



Meeting Minutes

Minutes of a Finance Committee meeting of Llangunnor Community Council held at Babell Zion Newydd and via Zoom on Monday, 13 of January 2025, at 7:00 pm

Present: Councillors Elwyn Williams (Chair), Jennifer Slate, Graham Slate, Joan Evans, Matthew Williams, Geraint Bevan and Stewart Bowen. Clerk Amy Evans {Taking minutes}

Others: Llew Thomas, Former Clerk of Gorslas, was in attendance on an advisory basis and one member of the public.

Via Zoom: One member of the public.

1) Apologises

Cllr. Lee Whatley

2) Declarations of Interest

Cllr S.Bowen declared, as the acting Responsible Financial Officer and the author of the budget and precept report a personal but not prejudicial interest in the matter. Cllr Bowen did not vote or express a view in relation to the adoption of any of the options detailed in the report.

3) Consider the minutes of the Finance meeting of Council held on 17th April 2024.

It was agreed and RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the Finance Meeting held on the 17th April 2024. Prop. Cllr J. Slate, Sec. Cllr M. Williams. All in favour.

4) Determination of Draft Budgets and Precept for 2025/2026 Financial Year

4.1 Budgets 2025/2026

- a) The Sub-Committee considered, in detail, a report prepared by the Acting Responsible Financial Officer regarding draft budgets for the year and the implications on the Council's finances of setting various levels of precept.
- b) Members were aware that the Council faced increasing costs in delivering its services and accordingly spent time discussing the basis for the budgets, the factors which were included and whether or not there were options for cost reduction.

4.2 Precept 2025/2026

- a) In setting the level of precept for the coming financial year members were very aware, and spent some considering the effect of any increase on already hard pressed household budgets and their duty to ensure that the Council had sufficient financial resources to maintain and provide its services safely.
- b) The Council had, in previous years, been fortunate enough to be able to use its reserves to reduce the level of precept by some 20% and not to have to increase the precept level in subsequent years. Rising costs and depleted reserves meant that such a position was no longer sustainable and an increase in the precept was necessary in terms of ensuring financial probity.



- c) Members recognised the need to strike a balance between the Council's duty to ensure financial responsibility and the effect on individual households of any increase in the precept.

Resolved:

- That the budget set out in the report for 2025/2026 be adopted.
- That the precept for the forthcoming year be set at £47.63 for a Band D Property representing an approximate increase of 25p per week for a Band D household.

(iii) Recorded Vote.

- That Cllr Graham Slate's request that his vote against the adoption of the recommendation regarding the proposed level of precept be recorded.

Cllr S.Bowen was thanked by Chair for taking on the role of Acting RFO in the absence of Clerk/RFO and for all the work undertaken in preparing the report; this has been formally recorded and shall be conveyed to full Council. Cllr S.Bowen agreed to provide support to the newly appointed Clerk/RFO until April.

5) Date of next meeting to be set at Full Council Meeting, when annual report is due.

There being no further items of business the Chair declared this meeting closed at 20:11.