



CONNAH'S QUAY TOWN COUNCIL

Special Meeting of the Finance & General Purposes Committee Minutes held in Person and Hybrid - Wednesday 24 January 2024

Present: (Attendance Register)

Councillor B. Crease (Chair) presiding

Councillors, D. Addaway, J. B. Attridge, L. Attridge, A. I. Dunbar, A. Dunbobbin, E. S. Faulkner, G. A. Faulkner, E. Loughnane, R. Mansell, A. Manship, D. Owen, V. Roberts, I. R. Smith & A. S. Wren.

Mrs S. Wilson (Clerk)

Mrs S. L. Phillips (Administrative Officer)

193. NOTICE OF MEETING

The notice of meeting was received.

194. APOLOGIES

Apologies for non-attendance were received from Councillors W. Catterall, A. Hughes, A. R. Owen, D. Richardson & P. Shotton.

195. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor A. Wren declared a Personal & Prejudicial Interest in Item 4 – Budget Setting – Allotments.
Councillor B. Crease declared a Personal & Prejudicial Interest in Item 4 – Budget Setting – Allotments.

196. BUDGET SETTING

The Clerk submitted budget papers for the setting of the Council's precept for the financial year 2024-2025 (copy forwarded to Councillors).

The Chair explained each budget heading and stated questions could be asked after each heading was discussed.

The Chair explained the main areas of expenditure.

(a) Quay Play – Scheme Contribution £23,000

As agreed by Council on 6 December a 3 year agreement.

(b) Youth Engagement Programme £25,000



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Members queried the figure of £25,000. The Clerk informed Members that this was a typo error and the figure should read £20,000.

(c) School Milk £35,000

This was agreed to continue.

(d) CCTV £22,500

Members raised concerns over the cost for the CCTV and asked could there be an investigation into what the costings contribution towards.

Councillor A. Dunbobbin informed Members that the use of CCTV was very important to the Police. He advised that he was committed to review not only the CCTV in Connaah's Quay but for all of North Wales.

Councillor R. Mansell informed Members that she had received information regarding the CCTV in Connaah's Quay which she would like to update Members at February's Committee Meeting. The Clerk asked Councillor Mansell to forward on the information and the item would be detailed on the agenda in February.

(e) Staffing £205,650

The Chair explained that the budget for staffing had been well managed with the introduction of structure of roles for staff.

Councillor A. I. Dunbar joined the Meeting by Zoom @ 6.17pm.

(f) Festive Lighting

Members expressed concerns regarding the excessive charge to the Town Council regarding the compliance of the timers as permanent fixtures.

(g) Property Maintenance (General) £31,700

The Chair explained the main areas of expenditure this budget heading are to improve all Town Council venues and facilities.

The Chair explained the main areas of income.

(i) Income

The charge rates for the Town Council venues/facilities to be increased by 10%.

Members referred to the typo error that detailed the change of cost for Family Parties, the paperwork detailed a +70 change where it should read +£5.



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Councillor Dunbobbin commented that instead of increasing the hire charges of the venue maybe it could be considered to increase the bar and café opening prices which would offset the increase in the room hire. He suggested the users of the venues are asked for their opinion on such things as costings etc. The feedback from the public participation to be used to help set next year's budget. Due to a decision required to Flintshire County Council immediately this could be something to be addressed for next year.

Councillor Smith enquired if any budget had been set for the former Clerk's tribunal case.

The Clerk advised that any outcome would be advised in a Part 2 at a future Committee Meeting.

197. COUNCIL TAX PRECEPT 2024-2025

Councillor Attridge proposed to amend the precept claim in the report from £410,012 to £417,312. This will result in an increase of the charge per band D household from the proposed £65.82 a year in the report to £67.00. This represents an increase of £4.61 for the full year which is just over 9 pence a week. This increase will further support the maintenance and repair budget. A programme of urgently required updates to our assets can then be implemented, confidently in the new financial year. This allows Council, without risk, to continue its support for the summer playscheme, youth engagement budget, Caafi Naafi, play park upgrades, free school milk, summer festival and other events. To increase the photocopying costs to be the same for both organisations and public. To reduce the Chairman's Allowance from £2,000 to £1,500 with the £500 moving to Election Costs, this would ensure that the total overhead expenditure remains the same for this budget heading (Civic/Elections). That the Town Council would continue with services from JDH Business Services for the internal audit.

A vote was taken for Councillor Attridge's proposal as above:

For – 12

Against – 0

Abstain – 3

RECOMMENDED:

That the precept is set as follows:



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Precept set at £417,312 – Band D Charge of £67 per annum – an increase of £4.61 per household.

This equates to 7.39% for 2024-25.

Confirmed 7 February 2024

Presiding Chair

Meeting commenced at 6pm and ended at 6.55pm