

**VAN COMMUNITY COUNCIL
CYNGOR CYMUNED Y FAN**

Chair
Vice-Chair

Councillor Barbara Jones,
Councillor Tony Graham.

Clerk/R.F.O.

John Dilworth

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Minutes,
Precept Setting Meeting
(empowered by minute 104/18iv, January, 19th, 2018,
and minute 110/18vi, October, 2018.

Wednesday, 5th December, 2018,
Van Community Centre.

Present:	Councillors	Norma Graham, Tony Graham, Sheila Jones, John Leek, Pam Nelder, Linda Williams.
In attendance	Clerk/RFO	John Dilworth.
	Mrs. Julie E. E. Dilworth, Cllr Jayne Garland (DWRCC).	

In the absence of the Chair, Cllr Barbara Jones, the Vice-Chair, Cllr Tony Graham progressed to the Chair, for this meeting only (*Council's Standing Order 15, states: "In the absence of the Chair at a meeting of the Council, the Vice-chair shall preside..."*).

121/18 To receive apologies and whether to approve the reason for absence.

There were apologies received from the following Council members, Cllr Barbara Jones, Chair, Fay Gay, Sheila Newbury (dispensation) and Jayne Keable (dispensation) and reasons for absence were approved.

122/18 Declarations of interests. To receive disclosures of personal interests from Members in accordance with the Code of Conduct (**Note:** Members are requested to give written notice of the item number and subject matters that their interest relates to and signify the nature of the personal interest).

Chair to read the following statement.

Members are referred to, and shall observe, the provisions of the Van Council's Code of Conduct. If a Councillor has a Disclosable Prejudicial Interest he/she must, unless a dispensation has been granted, withdraw from the meeting room and take no part in the discussion or vote and it shall be incumbent upon members who know of that interest to disclose it to the meeting and if another member present believes that there may be a conflict of interest with another member(s) present they should notify the meeting of this fact. This in order that the potential interest is clarified before the meeting proceeds.

The Chair read the statement.

Signed:.....

17th January, 2019.

No interests were declared on any items.

123/18 **To receive the draft budget for 2019/20 (appendix 1).**

The Clerk/RFO presented the draft budget (appendix 1) and his recommendation that the precept for 2019/2020 increase by two thousand pounds (£2,000) to twenty-five thousand pounds (£25,000).

The Chair, Cllr Tony Graham, asked how the Clerk/RFO arrived at that figure. In reply the Clerk/RFO pointed out that reserves are running down, previously inflated by the refund from the Leisure Amenities Fund in 2014, and referred to the letter to BDO dated the 3rd September, 2018, and the following extract, i.e. as reproduced:

"In 2014/15 received the refund and the balances have run down 27.5% over four years. The timescale is dependent on projects being realised and two to four years.

Year ending accounts, precept £20,444.	£ (rounded up)
31 st March, 2014	26,176
31 st March, 2015 Amenity Fund added to account, £42,856	64,664
31 st March, 2016	56,455
31 st March, 2017	50,575
31 st March, 2018	46,894

Further that Council increased its precept for the current financial year, 2018/19, to twenty-three thousand pounds (£23,000).

The Clerk/RFO took members through the budget headings and his reason for adjusting the budget amounts based on experience through spend during the current financial year. Several queries were raised on the projected budget.

The Clerk/RFO was confident to report that through underspend on budget headings means that council progresses into the 2019-2021 financial year with healthy reserves to meet the Council's future aspirations for the community.

Cllr Sheila Jones inquired on the refund to council in 2014, reflected in the 2014/15 accounts. The Clerk/RFO advised that council paid to Caerphilly County Borough Council a quarterly amount (nine-hundred, twenty-six pounds and 34pence, £926.34). There were no statements from Corporate Finance, CCBC, as to the balances of the fund, and interest (access for funding was by council resolution but this was not clear in the minutes). The Clerk/RFO pointed out that in the absence of any proof of balances that he traced all payments made from 1997 to 2014 through the bank statements and ledgers. The residue less project spend and interest amounted to a significant amount over forty thousand pounds (£40,000) (forty-two thousand, eight hundred, fifty-five pounds and 72pence) (£42,855.72). (Last payment out of the fund was in 2003/2004).

The Interim Head of Corporate Finance terminated the agreement and council by resolution received a refund. Council opened a Business Manager Account with its bankers and receives interest on the significant balances held in that account. (Currently in excess of seven pounds per month).

Signed:.....

17th January, 2019.

