



**LAMPETER TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF A FULL COUNCIL BUDGET MEETING
THURSDAY 12th JANUARY 2017 @ 7.30pm
AT THE CHURCH HALL LAMPETER**

1. CHAIRPERSON - INTRODUCTION

The Mayor Cllr. David Smith stated that the purpose of the meeting was to gauge the level of the Precept (local tax levied by the Town Council), for the next financial year (April 2017-March 2018).

PRESENT:

Mayor Cllr David Smith; Deputy-Mayor Hag Harris;
Town Cllrs: Rhys Bebb-Jones; Andrew Carter;
Robert Phillips; Christopher Thomas; Selwyn Walters;
Mr Derek Marshall (Internal Auditor)

2. APOLOGIES

An apology for absence was received from Cllrs. Elsie Dafis; John Davies; Elin Jones; Kistiah Ramaya; Ann Morgan; Dorothy Williams & Derek Wilson

3. DISCLOSURE OF PERSONAL INTEREST – None Declared.

4. THE PRECEPT FOR THE NEXT FINANCIAL YEAR

The Mayor guided members through the Budget Report (attached) and queries were raised where necessary. Items, which required additional expenditure, were noted. Matters raised from the Report included

4.1 Minute 1 of the Report Appendix 4 – *What are the Town Council's Fixed Assets?*

The value of the Town Council's Fixed Assets at 31.03.2016 had been £164,617.83. Other items had not been included as they were of "no monetary value". According to Grant Thornton Auditors these items should be valued at their purchase cost (where known) and of "no monetary value" when not known and included within the Fixed Assets' Register of the Town Council. They include 2 (not 3 as previously quoted Judges' Chairs), which have been deposited at the Lampeter Museum (cost to be quoted as £200 each); 2 Eisteddfod Chairs (cost to be quoted as £200 each); 12 leather chairs (cost to be quoted as £250 each) – these leather chairs are currently held at the Victoria Hall, Lampeter, within the main room. It would be asked whether they could possibly be kept in a Meeting room at Victoria Hall.

No monetary value: clock; Patagonia Plaque; Ceredigion Plate; 2 Chinese Gold Medals; Roll of Honour Board.

Benches War Memorial: £400 each

Bench outside Soar Cemetery: £419.71

Fence Maesyderi Field: £9,018 (inc VAT). Advice was sought concerning ownership of the fence at a recent Ceredigion CC Consultative meeting. It was stated that ownership was transferred to Ceredigion CC, the landlord of the Maesyderi Field after its purchase. The Town Council was advised during the Consultative meeting that it was not necessary to include this item within its Fixed Assets' Register. Mr Derek Marshall, the Town Council's Internal Auditor stated that it would be good practice to receive written confirmation from Ceredigion County Council to satisfy audit requirements, which could arise in the future.

The Town Council currently undertakes repairs regarding the fence where necessary. It was **RESOLVED** to find out whether the fence was included within the Town Council's Public Liability Insurance.

- 4.2 **Minute 3.7.12 Town Council's Notice Board:** It was **RESOLVED** to replace the Perspex, which is vandal-proof, as it appears opaque in part. Cllr Chris Thomas will re-do the paintwork.
- 4.3 **Minute 3.7.13** The Mayor's Chain-in need of valuation once again, and insured accordingly.
- 4.4 **Minute 3.8.2: Floral Displays over the summer months:** estimated cost £10,000. The Town Council could work with other Town Councils to reduce the cost.
- 4.5 **Cllr Chris Thomas said that** new fencing and other work will be necessary at Parc-yr-Orsedd, next year. Estimated cost £5,500.
- 4.6 **New Town Entrance Signs: Further communication had been received from Mr Tom Delph-Janiurek, Senior Engineer Traffic Management Ceredigion CC. Plates were suggested as opposed to replacing the entire signs.**

Whilst CCC would take responsibility for the maintenance of the plates, the Town Council would be required to meet the cost of replacement if they were to be stolen, damaged, or defaced and required replacement. Similarly, when the plates come to the end of their useful life, the Town Council would be responsible for meeting the cost of renewing them. Please also note that due to the relatively lower height at which these plates would be mounted, the Town Council might wish to consider removing planters from under the existing signs where these have been placed, to avoid visibility onto the plates being obscured.

The alternative to these supplementary plates would be to redesign and replace the town signs completely. The new signs would be likely to require new sign posts and foundations. Very approximately, the cost of this, including a design fee, would be likely to be £5,000 - £6,000. Please note that it would be unlikely that the bilingual text 'Birthplace of Rugby in Wales' would be able to be in a larger font size, without other elements of the sign (i.e. the town twinning information) being removed.

The option to add straplines rather than acquiring new signage had two advantages viz the financial cost (£800 in total) and the time element (2 months). It was **RESOLVED** to accept the straplines, designed to be the same width as the main sign. The panel to include the wording *Birthplace of Welsh Rugby* (bilingual) and rugby ball icon. **RESOLVED:** Cllr Walters to liaise with Ceredigion CC.

The savings associated with purchasing the plaques as opposed to the purchase of new signs could release funds for additional signage within the town.

4.7 **A new bus-shelter** could be positioned outside the Nat West Bank. Proposed by Cllr Hag Harris.

