

LYDNEY TOWN COUNCIL

FINANCE AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MEETING – 2019/01/14 – 06

MINUTES OF THE EXTRA ORDINARY FINANCE AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MEETING held in the Council Chamber, Claremont House, Lydney on Monday 14 January 2019 at 5.30 pm.

PRESENT: Cllrs B Pearman (Chairman), B Berryman, C Harris, J Greenwood (late arrival), R Holmes, H Ives and A Preest

Mrs J Smailes – Chief Executive Officer (CEO)/RFO
Miss C Wheeler – Executive Officer (EO)
Mrs C Whittington – Finance Assistant (FA)

Cllr Pearman informed all present that no practice fire evacuation had been scheduled for the duration of the meeting. All attendees were then informed of the locations of the nearest fire exits.

1. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received and noted from Cllr Biddle.

2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

It was noted that a Dispensation was in force in respect to Agenda Item 5 – Budget/Precept deliberations.

No other interests were declared.

3. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

Members noted that the minutes of the last meeting were duly approved/authorised at the end of the last Finance & Scrutiny Meeting.

4. **OPEN FORUM**

No requests to speak were received.

5. **FINANCIAL**

Members noted that Forest of Dean District Council's proposed Council Tax increase for 2019/20 amounted to 2.99%.

Members were advised by the CEO that the Billing Authority (Forest of Dean District Council) annually calculated each Parishes Tax Base at the end of November (Lydney's Tax Base figure was 2805.19), however, under the Local Government Finance Act Billing Authorities were required to calculate Tax Bases between 1 December and 31 January. According, the CEO had requested that the Billing Authority to recalculate the Tax Base in order to take into consideration the number of residential properties which had been completed between the end of November and the end of January. Members were advised that the Billing Authority had recalculated the Tax Base which now equated to 2812.70 and Members were asked to consider, during discussion on this agenda item, if they wished to accept the revised figure, or if they wished to wait until the end of January in order to take advantage of any further change in the figures. Cllr Pearman spoke in favour of the Town Council utilising the most up to date figure possible.



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Lydney Town Council Total Budget for 2019/20

Attention was then drawn to the Draft Budget and Precept Recommendation 2019/20 Report which had been produced by the CEO and circulated to all Members prior to the meeting. The contents of the report was noted by Councillors and Cllr Ives called for the report to be published on the Town Council's website.

Action by – the CEO

Cllr Greenwood arrived at this point.

Members were provided with a copy of the Council's draft budget for 2019/20 and were reminded that the Council derived its budget via Policy Budget Precept (PDP) practices; that each Committee had met and determined its budgetary requirements for 2019/20 which resulted in a total draft budget for the Council of £636,919.00. Approval of the draft budget for the Council of £636,919.00 was **proposed by Cllr Preest, seconded by Cllr Ives.** Unanimous.

The CEO then provided Members with a number of options for their consideration (Statutory Band D Calculation) which utilised the revised Tax Base figure of 2812.70, together with the offset/sum taken from General Reserves/income from grant funding obtained and its effect on Band D calculations. It was **proposed by Cllr Ives, seconded by Cllr Harris** that the Committee's resolution to Full Council for 2019/20 would amount to a Precept of £558,077.00 through the utilisation of £30,000.00 from General Reserves, £25,000.00 from offset from 2018/19 and an offset of £5,000.00 from grant funding obtained (based on a Tax Base of 2812.70). Unanimous.

Recalling the discussion earlier in the meeting, Members were advised that should the Tax Base figure change again at the end of January the amount of the Town Council's Precept for 2019/20 would not change, but a change would be seen against the percentage offset sum when compared to the previous Council Tax Bandings calculations

Precept Recommendation

It was **proposed by Cllr Harris, seconded by Cllr Ives**, that the Finance and Scrutiny Committee Chairman would be instructed to present to Full Council the Council's "approved" budget of £636,919.00 and the Committee's Precept Recommendation derived therefrom of £558,077.00 for its consideration and approval therefrom. Unanimous.

Action by – Cllr Pearman

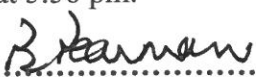
6. MEETING DATES

Members noted that the next meeting of the Finance and Scrutiny Committee would take place on Monday 18 February 2019 (Grant Applications) at 7.00 pm.

7. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Minutes of today's meeting duly approved and Chairman, Cllr Pearman, signed minutes as a true record.

Meeting closed at 5.56 pm.

Chairman 

Date ... 14/01/19