



**LAMPETER TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF A FULL COUNCIL BUDGET MEETING
THURSDAY 14th JANUARY 2016 @ 8.20pm
AT THE CHURCH HALL LAMPETER**

1. CHAIRPERSON - INTRODUCTION

The Mayor Cllr. Chris Thomas 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 2016-March 2017).

PRESENT:

Mayor Cllr Christopher Thomas; Deputy-Mayor David Smith;
Town Cllrs: Andrew Carter; Elsie Dafis; John Davies; Hag Harris;
Elin Jones; Rhys Jones; Ann Morgan; Robert Phillips; Kistiah Ramaya
& Dorothy Williams.
Mr Chris Studman; Mrs Carol Thomas (Simultaneous Translator)

2. APOLOGIES

An apology for absence was received from Cllrs. Adrian Kendon; Selwyn Walters & Derek Wilson

3. DISCLOSURE OF PERSONAL INTEREST – None Declared.

4. THE PRECEPT FOR THE NEXT FINANCIAL YEAR

The Budget Report (attached) was discussed at length.

The possibility of decreasing the Precept was considered. The Precept had been higher than the expenditure of the Town Council for many years and accumulating funds above the recommended amount, was not perceived as an objective of the Town Council.

The possibility of keeping the Precept at its present figure viz £41,000 was also considered.

After careful deliberation it was unanimously **RESOLVED** (Proposer Cllr Kistiah Ramaya; Seconder, Cllr Dorothy Williams) 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 £46.05 p.a. and 89 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 2015-16 a Band D Council Tax Payer would have expected to pay £1,070.17 to the County Council; £200.07 to the Dyfed-Powys Police and £46.05 to the Town Council: **Total £1,316.29 ***

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 or decreased during the last 11 years could be attributed to the prudent way in which the Town Council has handled its money.

The level of reserves was considered (projected figure at 31/03/2016, in the region of £130,000). 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. 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 for example Maesyfelin Play-Area; War Memorial Garden; Town's Floral Display over the Summer; Christmas Lights, IT Training, re-introduction of the CCTV Cameras; hosting of the National Eisteddfod in Ceredigion in 2020; CCC's Safe Routes in the Community Grant. Money may be needed to safeguard green spaces within the town for future generations.

5. **ICT and Web Expenditure**

Cllr Rob Phillips had researched various options concerning desktops/printers/software.

The following were favoured: Desktop: Packard Bell 1 Media S2984 + Screen £389; Microsoft Office Home and Business 2016 Software £190; Brother MFCL27DW Printer, Scanner and Copier £223; Anti-Virus (commercial) £63 (2 years).

There could be some variation to the costs quoted above to include VAT costs. Changes to the Town Council's Website were also considered.

Each Cllr will be assigned an email address using the lampeter-tc.gov.uk domain . Members thanked Cllr Phillips for his work in collating the information and for compiling the report.

6. **Renewing the Town Council's Zurich Insurance Policy**

It was **RESOLVED** to opt for the 3 Year Long Term Agreement £1,449.12.

7. **AOB**

Members were saddened to hear of the recent passing away of the Town Council's Internal Auditor namely Mr Richard Matthers. It was **RESOLVED** to express the Town Council's condolences to Mrs Matthers and his family.

The meeting ended at 9.50 pm.

8. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Thursday 28th January 2016 at 7.30pm at St Peter's Church Hall, Lampeter.**

(Signed: Chairman and date) _____

** Figures quoted from Ceredigion County Council 2015-16 Information for Council Tax Payers and Ratepayers*