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Minutes of the January 4 Finance committee. 2024

This meeting was a meeting concerned only with the planning of the budget for 2024/25.

Present

Eirwyn Thomas, Annwen Hughes, Kevin Titley, John Evans, Nia Jones, Robin Ward

Luise Vassey (zoom link)

Apologies

Cllr. Gwynfor Owen, Helen Johns. Jane Taylor Williams.

The Clerk noted Llanbedr's band D housing foundation tax is £373.86

Also referring to allowance form for 2023/24 for Councillors

No one wanted to claim any money as allowance. Letters (e mails) stating that will have to be obtained from each Councillor individually.

We went through the spread sheet and saw the local needs.

We discussed intensively those needs and where to try and save on money to try not to have to raise the precept too much but to still get the best value for Llanbedr

Namely spending on playing field .. Cost of keeping the equipment in good condition, cost / cutting etc. £1982. 2 additional costs this year were cutting the hedge and also cutting a tree. £460 + £300

The cemetery – cost with clearing path from the Vic. The costs of a re doing the wall between Ardudwy and the Victoria Land have been earmarked in the 2023/24 budget (£4201) The cost of mowing grass = £1400

Also in budget is work on the never cut bench with a new plaque there at a cost of £700. This Work was to have been done by December 2023, but the work remains undone.

Public footpaths - – save this . What a shame to let these close after significant spending in 2022/23. Earmarked £1500 last year, but only cleared 2 paths at a cost of £135. Putting £1250 into the budget for coming year.

Public Toilets – still funding £4000 towards keeping these open all year round

HAL – this is again a difficult one, and discussed fully . It was passed on the 18th of December that this was being re-discussed in a full session 4.1.24 Paid £4314 2023/24

. Although a vote over e mail had earlier confirmed that the Councillors did not want to carry on to contribute to HAL.

Reasons for this

1. Not sustainable
2. Not the best value for money
3. Ysgol Llanbedr children not attending lessons there

4. Llanbedr parents take their children elsewhere.
5. Not closing the pool – local businesses and private members can participate, and donate money.
6. Also lack of detailed business plan, despite repeated promises, so we have no idea of potential costs for the future.

Secret ballot – 1 in favour. So not contributing through Llanbedr precept.

ZOOM and translation – there has to be a zoom link as people from everywhere have the right to hear what is being discussed at the Council. Similarly trying to provide a session with an interpreter . This adds to the costs.

**Delyth Williams** – place documents monthly on the webpage. Currently £32 per month totalling £384

It was passed to raise this to £40 per month which is £480 in a year.

**Huchenfeld** – the Council has supported this since the beginning. Spent £573.04 this year and only earmarked £500. Put £150 into the next budget. No need for the money as there will be no exchange trips in 2024/25

Need for improvements to the playing field again after the November examination. £2000 set aside in 2023/24

Passed to do the work but leaving the work of the benches out of the equation;

#### **Christmas Light-**

Nadolig Llawen sign – Community Council purchased this at a cost of £436.69 (£400 funding in the budget)

But it's important to keep money towards this every year. year = £500 in the New budget.

**Clerk's costs and salary** - passed to raise this . Amount paid

Costs = 979.59 Finance 23/24 = £1039 Finance 2024/2025 = 1143.99

Salary = 1072.60 Finance = 1077.94 Finance £1143.99

Other things discussed:-

1. Llanbedr Village Hall – earmarked £1500 for this. Looking at this again in committee 18.1.24
2. Llanbedr Nursery School – applied for funding - earmarked £1500
3. Something New For The Village – CCTV cameras

Some favour this, others don't see value to them.

Could earmark money and do some research into this. Cost of purchase £2400

Why?

Are they needed?

Location. Supervise. Privacy issue.

Will the public in Llanbedr be happy to have these in the Village? Question that needs answering.

**The cost of the New website** has been more than expected . £1000

But we really needed a new, current, modern one that worked for the Village.

Local fundraising = activities really need to be done in order to raise money for local associations, especially if we want new things for the village and keeping the same standard of work in the Village.

Spending - value 137 – money is £9.93 2023/24 . This is £10.81 for 2024/25 per electorate

On what is not the duty of the Council to contribute towards them., charities – of value To the village.

All things considered Llanbedr needs £21000, Need to reply to Cyngor Gwynedd by 27/1/24

This is the final figure for Llanbedr precept without contributing to HAL in April 2024.

Precept of £21000 is a 5% increase over 2023/24.