

MINUTES OF HARLECH COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING TO FINISH SETTING THE PRECEPT HELD AT THE OLD LIBRARY, HARLECH AT 7.30 P.M. ON 27.01.25

APOLOGIES

Cllr. Ceri Griffiths,

PRESENT

Cllrs. Christopher Braithwaite (Chairman), James Maxwell (Vice Chairman), Edwina Evans, Wendy Williams, Rhian Corps, Gordon Howie, Mark Lewis, Simon Turner, Martin Hughes, Reg Chapman, and Annwen Hughes (Clerk)

MATTERS

The Chairman explained that this meeting was held as the Members had agreed to this for the reason that they had not had enough time in the Council meeting of the 6th of this month to set the precept for the financial year 2025/26 as some did not agree with the budget that had been drafted.

Council Budget for the Year 2025/26

The finance sub-committee, which had previously met to discuss the budget, distributed a copy of the budget for the next financial year to each member so they could see the financial situation. The figures were reviewed and discussed in detail regarding the matter above. It was decided that the estimated expenditure for the Council for the next financial year would be as follows:

- Council insurance: £2,200
- Clerk's salary: £2,200
- Clerk's costs: £1,800
- Clerk's office costs: £500
- Clerk's payroll tax: £440
- Clerk's accountant: £228
- Contributions: £1,000
- Harlech and Arduwy Leisure: £10,000
- Memorial Hall Committee: £2,000
- Old Library Committee: £2,000
- Friends of Tany Castell School: £3,000
- Harlech Nursery Group: £2,000
- Cemetery costs: £3,500
- Cemetery grass cutting: £2,200
- Pathways grass cutting: £2,500
- King George's Field grass cutting: £3,000
- Bron y Graig Nature Trail: £3,500
- Welsh Water: £900
- Christmas: £4,000
- Benches: £2,000
- Emptying bins at playing fields: £1,000
- Playground maintenance: £15,000
- Bus shelters: £1,500
- Tennis court maintenance: £3,000
- Playground inspection: £700

- One Voice Wales: £350
- Maintenance of toilets by the Memorial Hall: £3,500
- Contribution to keeping public toilets open: £12,000
- One Voice Wales: £350
- Councillor training: £2,500
- Translator: £1,700
- Councillor allowances: £1,500
- Lawyer's fees: £5,000
- Committee room hire: £200
- Rents: £4,000
- Council website: £2,000
- Tennis court tax: £120
- External auditors: £4,500
- Internal auditors: £400
- Penygraig land: £1,000
- Miscellaneous: £1,000
- Maintenance of various items: £250
- Storage: £1,300
- Community engagement, including youth services: £10,000
- Bank charges: £150

This brings the total to £120,722.

It was forecast that income for the financial year 2025/26 would be approximately £91,450, and £100,253 was estimated to be in the bank at the 31st of March 2025, making a total of £191,703 less reserves that are required equivalent to 6 months expenditure which is £60,361 which makes a total of £40,172 reserves available to keep the precept down and or increase expenditure as at 1st April 2025. After discussion, it was agreed by all the Members to raise the precept from £70,000 to £85,000 to ensure the Council does not face financial difficulties and to meet the budget that had been set.

SIGNED.....Chairman

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