As part of the budget process the Chair raised the matter of investment/grant to Purple Shoots Business Lending Ltd, an ethical lending body and further to his discussions with the Chief Executive, Ms. Karen Davies. He went onto say, they provide small business grants to startup businesses and that the Council could invest “a couple of thousand pounds” with Purple Shoots.

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The Chair advised he would write to Barry Town Council on the legislative powers allowing that authority to invest over a three years period with annual reviews.

The Clerk/RFO to initiate clarification from OVW to Nalc on similar grounds.

The matter was deferred to the January meeting whether to invite a Purple Shoot representative to the February meeting.

The Clerk/RFO advised that further to the meeting with Fly Tipping Action Wales, UW, Cllr Sheila Newbury and himself that they wish to engage with the Council as to whether Council would be part of the grant application for funds to create a green area in Mornington Meadows (land to the rear of Dol yr Eos and Porset Brook).

The Clerk/RFO to make contact with them and invite a representative to the January meeting for discussions but limited to ten minutes.

124/18 **Having considered the draft budget and any amendments to set the Precept for 2019/20 (current precept is £23,000).**

It was **resolved** having considered the draft budget and no amendments to set the budget for 2019-2020 at twenty-five thousand pounds (£25,000). The Clerk/RFO to inform the Interim Head of Corporate Finance, Caerphilly County Borough Council, as to the amount to be collected and paid to this authority for the financial year, 2019-2020.

125/18 **To consider a carnival.**

Clerk/RFO recommends:

(i) Appoint a committee and delegate its specific remit (work would be delegated to the Committee who would report to council) of at least three members. (Clerk/RFO advises, Cllr Jayne Keable has expressed an interest in membership of the Committee).

(ii) Committee be named, “Events Committee.”

(iii) Appointment of a sub-committee, “Events Sub-committee,” report to Committee.

(iiii) Delegate to the Committee the task of looking at appropriate sites, dates (months of May or June), volunteers or Stewards (12) at £30/Steward, engagement with outside bodies and the structure of the Carnival to report to the January meeting (Clerk advises that the clock is ticking and progress must be made to ensure that the event goes ahead.)

(i) Appoint a committee and delegate its specific remit (work would be delegated to the Committee who would report to council) of at least three members. (Clerk/RFO advises, Cllr Jayne Keable has expressed an interest in membership of the Committee).

ii) Committee be named, “Events Committee.”

Items (i) and (ii) merged and **resolved**; authorize the committee and name.

Council considered the recommendation of the Clerk/RFO and approved that a

Signed:.....

17th January, 2019.

committee be made, the Events Committee, and the membership comprise of the following members; Cllrs John Leek, Tony Graham, Vice-Chair of the Council, Sheila Jones, Pam Nelder, and Jayne Keable (five members).

Cllr Tony Graham, Chair, suggested that Cllr John Leek be the Chair of the newly formed Events Committee. In the absence of any further nominations, Cllr John Leek accepted the Committee Chair.

It was **resolved** that a Events Committee be established, chaired by Cllr John Leek, with five members (as list above) and delegates are invited from outside bodies (sub-committee) to advise and support the council's carnival.

(iii) Appointment of a sub-committee, "Events Sub-committee," report to Committee.

It was **resolved** to defer a sub-committee of the Events Committee to the Committee.

(iv) Delegate to the Committee the task of looking at appropriate sites, dates (months of May or June), volunteers or Stewards (12) at £30/Steward, engagement with outside bodies and the structure of the Carnival to report to the January meeting (Clerk advises that the clock is ticking and progress must be made to ensure that the event goes ahead.)

Chair of the Events Committee to come up with a date for the Committee meeting.

126/18 **To consider expenses, financial decision, to the family of the young singer for her performance at Soup/Carols: "... to sing two songs at the Soup & Carols (she apparently sings 'O Holy Night' superbly well according to her mother). I am quite sure Rio will not mind and my thinking is for Rio to sing half his set...(young person) to sing a couple of songs then Rio to finish off....It would not cost us anything although I think we should probably offer something towards the family expenses?" Cllr Tony Graham. (Bracket inserted, removed the name of the young person and inserted, young person instead of her name).**

The Chair, Cllr Tony Graham, suggested that something should be given to the young lady for her performance at Soup and Carols, Friday, 7th December, 2018. Members considered the matter and it was mooted that a voucher following contact with the parents of the young lady could be purchased and presented to her.

The Clerk/RFO advised that in the past local groups had performed at events organised by council and received no expenses.

It was **resolved** with two abstentions that a voucher up to the value of twenty pounds (£20) be purchased from council funds by a member of the Council for the young lady.

Meeting closed at 7.10pm.

Signed:.....

17th January, 2019.