

MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING OF TALGARTH TOWN COUNCIL HELD AT 7PM ON WEDNESDAY 9 JANUARY 2019, IN THE TOWN HALL, TALGARTH, TO DETERMINE THE PRECEPT FOR 2019/2020.

PRESENT: Cllr W Powell (Mayor) (In the Chair), Cllr P Lewis (Deputy Mayor), Cllr Z Argent, Cllr A Bufton, Cllr L Elston-Reeves, Cllr G Jones, Cllr J Lilly, Cllr A Lord, Cllr R Reid

APOLOGIES: Cllr Pip Turner (Deputy Mayor), Cllr M Dodds, Cllr C Voyle, Amy Argent, Youth Member

IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs Josephine Rumsey, Town Clerk

19/01 WELCOME TO CLLR L ELSTON-REEVES – Cllr W Powell, Mayor, welcomed Cllr Elston-Reeves to her first meeting of the Town Council.

19/02 TO DECLARE MATTERS OF INTEREST – There were no declarations of interest.

19/03 TO DISCUSS AND SET PRECEPT FOR 2019/2020 - Noted the Clerk had circulated to Town Councillors in advance of the meeting, the following documents to assist in determining the Precept for 2019/2020:

- Minutes of the last Precept meeting held on 3 January 2018 - approved at meeting on 10 January 2018.
- Accounts Estimates - Year 1/4/2018 – 31/3/2019
- Approved Accounts - Year 1/4/2017 – 31/3/2018
- Burial Fees and Town Hall Hire Charges – last review 3 Jan 2018
- Precept Report including budget projections, actual spend and advice notes prepared by Cllr A Lord were tabled at the meeting.

Cllr W Powell, Mayor, reported that Cllr A Lord had prepared the Precept figures 2019/2020 and handed over to Cllr Lord to present his report.

Cllr Lord tabled his Explanatory Precept Notes and went through his presentation of the Precept form against the key points indicated in his notes.

Cllr W Powell, Mayor, thanked Cllr A Lord for his valued assistance and discussion took place with Town Councillors regarding the 2019/2020 Precept figures.

Reserves – Agreed that one-off expenditure projected for the next financial year be met from the reserves and new recurring financial commitments should be precepted for. It was noted that the Town Council had previously planned to commit a considerable portion of the reserves to replace and extend the central heating system in the Town Hall, which was nearing the end of its life and that the anticipated cost was to be met from reserves.

Proposed by Cllr J Lilly and seconded by Cllr Z Argent, all in favour, to accept the updated figures for 2019/2020, with the following minor adjustments:

- Town Hall – Electricity/Gas - that this figure be reduced from £5,000 to £4,000.
- Town Hall Insurance – that this figure be reduced from £3,500 to £3,000.
- Town Council Loan Account – Clerk clarified that the Loan Account was for 8 years from 8 Sept 2015 – Fixed Interest Rate of 2.12% and the outstanding balance at 8 Sept 2018 was £46,557.87.

Clerk agreed to circulate an up-to-date Loan statement, to include principle and interest figures and the Precept Report to be updated.

Budget Meeting – It was agreed to discuss at a future Town Council meeting the introduction of a quarterly budget monitoring meeting and to develop a strategy for reserves.

PROJECTED TOTAL EXPENDITURE 2019/2020

£76,010.00

PROJECTED INCOME 2018/2019

£77,854.34

Budget Projection Precept Form 2019/2020 - as per attached.

Town Councillors were acutely aware of the financial pressures being faced by fellow local residents, with likely increases to come in Powys County Council Tax demands, including the Dyfed Powys Police and Mid & West Wales Fire & Rescue Authority Precepts. This was a major factor for Town Councillors in their deliberations in determining their Precept level 2019/2020. They were, however, also conscious that if the Precept were to be reduced, it could mean a substantial rise in the future, as town/community councils' responsibilities continue to expand. It was therefore the consensus that the Town Council Precept for 2019/2020 be frozen at the same level as 2018/2019, thus imposing no additional burden on local residents.

Proposed by Cllr J Lilly and seconded by Cllr G Jones, all in favour, that the Precept be set at **£54,000 for 2019/2020** and this proposal be received at the next meeting of Town Council on 16th January 2019 for ratification.

NOTED A 10 MINUTE RECESS

19/04 BURIAL & TOWN HALL FEES –

Burial Fees –Agreed to obtain comparative fees from neighbouring Town/Community Councils, for discussion at an early Burial Committee meeting.

Town Hall Hire Charges – Agreed to obtain comparative fees from neighbouring Town/Community Councils, for discussion with the Town Hall working group.

19/05 DATE/TIME OF NEXT MEETING -

6.30 pm Wed 16 January 2019

There was no further business discussed and the meeting closed at 9 pm.

Signed:

Date: