

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

Minutes of a Special meeting held on 9th March, 2020.

Present: Councillor Christine Cave (Mayor); Councillors Julie Aviet, Vincent Bailey, Rhiannon Birch, Jonathan Bird, Bronwen Brooks, Lis Burnett, George Carroll, Janice Charles, Amelia Collins, Geoff Cox, Robert Crowley, Andrew Davies, Pamela Drake, Vincent Driscoll, Stewart Edwards, Ben Gray, Owen Griffiths, Stephen Griffiths, Sally Hanks, Nic Hodges, Hunter Jarvie, Gwyn John, Dr. Ian Johnson, Gordon Kemp, Peter King, Kevin Mahoney, Kathryn McCaffer, Anne Moore, Neil Moore, Michael Morgan, Jayne Norman, Rachel Nugent-Finn, Andrew Parker, Bob Penrose, Sandra Perkes, Andrew Robertson, Leighton Rowlands, Ruba Sivagnanam, John Thomas, Neil Thomas, Steffan Wiliam, Margaret Wilkinson, Edward Williams and Mark Wilson

727 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE –

These were received from Councillors Anthony Hampton and Marguerita Wright.

728 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST –

No declarations were received:

729 COUNCIL TAX 2020/21 –

The Leader alluded to the Senydd debate which took place on 4th March, 2020 when at that time, Local Government Funding Settlement had been agreed. Consequently, there had been no change to the Council's funding allocation for 2020/21 from Welsh Government.

He also reminded Members that, as the Revenue Budget for this Council had been agreed for the coming year at the Council meeting held on 26th February, 2020, the Council was now required to agree the Council Tax for 2020/21. Having read out details of the Council Tax Resolution as set out in the report for the benefit of all Members, he indicated that the following was taken into account: the funding required by this Council to meet the budget already agreed was on a 4.9% Council Tax rise; the outcome of the public consultation on the budget proposals; the funding required by the Town and Community Councils which had all met and determined their funding requirements for the coming financial year; the funding required by the Police and Crime Commissioner for the coming financial year. The table set out in the report detailed the Council Tax for all property bandings in the Vale of Glamorgan, taking into account all of the above.

The Leader Moved that the recommendations contained in the report be approved.

The Deputy Leader duly seconded the Motion.

Councillor Penrose, acknowledging Councillor Mahoney as his fellow Ward representative for the Ward of Sully and Lavernock, spoke on behalf of older residents living in Sully and referred to a number of factors which he felt penalised a large sector who resided in properties which fell within the higher value Council Tax bandings. He felt that many of these residents faced a reduction in their income, but at the same time increases in living costs and many were in a financial predicament and alluded to the existing method of setting Council Tax as being flawed due to it being calculated based on the rateable value of their properties. Particularly relevant was the fact that there was no longer financial assistance to older residents to alleviate Council Tax rises. Accordingly, he indicated that he would not be supporting the Leader's Motion.

Councillor Penrose Moved the following Amendment:

That the Council should keep its Council Tax to existing levels for 2019/20 with a zero percent increase and supplement the reduction in its revenue by drawing down from its reserves.

The Amendment was duly seconded by Councillor Mahoney.

Councillor Dr. Johnson sought clarification as to the implications of the Amendment.

The Leader, referring to the proposed Amendment, reminded Councillor Penrose that the Council Tax Banding System was prescribed by Welsh Government and therefore outside the Council's control. He acknowledged the existence of properties in Sully which fell within the higher bandings. However, he reminded Members that Council Tax levels within the County were below the Welsh Average and the proposals under consideration were not out of kilter to that agreed by the Council in previous years.

Referring to the other matters raised by Councillor Penrose, the Leader was aware that Council Tax Relief had not been made available in the previous two years. As to the suggestion to use additional reserves, he reminded all Members that Council agreed on 26th February the budget, use of reserves and that the Council Fund would not fall below £10m. There had been no dissent by Members at that time regarding the £10m threshold for the Council Fund. Reserves could be drawn down, but these were for specific projects, any attempt to use additional reserves would have implications.

The Leader signalled that he would be opposing the Amendment.

Councillor Mahoney referred to what he described as his yearly concern relating to international aid. He felt that the money would be better used to relieve the financial burden on wider communities and older persons and suggested governments and the main political parties should not be giving substantial amounts of money in foreign aid. He described the situation as sheer madness.

