# Cyngor Cymuned Cilybebyll
# Cilybebyll Community Council

Minutes of the Finance and Development Committee Meeting held online via *Zoom*, on Tuesday 27 November 2024 at 6:30 pm

Presiding Councillor D Atkins

Present Councillors N Jenkins, D Jones
Clerk N. Parr-Williams

Apologies Councillors L Rees, S Atkins, B Williams

**95 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllr D Atkins, Capital Projects as a director of Westward Ltd. RESOLVED.

**96 2024-25 BUDGET MONITORING REPORT**

Clerk presented a budget monitoring spreadsheet indicating income and expenditure to 30 September 2024 and estimated outturn to the end of the financial year. Clerk explained that spending had remained on or under budget for the most part, projections show a total underspend of approx. £20,000. RESOLVED noted.

Cemetery grants were considered. It was suggested that NPTCBC Memorial Grant could be accessed by the groups. Members agreed that donations should still be made from council. Ebenezer, Rhos is now under private ownership so no grants due. RESOLVED noted.

STRI and pitch maintenance of Rhos Playing Fields were considered. These costs could be taken over by Rhos FC once a lease is agreed. RESOLVED noted.

Tea & Chat at Rhos Community Centre was discussed. Cllr N Jenkins suggested accessing the Food Poverty grant. Clerk will look into this. RESOLVED noted.

RESOLVED that the 2024-25 Budget Monitoring report be accepted.

**97 CAPITAL PROJECT IDEAS 2025-26**

Members discussed the following potential projects and approx. costs were discussed:

**New roof guttering for Rhos CC: £6,156.00**

**Solar Panels for Rhos CC: £10,000.00**
This project could be 75% funded by external sources

**Interpretation Board Alltwen Triangle: £3,000.00**
This project could be 75% funded by the next Mynydd y Betws Grant or NPTCBC Heritage Fund

**Replacement for See-saw at Lon Tanyrallt Park: £6,500.00**

**Meeting Room at Alltwen CC: £3,500.00**
(New tables, chairs, hybrid meeting equipment, rack for current tables etc)

**Additional tree lights for Alltwen tree: £2,000.00**

It was suggested that a completely new roof be looked at for Rhos CC. Cllr N Jenkins reported that HAPPS Grants may be available. Seven Oaks in Milland Road, Neath can provide complete roofs with solar panels built in. Cllr D Jones suggested that battery storage solar may be useful. Cllr D Atkins declared an interested when mentioning that Westward Ltd could provide quotes for solar as well as Connectus. RESOLVED that Clerk obtain quotes.

It was suggested that Marcia's Christmas tree in Rhos may also need lights. It was suggested that the best place for the tree to be situated would be on the grassy area at the front of the Persimmon development, opposite Rhos Primary School. RESOLVED that Clerk liaise with Persimmon regarding this.

**98 CHARGES AT COUNCIL FACILITIES 2025-26**

Members reviewed current hire charges. Clerk highlighted that Rhos CC is used a lot more than Alltwen CC. Members agreed that it was important not to put people off using the facilities and recommended no change to the hire charges for 2025-26. RESOLVED that full council be recommended to keep charges as follows:

**Alltwen Community Centre**

| | **Community** | **Commercial** |
|---|---|---|
| **Main Hall** | £10 per hour + £5 per hour thereafter | £17.50 per hour (20% discount for regular hirers) |
| **Committee Room** | £5 per hour + £2.50 per hour thereafter | £11.25 per hour (20% discount for regular hirers) |
| **New Meeting Room** | £5 per hour + £2.50 per hour thereafter | £11.25 per hour (20% discount for regular hirers) |
| **Children's Parties** | £40 + £20 refundable deposit | |
| **Evening Parties** | £60 + £20 refundable deposit | |

**Rhos Community Centre**

| | **Community** | **Commercial** |
|---|---|---|
| **Main Hall** | £10 per hour + £5 per hour thereafter | £17.50 per hour (20% discount for regular hirers) |
| **Bronwen's Room** | £5 per hour + £2.50 per hour thereafter | £11.25 per hour (20% discount for regular hirers) |
| **Children's Parties** | £40 + £20 refundable deposit | |
| **Evening Parties** | £60 + £20 refundable deposit | |

Members discussed creating a conference room in the new meeting room in Alltwen CC. This could be used for commercial hire. Permanent projectors would be good. Broadband already available for use. Cllr N Jenkins suggested that there may be a TV on wheels available from NPTCBC. Chair reported that there was a lot of good, decommissioned items that may be available from the old Pontardawe Pool that might be useful for one of the Community Centres. It was suggested that Cllr D Baker be requested to look into this further. RESOLVED.

It was suggested that the machinery used by the South Wales Woodturners would use a lot more electricity that someone hiring a room and just using lighting. It was suggested that a separate electricity meter be placed in the room if possible so that the Woodturners would be able to pay their fair share of the electricity costs. RESOLVED that Clerk look into this.

**99 BUDGET ESTIMATES AND PRECEPT FOR 2025-26**

The Clerk reported on the 2025-26 budget estimates, based on the anticipated expenditure and income in 2024-25. Expenditure was considered.

RESOLVED that budget for Financial Assistance Grants remain at £3,000.

Clerk reported that Council reserves, based on projection for 2024-25 (i.e. approx. £69,360.03 expenditure in second half of year) would be approx. £57,191.17. If precept for 2025-26 remained at £115,000.00 and budget is £153,844.05, then council reserves on 30th March 2026 would be approx. £18,347.12.

Clerk explained that it is recommended that council reserves cover 3 – 6 months council running costs. This means that the least council should ideally have in reserves is £38,461.01 (based on £153,844.05 budget). Clerk presented Precept options sheet and explained the Council Tax Base for 2024-25 as 2025-26 figures had not yet been received. Expenditure options, precept options, council reserves and the implications for Council Tax were considered.

Clerk/RFO recommended that precept for 2025-26 be set at £130,000.00 as this would leave approx. £33,347.12 in reserves which would come in just under the recommended 3-6 month council running costs. Precept could also be put up to cover this in the following year if necessary. Members accepted Clerk/RFO's recommendation.

RESOLVED that Council be recommended to:
1. Agree the Clerk's report on estimates for 2025-26.
2. Levy a Precept in the sum of £130,000.00 for the financial year 2025-26.

The meeting ended at 8:10pm.

Signed Dated 03 December 2024