



LAMPETER TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES OF A FULL COUNCIL BUDGET MEETING THURSDAY 8TH JANUARY 2015 AT 7.30PM AT THE CHURCH HALL LAMPETER

*Members were invited to pray at the beginning of the meeting.
Cllr Rob Phillips led those concerned, in prayer.*

1. CHAIRPERSON'S WELCOME & PERSONAL MATTERS

The Mayor Cllr. Elsie Dafis welcomed all to the meeting. Members were sorry to hear that Cllr Greg Evans was presently unwell and in hospital. It was **RESOLVED** to forward the Town Council's best wishes.

It was **RESOLVED** to send a letter of congratulations to Mrs. Judith Walters on receiving an MBE for her services to the Girl Guides. Over the years, Mrs. Walters has held many roles with the Girl Guides to include District Commissioner.

Members observed a minute's silence in memory of Daniel Redureau, 32, Rue de Belair, 49230 St. Germain sur Moine, France, who has, sadly, passed away recently. He had been involved with the Lampeter Town Twinning from its inception and remained the Vice-Chairman.

2. INTRODUCTION

The Mayor 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 2015-March 2016).

PRESENT:

Mayor Cllr Elsie Dafis; Deputy-Mayor Christopher Thomas
Town Cllrs: John Davies; Hag Harris; Ann Morgan; Rob Phillips,
Kistiah Ramaya; David. Smith; Selwyn. Walters & Dorothy. Williams.
Member of the Public; Mr Chris Studman

APOLOGIES

An apology for absence was received from Cllr. Andrew. Carter & Cllr Derek. Wilson.

Cllr Greg Evans was absent due to ill-health.

3. DISCLOSURE OF PERSONAL INTEREST

None declared.

4. THE PRECEPT FOR THE NEXT FINANCIAL YEAR

The Budget Report (attached) was discussed at length. It was unanimously agreed that the Precept for the next financial year would remain at the same figure, as the previous year i.e. at £41,000. This represents a payment of £46.33 p.a. and 89 pence per week for the Band D Rate-Payer. Allowing for inflation (at 1%), this figure represents a decrease for the Lampeter rate-payer. The figure has remained the same, but the value, has decreased.

Members felt that running costs could be met within this budget. Additional payments could be met from reserves.

The level of reserves was considered (projected figure at 31/03/2015, in the region of £123,000). It was reported that the Town Council could be facing financial challenges in the future, as Britain is facing severe public-spending cuts and remains in recession.

5. **PARITY WHEN MAKING DONATIONS**

Parity would be aimed for, when making donations to the following local annual events within the town:

5.1 Lampeter Agricultural Society;

5.2 Lampeter Carnival;

5.3 Lampeter Food Festival; &

5.4 Eisteddfod Pantyfedwen, Lampeter;

Other events would be considered individually for example:

The Lampeter Round Table & The Citizen's Advice Bureau.

It was stated that the Town Council had previously endeavoured to establish a rule, which could be applied when considering financial applications, for example smaller organisations not within the town would receive up to £50; smaller organisations within the town would be considered within the £50- £500 Band, and larger organisations would fall within a higher bracket. It was felt that it was unnecessary to be too rigid. It was **RESOLVED** to refer to past minutes to find out further information.

Generous donations have been given in the past year. The total in the first 9 months of the present financial year equals £12,127. £7,728 was the sum awarded during the entire previous year. Some Town Councillors felt that the the 4 main events (5.1; 5.2; 5.3 & 5.4) should receive the similar amount of funding, regardless of the reserves held ..

6. **THE TOWN COUNCIL TO ADOPT CERTAIN PROJECTS WITHIN THE TOWN**

Funds could be necessary in the future should the Town Council adopt certain projects for example the maintenance of the Lampeter War Memorial. A response is awaited from the County Council in relation to the annual cost associated with the War Memorial and Garden.

A letter was received from Mr. Paul Arnold, Ceredigion County Council on the 10th December 2014 concerning the Floral Displays within the town over the summer months. The County Council has identified savings to be made in its budget of £80,000, which supports the summer and winter bedding, the spring bulbs and the On-street floral displays. The budget cut is £40,000.

The service has been enhanced over the years for historic reasons and mainly in support of the Towns which entered the Wales in Bloom competition or sought support in attracting grant aid. Over the years this has led to an unequal provision across the Towns in relation to the budget allocated to each town, the range and size of the floral displays. In Lampeter the costs for 2015 include

Static Beds £1,073.96

On Street £2,250.00

Bulbs (no cost in 2015)

Watering £4,200

Currently the County Council has an existing contract with a local supplier for the supply of plants until 2016, which the County Council would like to maintain. From 2016 the supply of all plants will need to be retendered. This would be a natural contractual break for the Town Council to consider the issue of floral displays in the future.

It was enquired whether the Town Council could meet the watering costs during the summer of 2015 viz £4,200.(should be County Council's arrangement be adopted) It was **RESOLVED** to commit in principle and to find out further information concerning the cost should the work be undertaken by individuals appointed by the County Council or whether costs could be reduced should the Town Council decide to make its own arrangements. Also to find out the locations of the displays. The savings need to come into effect as from the 1st April 2015. It was **RESOLVED** to discuss the matter further at the next meeting of the Town Council

7. **CCTV COSTS**

Members stated that no discussion was necessary regarding CCTV costs for the next financial year. The 6 CCTV Cameras which were paid for, in part by the Town Council up until 31 March 2014 were turned off by Ceredigion County Council on the 1 April 2014.

8. **PAYMENTS**

- 8.1 **Town Council's Insurance 2015-16** - Zurich Municipal: £1,960.15
- 8.2 **Transition Llambled Young at Heart Victoria Hall** £48- 3.12.2014
- 8.3 **Transition Llambled Young at Heart** (Nov) Victoria Hall £14.00
- 8.4 **Clerk's Salary** December 2014 £685.73; HMRC £72.36.
- 8.5 **Gwenfudd Jones £25.00** – Town Crier's Outfit – Late Night Shopping
- 8.6 **Mr Gwynne Davies-** Loudspeakers – Late Night Shopping - £120
- 8.7 **Balloon Modelling/stilt walking** – Late Night Shopping £180
- 8.8 **SWALEC** Light at War Memorial £14.73

9. **AOB**

Cllr Dorothy Williams was thanked for her efforts in relation to organizing the Late Night Shopping Event 2014. She had co-worked with members of the Lampeter Chamber of Trade to include, in particular, Tina Morris, Lampeter LAS in order to secure the success of this annual event. It was **RESOLVED** to send a letter of thanks to Tina Morris. The Town Council had made a contribution of approximately £1,000.

The meeting ended at 9.00 pm.

10. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING:**

Thursday 29 January 2015 at 7.30pm at St Peter's Church Hall, Lampeter.

(Signed: Chairman and date) _____