

BRYNMAWR TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of Special Meeting of the Council held on Wednesday, 18 January 2017 in the Council Chamber, Orchard Street, Brynmawr at 5.30pm.

Present:- Councillors **M. I. Morgan** **(Chair).**
B.M. Sutton, I.R.K. Jenkins,
P.G. Morgan, H.J. Swales,
Mrs. O.M. Swales, D.L. Elias
T.S. Hughes, W.K. Hodgins,
Mrs. D. Brown, Miss. S.M. Morgan
J. Gardner.

Town Clerk: **Mrs. A.C. Davies.**
Asst. Town Clerk: **Miss. N.J. Williams.**

Apologies:- **B.I. Nash, Mrs. M. Morris.**

Precept 2017/2018

The Clerk issued each member present with a copy of the Precept Requirements from 2005 - 2017 together with a 3 year forecast of the Revenue & Capital Budget prior to this meeting. The Clerk predicted that the Council would require approximately £86,577 for 2017/2018 in order that the Council can fully function and be viable.

A member strongly stated that the Brynmawr Town Council's Precept has not increased since 2010/ 2011 and Council should now consider to raise it by at least 2%. Another member asked Council to bear in mind that the BGCBC will possibly increase their Precept for 2017/2018 by 4.99% (not yet ratified) if the Town Council increase their precept there will be two Council's inflicting pressure on the general public.

Various members commented that the Town Council should bear in mind the Council's financial limitations when allocating donations to organisations and perhaps a cap could be introduced where a ceiling could be put in place when awarding donations.

Another member said that the BGCBC projected precept increase maybe 3.99%. The Town Council has not increased its precept over the past 7 years and agreed that 2% rise would not be unreasonable.

Members enquired what was the purpose of the risk fund was for?
The Clerk informed the members that the risk fund is set aside for unexpected events/disasters. It is to provide a contingency to cushion the impact of emerging or unforeseen events or genuine emergencies.

A member informed Council that if the precept was to remain at £43,000 there would automatically be an increase of 0.15% in the Council Tax which will be added to the 2% if the Town Council increases their Precept making a total of 2.15%.

Council need to look internally at overheads and keep the Precept at £43,000.

The Chair proposed combining both elements increasing the Precept by 2% and to look internally at what is being spent.

A member suggested a news letter being produced highlighting what the Town Council supports throughout the year and explain why the Precept had to be raised due to the major projects such as the Market Hall Cinema, Millennium Garden, Brynmawr Town Centre Partnership etc being financially backed by the Town Council.

The Chair moved to a vote:
Increase the precept by 2% - 9 votes.
Remain at £43,000 – 2 votes.
One member abstained.

It was agreed that the precept be increased by 2% for 2017/2018 equalling a rise of £860.00.
Precept requirements for the year 2017/2018 - £43,860.

It was unanimously agreed that a newsletter be produced for the general public highlighting what the Council supports throughout the year.

Risk Fund at 2017/2018 to remain at £22,500.00.

Meeting closed at 18:15 hours.