Minutes of a meeting of the Finance Committee of Llandybie Community Council held at Llandybie Bowls and Tennis pavilion on Wednesday, 17th November, 2021 at 7.00 p.m.

#### Present

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Councillors	R. A. Davies	Mrs K.D.L Davies	Mrs J.E Collins
	Mrs C. Thomas	D. Hopkins	
Apology	I. Rh. Llewelyn		

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# **Declaration of Interest**

Councillor R.A Davies declared an interest in Minute 998 (5) as Secretary and Treasurer of Llandybie Tennis club.

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#### **Budget figures for 2022 -23 Precept**

The Clerk had previously distributed detailed copies of suggested budget figures and projected year end balances for the Council's accounts.

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# **Capital Projects**

Members reviewed the Council's priorities in relation to capital projects and it was **recommended** to approve the following into next year's programme.

# **Projects for 2022/2023**

1) Refurbishment of Bonllwyn park	£25000
2) Hendre Road pavement, Capel Hendre	£30000
3) Park benches at Llandybie park	£2000
4) Wild flower seeds for scattewring at various locations	£1000
5) Floodlight refurbishment at Llandybie park / Tennis courts	£4000
6) Bug Hotels, Bat Houses and Bird Boxes	£1000

A project to replace fencing at Saron park play area and car park at £8100 was recommended from 2020/2021 budget due to Health and Safety concerns on the current railings.

999. Summary Budget figures: 2022-2023				
INCOME	£			
Precept	180,000			
Interest: Lloyds	25			
Interest: investment accounts	250			
Rights of way	3,000			
Hire Agreements	4,700			
Vat reclaimed	12,000			
	199,975			
EXPENDITURE				
Employment	48,858			
Premises cost	16,950			
Office Services	4,800			
Member costs	3,300			
Services and Subscriptions	7,350			
Section 137 payments	ן			
Payments under other powers				
Public open spaces	-			
Village halls				
Burial grounds	18,000			
Rights of way - maintenance	1			
Rights of way - improvement	10,000			
Public lighting - energy	]			
Public lighting - improvement	6,000			
Public Conveniences	12,000			
Park repairs and replacement	30,000			
Grass cutting / litter collection / facilities				
maintenance	28,000			
Community Development Projects	63,000			
VAT	12,000			
Total	260,258			

The deficit of £ 60,283 will be made available from Council reserves.

It was **recommended** that the above figures which included a rise of one salary point for the Clerk, be put forward to the next Ordinary meeting of the full Council on December 1st, 2021.

It was further recommended that Reserves be set at:

# **Earmarked Reserves** - £170k

 $\pounds 150k - parks$  and play areas

 $\pm 20k$  – refurbishment of Caerbryn park – agreed as a payment to Caerbryn Welfare Association once other grant funders had been found for the park refurbishment.

# **General Reserves -** £86,000

This equates to 5.7 months or precept or 2.9 months of gross budgeted expenditure

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#### Precept

It was further agreed to **recommend** to full Council that the precept be retained at  $\pm 180,000$ .

Members were informed that the Band D Council tax for the area for 2021/22 was £40.96, which compares very favourably with neighbouring Council areas such as :-

Ammanford	£132.20	Llanedi	£113.21
Betws	£47.28	Llannon	£186.38
Cwmaman	£214.47	Gorslas	£54.23
Llandeilo	£ 87.86		

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# **Review of Internal Audit procedures**

Scope of Internal Audit – Members were reminded that Mr Lyn Llewelyn was the appointed internal auditor for Llandybie Community Council. It had been resolved at an earlier Full Council meeting on the  $26^{\text{th}}$  May 2021, that he would continue as the internal auditor for 2021/2022. Members reviewed the Offer of Internal Audit Services letter which has specific reference to his independence and competence, adherence to the internal audit plan and his fees.

Independence – Members were informed by the Clerk that Mr Llewelyn will continue to carry out the audit without any undue influence or conflict of interest.

Competence – Mr Lyn Llewelyn has undertaken the internal audit for the council for many years and is fully competent to undertake the role. He has many years of experience in Local Government, is a former Deputy Chief Executive and Finance Officer to One Voice Wales and a Clerk to two local Councils.

Relationships - Mr Llewelyn has no connection with the Clerk / Responsible Financial Officer or any Community Councillor.

Audit Planning and Reporting – Members had resolved to accept the Internal Auditor's report for 2020/2021 at the Full Council meeting held on the 26<sup>th</sup> May 2021. The Minute reads:-

The Clerk read the Internal Auditor's report and comments, which stated that all the control objectives tested had proved to be satisfactory and that there were no matters which needed to be brought to the attention of the Council. Assurance can be expressed in the governance arrangements and the financial statement of the Council for the financial year 2020/21. The appropriate section of the Annual Form had been completed by the auditor which reflected his findings.

It is recommended that the Council should undertake an annual review during the current financial year, of its system of internal control, considered by the Members and duly minuted.

The recommendation had been actioned by the Clerk and adopted by Full council on the 30th June, 2021 under Minute 920.

Members **recommended** that the report did not warrant any further action plans, investigations or internal reviews and that the current system was both effective and efficient in ensuring that Llandybie Community Council's procedures for internal audit were adequate for control purposes.

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As there was no further business to discuss, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 7.55 p.m.