Councillor Dr. Johnson, sought further clarification in regard to the purpose of Councillor Penrose's Amendment, given that the budget and use of reserves had

been discussed and agreed at the previous Council meeting. He did not recall Councillor Penrose raising the issue at the time in regard to use of reserves.

The Mayor provided clarification, ruling that the Amendment could not be accepted on the basis that the budget had already been approved at the last Council meeting.

Councillor Bailey, alluding to his comments made at the last Council meeting on the budget and proposed Council Tax rise, considered a 4.9% rise was unjustified for a number of reasons which included overcollection of Council Tax in previous years and the Council holding the highest proportion of reserves held against gross revenue expenditure than any other Council in Wales bar one. Accordingly, he would not be supporting the Leader's Motion.

Councillor Dr. Johnson, referring to his comments made at the last Council meeting, echoed his concern regarding the current process of agreeing budgets and setting the Council Tax by way of two separate meetings. He viewed this as unhelpful and suggested in future that both the approval of the budget and the setting of Council Tax be dealt with at a single Council meeting. He also considered it important moving forward that the Corporate Performance and Resources Scrutiny Committee and the Audit Committee, when looking at the Council's comprehensive income and expenditure statements, take the time to look into other areas where the Council received funding, noting in the budget report large variances between expenditure and income, which looked very different to the information reported as part of the process when agreeing the Council's budget.

Councillor Dr. Johnson had some sympathy with Councillor Penrose's comments in relation to Council Tax bandings in Sully, acknowledging some older residents were wealthy, but cash poor. He also considered the use of Council Tax Band D to make a case was disingenuous in his view due to regional economic disparities. He hoped that the Council in future would consider adopting initiatives such as a second home premium to raise additional funding as done in Pembrokeshire and Gwynedd.

The Leader, in summing up, reiterated his earlier comments relating to Council Tax levels being below the Welsh Average, proposed Council Tax rises elsewhere in Wales, which were either comparable or higher with very few being lower. The overcollection of Council Tax was not excessive. Caution was required to be exercised regarding the use of General Fund Reserves and he cited examples of reserves held by other Councils in Wales which were higher. He reminded all Members that they agreed to using a considerable amount of reserves in the coming year for 21st Century Band B Schools and housing development. He would make no apologies for the planned use of reserves, but it was also important to have sufficient reserves for unplanned activity, he continued to hold significant concern relating to the impact of Universal Credit. He also viewed it as an opportune time to reset initiatives such as the Reshaping Services Programme and reminded all that there would be ongoing requirement to save money in coming years.

A Recorded Vote took place on the Motion.

Members	For	Against	Abstain
Julie Aviet	√		
Vincent Bailey		√	
Rhiannon Birch	√		
Jonathan Bird	√		
Bronwen Brooks	√		
Lis Burnett	√		
George Carroll		√	
Christine Cave		√	
Janice Charles		√	
Millie Collins		√	
Geoff Cox	√		
Robert Crowley		√	
Andrew Davies		√	
Pamela Drake	√		
Vince Driscoll		√	
Stewart Edwards		√	
Ben Gray	√		
Owen Griffiths	√		
Stephen Griffiths		√	
Sally Hanks	√		
Nic Hodges		√	
Hunter Jarvie	√		
Gwyn John	√		
Ian Johnson		√	
Gordon Kemp		√	
Peter King	√		
Kevin Mahoney		√	
Kathryn McCaffer	√		
Anne Moore	√		
Neil Moore	√		
Michael Morgan	√		
Jayne Norman	√		
Rachel Nugent-Finn		√	

Andrew Parker	√		
Bob Penrose		√	
Sandra Perkes	√		
Andrew Robertson		√	
Leighton Rowlands		√	
Ruba Sivagnanam	√		
John Thomas	√		
Neil Thomas	√		
Steffan Wiliam		√	
Margaret Wilkinson	√		
Edward Williams	√		
Mark Wilson	√		
TOTAL	26	19	

The Motion was duly carried and it was

RESOLVED –

- (1) T H A T it be noted that at its meeting on 2nd December, 2019, Cabinet (the Executive) calculated the following amounts for the year 2020/21 in accordance with regulations made under Section 33(5) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992:
- (a) 60,806 being the amount calculated by Cabinet (the Executive) in accordance with regulation 3 of the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) (Wales) Regulations 1995, as amended, as its Council Tax base for the year.
- (b) Part of the Council's area