4.8 **Safe Routes in the Community:**

Communication received from Mr Gari Jones, Ceredigion CC (22.12.2016).

Members noted the following:

The majority of construction works for Year 1 2016/17 have now been completed and include: a new 20 mph Zone with traffic calming measures and widened footways in the vicinity of Ysgol Bro Pedr, along with upgraded street lights. The installation of a new scooter shelter and cycle shelter compound at the primary school is programmed for January. One of the aims of these works is to encourage increased Active Travel journeys in the Town and particularly to and from the school and I hope the residents of Lampeter appreciate the benefits of the work undertaken to date. The grant total for Year 1 2016/17 was £116,250 which includes the match funding contributions from Lampeter Town Council and Ceredigion County Council.

The grant bid was provisionally agreed for 2 years and an estimate of £62,000 was provided to the Welsh Government for 2017/18 and I would kindly ask that Lampeter Town Council considers providing a further financial contribution towards the match funding requirement for the proposed works which will hopefully include the following:

- *Improve the footway link between Maes y Felin Estate and North Road (A482).*
- *Improve the footway along North Road (A482).*
- *Widen the footway on Drovers Road.*

I would be grateful for a reply on this matter as early as possible in January as we anticipate the deadline for grant submissions will be the end of January 2017.

Whilst writing, I would kindly ask members to also start considering new pedestrian and cycle routes that would benefit Lampeter along with existing routes which need improving, in order to be considered for inclusion on the Integrated Network Map which will need to be submitted to the Welsh Government in November 2017. The intention is for aspirational routes to be considered for up to the next 15 years and there is some information available on the Ceredigion Council website:

<https://www.ceredigion.gov.uk/English/Resident/Travel-Roads-Parking/active-travel/Pages/default.aspx> . We will undertake a public consultation, most likely in February / March next year and the Town Council and Local Members will be contacted at that time as consultees.

5. **DECISION CONCERNING THE PRECEPT 2017-18**

Options concerning the Precept were considered. Cllr Rob Phillips was in favour of a stand-still Precept of £41,000. Normal running costs had been forecasted at approximately £41,000, which would be met from the Precept. He felt that now was the time to spend some of the £129,415 held in reserve.

After careful deliberation, it was unanimously **RESOLVED** (Proposer Cllr Robert Phillips; Secunder, Cllr Hag Harris) that the Precept for the next financial year would remain at the same as the previous year i.e. at **£41,000** due to;

- The current economic climate;
- The generosity of past precepts due to adjustments in CCTV Cameras' Costs &
- The high level of reserves held by the Town Council.

The £41,000 represents a payment of £45.19 p.a. and 87 pence per week for the Band D Rate-Payer. The TC's Precept forms a small percentage of the Council Tax Bill e.g. In the Yr 2016-17 a Band D Council Tax Payer would have expected to pay £1,124 to the County Council; £200.07 to the Dyfed-Powys Police and £45.19 to the Town Council: **Total £1,368.94 ***

6. Renewing the Town Council's Zurich Insurance Policy

It was **RESOLVED** to renew the second of the 3 Year Long Term Agreement £1,465.23. To add £7,113.60 – new Christmas lights, which were purchased in NOV. 2016. Also, to make enquiries concerning the Mayor's Chain (cross-ref 4.3) and the Fence at Maesyderi Field (cross-ref 4.1)

7. PAYMENTS

The following payments were made as the Town Council did not meet in December (to meet the term of payment)

7.1 Wales Audit Office: External Audit of the Town Council for the Fiscal Year 2016-17: £231 (VAT £0);

7.2 SWALEC: Lights at War Memorial: £14.04; VAT £0.69;

7.3 Clerk's Salary (net) November 2016 £760.79;

7.4 HMRC November 2016 £90.92;

7.5 Heat/Light/Storage: Clerk – Oct, Nov, Dec 2016 £60.

8. Lloyds Bank Fixed Term Bond of £108,000 matures on the 23/01/2017. It was

RESOLVED to re-invest £78,000, therefore instant access will be available as follows: £18,726 (projected amount in Lloyds Bank Current A/c 1/04/2017) + £41,000 (Precept) + £30,000 (transfer from Bond) + interest received of £1,143 (on maturity of Bond); approximately £91,000.

£41,000 to meet normal running costs and £50,000 to meet larger expenditure.

9. PLANNING MATTERS

9.1 Planning Consultation Ceredigion County Council A170007: Applicant WD Lewis and Sons: Location: 90-92 Bridge Street, Lampeter. Proposal: Building an extension to feed store building. Town Council's Comments: No Objection.

9.2 Planning Consultation Ceredigion County Council A161196: Applicant: LAS Recycling Ltd. Location: Tregaron Road, Lampeter. Proposal: Partly retrospective application for the building of a new ancillary office building. Town Council's Comments: No Objection.

9.3 Planning Consultation Ceredigion County Council A161187: Applicant: Belle Vue Gardens, Aberaeron, Ceredigion. Proposal: Change of use of clinic into a retail clothes shop- 46 High Street, Lampeter. Town Council's Comments: No Objection.

The meeting ended at 8.55pm.

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Thursday 26th January 2017 at 7.30pm at St Peter's Church Hall, Lampeter.

(Signed: Chairman and date)

** Figures quoted from Ceredigion County Council 2016-17 Information for Council Tax Payers and Ratepayers*