

Thursday, 14th November, 2024

Minutes of a meeting of the Finance Committee of Llandybie Community Council held at the Council offices, High Street, Llandybie and on Microsoft Teams on Thursday, 14th November, 2024 at 7.20 p.m.

Present

Councillors; R. A. Davies, J.W. Tandy, D. Hopkins, A. Evans, C. R. Thomas, P.H. Roberts

Online; D. Thomas,

Apologies; E. J. Davies, Mrs K.D.L Davies, N. C. Davies, L. Wilkins

562.

Declarations of Interest.

Cllrs R. A. Davies declared that he was a member of Llandybie Tennis Club regarding Item 1 on the agenda referring to budget expenditure on Llandybie Tennis Courts.

To receive apologies for absence

Apologies received from Cllr E. J. Davies, Cllr Mrs K. D. L. Davies, Cllr N. C. Davies and Cllr L. Wilkins.

563.

5 Year Asset Management Plan.

5 Year Asset Plan Projections											
Projects	2025 - 26			2026 - 27		2027-28		2028-29		2028 - 29	
	Cost	Grants to be applied for	VAT Claims	Projects	Cost	Projects	Cost	Projects	Cost	Projects	
Community Project from Budget											
Saron Park	15000	5000	3000	Blaenau Park	15000	Derwydd Park	10000	Llandybie Park	10000	Bonllwyn Park	10000
Llandybie Tennis Courts (total project £61,000 inc vat) £51,000 net	32500	18,500	10500	Cwmgwili Park Upgrade	15000	Penybanc	10000	Penygroes	10000	Derwydd Park	10000
CCTV at Saron Park	5000	0	1000			Capel Hendre Park	10000	Gors Ddu	5000		
	48500				30000		30000		25000		
Maintenance of Assets Budget											
Heating System at Llandybie Pavilion	21000	3500	1850	Solar Panels Llandybie Pavilion	5000	Llandybie Pavilion Upgrade of 16 notice boards	5000	To be decided		To be decided	
Shed Roof at Llandybie Pavilion	2000	0	0	Upgrade Offices	3000						
General	3000	3000	300	Llandybie Toilets	4000			10000	To be decided	To be decided	
	26000			Penygroes Toilets	4000						
					16000		15000		16000		16000
Parks and Repairs Budget											
Rubber Overlay at Heol Ddu Park				General park maintenance	10000	General park maintenance	10000				
Penygroes	£2,920.00	0	0								
Gate at Children's Play Area Penygroes	£1,425.00	0	0								
Removal of Fence at Capel Hendre Park	£950.00	0	0								
	£5,295.00		16650		10000		10000		10000		10000
				New projects	15000	New Projects	20000	New Projects	20000	New Projects	25000

The Clerk referred in detail to the 5 Year Asset Management Plan line by line as an explanation of the spend he had included that would impact the next item, the Draft Budget for 2025/26.

Discussion of Budget and Spend on asset projects that were requiring further discussion from the Finance Committee of the 24th of October and the Ordinary Meeting of the 30th of October 2024;

- **Llandybie Tennis Courts;** The Clerk explained that he now had received updated quotes with the best price the same as quoted in January 2024 at £50,659, with subsequent quotes £57,352 more and a third £50,750. Cllr R. A., Davies asked if the Clerk had approached the Tennis Club to ask for a contribution, the Clerk had confirmed he had but the club felt as they did not own the asset that they use the funds they have to foster tennis development and we as landlords should provide a suitable playing surface.

Cllr R. A. Davies asked if the moss problem and the court surface could be guaranteed by the contractor and for how long. The Clerk confirmed as per the previous minutes that contractors could not guarantee the surface as they could not be responsible for the usage rate of the courts. In terms of the moss the Clerk again confirmed as in the previous minutes he had sought the advice of the contractor who had experience of moss eradication and prevention and that they had advised that prevention is the best solution and once the surface is down regular chemical treatment and to look at clearing overhanging trees and regular leaf clearance is the best way forward.