Barry	20,446
Colwinston	376
Cowbridge with Llanblethian	2,665
Dinas Powys	3,843
Ewenny	451
Llancarfan	477
Llandough	961
Llandow	434
Llanfair	385
Llangan	453
Llanmaes	256
Llantwit Major	4,188
Michaelston	225
Penarth	11,597
Pendoylan	351

Penllyn	1,047
Peterston-Super-Ely	561
St. Athan	1,536
St. Brides Major	1,438
St. Donats	197
St. Georges and St. Brides-Super-Ely	238
St. Nicholas and Bonvilston	688
Sully and Lavernock	2,541
Welsh St. Donats	316
Wenvoe	1,523
Wick	538

being the amounts calculated by Cabinet (the Executive), in accordance with regulation 6 of the Regulations, as amended, as the amounts of its Council Tax base for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which one or more special items relate.

- (2) T H A T the following amounts be now calculated by the Council for the year 2020/21 in accordance with Sections 32 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992:
- | | | |
|-----|---|---------------------|
| (a) | Aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 32 (2) (a) to (d) and (2A) of the Act (including Town / Community Council Precepts totalling £3,060,529) | £369,162,569 |
| (b) | Aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 32 (3) (a), (aa) and (c), and (3A) of the Act. | £125,953,749 |
| (c) | Amount by which the aggregate at (2)(a) above exceeds the aggregate at (2)(b) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 32(4) of the Act, as its budget requirement for the year. | £243,208,820 |
| (d) | Aggregate of the sums which the Council estimates will be payable for the year into its Council Fund in respect of redistributed non-domestic rates, revenue support grant, its council tax reduction scheme, additional grant or special grant less certain Discretionary Non-Domestic Rate Reliefs. | £160,730,791 |
| (e) | The amount at (2)(c) above less the amount at (2)(d) above, all divided by the amount at (1)(a) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 33(1) of the Act as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year. | £1,356.41 |
| (f) | Aggregate amount of all special items referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act. | £3,060,529 |

(g) Amount at (2)(e) above less the result given by dividing the amount at (2)(f) above by the amount at (1)(a) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(2) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which no special item relates. **£1,306.08**

(h) <u>Part of the Council's area</u>	<u>£</u>
Barry	1,364.52
Colwinston	1,340.92
Cowbridge with Llanblethian	1,379.67
Dinas Powys	1,335.08
Ewenny	1,348.33
Llancarfan	1,331.46
Llandough	1,348.69
Llandow	1,329.12
Llanfair	1,318.05
Llangan	1,329.86
Llanmaes	1,353.93
Llantwit Major	1,365.28
Michaelston	1,333.64
Penarth	1,384.77
Pendoylan	1,326.89
Penllyn	1,317.49
Peterston-Super-Ely	1,343.51
St. Athan	1,331.08
St. Brides Major	1,325.64
St. Donats	1,322.45
St. Georges and St. Brides-Super-Ely	1,322.47
St. Nicholas and Bonvilston	1,322.77
Sully and Lavernock	1,343.11
Welsh St. Donats	1,328.23
Wenvoe	1,329.75
Wick	1,317.23

being the amounts given by adding to the amount at (2)(g) above the amounts of the special item or items relating to dwellings in those parts of the Council's area mentioned above divided in each case by the amount at (1)(b) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34 (3) of the Act, as the basic amounts of its Council Tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which one or more special items relate.

