



**LAMPETER TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF A FULL COUNCIL BUDGET MEETING
THURSDAY 8th JANUARY 2009 AT 7.00PM
AT THE TOWN HALL, LAMPETER**

1. CHAIRPERSON'S WELCOME

The Mayor Cllr. Derek Wilson, 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 2009-March 2010).

PRESENT: Town Cllrs:

Mayor Derek Wilson; Deputy-Mayor Selwyn Walters,
Cecilia Barton, Andrew Carter, Greg Evans, Robert Phillips,
Kistiah Ramaya, Chris Thomas & Dorothy Williams,
Town & County Cllr Robert (Hag) Harris,
& County Cllr Ivor Williams.

2. APOLOGIES

An apology for absence was received from Cllr. John Davies,
Margaret Davies Evans and Lynda Mason-George.

3. DISCLOSURE OF PERSONAL INTEREST

A blanket declaration of personal interest- from all councillors in relation to the discussion appertaining to the street lights.

4. STREET LIGHTING

Information received from CCC outlined changes to street lighting as from the 1st April 2009. This will involve part-night lighting outside the Town Centre and the replacement of old street lights, which should lead to lower maintenance costs and improved efficiency. The Town Council was offered the opportunity of paying for some/all street lights to be kept alight from 12midnight to 5.00am. Members explored this possibility and the subsequent implications on the next year's budget.

Maps were also received from CCC, showing all the street lights on roads in the Lampeter Ward. There are five categories of roads (Class 1,2,3,4 & Trunk Roads)

- Lights with a number beginning 101-located on class 1 roads
- Lights with a number beginning 201-located on class 2 roads
- Lights with a number beginning 301-located on class 3 roads
- Lights with a number beginning 401-located on class 4 roads
- Lights with a number beginning 501-located on Trunk Roads-these lights are operated by the Welsh Assembly Government and are not part of the process, they will stay on all night.
- Lights with a number beginning SL- are Ex-Town or Community Council Lights that are located anywhere and on any class of road including Trunk Roads.

Ex-Town and Community Council Lights (SL-) and lights on class 4 roads (401-) are going to be changed to a new type of light.

All of the Highway Lights and Ex-Community Council footway lights are going to be converted to go off between midnight and 5:00am. The exceptions will be a small number of roads in town centres and some areas where a clear need for all-night lighting can be demonstrated.

Changes can be tabulated as follows:

SL (Ex Town or Community Lights – Footway and Highway) located on					
Class 1 road 101-	Class 2 road 201-	Class 3 road 301-	Class 4 road 401-	Trunk Roads	Other locations
ALL CHANGED TO A NEW TYPE OF LIGHT					
WILL GO OFF BETWEEN MIDNIGHT AND 5.00AM					
CAN BE KEPT ON FOR A FEE OF £14 EACH/ANNUM FOR THE TOWN COUNCIL					

LIGHTS WHICH ARE NOT (SL Ex Town or Community Lights – Footway and Highway) located on				
Class 1 road 101-	Class 2 road 201-	Class 3 road 301-	Class 4 road 401-	Trunk Roads
LIGHT NOT CHANGED	LIGHT NOT CHANGED	LIGHT NOT CHANGED	CHANGED TO A NEW TYPE OF LIGHT	N/A
WILL GO OFF BETWEEN MIDNIGHT AND 5.00AM				
COST TO THE TOWN COUNCIL TO KEEP ON (PER LIGHT PER YEAR) –FULL STREETS ONLY				
£45	£45	£45	£14	N/A

Ex-Town and Community Council lights (SL-) and lights on class 4 roads (401-) can be kept on all night for a fixed fee of £14.00 each, for the financial year beginning on the 1/04/2009, regardless of the financial cost.

Lights on all other roads can be kept on all night for a fixed fee of £45.00 each, for the financial year beginning on the 1/04/2009 regardless of the actual cost.

Individual Ex-Town and Community Council lights (SL-) can be kept on, but only full streets of the others (101-,210-, 301- and 401-)

Members considered the proposition to keep all street lights alight from 12 midnight to 5.00am in Lampeter (apart from the Trunk Roads).

The estimated cost would be in the region of £2,500/annum for approximately 200 street lights.

After discussion members resolved to accept the changes prescribed by Ceredigion CC regarding street lighting as from the 1st April and not pay for some/all street lights to be kept alight from 12midnight to 5.00am. They would, however, monitor the situation over the coming months and work in collaboration with the Police to identify areas where street lighting could be required in the future. Should this arrangement have a negative impact on the quality of life of Lampeter residents, the decision will be reviewed by the TC.

As a result of this discussion no provision is included in the proposed budget 2009-10 for street lighting.

5. THE PRECEPT FOR THE NEXT FINANCIAL YEAR

The Budget Report (attached) was discussed and it was resolved that the precept for the next financial year would remain the same as the previous year i.e. at £43,220. This represents a payment of £48.96 p.a. and 96 pence per week for the Band D Rate-Payer.

Members felt that running costs could be met within this budget. The fact that the precept has remained the same for the 5th year in succession can be attributed to the prudent way in which the Town Council has handled its money. The reduction in CCTV payments has also played a significant role in enabling the TC to be effective stewards of the public purse.

The level of reserves were considered (projected figure at 31/03/2009 £151,000 including the bequest of approximately £11,000 (inc interest received). It was reported that the Town Council could be facing financial challenges in the following year e.g. purchase/leasing Old Primary School's Field (at Maesyderi); leasing the Bryn Field; and that certain services could be withdrawn by the Ceredigion County Council, which could mean that the Town Council will have to fund these costs from the reserves. Additional expenditure could also be needed for other projects which had been outlined in the report.

It was suggested that an increase could be made in the donations made to local charities.

It was reported that the Town Council was not protected under the *Financial Services Compensation Scheme* and that the first £50,000 held at both the Lloyds TSB & Alliance & Leicester were not secured should financial difficulties be encountered by these banks in the future. Clubs & Charities Accounts were eligible for this cover, but Local Councils including Town Councils did not qualify. Spreading the TC's reserves over many banks appeared to be the best option in safeguarding the public's finances.

6. CCTV CAMERAS

Projected cost for the next financial year is £12,000.

7. AOB

7.1 Cllr Dorothy Williams enquired who would assume responsibility for the maintenance of the Town Hall Clock under the new ownership. The Town Hall Clock is not working and has no light – to find out from CCC.

7.2 New Model Publication Scheme: Information Commissioner's Office: In line with Section 20 of the Freedom of Information Act the Information Commissioner has approved a new model publication scheme which should be adopted by all public authorities and will be effective from 1 January 2009: this was noted.

7.3 The Mayor's Installation Ceremony will take place on Friday the 1st May.

The meeting ended at 8.35 pm.

8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Thursday 29th January 2009 at 7.30pm

(Signed: Chairman and date) _____