

Minutes of a Special Meeting of Denbigh Town Council, held on Monday 19th January 2015 at 6 pm at the Town Hall, Denbigh.

Present: Councillors Rob Parkes, Raymond Bartley, Margaret Bowe, Gaynor Morgan Rees, Medwyn Williams, Geraint Williams, Colin L Hughes, Roy Tickle, Mark Young, Gaynor Wood, Catherine Jones & Medwyn Jones (Town Clerk).

Apologies: Councillors Colin Hughes and Shereen Devine,

The chairman welcomed all to the special meeting and explained the purpose of the meeting, namely to discuss the council's budget for the forthcoming financial year.

173. Declaration of Personal Interest. The following declarations were received:

- (1) Cllr Roy Tickle – all matters concerning Denbigh Town Hall
- (2) Cllr Gaynor Wood – all matters concerning Denbigh Town Hall

174. 2015 / 2016 Budget. The chairman referred to the documents provided for the purpose of discussing and setting the town council's spending budget for the financial year 2015 / 2016. At the request of the chairman the town clerk explained the purpose of each of the documents provided.

The meeting was reminded of the resolution passed by the council on the 24th November 2014 with regard to the 2015 / 2016 budget, namely "That there be a 7.5% cut across the board, the precept raised by £1 and some monies drawn down from the council reserves".

Referring to the documents provided and in particular the town clerk's confidential report prepared for the council meeting on the 15th December 2014 which had been accepted by the council at that meeting, the members proceeded to examine and discuss each heading contained within the budget and a figure set against each one.

Considerable discussion took place on many of the headings with varying opinions being expressed. During the discussion under the Town Hall heading, Cllrs Roy Tickle and Gaynor Wood, having earlier in the meeting declared a personal interest, left the chamber.

In order to produce an achievable budget it was agreed, in addition to the agreements reached on the various headings that the following be approved:

- The town clerk (voluntarily) to reduce his hours of working from 33 to 30 per week with effect from 1st April 2015 (saving of approximately £2,400 per annum)
- The Christmas Lighting working group to look at ways of reducing the cost of Christmas lighting whilst still retaining the overall effect, e.g. hire charges and relocation of some lighting features etc.
- To discontinue the hanging baskets displays in the town and the supplemental grass cutting etc. in lower Denbigh (saving of approximately £5,980 per annum).
- To provide the additional funding of £17,000 to secure the future of Denbigh Town Hall.

It was (unanimously) **Resolved that (1) the Mayor's allowance for the 2015 / 2016 civic year be kept at £1,300 and (2) the Deputy Mayor's allowance for the 2015 / 2016 civic year also be kept at £200.**



The total of all the headings finally came to £195,400. This figure related to a figure of £188,680 for the 2014 / 2015 budget, an increase of £6,720 or 3.56%. It was **Resolved** (unanimously) **that a spending budget of £195,400 be approved for the financial year 2015 / 2016**. It was agreed that the council would need to be very prudent for the expenditure to fall within the allocated budget.

175. 2015 / 2016 Precept. Following on from the discussions on the budget the matter of setting a precept figure to meet the council's spending requirements was discussed and the various options examined. It was **Resolved** (unanimously) **that the precept figure be raised from £56 to £57 for the financial year 2015 / 2016** an increase of 1.79% or 2p per week. The new precept figure would generate an income of **£188,499** necessitating withdrawing £6,901 from the council reserves. It was **Resolved** (unanimously) **that the balance of £6,901 be drawn from the council reserves**.

Councillor Raymond Bartley asked that it be recorded that the town clerk be thanked for all the hard work in preparing all the information for the meeting – this was (unanimously) agreed upon.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.18 pm

Signed:  (Chairman)

Date: ... 26/1/15

