

**Pembrey and Burry Port Town Council**

**Minutes Regeneration and Wellbeing Committee Special Meeting**

**Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> November 2019**

**Present: Councillors Michael Theodoulou (Chair), Peter Freeman, Karen Morris, David Owens, Moira Thomas and Bob Walpole.**

**Absent: Councillors Robert John and Lisa Mitchell**

**In attendance: Huw Thomas (Acting Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer), Louise Robinson (Community Development Officer), Ed Davies (Administrative Assistant-Minute Taker)**

**Senior Citizen's Hall, Burry Port 10.05am – 11.10am**

Prior to the first agenda item, members were reminded of the Public Meeting that had been arranged in relation to Burry Port Harbour. It was noted that it had been arranged by the Town Council but that it was an opportunity for the Marine Group to be able to communicate their report and plans with the community. It was stressed that this was not a Council meeting and members were strongly encouraged to attend but reminded they would not have any additional speaking rights compared to other members of the public at this meeting.

**Cllr Karen Morris arrived 10.08am**

In the following discussion it was confirmed that no representatives from the County Council had been invited to speak at this event and many members expressed the opinion that it may be necessary to arrange a similar follow up meeting with the County Council on this matter. Members noted that the meeting was likely to be well attended with many members of the public having expressed concern at the state of the harbour to date. Cllr Michael Theodoulou confirmed that he would chair the meeting to provide some structure.

**1. To receive apologies for absence**

Apologies had been received from Cllrs Richard Adler, Pam Every and Lisa Mitchell.

**2. To receive members' declarations of interest in respect of the business to be transacted**

None

**3. Consideration of the 2020/21 budget**

Members noted that it was only within the power of this Committee to alter its budgets for the next financial year and that the speculative budget suggested by it would go to the Finance, Governance and Personnel Committee to bring together to set the precept, and that they may send it back with some suggestions and queries.

A budget model document had been prepared by the RFO and was distributed to all present, giving the budget headings and totals for 2019/20, giving a breakdown of the inflationary increase at 1.7%

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for each based on the current budget heading. It also had information on the actual spending to date, expressed in pounds and as percentages.

Members began by looking at income, which for 2019/20, had been set at £2000. It was noted that the actuals showed that the budget was below its target which suggested it needed reviewing. Members discussed that, as a Council, their aim was not to make a profit but noted that the precept did not provide them with a bottomless pit of funds. It was also strongly supported that, by placing a financial value to certain events, it ensured that those attending valued it more and were therefore less likely to fail to attend or take part.

Members expressed a need to see a list of the events planned so as to decide which if any of the events should be charged for, and to give a rough guide price so as to make a judgement on their target. The CDO distributed a list of events for 2019/20 and 2020/21 which included a breakdown of costs and the outline budget for each event.

A discussion followed, where members looked at each event listed and set a rough guide on what to charge for the event, with the following decisions:

#### Easter holidays children's events

Members noted that these events were craft or activity-based events, with the most recent willow lantern making session having proved popular. Members felt that as long as the event was within a Council run setting, they should charge 50p per child to take part, with no charge to be raised if they were based in a public space such as the beach or park.

#### Welsh Band night

It was noted that this was a fundraising event for the Eisteddfod, aimed at providing a night for 13-17 year olds. Members felt that charging £5 per ticket would be fair.

#### Wellbeing event

It was hoped to make this a larger event again in 2020 and for the Community Forums to be able to take greater prominence in it. Members felt that a £2 charge per adult with children attending free was appropriate.

#### Local Heroes

Members discussed a few options in terms of financing the event, which they hoped would be quite large and well attended. Following discussion members felt that as it was a community event they should charge for a ticket although all nominees and sponsors would not be charged, with nominees allowed to bring a guest, also without charge. Members agreed to set a charge of £20 a ticket.

#### Eisteddfod

Following discussion of practice elsewhere it was felt that a charge of £2 for entrance was appropriate.

Members also requested that any preliminary competitions should be held in Pembrey Memorial Hall.

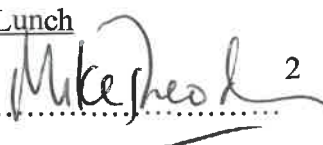
**ACTION: CDO**

#### Christmas Festival

Members agreed to set a charge of £2 per child to visit Santa's Grotto, £20 for stallholders' tables (1 night) with £50 for a cabin (weekend).

#### Senior Citizens Christmas Lunch

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Members felt a charge of £2 per ticket was still appropriate.

When the total guide charges were added up, with estimated attendance calculated, a target income of £6,300 was arrived at.

The RFO confirmed that the Council was VAT registered and that it only applied to service and supply items and not for charging for entry.

Members felt that the target income may be too high as this was over three times the previous amount, even though it had been reached via a series of smaller charges.

Cllr David Owens **PROPOSED** that the income target be set at £5000, seconded by Cllr Karen Morris.

In the ensuing vote 5 members voted in favour with 1 abstention and 0 against. It was therefore **RESOLVED** to set the income target at the proposed value.

**ACTION: RFO**

Members proceeded to look at the expenditure budgets.

#### Marketing

Members agreed to keep the heading budget at £7000

#### Staffing costs

Members agreed to keep the heading budget at £27000

#### Christmas Lights and competition

Members were informed of the agreements that had been put in place in relation to lighting, including storage and installation costs. A discussion of costs other councils faced for their displays ensued, with members concluding that they were committed to paying the amount specified. Members therefore agreed to increase the budget from £13000 to £18000.

#### Local Donations, Community grants

Members discussed both of these headings in tandem.

A discussion followed about increasing these budgets, as the CDO would be establishing an awareness raising campaign to encourage those groups in the community who do not regularly or have never applied for funding from the Council, to do so. Some also felt this may be appropriate given that Burry Port was the Town of Culture for 2020 and that the Community Forums had identified many areas where there was no, or limited support within the community.

Cllr Michael Theodoulou **PROPOSED** that a new item be listed called "Community Start-up grant" with a budget of £2000, seconded by Cllr Bob Walpole.

In the ensuing vote 6 members voted in favour with 0 abstentions and 0 against. It was therefore **RESOLVED** to create the new budget item.

**ACTION: RFO**

#### Council Community Events – General

Members noted that some of the expenditure previously and currently used from this item would be coming from other items in 2020.

Cllr Moira Thomas **PROPOSED** that the budget be reduced to £14,500, seconded by Cllr Karen Morris.

In the ensuing vote 6 members voted in favour with 0 abstentions and 0 against. It was therefore **RESOLVED** to set the budget amount accordingly.

**ACTION: RFO**

The following budget items were all committed funds that needed budget headings to cover expenses:

- Blue Plaques
- Digital Community Project
- Heritage Boards

Members were asked to note that spending on floral displays was currently in the Facilities and Assets Committee budget.

Cllr Michael Theodoulou **PROPOSED** that the item be transferred to this Committee for the 2020 budget, seconded by Cllr Karen Morris.

In the ensuing vote 6 members voted in favour with 0 abstentions and 0 against. It was therefore **RESOLVED** to transfer the budget item.

**ACTION: RFO**

#### **4. Any other urgent business at the discretion of the Chair**

None.

**Meeting end 11.10am**



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