

MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING OF TALGARTH TOWN COUNCIL HELD AT 7PM ON WEDNESDAY 13 JANUARY 2020, IN THE TOWN HALL, TALGARTH, TO DETERMINE THE PRECEPT FOR 2020/2021.

PRESENT: Cllr W Powell (Mayor) (In the Chair), Cllr P Lewis (Deputy Mayor), Cllr M Dodds, Cllr L Elston-Reeves, Cllr G Jones, Cllr A Lord, Cllr T McClatchey, Cllr R Reid, Cllr S Thomas, Cllr C Voyle

APOLOGIES: Cllr Z Argent, Cllr A Bufton,

IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs Josephine Rumsey, Town Clerk

20/17 TO DECLARE MATTERS OF INTEREST – There were no declarations of interest.

20/18 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 2020/2021:

- Minutes of the last Precept meeting held on 9 January 2019 - approved at meeting on 16 January 2019.
- Accounts Estimates - Year 1/4/2019 – 31/3/2020
- Approved Accounts - Year 1/4/2018 – 31/3/2019
- Burial Fees – last reviewed July 2019
- Town Hall Hire Charges – last review 3 Jan 2018

Clerk tabled the following documents, which had been prepared by Cllr A Lord -

- Precept Report including budget projections, actual spend and advice notes
- Explanatory Precept Notes – Cllr Lord went through his presentation of the Precept form against the key points indicated in his notes.

Cllr M Dodds wished the handyman job, which had been discussed over the last several years, to be progressed.

RESOLVED: To have a sub-group meeting to progress this matter.

Cllr W Powell, Mayor, thanked Cllr Lord for his valued assistance and discussion took place with Town Councillors regarding the 2020/2021 Precept figures.

Reserves – Resolved that one-off expenditure projected for the next financial year, be met from the reserves and new recurring financial commitments will 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 will be met from reserves. Also soundproofing in the Market Hall was considered as a necessary project and costs for this would also be met from reserves.

There were four further sums, which, it was agreed, would be met from reserves.

- £1000 match funding for the TIRC project;
- £970 for essential web site upgrade;
- £700 for water collection “Grow for Talgarth”
- £700 for replacement projector

Town Council Allowances – Resolved that any intention by Town Councillors to claim the £150 allowance to which they are entitled, be noted and accounted for at this and future precept meetings.

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 after the 8 Sept 2019 payment was £34,390.07.

Clerk agreed to circulate an up-to-date Loan statement, to include principle and interest figures.

Town Hall - The replacement windows in the Town Hall was suggested.

RESOLVED: To obtain the advice of the BBNPA Conservation Officer due to the Town Hall being listed.

Zurich Insurance – RESOLVED: to seek clarification re: adequate cover in the event of certain scenarios.

PROJECTED TOTAL EXPENDITURE 2020/2021 **£68,020.00**

PROJECTED INCOME 2019/2020 **£78,535.56**

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 2020/2021. 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 2020/2021 be frozen at the same level as 2019/2020, thus imposing no additional burden on local residents.

Proposed by Cllr M Dodds and seconded by Cllr P Lewis, all in favour, that the Precept be set at **£54,000 for 2020/2021**. Noted Clerk to submit the Precept Request form to Powys County Council by 24 January.

20/19 BURIAL & TOWN HALL FEES –

Burial Fees –RESOLVED Noted the fees had been raised slightly in July 2019 and 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.

19/20 DATE/TIME OF NEXT MEETING -

7 pm Wed 12 February 2020

There was no further business to be discussed and the Chair declared the meeting closed at 8.45 pm.

Signed:

Date: