

12/24

**MINUTES OF AN EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF NEYLAND TOWN COUNCIL, HELD ON TUESDAY 16TH
JANUARY 2024, 6.00PM AT NEYLAND COMMUNITY HUB**

This meeting was recorded.

This meeting was livestreamed.

IN ATTENDANCE: Cllr B Rothero (Chair)
Cllr S Thomas
Cllr A Phelan
Cllr M Harry
Cllr P Hay
Cllr A Thomas
Cllr S Campodonic
Cllr A Richards
Cllr D Devauden
Cllr A Radice (livestream)

APOLOGIES: Cllr E Phelan

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Libby Matthews – Town Clerk & RFO

The meeting opened at 6.05pm.

4352 – TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST FROM MEMBERS REGARDING THE BUSINESS TO BE TRANSACTED

The onus is on Members to declare interests which may relate to the meeting and/or any transactions to be made.

There were no declarations received.

4353 – TO DISCUSS AND FINALISE THE BUDGET AND PRECEPT REQUEST FOR 2024-25

All Members had previously been circulated a draft budget that had been comprised by the Finance & Strategy Committee. The draft budget for 2024-25 currently sat at an increase of 24.96% from the 2023-24 budget. All Members agreed that this would need to be reduced. The Clerk suggested that realistically, a maximum implementation of a 10% increase on the precept request for 2023-24 would be acceptable, so perhaps it may be a sensible idea to start with the maximum increase of 10% and work backwards to reduce the draft budget. Cllr S Thomas advised that he believed 10% to be too low and that due to figures he had depicted from Pembrokeshire County Council which shows an increase of 20-25% on their budget, and other CTC's showing an increase of between 17-18% on their precept requests, it may be prudent for NTC to increase our precept to match the level of others. Members felt that whilst in agreement that it would be very hard to not go over the 10% due to the hugely rising costs of everything, it would still be preferable to our electorate to keep costs as low as we could. Cllr P Hay addressed Members and advised that from looking at the draft budget and going through all figures, he had culminated that for NTC to purely exist and do the bare basics would cost in the region of £108,000 per annum. The Clerk advised that at an increase of 10%, our precept request for the year 2024-25 would be £111,669.80. A detailed and lengthy discussion ensued between all Members concerning the budget,

thoroughly exploring and debating on all budget headers and where NTC could save costs, as well as the necessity for some unavoidable increases.

A new budget was agreed and set by all Members. It was agreed to implement a 10% increase in the budget request for 2024-25, at a total of £111,669.80.

Proposal: To increase the precept request for Neyland Town Council by 10% at an agreed sum of £111,669.80 and the revised figures of the draft budget to be accepted.

Proposed: Cllr S Campodonic

Seconded: Cllr M Harry

All in favour

RESOLVED: THE PRECEPT REQUEST FOR THE YEAR 2024-25 BE SET AT £111,669.80 AND FOR THE REVISED BUDGET FIGURES TO ACCEPTED AND IMPLEMENTED.

4354 – TO CONFIRM THE SUBMISSION OF ACCOUNTS TO AUDIT WALES FOR 2022-23

The Clerk advised she had sent two emails and had left two answer phone messages with Audit Wales in an attempt to confirm submission of the 2022-23 accounts but had yet to have a response from them. Cllr Hay advised it may be a good idea to contact the internal auditor for some advice on the matter.

The meeting closed at 7.32pm

Signed:..... (The Chair)

Signed:..... (Town Clerk/Proper Officer)

Date:.....