



**LAMPETER TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF A FULL COUNCIL BUDGET MEETING
THURSDAY 12th JANUARY 2012 AT 7.30PM
AT THE CHURCH HALL LAMPETER**

1. CHAIRPERSON'S WELCOME

The Mayor Cllr. Hag Harris, extended a welcome to all present and 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 2012-March 2013).

PRESENT:

Mayor Hag Harris; Deputy-Mayor Kistiah Ramaya;
Town Cllrs: Cecilia Barton; Margaret Davies Evans; Selwyn Walters;
Chris. Thomas & Dorothy Williams.

2. APOLOGIES

An apology for absence was received from Cllrs. John Davies, Andrew Carter, Rob Phillips & Derek Wilson.

3. DISCLOSURE OF PERSONAL INTEREST

Minute 4.6: Mayor H. Harris.

4. THE PRECEPT FOR THE NEXT FINANCIAL YEAR

The Budget Report (attached) was discussed at length. It was unanimously **RESOLVED** that the Precept for the next financial year would remain at the same figure, as the previous year i.e. at £43,220 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 £43,220 represents a payment of £47.89 p.a. and 92 pence per week for the Band D Rate-Payer. Allowing for inflation (at 5%), this figure represents a decrease for the Lampeter rate-payer. The TC's Precept forms a small percentage of the Council Tax Bill e.g. in the yr 2011-12 a Band D Council Tax Payer would have expected to pay £914.96 to the County Council; £189.09 to the Dyfed-Powys Police and £47.89 to the Town Council: Total £1,151.94 *

Members felt that running costs could be met within this budget. Additional payments could be met from reserves. The fact that the precept has remained the same for the 8th year in succession can be attributed to the prudent way in which the Town Council has handled its money.

The level of reserves was considered (projected figure at 31/03/2012, in the region of £134,000). It was reported that the Town Council could be facing financial challenges in the future, as Britain is facing severe public-spending cuts and is currently in recession. The amount held in reserves could assist in delivering

projects, which would involve additional expenditure, to the amount raised within the remit of the Precept.

It was RESOLVED:

- 4.1 **To reduce the balance** on the Santander A/c to £100 (Signatories Cllrs Chris Thomas and Dorothy Williams);
- 4.2 **To transfer the** £910.60 raised for the Bike Track to a separate account;
- 4.3 **To opt for one year insurance** cover by Zurich Municipal at £2,053.27. Present items insured: Computer Equipment; Christmas decorations lights; Civic Regalia: 14 Civic Cloaks; 4 Planters.
- 4.4 **To make an inventory** of all the Town Council's fixed assets and to decide which additional items should be insured. Also to repair and revalue the Mayor's Chain.
- 4.5 **That the Mayor's Allowance** would not be increased further to the 1.5% per annum, already in place.
- 4.6 **Where the Mayor's tenure** extends to 13 months, members were reminded that it had been resolved in the past, that an additional month's allowance would be apportioned to the Mayor.
- 4.7 **To find out from One Voice Wales** arrangements re the resident Mayor's duties post election and before the inauguration of the new Mayor. (tenure 13 months)
- 4.6 **That the Clerk** would remain to receive an annual increment as passed in the January 2010 Budget Meeting, on the anniversary of the start date of her employment in May of each year.
- 4.7 **Travelling Costs** for the TC would be increased from 40p/mile to 44p/mile.

5. PLANNING

- 5.1 **Application No: A12004:** Change of use of land to ancillary storage yard: Travis Perkins, 1-4 Lampeter Business park, Tregaron Rd, Lampeter.
Applicant: LAS Holdings. **Comments submitted by TC:** No Objection to the expansion of storage area but some landscaping should be incorporated in the scheme i.e. a narrow area should be maintained.
- 5.2 **Ceredigion Local Development Plan:** Proposed Focused Changes: Ceredigion CC: Cllr Barton agreed to read the information and proposed changes.

The meeting ended at 8.30 pm.

7. DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Thursday 26th January 2011 at 7.30pm at St Peter's Church Hall, Lampeter.

(Signed: Chairman and date) _____

** Figures quoted from Ceredigion County Council 2011-12 Information for Council Tax Payers and Ratepayers*