



## Bargoed Town Council

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### Minutes of Special Full Council Meeting 10<sup>th</sup> January 2024.

Present: Councillors H Llewellyn; R Carroll; P Collins; D Ingram-Jones; J Davies; T Williams; R Price; M Ingram-Jones; Y Price; C Andrews.

Present Remotely: Councillors J Bissex; S Hamer-Thomas;

Also Present: Town Clerk: Mrs H Williams, Deputy Clerk: Mr T Oliver.

Meeting Chairman: Councillor H Llewellyn (Mayor)

The mayor welcomed everyone to the meeting and all Members to introduce themselves.

#### **1. To receive Apologies for Absence**

No apologies to record.

#### **2. To receive Declaration of Interests or dispensations on any item(s) on this Agenda, if appropriate.**

No declarations made.

#### **3. Press and Public Participation Session.**

No enquiries received by the clerk.

#### **4. To receive confirmation from the clerk of the newly co-opted member signing a declaration of acceptance of office as ward councillor for Aberbargoed and welcome Mrs Price to the meeting.**

The clerk confirmed that in accordance with s83 of the Local Government Act 1972 and The Local Elections (Declaration of Acceptance of Office) (Wales) Order, 2004, Councillor Y Price signed her declaration in the presence of the proper officer on 17<sup>th</sup> December 2023.

#### **5. To receive, approve and sign Minutes of the Full Council Meeting 13<sup>th</sup> December 2023.**

RESOLVED to approve and sign the draft unapproved minutes as a true record of proceedings, Councillor Davies moved and Councillor Carroll seconded.

#### **6. To receive confirmation of the band D council tax base for 2024-25 as noted by Caerphilly County Borough Council cabinet meeting 13<sup>th</sup> December 2023.**

Members noted the content of the report which confirmed the Bargoed Town Council band D council tax base rate to be 3,700.

#### **7. To receive a verbal report from the clerk, review and discuss the draft 2024-25 budget calculations and consider the precept demand to be made by Bargoed Town Council. Members are required to provide instruction to the clerk.**

The clerk provided Members with a brief synopsis of the way the draft budget is calculated [in accordance with the Local Government Finance Act 1992, s50) based on the forward work plan produced by town council along with instructions received from committee resolutions throughout the Autumn months.

The operating environment for Bargoed Town Council remains challenging with the cost of living still high, town centre footfall low and considerable uncertainty for the near future. The current rate of inflation at 4<sup>th</sup> January 2024 at 8.7%.

Members worked through the draft 2024-25 budget calculations looking at options to reduce the precept without adversely affecting service delivery. They spoke about town council commitment to delivering large events in the town centre, improving the environment with year round floral displays and offering grant programmes which aim to distribute support and offer a better quality of life to the local community. Members reaffirmed their commitment to events and family activities in the town centre as they feel these will increase footfall and benefit the local community.

Earmarked reserves were confirmed for:

- Events Programme 2024
- Tabletop games club for young people
- New carnival event for 2024
- Premises
- Staff costs
- Growth
- Running costs
- Care costs
- By-election costs

Following lengthy debate and scrutiny of the draft figures, Members spoke about the guidance from the Independent Remuneration Panel on discretionary attendance allowances for councillors. The meeting debated this item and RESOLVED not to include any attendance allowances in the 2024-2025 budget. Members felt it is important that they revisit this item prior to confirming their budget each year.

After consideration of the costs of planned events and activities in the community, running costs, allowances and contingencies, and taking into account bank interest, recoverable VAT and the availability of free reserves, Members RESOLVED to confirm, in accordance with the Local Government Finance Act 1992 s41 that the precept demand to be made to Caerphilly County Borough Council for the 2024-2025 financial year will be £193,552 which equates to a Band D precept of £52.31.

This concluded the business of this special meeting.

The mayor thanked all Members for their active participation and he closed the meeting at 6.55pm