Cllr A. J. Evans and Cllr C. R. Thomas asked that the Clerk look carefully at the chemicals and report back the type of chemical and its possible environmental impact. Also that any tree clearance looked at carefully with a consideration of cut back rather than felling or replacement where felling might be necessary.

The Clerk confirmed that he had a meeting with Carmarthenshire County Council tree officers in the coming week to discuss the trees on the boundary of the tennis courts.

It was **agreed to recommend** £61,000 inc vat be included in the draft budget to be presented for **ratification** to the next Ordinary Meeting and that the Clerk report back at future meetings in his findings in moss treatment.

- **Shed Roof at Bowling Green, Llandybie;** The Clerk explained that he had now had a report of asbestos content of the roof conducted by the County Council and it was clear of asbestos. He now confirmed that as it had been previously agreed to complete the roof in this year's maintenance budget that he had asked the contractor to complete the work at circa £1,800.

Cllr A. J. Evans asked that the cost of £2,000 allocated be retained in next year's budget within general maintenance.

- **Heating System at Llandybie Pavilion;** The Clerk explained that he was in the process of gaining quotations for a full greener heating system with Air Source Heat Pump, Solar Panels and a Battery to save energy created.

The Clerk confirmed that he was applying for a green energy grant that could be £7,500 and was further applying for £10,000 from the Betws Wind Farm Fund.

V. Chair Cllr J. W. Tandy asked that the £5,000 allocated in the 2026/27 budget be brought forward to take the budget item to £26,000.

- **Gate at Children’s Play Area, Penygroes Park;** The Clerk explained that this had become a compliance issue and it was agreed to start the work immediately as there was money available in the maintenance budget and remove it from next year’s budget.
- **Zip Wire at Penygroes Park;** Cllr D. Thomas reminded the Clerk of the request for a Zip Wire at Penygroes Park and the Clerk confirmed he was in the process of pricing the project with a view to inclusion in next years budget discussion for the 2025/26 budget.
- **Contribution to Riverway Park Nr Ddol Y Dderwen;** The Clerk asked for discussion on Riverway Park and the contribution, now removed from the budget proposal, after it had been raised in the Ordinary Meeting.

Discussion; It was discussed in detail and whilst there was a recognition that joint working may be beneficial in future, with eleven parks and the fact that the authority was using its reserves to subsidise the precept that we should use our budget to fund our own assets. The Acting Chair Cllr J. W. Tandy asked for a vote and it was carried not to offer funds to Ammanford Town Council towards Riverway Park by five votes with one abstention.

It was **recommended** that the Clerk update the draft 5 Year Asset Plan to reflect the discussion and add where applicable the changes to the 2025/26 Draft Budget and then to be offered for **ratification** by full council in the November Ordinary Meeting.

564.

Discussion on Precept for 2025/26.

	PRECEPT 2024-25	TAX BASE 2024-25	COUNCIL TAX BAND D 2024-25
Community			
Llandybie	180,000	4,506.16	39.95
Llandybie + 7.7%	193,860	4,506.16	43.02
Increase	13,860	0.00	3.07
% Increase	7.7%	0.0%	7.7%

6 9	7 9	8 9	9 9	11 9	13 9	15 9	18 9	21 9
BAND A	BAND B	BAND C	BAND D	BAND E	BAND F	BAND G	BAND H	BAND I
26.63	31.07	35.51	39.95	48.83	57.71	66.58	79.90	93.22
28.68	33.46	38.24	43.02	52.58	62.14	71.70	86.04	100.38
2.05	2.39	2.73	3.07	3.75	4.43	5.12	6.14	7.16
7.7%	7.7%	7.7%	7.7%	7.7%	7.7%	7.7%	7.7%	7.7%

The Clerk explained that he had received accurate figures showing the impact the proposed 7.7% increased proposed in the Finance Committee of the 24th of October would have on each band of the household banding from Carmarthenshire County Council based on current 2024/25 calculations. The Clerk further explained that the

Thursday, 14th November, 2024

official calculations would be agreed for 2025/26 by the Board of Carmarthenshire County Council after the 12th of December. The County Council finance staff had advised that this calculation rarely changed significantly.

