated reserve of approximately £85,000.00 at the end of this financial year.

After a meaningful discussion recognising the economic crisis being experienced by household budgets, the need for Council to use some reserves to help keep the precept low, and yet fully meet the Council's financial commitments, Cllr Mike Kermode proposed that Option 4 be approved. This option is for a £106.48 precept which is a small increase of £7.60 per annum per household, or just £0.63p a month and utilises £35,000.00 of Council's reserves to support this small annual increase. Seconded by Cllr Val Simmons. **Resolved.**

It was also noted One Voice Wales recommend that Council reserves should be between 25% and 50% of annual spend which the resolution above provides the Council with.

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