(i) Part of the Council's Area

	Valuation Bands								
	£	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
Barry	909.68	1,061.29	1,212.91	1,364.52	1,667.75	1,970.97	2,274.20	2,729.04	3,183.88
Colwinston	893.95	1,042.94	1,191.93	1,340.92	1,638.90	1,936.88	2,234.87	2,681.84	3,128.81
Cowbridge with Llanblethian	919.78	1,073.08	1,226.37	1,379.67	1,686.26	1,992.86	2,299.45	2,759.34	3,219.23
Dinas Powys	890.05	1,038.40	1,186.74	1,335.08	1,631.76	1,928.45	2,225.13	2,670.16	3,115.19
Ewenny	898.89	1,048.70	1,198.52	1,348.33	1,647.96	1,947.59	2,247.22	2,696.66	3,146.10
Llancarfan	887.64	1,035.58	1,183.52	1,331.46	1,627.34	1,923.22	2,219.10	2,662.92	3,106.74
Llandough	899.13	1,048.98	1,198.84	1,348.69	1,648.40	1,948.11	2,247.82	2,697.38	3,146.94
Llandow	886.08	1,033.76	1,181.44	1,329.12	1,624.48	1,919.84	2,215.20	2,658.24	3,101.28
Llanfair	878.70	1,025.15	1,171.60	1,318.05	1,610.95	1,903.85	2,196.75	2,636.10	3,075.45
Llangan	886.57	1,034.34	1,182.10	1,329.86	1,625.38	1,920.91	2,216.43	2,659.72	3,103.01
Llanmaes	902.62	1,053.06	1,203.49	1,353.93	1,654.80	1,955.68	2,256.55	2,707.86	3,159.17
Llantwit Major	910.19	1,061.88	1,213.58	1,365.28	1,668.68	1,972.07	2,275.47	2,730.56	3,185.65
Michaelston	889.09	1,037.28	1,185.46	1,333.64	1,630.00	1,926.37	2,222.73	2,667.28	3,111.83
Penarth	923.18	1,077.04	1,230.91	1,384.77	1,692.50	2,000.22	2,307.95	2,769.54	3,231.13
Pendoylan	884.59	1,032.03	1,179.46	1,326.89	1,621.75	1,916.62	2,211.48	2,653.78	3,096.08
Penllyn	878.33	1,024.71	1,171.10	1,317.49	1,610.27	1,903.04	2,195.82	2,634.98	3,074.14
Peterston-Super-Ely	895.67	1,044.95	1,194.23	1,343.51	1,642.07	1,940.63	2,239.18	2,687.02	3,134.86
Rhoose	870.72	1,015.84	1,160.96	1,306.08	1,596.32	1,886.56	2,176.80	2,612.16	3,047.52
St. Athan	887.39	1,035.28	1,183.18	1,331.08	1,626.88	1,922.67	2,218.47	2,662.16	3,105.85
St. Brides Major	883.76	1,031.05	1,178.35	1,325.64	1,620.23	1,914.81	2,209.40	2,651.28	3,093.16
St. Donats	881.63	1,028.57	1,175.51	1,322.45	1,616.33	1,910.21	2,204.08	2,644.90	3,085.72
St. Georges & St. Brides-Super-Ely	881.65	1,028.59	1,175.53	1,322.47	1,616.35	1,910.23	2,204.12	2,644.94	3,085.76
St. Nicholas and Bonvilston	881.85	1,028.82	1,175.80	1,322.77	1,616.72	1,910.67	2,204.62	2,645.54	3,086.46
Sully and Lavernock	895.41	1,044.64	1,193.88	1,343.11	1,641.58	1,940.05	2,238.52	2,686.22	3,133.92
Welsh St. Donats	885.49	1,033.07	1,180.65	1,328.23	1,623.39	1,918.55	2,213.72	2,656.46	3,099.20
Wenvoe	886.50	1,034.25	1,182.00	1,329.75	1,625.25	1,920.75	2,216.25	2,659.50	3,102.75
Wick	878.15	1,024.51	1,170.87	1,317.23	1,609.95	1,902.67	2,195.38	2,634.46	3,073.54

being the amounts given by multiplying the amounts at (2)(g) and (2)(h) above by the number which, in the proportion set out in Section 5 (1/1A) of the Act, is applicable to dwellings listed in a particular valuation band divided by the number which in that proportion is applicable to dwellings listed in valuation band D, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 36 (1) of the Act, as the amounts to be taken into account for the year in respect of categories of dwellings listed in different valuation bands.

(3) T H A T it be noted that for the year 2 the Police and Crime Commissioner for South Wales has stated the following amounts in precepts issued to the Council in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:-

Valuation Bands

£	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
	181.81	212.11	242.41	272.72	333.32	393.92	454.53	545.43	636.34

(4) T H A T, having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at (2)(i) and (3) above , the Vale of Glamorgan County Borough Council, in accordance with Section 30 (2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the following amounts as the amounts of Council Tax for the year 2020/21 for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:-

