



HAWARDEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the

FINANCE COMMITTEE

held on

13 JANUARY 2020

PRESENT: Chair: Councillor Dave Mackie

Councillors: As per Council Meeting

Officers: As per Council Meeting

328/19 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

As per Council meeting.

329/19 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

No declarations of interest were made by Members pertaining to the Committee.

330/19 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:

IT WAS RESOLVED: that the Minutes of the previous meeting of the Committee held on 9th December 2019 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

331/19 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:

There were none.

332/19 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT:

IT WAS RESOLVED: that the updated list of payments for January 2020 in the sum of £67,445.70 be approved.

333/19 CLERK & FINANCIAL OFFICER'S REPORT:

The Clerk and Financial Officer confirmed that the Council's contributions to the Joint Maintenance Agreement for January had been £8,633.04 and that the Council's Internal Auditor had been scheduled to undertake an interim audit on Wednesday 11th January 2020.

82 Chair's Signature _____

334/19 BUDGET 2020-21:

The Chairman presented the Council's budget proposals for 2020-21 together with the Council Tax precept proposal. He said that together with the Chairman of the Council and the Clerk and Financial Officer they had reviewed the budget, line by line, to ensure that the Council's commitments had been affordable and reviewed against spending patterns and inflation costs.

Members reviewed the budget, page by page, and considered a number of additional budget provisions for Christmas lights and community defibrillators and the need to review the Council's Closed Circuit Television provision across the community as a whole.

The Clerk and Financial Officer highlighted that the draft budget included an amount of £5,500 for the Summer Play schemes but following an email confirmation from the County Council this amount would need to increase to £5,716 with a potential gap of £3,600 if Welsh Government decided not to award the usual grant support.

Councillor Helen Brown requested that a recorded vote be taken and proposed that the council agree to a zero percentage increase in the Council Tax with the staff review outcomes to be implemented over a phased period of two to three years. The vote was recorded as follows:

Councillor	For	Against	Abstain
Ve Amos		✓	
Joyce Angell	✓		
Janet Axworthy	✓		
Gillian Brockley		✓	
Helen Brown	✓		
Cheryl Carver			✓
Clive Carver	✓		
Bob Connah	✓		
Lowri Earith		✓	
George Hardcastle			✓
Sarah Hinks	✓		
Dave Mackie		✓	
Dan Preece		✓	
Emma Preece		✓	
Ralph Small	✓		
Darren Sterry		✓	
Sam Swash		✓	
Richard Taylor			✓
Ant Turton	✓		
TOTAL	8	8	3

83 Chair's Signature _____

With the vote being tied, the Chairman had the casting vote and voted against the proposal.

The Chairman then proposed that a vote be taken on the budget as presented and circulated with the additions as discussed above. Councillor Helen Brown requested that a recorded vote be taken. The vote was recorded as follows:

Councillor	For	Against	Abstain
Ve Amos	✓		
Joyce Angell		✓	
Janet Axworthy		✓	
Gillian Brockley	✓		
Helen Brown		✓	
Cheryl Carver		✓	
Clive Carver		✓	
Bob Connah		✓	
Lowri Earith	✓		
George Hardcastle			✓
Sarah Hinks		✓	
Dave Mackie	✓		
Dan Preece	✓		
Emma Preece	✓		
Ralph Small		✓	
Darren Sterry	✓		
Sam Swash	✓		
Richard Taylor			✓
Ant Turton		✓	
TOTAL	8	9	2

The proposal to accept the draft Budget proposals and precept for 2020-21 was rejected.

The Chairman advised that the Community Council had to have a balanced budget in place in order to provide the precept demand to the Local Authority by 24th January 2020 and that the Council was now in a difficult situation having been presented with a balanced budget. A late precept demand could result in financial penalties.

The Clerk and Financial Officer outlined that the budget presented had been affordable and sought clarification as to the reason why members had rejected the budget.

A lengthy discussion ensued, during which Councillor Dan Preece proposed that the precept be set at 4.75%, which was the same figure as the preceding year, and that the additional money for defibrillators and Christmas lights be removed.

84 Chair's Signature _____

IT WAS RESOLVED:

- (i) To accept the draft budget proposals for 2020-21 as presented, with the amendment to the Summer play schemes as outlined above;
- (ii) That the precept be set at 4.75% which equated to a precept of £268,976;
- (iii) That the Council's provision of CCTV across the community be reviewed; and
- (iv) That in November/December 2020, a small group of members meet to review the draft budget proposals for the following year.

Councillor Helen Brown requested that she be recorded as having voted against this decision.

335/19 OWL CYMRU SERVICE SUPPORT:

OWL Cymru had written to all Community and Town Councils requesting financial support to continue with the service. Councillor Dave Mackie said that he had sought further clarification from Denise Edwards as to the exact amount required but had not yet received a formal response.

IT WAS RESOLVED: to defer the matter for consideration until the next meeting to obtain further information.

336/19 BANK RECONCILIATION:

IT WAS RESOLVED: to receive the bank reconciliation previously circulated for the period ending 31st December 2019.