

LYDNEY TOWN COUNCIL

FINANCE AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MEETING – 2014/12/15 – 04

MINUTES OF THE EXTRA ORDINARY FINANCE AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MEETING held in the Council Chamber, Claremont House, Lydney on Monday 15 December 2014 at 6.00 pm.

PRESENT: Cllrs B Pearman (Chairman), B Berryman, J Bevan (late arrival), D Biddle, J Greenwood, C Harris, V Hobman, J Openshaw, A Preest, S Rudge and C Vaughan

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

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 Cllrs Bevan (for late arrival), Osborne and Thomas. Cllr Bonser enquired as to the reasons given by Members for their absence and was advised accordingly by the CEO.

2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

3. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the Finance and Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 21 July 2014 were confirmed as a true record. **Proposed by Cllr Harris, seconded by Cllr Rudge.** Vote carried.

EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC & PRESS

Standing orders suspended in order that the council may continue in “closed session” under the provisions of The Public (Admission to Meetings Act 1960) as the business to be discussed is considered to be of a confidential nature

4. **LEGAL**

- Members were advised by Cllr Pearman that in line with the minuted approval dated 2 April 2014, legal advice and police intervention had been sought in order to protect the reputation of the Council, its Councillors and Officers. Furthermore, that the Police regard the incident to be of a serious nature; they, alongside the Council’s Solicitor are actioning the case accordingly.
- Members were advised that the Council would be required to meet the legal costs incurred as a result of its Solicitor gaining a civil injunction with powers of arrest (if deemed necessary/when applied for); whilst this sum was currently not known, action to “protect” Lydney Town Council Members/Officers was in line with prior approval. Noted.

5. **BUDGET 2015/16**

- Members were provided with copy of the draft budget for 2015/16. The CEO then proceeded to explain to Councillors how the draft budget had been collated (e.g. budgets considered/agreed by respective Committees minuted accordingly); that the predicted