



**Minutes of the Precept 2017 - 18 meeting of Rhuddlan Town Council, 26th January, 2017**

Present: Cllrs. Sara King (Mayor in the Chair), Mike Kermode, Arwel Roberts, Andy Smith, Jackie Burnham, Gareth Smith and the Town Clerk.

**1. APOLOGIES:** Cllrs. Ann Davies, Syd Gaskin, Gwilym Williams.

**2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS:** None

**3. URGENT MATTERS:** None

**4. WELCOME TO THE NEW COUNCILLOR.**

The Mayor welcomed Gareth Smith as the newly co-opted Town Councillor. Cllr Gareth Smith had received relevant documents including the Code of Conduct and Financial Regulations and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office. Town Clerk will arrange a press release.

**5. SETTING THE PRECEPT FOR RHUDDLAN 2017/18**

Councillors discussed a report from the Town Clerk that set out the information required for the setting of the Budget and Precept for 2017-18. A number of changes were agreed:

- (a) To modify the salary, travelling, postage, printing and stationary budget to two budget lines (i) Salary & travelling (ii) Postage, printing and stationery. This will give a clearer picture for monitoring purposes.
- (b) Cllr. Kermode informed members that there is a requirement to set up a pension arrangement for the Town Clerk in April 2017 and that the Clwyd Pension Scheme would be the appropriate provider. Provision had been included in the budget for the employer's contributions. It was resolved that pension arrangements be put in place for the Town Clerk and that the Personnel Committee be empowered have discussions with the Clwyd Pension Fund and the Town Clerk and agree suitable pension arrangements.
- (c) The balances (estimated) for 31/03/2017 for contributions to DCC towards the Library's running costs was amended from £12K to £3k following the resolution from the Town Council's meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> January 2017.
- (d) The Remembrance Day budget to be increased from £400 to £1000 with regards to forthcoming arrangements of commemoration and remembrance of the end of the First World War
- (e) The request from the CCTV Partnership for continuing contributions was discussed. It was resolved to forward this request to the next Town Council meeting. A proposed sum of £4200 has been put against CCTV. This was amended to £3500 to exclude VAT as the Council can claim this back.

The outcome of the discussions was to give a net Revenue Budget for 2017-18 of £90,610 and this was agreed by the Council.

Members then discussed the precept for 2017-18 and the Town Clerk's report showed two options regarding the use of balances. Option A utilises £20k of balances, giving a precept of £44.29 per household. Option B utilises £30k of balances, giving a precept of £38.02 per household.

Members discussed the use of balances and were made aware that CIPFA (The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy) advises that a Council generally should have no more than 10/15% in balances and that the current balances were receiving little or no interest. Members also discussed the benefits of maintaining sufficient levels of balances which could be used for new services or developments in years ahead.

It was resolved to accept Option A, utilising £20k of balances, which will result in a precept of £44.29 per household. The Town Clerk to inform Denbighshire County Council of agreed precept and to arrange a press release.

Signed..... Cllr Sara King – Mayor

Date .....