The Clerk asked that a percentage increase be set for ratification in the November meeting in principle and that he update the February Finance meeting of any major changes.

Cllr R. A. Davies felt that after 10 years of not raising the precept that he proposed that rather than increase the precept by 7.7% that a £5.00 charge be set across all bands, Cllr D. Thomas felt that this would be better as a percentage and sitting Chair Cllr J. Tandy calculated this to be 12% and again via debate Cllr D. Thomas suggested 9.5%, but Cllr A. J. Evans felt that the 7.7% was a suitable rate linked to the County Council raise provided that it was a policy to have annual smaller increment raises to keep pace with inflation.

Cllr R. A. Davies still felt that a monetary, rather than percentage increase be agreed but Cllr D. Thomas proposed that 7.7% be accepted with yearly increments and this was seconded by Cllr C. R. Thomas.

A vote was taken and the proposal was carried by five votes for and two against.

It was **agreed** that a precept increase be 7.7% be **recommended** to the next Ordinary Meeting for **ratification**. The Clerk agreed to update the February Finance Committee if any variance in the final figures were affected by the final board decision on the final calculation formula at Carmarthenshire County Council on December the 12th.

565.

Discussion on Draft Budget for 2025/26.

Thursday, 14th November, 2024

Cyngor Cymuned Llandybie - Cynnig y gyllideb 2025-26
Llandybie Community Council - Budget Proposal 2025-26
DRAFT PROPOSAL
EXPENDITURE & INCOME

	Proposal		
	2024-25	2025-26	
	£	£	
Presept	180,000	193,860	Precept
Llog : Lloyds	800	800	Interest: Lloyds
Llog : cyfrifon buddsoddi	250	3,500	Interest: investment accounts
VAT	12,000	24,000	VAT
Section 106	21,750	0	Saron TBD
Grants (Betws Wind Farm Fund)	0	15,000	
Hawliau tramwy	3,000	3,000	Rights of way
Cytundebau llogi	4,700	5,000	Hire Agreements
	<u>222,500</u>	<u>245,160</u>	
Staff	61,864	57,252	Staffing
Adeiladau	22,000	26,000	Premises
Insurance	2,500	3,600	Insurance
Gwasanaethau swyddfa	6,000	7,500	Office Services
Costau Aelodau	15,875	15,000	Member costs
Gwasanaethau a Tanysgrifiadau	6,050	6,050	Services and Subscriptions
Adran 137		0	Section 137
Taliadau dan bwerau eraill		0	Payments under other powers
Mannau agored cyhoeddus		0	Public open spaces
Neuaddau pentref		0	Village halls
Mynwentydd	20,000	20,000	Burial grounds
Hawliau tramwy - cynnal		0	Rights of way - maintenance
Hawliau tramwy - gwella	10,000	5,000	Rights of way - improvement
Toori gwair/sbwriel / cyfleustarau	30,000	31,500	Grass cutting/ litter/ facilities
Atgyweirio a ailosod parciau	20,000	5,295	Park repairs and replacement
Goleuadau cyhoeddus - ynni		0	Public lighting - energy
Goleuadau cyhoeddus - gwella	6,000	4,000	Public lighting - improvement
Datblygiad cymunedol	42,000	48,500	Community development
Costau Etholiadau	0	8,000	Election
Toiledau cyhoeddus	14,000	11,200	Public conveniences
Vat	12,000	24,000	VAT
	<u>268,289</u>	<u>272,897</u>	

Llofnodwyd / Signed

Cadeirydd / Chair

Clerc / Clerk

Predicted Budget at March 31st 2025 THIS FINANCIAL YEAR	Actual Budget	Predicted at 31st March 2025
Expenditure	268,289	254,816
Income	222,500	252,160

