



**LAMPETER TOWN COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF A FULL COUNCIL MEETING  
THURSDAY 11<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2018 @ 7.30pm  
AT THE SHILOH VESTRY LAMPETER**

**1. CHAIRPERSON'S WELCOME**

The Mayor/ Chairman Cllr. Hag Harris welcomed everyone to the Meeting. It was stressed that it was not a Public Meeting to discuss the Planning Application A171092, but rather a Town Council Meeting, which was (as always) open to the Public.

The Chair stated that 5 vacancies currently existed within the Town Council and sought expressions of interest.

**PRESENT**

**Mayor Cllr R.G. (Hag Harris); Deputy-Mayor** Ann B. Morgan;  
**Town Cllrs:** Elin T. Jones; Rhys B. Jones; Dinah Mulholland;  
Robert Phillips; Kistiah Ramaya; David Smith; Christopher Thomas.  
**Presentation re Planning Application A171092:** Mr John Crowther & Helen Thomas.

**Members of the Public** re Planning Application A171092 (it was resolved in a previous meeting not to record individual names of those present but rather, only those, who made a Presentation).

**Internal Auditor Lampeter Town Council:** Mr Derek Marshall.

**2. APOLOGIES**

**An apology for absence was received from** Cllr. Selwyn Walters.

**3. DISCLOSURE OF PERSONAL INTEREST – None Declared.**

**4. PLANNING APPLICATION CEREDIGION COUNTY COUNCIL (CCC)**

**A171092: Proposal: Demolition of School Buildings and erection of 21 affordable residential dwellings with associated parking, landscaping and ancillary works.**

**Location: Ffynnonbedr Primary School, Bryn Road, Lampeter, Ceredigion, SA48 7EF.**

The above Planning Application had been received by Ceredigion County Council. The determination of Planning Applications by CCC is a semi-judicial process; it is more tightly governed by legislation than many other decisions undertaken by the Development Control Committee CCC. Observations were invited from Consultees, for example, Natural Resources Wales and the Town Council; the Town Council did not have the authority to resolve the present issue but could participate in the Consultation exercise.

**Closing dated of the Consultation:** Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> January 2018.

It is expected that the above Application will be discussed by the Development Control Committee, CCC on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> February 2018 and will appear on CCC's website with Planning Officers' recommendations.

Members of the Public were actively encouraged to write individually to CCC, expressing their concerns.

Some members of the Town Council had responded during the Pre-Application Stage.

Mr John Crowther and Helen Thomas addressed the Town Council (**Appendix 1**) Key Objections (**Appendix 2**)

**From the floor**, the value of the red-brick building was highlighted and its significance in relation to the heritage of the town. It was also stated that, not only local people would be affected, should the Application proceed in its current form, but also, those from the hinterlands.

At the conclusion of the Presentation and dialogue with those present, the public, present, were unanimous in their objection to this Development, in its present state.

After listening to concerns expressed during the meeting and careful deliberation, the Town Council voted unanimously to *object* to the Application and present observations to CCC. (**Appendix 3**).

## 5. THE PRECEPT FOR THE NEXT FINANCIAL YEAR

**To reach a decision concerning the level of the Precept (local tax levied by the Town Council), for the next financial year (April 2018-March 2019).**

The Budget Report (attached) was discussed at length.

After careful deliberation it was unanimously **RESOLVED** (Proposer: Cllr Robert Phillips; Seconder: Cllr Kistiah Ramaya) that the Precept for the next financial year would remain 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 £43.46 p.a. and 84 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 Year 2017-18 a Band D Council Tax Payer would have expected to pay £1,168.81 to the County Council; £213.63 to the Dyfed-Powys Police and £43.46 to the Town Council: **Total £1,425.90 \***

Members felt that running costs could be met within this budget. Additional payments could be met from reserves. The fact that the Precept had remained the same or decreased during the last 13 years could be attributed to the prudent way, in which, the Town Council has handled the public purse.

The level of reserves was considered (projected figure at 31/03/2018, in the region of £116,500). It was reported that the Town Council could be facing financial challenges in the future, as the UK is facing severe public-spending cuts. 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; Play-Apparatus at Parc-yr-Orsedd; War Memorial Garden; Town's Floral Display over the Summer; Harford Square. It was stated that the Town Council should compile a budget for its regular activities, within a year and that they should remain affordable.

It was resolved to re-invest £70,000 within the Lloyds Bank Bond (matures 24<sup>th</sup> January 2018) (£78,000 has been invested for the last 12 months, 0.9% interest)

**Other matter considered:**

**Mayor's Allowance**

It had been resolved in the January 2010 Budget Meeting to increase the Mayor's Allowance by 1.5% each year. It was suggested that it should be increased in line with inflation.

**Members' Allowance**

It is expected that Town/Community Councillors will be awarded an Annual Allowance in the future.

**Clerk's Salary**

It had been resolved in the January 2010 Budget Meeting, for the Clerk, to receive an annual increment, using NALC Guidelines (no additional in-line with inflation increase received). The Chair enquired how long, would the arrangement concerning the Annual Increment, continue. Obligations regarding the Pension Regulator were also considered.

**Sinking Fund**

A Sinking Fund could be set up to account for the repairs/replacements of fixed assets.

Mr Derek Marshall asked whether his role as Internal Auditor would be an ongoing one, throughout the year or confined to the Annual Return, should the Town Council request his services. He would be informed shortly.

Mr Marshall emphasized the importance of keeping receipts for payments.

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

It was **RESOLVED** to renew the final year of the 3 Year Long-Term Agreement viz £1,577.03.

**7. AOB**

**7.1 Civic Regalia:** Cllr David Smith had acquired valuations regarding the Civic Regalia and would forward the information to the Clerk. Zurich Insurance would be made aware of the changes.

**The meeting ended at 10.00pm**

**8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2018 at 7.30pm at Shiloh Vestry, Lampeter.**

**(Signed: Chairman and date)** \_\_\_\_\_

*\*Figures quoted from Ceredigion County Council 2017-18 Information for Council Tax Payers and Ratepayers*