

**PUBLIC Minutes of Pembrey and Burry Port Town Council**

**Finance Governance and Personnel Committee Special Meeting**

**Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2020**

**Present:** Cllrs David Owens (Chair), Peter Freeman, Bob Walpole (arrived 10.40am), John Hedley Jones, Hugh Shepardson

**Officers:** Huw Thomas (RFO), Shân Loudon

**(Upstairs room, Burry Port Institute 10am – 10.45am)**

**1. To receive apologies for absence**

Apologies had been received from Cllr Linda Edwards

**2. To receive members' declarations of interest**

No declarations of interest were made.

**3. Update on 2020/21 budget**

Members were informed that, following the December Town Council meeting, it had been agreed that savings needed to be made in order that the percentage increase in precept was not too high. It was noted that any increase over 15% had to be justified to the Auditor General for Wales.

After discussion, members agreed to make a recommendation to other committees to look at budget savings to enable the precept increase to be between 10 – 14%.

Cllr Hugh Shepardson informed members that the new council tax band rates have been published.

This committee could make savings by looking at a combined Town Clerk/RFO role.

It was noted that reserves currently stand at £220,000 and this figure needs to be between 3 and 6 months. Monies could be taken from reserves, leaving a lower number of months.

The recommendation was for other committees to look for savings between £30,000 and £35,000. It was noted that some items from the facilities budget could be moved from operational to projects.

Members felt that a 10% increase in precept would be acceptable.

Cllr Bob Walpole arrived at the meeting at 10.40am.

Members were informed that the budget needed to be approved at the January Town Council meeting. If approval is not given at this meeting, a Special meeting would need to be called.

The meeting closed at 10.45am.

Chair ..... *D Owens* .....  
10/02/2020