Budget 2025 - 26

Expenditure	274,602
Income	231,300

Deficit for 2025/26; funding from reserves

Money to be allocated from reserves	2025 - 26	Note
	27,737	(30789 Allocated 2024-25)

Additional Budget 2025/26 explanation notes

Notes

Staffing;

Clerk going from point 30 to point 33 in April 2024	3,275	As per Job Evaluation
Admin Assitant going from point 5 national pay award to point 13 (Allowance for expected 2.5% national pay award included)	1496	As per Job Evaluation
Pension	2,185	NEST Pension 4% Contribution (less than budgetted of 8%)

Grass cutting;

5% Annual increase in Council Services	1,500
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Community Budget

Increase on last year £6500 due to extra cost of Tennis Courts	6500
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1. Reserves 2025/26 Earmarked

Parks and Play Areas x 11 parks	150,000	Notes (£150,000 2024-25)
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2. Reserve funding of deficit on budget to keep precept at 180k

27,737	(£30,7890 2024-25)
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3. General Reserves

79,276	(£70,211 2024-25)
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This equates to 4.4 months of precept or 2.8 months of gross budgetted of gross expenditure.

4. Growth in Electorate and Households.

As at Oct 21st 2024 there were 9,403 Electors (9238 as of March 2023)

As at Oct 21st 2024 there were 5,380 Households
Typical Band D being review but with 7.7% increase £43.02

5. Predictive balance in the bank at 31st March 2025	257,013
NB £277,013 Less £20,000 agreed from Reserves for Caerbryn Community in January 2025	

The Clerk went through each heading on both income and expenditure explaining the reasoning of why he had set the figures, the discussion points that led to amendments apart from the agreed changes on asset spend from the previous item on the 5 Year Asset Plan.

It was **agreed** that the Clerk make the amendments to the budget proposal suggested in item 563 on the 5 Year Asset Management Plan and present the amended budget for 2025/26 to the next Ordinary Meeting for **ratification**.

566.

Discussion on Electricity supply

The Clerk explained that the contracts on the meters were coming to an end on various dates between December 1st and the end of March 2025 and currently there were two suppliers, EDF Energy and SSE. The clerk advised that the authority would be better served by one supplier across sites which would make bills easier to monitor and that now was a good time to negotiate savings.

The Clerk further explained that he had through an energy agent at no cost to the authority gone out to the market and secured savings of circa £1,200 per annum and each of the meters could convert to one supplier between the dates mentioned.

Five other companies had been looked at for tariffs and Yorkshire Gas & Power had provided the best pricing structure and asked for a discussion between members to consider his advice to move across the electric supply accordingly.

It was **agreed** the Clerk get contracts ready and to **recommend** to the next Ordinary Meeting that the new agreements start from December 1st 2024.

567.

The Quarry Clock at the Old Pensioners Hall

The Clerk reported that whilst the new owners had kindly not charged for the electric supply to the clock enclosure, they had now informed him that they would be

Thursday, 14th November, 2024

charging the costs of the standing charge of keeping the electric supply at building. He had the most recent monthly bill which indicated a charge of £72 per month.

The Clerk felt that this including the regular cost of the clock repair at £250 per call out was a big sum to find and suggested that the current problem of the clock slowing down and stopping regularly would need a more permanent and cost effective solution.

Cllr R. A. Davies felt that this was a village feature and a part of the heritage of the area and must be maintained. The Clerk agreed and Cllr A. J. Evans asked if a solar supply could be looked at, The Chair Cllr D. Hopkins interjected that it was in a shaded area and it might not be practical.

It was **agreed** that the Clerk explore alternative electric sources or suggest a solution and meet further with the owner to discuss options and **report** to the next Ordinary Meeting after having completed his findings.

568.

As there was no further business to discuss, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 8.15 p.m.

_____ Chair