



Finance & Audit
Minutes of the Parks and Open Spaces Committee
held on a remote basis in accordance with the provisions of
The Local Authorities (Coronavirus) (Meetings) (Wales) Regulations 2020
at 6.30pm on Thursday, 7th January 2021

Present: Committee Members – Cllrs R Knogle (Chair), C Edwards, S McMenamin, D Morgan, H Morgan, M Powell and J Roberts

Non-member Councillors – Cllrs J Collins and S Knogle
Residents x 2

Officers: Ms J van Tonder (RFO / Acting Clerk)

1. Apologies for absence

No apologies for absence had been received; all committee members present.

2. Declarations of Interest

Cllr C Edwards Personal, County Borough Member
Cllr D Morgan Personal, County Borough Member; potential work with OVW
Cllr H Morgan Personal, Treasurer to Friends of Glynneath Library
Cllr J Roberts Personal, Trustee of Glynneath Silver Band

3. Consider Draft Budget 2021/22

The RFO outlined the budget as presented, having been previously circulated to members.

The Chair invited non-member Councillors to contribute freely to the discussions.

Members assessed the appropriateness of the figures in each of the supplementary budgets and it was agreed to reduce the estimate for the Cemetery site mapping survey from £5,000 to £4,000.

Following a discussion on the works required to the Town Hall, it was agreed to increase the budget for capital expenditure on the building from £3,500 to £10,000.

Introduction of Standing Order 2(d) – Members of the public and non-member Councillors were temporarily excluded from the meeting

Members reviewed the Salaries and Wages budget.

Conclusion of Standing Order 2(d)

Members went on to consider and discuss the impact of the budget and corresponding precept requirement on both the anticipated level of reserves and effect on band D equivalent households. The RFO confirmed the tax base for FYE 2022 was 1,381.99.

Members debated the need for robust reserves against a pressing need to show a significant reduction in the precept.

Members were reminded of the Council's Reserves Policy that required the Council to hold a minimum of £50,000 in reserve and to ensure reserves could cover between 25% - 100% of annual general expenditure.

Following discussion, it was proposed, seconded and

Resolved: To recommend to Full Council the amended budget for 2021/22 with total expenditure of £216,439, and a contribution to increase reserves of £10,000

4. Online banking arrangements

Members were reminded of the Council's current banking arrangements and, in particular, the logistical hurdles inherent in the TSB system that meant the electronic payment of salaries and wages could only be undertaken by one councillor in contravention of the Financial Regulations.

The RFO advised members that the previous Clerk had begun the process of applying for an online account with Lloyds but that the bank had stopped taking on new community account customers.

It was agreed the RFO would investigate alternative options and revert to Council.

The meeting concluded 8:38pm.