Part of the Council's Area	Valuation Bands									
	£	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
Barry		1,091.49	1,273.40	1,455.32	1,637.24	2,001.07	2,364.89	2,728.73	3,274.47	3,820.22
Colwinston		1,075.76	1,255.05	1,434.34	1,613.64	1,972.22	2,330.80	2,689.40	3,227.27	3,765.15
Cowbridge with Llanblethian		1,101.59	1,285.19	1,468.78	1,652.39	2,019.58	2,386.78	2,753.98	3,304.77	3,855.57
Dinas Powys		1,071.86	1,250.51	1,429.15	1,607.80	1,965.08	2,322.37	2,679.66	3,215.59	3,751.53
Ewenny		1,080.70	1,260.81	1,440.93	1,621.05	1,981.28	2,341.51	2,701.75	3,242.09	3,782.44
Llancarfan		1,069.45	1,247.69	1,425.93	1,604.18	1,960.66	2,317.14	2,673.63	3,208.35	3,743.08
Llandough		1,080.94	1,261.09	1,441.25	1,621.41	1,981.72	2,342.03	2,702.35	3,242.81	3,783.28
Llandow		1,067.89	1,245.87	1,423.85	1,601.84	1,957.80	2,313.76	2,669.73	3,203.67	3,737.62
Llanfair		1,060.51	1,237.26	1,414.01	1,590.77	1,944.27	2,297.77	2,651.28	3,181.53	3,711.79
Llangan		1,068.38	1,246.45	1,424.51	1,602.58	1,958.70	2,314.83	2,670.96	3,205.15	3,739.35
Llanmaes		1,084.43	1,265.17	1,445.90	1,626.65	1,988.12	2,349.60	2,711.08	3,253.29	3,795.51
Llantwit Major		1,092.00	1,273.99	1,455.99	1,638.00	2,002.00	2,365.99	2,730.00	3,275.99	3,821.99
Michaelston		1,070.90	1,249.39	1,427.87	1,606.36	1,963.32	2,320.29	2,677.26	3,212.71	3,748.17
Penarth		1,104.99	1,289.15	1,473.32	1,657.49	2,025.82	2,394.14	2,762.48	3,314.97	3,867.47
Pendoylan		1,066.40	1,244.14	1,421.87	1,599.61	1,955.07	2,310.54	2,666.01	3,199.21	3,732.42
Penllyn		1,060.14	1,236.82	1,413.51	1,590.21	1,943.59	2,296.96	2,650.35	3,180.41	3,710.48
Peterston-Super-Ely		1,077.48	1,257.06	1,436.64	1,616.23	1,975.39	2,334.55	2,693.71	3,232.45	3,771.20
Rhose		1,052.53	1,227.95	1,403.37	1,578.80	1,929.64	2,280.48	2,631.33	3,157.59	3,683.86
St. Athan		1,069.20	1,247.39	1,425.59	1,603.80	1,960.20	2,316.59	2,673.00	3,207.59	3,742.19
St. Brides Major		1,065.57	1,243.16	1,420.76	1,598.36	1,953.55	2,308.73	2,663.93	3,196.71	3,729.50
St. Donats		1,063.44	1,240.68	1,417.92	1,595.17	1,949.65	2,304.13	2,658.61	3,190.33	3,722.06
St. Georges & St. Brides-Super-Ely		1,063.46	1,240.70	1,417.94	1,595.19	1,949.67	2,304.15	2,658.65	3,190.37	3,722.10
St. Nicholas and Bonvilston		1,063.66	1,240.93	1,418.21	1,595.49	1,950.04	2,304.59	2,659.15	3,190.97	3,722.80
Sully and Lavernock		1,077.22	1,256.75	1,436.29	1,615.83	1,974.90	2,333.97	2,693.05	3,231.65	3,770.26
Welsh St. Donats		1,067.30	1,245.18	1,423.06	1,600.95	1,956.71	2,312.47	2,668.25	3,201.89	3,735.54
Wenvoe		1,068.31	1,246.36	1,424.41	1,602.47	1,958.57	2,314.67	2,670.78	3,204.93	3,739.09
Wick		1,059.96	1,236.62	1,413.28	1,589.95	1,943.27	2,296.59	2,649.91	3,179.89	3,709.88

No.

- (5) T H A T discount for prompt payment of the Council Tax be not granted.
- (6) T H A T the Common Seal be affixed to the said Council Tax.
- (7) T H A T notices of the making of the said Council Taxes signed by the Managing Director be given by advertisement in the local press under Section 38 (2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.

Reason for decisions

- (1-7) In order to set the Council Tax for 2020/21.