

MINUTES OF THE TENBY TOWN COUNCIL
FINANCE COMMITTEE BUDGET WORKING PARTY MEETING HELD 3rd December 2013

PRESENT

Councillor Mrs Lane Mayor
Councillor Mrs Durham
Councillor Dr P Easy
Councillor Mrs Putwain
Councillor L Blackhall
Councillor Mrs Brown
Councillor T Hallett
Councillor P Rapi

IN ATTENDANCE:

Mr A. Davies Clerk to the Council/Financial Officer
Mrs L Hensman Assistant Clerk

APOLOGIES

Apologies received from Councillor Mrs C Thomas, Councillor Mrs Rossiter and Councillor M Evans.

DISCLOSURE OF PERSONAL INTERESTS

Councillor Dr Easy, Councillor Hallett, Councillor Blackhall, Councillor Mrs Brown and the Mayor declared a personal interest in the De Valence.

BUDGET WORKING PARTY

Resolved to exclude the public during the consideration of the following business under the “public bodies (Admission to meetings) act of 1960”

Proposed by Councillor Hallett, seconded by Councillor Mrs Putwain.

The Clerk outlined the Proposed Financial Budget for consideration, discussion and amendments. The Mayor and Councillors proceeded through the draft budget discussing in more detail the following headings:

Administration – Office Council Tax

The Clerk reported that unfortunately PCC had made a mistake in giving the town council small businesses rate relief over the last two years. It materialised we are not entitled, therefore we have to pay this year and the backdated two years in instalments, hence the higher than anticipated expenditure this year. Sadly we have no choice despite challenging that this was not a TTC mistake.

Councillor Rapi joined the meeting.

Civic

It was felt in light of the increase in fuel costs over the years; Course/Conferences/Travel should remain at £100, with an additional increase of £500 to the Mayors Allowance. The Mayoral allowance has remained the same since 2000 and as the duties play a significant part in promoting Tenby the increase was recommended with consideration to an annual increase indexed linked to inflation.. It was felt that as the Honoraria allowance included the Town Crier, this position needs to be revisited for possible appointment during 2014/15.

Recommend that the Mayor's Allowance be increased by £500 to £2500 per year with consideration to an annual increase indexed linked to inflation.

CCTV

The expense of the CCTV and benefits was discussed and left unchanged as it is a necessary service reviewed and used by the police retrospectively as and when required.

Grants

Grant criteria and remit was discussed, it was recommended to maintain present policy, reviewing each individual case on its merit, whilst reviewing their financial account and charity status before allocation.

Tourism

The Clerk noted that several local councils have budgeted towards their Town Regeneration and he was mindful that monies from the town council could be used as a seed fund to attract match funding for projects. It was felt that Tenby needs to be aware that Tourism is a large significant part of our town but unfortunately many tourism related functions were not statutory requirements and could be faced with PCC budget cuts. With this in mind it was recommended to introduce a budget heading of Tourism/Regeneration, allocating £3228.09 from the precept and earmarking £30,000 from TTC reserves account, specifically for regeneration projects within Tenby.

Recommend a change to the Tourism Budget heading to include regeneration (ie Tourism/Regeneration) with an allocation of £3228.09

Recommend that £30,000 be earmarked from TTC reserves account for regeneration projects within Tenby.

Augustus Place

Councillors were pleased with the usage of this valuable resource; however the Clerk reported he is in the process of installing a new heating timer to provide specific heating when needed and prevent energy waste when the hall not in use.

Following the review and the alterations made, it was agreed to set the Council's budget at £155,521.61. With a projected income of £6099 this left a precept requirement of £149,422.61. However, members were pleased to note that, with an upward revision to the Council Tax base this year, this meant that there was no change to the Band D equivalent of £56.77.

Recommended that TTC 2014/15 Budget be agreed and that the precept requirement be set at £149,422.61, a Band D equivalent of £56.77.

Mayor _____

Town Clerk _____

Date _____