

**MINUTES OF SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING**  
**HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER**  
**PONTYPOOL COMMUNITY COUNCIL OFFICES**  
**WEDNESDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2020**

**In attendance:**

Councillor: Mrs R Matthews (In the Chair)

Councillors in attendance: Mrs K Arthur, Mrs E Chilcott, Miss L Clarkson, Mrs E Hunt, Mrs G James, N Jones, J Killick, A Lang, Mrs R Matthews, R Mills, R Overton, Mrs N Parrish and B Rapier.

Officers: Mrs C Challenger, Mrs L McMail

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| 250. | <b><u>Apologies</u></b><br>Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors: G Davies, K James, Mrs J Jones, N Simons, B Taylor and Mrs J Taylor.<br><br><b><u>RESOLVED:</u></b> that the apologies be recorded.  | <b>JW</b> |
| 251. | <b><u>Declarations of Interest</u></b><br>Councillors: Mrs G James, N Jones, R Mills, R Overton and Mrs N Parrish declared an interest on any item on the agenda relating to Torfaen County Borough Council.<br><br><b><u>RESOLVED:</u></b> that the declarations of interest be recorded.   | <b>JW</b> |
| 252. | <b><u>Budget</u></b><br>The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and then handed over to the Chairman of Policy & Finance.<br><br>The Accountant firstly explained to members that she had produced a report to explain the process of the budget for the new financial year and the current financial position.<br><br>Secondly, she explained that the expenditure budget for the Task Force had been utilised with redundancy payments and unforeseen pension costs and would be over budget as a result.<br><br>Thirdly, she stated that the staffing costs would come in over budget at the end of the financial year as a result of restructuring of jobs, absence cover and overtime. It |           |

was stated that although the salaries budget would need to be increased for the next financial the exact cost was unknown.

#### Income

There were no queries on income.

#### Expenditure

Councillor N Jones queried why there was an increase in the budget for the 'chain of office', the Chairman of Policy & Finance informed him that it was for repairs to be carried out on the chain.

Councillor J Killick informed the meeting with regards to the proposed new Youth Project it would still go ahead on the proviso that Torfaen County Borough Council agreed to the financial partnership. He stated that unless Torfaen agreed, the project could not go ahead as it would mean less staff, which would result in the project being unsafe.

Councillor N Jones queried why an additional £20,000 had been put into the budget for 'other projects' and stated that possibly this could be reduced. After a lengthy debate it was agreed that the £20,000 remain in the budget.

Councillor Mrs G James stated that the event which was to be held in the Pontypool Park by the Armed Forces would not be taking place in Pontypool, but in Abergavenny.

It was agreed that an item be put on the next Events Committee to decide what the Council could do to contribute to the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the end of World War II celebrations.

Councillor N Jones queried the cost in the budget for Association Subscriptions. It was stated that this cost was for the services provided by One Voice Wales. A discussion took place on what the services provided were and it was agreed that the Council continues with this subscription.

Councillor N Jones questioned the £10,000 increase for Christmas Trees and the £5,000 increase for Christmas Lights for 2020/21. The Finance & Events Manager stated that the increase for the Christmas Trees was for additional Christmas Trees to be supplied in wards

which did not have a tree and the increase for the lights was due to the fact that a new contract would be agreed this year for the lease of the Christmas Lights.

A discussion took place on whether or not it was necessary for additional Christmas Trees to be supplied. It was agreed that the possibility of planting trees in all wards be looked into and also what the cost and time implication would be.

Councillor N Jones asked that the Council should make suitable use of money and that instead the budget could be revised especially to prevent the proposed deficit for 2019/20 of £9,500.20 and to retain money in the reserves.

The Accountant recommended that Earmarked Reserves of £6244 would be used to offset specific events, and the balance from General Reserve.

Councillor Mrs N Parrish proposed that a vote take place to increase the precept by 3.7% for 2020/21.

A vote took place regarding the recommendations to increase the precept by 3.7%. 12 members voted to approve the recommendation and one member abstained.

**RESOLVED:** that the information above be noted and approved and that the revised budget be approved at the Council meeting on 29 January 2020.

253.

**Computers**

The Council was asked to approve arrangements for the purchase and installation of computer hardware and software.

**RESOLVED:** (i) that the arrangements for the purchase and installation of computer hardware and software be approved;  
(ii) that the quotations be received and considered at the Council meeting on 29 January 2020.

CHAIRMAN