

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF ABERTILLERY AND LLANHILLETH COMMUNITY COUNCIL
(ALCC) HELD ON 20 JANUARY 2020 at 7.00pm
Held remotely via Zoom**

PRESENT: Councillors:

Gary Oakley (Chair), Peter Adamson, Michaela Assiratti, Vanessa Bartlett, Gill Clark, Roger Clark, Julie Holt, Mark Lewis, Beverley Lucas, Rob Phillips, Allen Rees and, Nick Simmons.

Officers: Steve Edwards, Clerk and Liz McMahon, Admin Assistant.

Others: None

ABSENT: Tracey Dyson, Perry Morgan, Glyn Smith, Bernard Wall, and Graham White

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND WELCOMES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Tracey Dyson and Perry Morgan

Welcomes were extended to everyone present and an introduction to Liz McMahon.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Chair reminded members of the need to declare interests verbally

No other members declared any personal interests.

3. AGREE BUDGET FOR 2021/2022

The Chair welcomed all and explained that where there were items for debate all would have the opportunity to put arguments for and against to allow all present to have an input. This meeting was to firstly agree the budget and then to agree the precept. All votes will be recorded so that all, including the public can see this.

Discussion then ensued during which the following key points arose:

- A large amount has been spent and budgeted for youth engagement projects including the Space Café. Against a backdrop of less activities due to Covid this did not seem reasonable.
- No data or reports have come back from the youth engagement projects as yet but these have been asked for and the Youth Working Group will look all the data.
- The Space Café is currently operating as 3 outreach workers and asked for £9,951. This was given as part of a trial and we are waiting on reports coming back as to how this is progressing.
- Between BGCBC and Space Café £94,000 would need to be found however this would not necessarily be spent. However, one or the other or both could be considered but this would be a decision for the council later in the year.
- In Bloom has £22k earmarked for it this year and this is something to get off the ground and will contribute to wellbeing within the community.

- Although events are in the budget eg Aberfest there was concern that these events may not take place.
- That the spending on Christmas lighting should be looked at
- That the figures of £260k include £94k for Youth Budget which is still to be debated on at a later date.

The Chair reminded all that the Council have a duty to provide a robust budget and agree it by end of January. The budget should cover all potential spending. A precept has to be set that will allow Council to fund all of the budget

Following a motion from Councillor Peter Adamson the Council **RESOLVED** with 6 members in favour (Peter Adamson, Mark Lewis, Gary Oakley, Rob Phillips, Allan Rees, Nick Simmons) and 6 members against (Michaela Assiratti, Vanessa Bartlett, Gill Clark, Roger Clark, Julie Holt, Beverly Lucas) and with the Chair using a casting vote to accept the budget and agree it at £260k

4. AGREE PRECEPT FOR 2021/2022

The Chair explained that the Council would now need to debate the precept for 2021/2022 either increase the precept or keep it at the current rate. The Clerk reminded members that as the RFO he needed to be mindful of ensuring that the Council have enough budget and stated that £190k as a precept would ensure the council was safe and secure. The guidance for Councils is to keep at least 25% of budget in reserves. The current account is in also in surplus as in each of the last 4 years the budget hasn't been spent in full.

A discussion ensued during which the following points were debated:

- The Council have at least £60k surplus in the current account. £90k sitting in reserves.
- That the Council should remain prudent in these times given the hardships that local families are experiencing with furlough and unemployment.

Councillor Julie Holt put forward a motion that the precept be agreed at £190k and the Council **RESOLVED** (only Councillor Peter Adamson voted against the motion) to set the precept for 2020/2021 at £190k

The meeting ended at 8.47 pm.

Signed as a correct record by the Chair

NB these minutes are a summary of the proceedings and record of the decisions taken. They are not intended to be a verbatim record.

Minutes produced by Liz McMahon Administrative Assistant