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CYNGOR TREF GORSEINON **GORSEINON TOWN COUNCIL**

Minutes of the Finance Meeting of Gorseinon Town Council held at Ty Newydd Community Centre, **on Wednesday 7th January at 7pm.**

Attendees: Councillors; J Curtice (Chaiman), A. Stevens, K. Jones, M. Curtice, P. Morgan, P. Eyres, A. Thomas, J. Clayfield, M. Phillips. Town Clerk,

Main Meeting Discussion Points:

FM0126-01	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE There were apologies for absence from Cllrs, J. Crowley, N. Matthews, P Griffiths.
FM0126-02	PUBLIC PARTICIPATION No members of the public were present and there were no representations from the public prior to the meeting commencing.
FM0126-03	DECLARATION OF INTEREST None noted.
FM0126-04	MINUTES OF COUNCIL It was RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Finance Meeting of the Council held on January 8 th 2025 be confirmed as a correct record - AGREED . Approved by Councillor M. Curtice and Seconded by Councillor P. Eyers
FM0126-05	MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES None reported.
FM0126-06	<u>GORSEINON TOWN COUNCIL DRAFT PRECEPT 2026/27 REPORT.</u> <u>Council Tax Base & Band D Equivalent Properties</u> The clerk reminded members of the Draft Precept Report sent to them previously. The clerk further stated, On 11 th December, Swansea Council sent us the council tax base from Swansea Council. This gives us the number of Band D properties in our area. The precept is based upon band D properties. Residents pay both their Council Tax and the Community/ Town Council precept on a pro rata basis depending upon the valuation Band of their property. This draft precept is for 3450 Band D properties in the year 2026/27. Which is an increase of 73 households in the Gorseinon Area from the 3377 in

	<p>2025/26.</p> <p>This is one of the highest percentage increases in the City and County of Swansea. Members discussed the increase in housing across the Gorseinon and Loughor area currently going on. Councillor P. Evers commented members should note if the infrastructure is there to support this increase. Councillor J. Curtice noted the impact this would have on the local schools and traffic at peak times of the day.</p> <p>Clerks report was NOTED.</p>
<p>FM0126-07</p>	<p><u>Budget 2026 27 Considerations</u></p> <p>The clerk stated as Council are aware the refurbishment works on the Ty Newydd are now urgent and potentially could be very costly. Grant funding is being actively pursued to assist with these costs. But costs such as these below must be considered in full.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Fire escape est. £20000.00 b. Re render of exterior est. £30000.00 – 35000.00 c. New secure front doors, replacement of exterior basement doors and upgrades to existing Fire doors, including potential associated building works with all fire doors est. at £20000.00 – £30000.00. <p>Original earmarked reserves as of 2024.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> d. Bottom of Lime St. project, contribution from GTC = £40000.00 e. Melin Mynach skatepark/Pump track. contribution from GTC = £40000.00. <p>There are also plans to hold more events throughout our 2025/26 year, such as an Awards ceremony and Mayors dinner which will continue to be ongoing events beyond 2026/27.</p> <p>Some of these costs could be offset in to following years, such as Lime St. project outside the Bug, which may take over a year to complete.</p> <p>If all these costs were to fall within 2026/27 financial year, the Potential commitment costs for 2026/27 = £165000.00. This would not include our current ongoing annual expenditure.</p> <p>Our reserves at the beginning of the financial year April 2025/26 were £196,000.00.</p> <p>Our current reserves, including our final precept instalment for 2025/26 due on 31/12/2025 of £52816.33, will be, as of 31/12 /25 £213,912.66.</p> <p>This means we should be slightly below our reserves of the previous year come the end of March 2026 after ongoing expenditure.</p> <p>It is recommended by Auditors to always have at least six months' worth of capital in</p>

	<p>reserve. Councillor A. Stevens reminded the clerk that the budget for Melin Mynach could be reduced in the next financial year as the works are almost completed.</p> <p>Clerks report was NOTED. It was RESOLVED from all members to APPROVE the proposals of the clerk.</p>
FM0126-08	<p><u>Precept 2026-2027</u></p> <p>Based on the above information and considering the Finances, Budgets, the cost of refurbishments, and keeping a steady balance of Council's accounts, the clerk recommends that the precept for 2026-2027 should be at least 5.99%. This being the same level of increase as members agreed in our 2025 finance meeting.</p> <p>Clerks report was NOTED.</p> <p>Members then went on to discuss the levels below.</p> <p><u>Levels listed below include costs per household.</u></p> <p>The precept for 2024/25 was £149,490, representing a cost per household of £45 Our current year 2025/26 the precept is £158,449, representing a cost per household of £46.92,</p> <p>Recommended Precept 2026-2027 be increased by the same as last year at 5.99%. Precept = £171,570, based on 3450 households. Each household pays £49.73 per year, an extra £2.81 per household, per year.</p> <p>The clerk then shared additional examples of the cost to individual households of changing to various percentage rates.</p> <p>Further examples, if the Precept for 2026-2027 were to be increased to;</p> <p>4.9% Precept = £169,806 Based on 3450 households. Each household pays £49.22 per year, an extra £2.30 per year.</p> <p>6.9% Precept = £173,043 based on 3450 households. Each household pays £50.16 per year, an extra £3.24 per year.</p> <p>9.9% Precept = £177,900 based on 3450 households.</p>

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Each household pays £51.57per year, an extra £4.65 per year.

The clerk then stated that it is important to note, it is not recommended to stay the same or decrease the Precept as this will incur much greater percentage increases being required in future years to meet all Town Council commitments.

Clerks report was **NOTED**. It was **RESOLVED** on the motion of Councillor M. Curtice, seconded by Councillor P Eyers to increase the Precept by 5.99% All members **APPROVED**.

FM0126-09

Gorseinon Town Council 5-year priorities 2022-27

- a.** To promote new uses for Ty Newydd Community centre, for community groups, that meet the Town Council objectives and are both accessible and affordable for all residents of the Gorseinon/Penyrrheol Wards.
- b.** Aim to improve communications with residents and groups, work with local partnerships, and represent the views of the community, as well as better explaining what the Town Council role is, and what can be done for the local community.
- c.** Deliver projects for the area that will engender and strengthen both PRIDE and RESPECT in the communities of Gorseinon and Penyrrheol.
- d.** Deliver projects that will improve the physical appearance and environment of our town centre and residential areas.
- e.** Support worthy community groups/local initiatives and community projects, focused on sporting/social and cultural activities, particularly for the youth and elderly of the area.
- f.** The Town Council should aim to champion diversity, and Well Being in all its forms, within the local community.

Clerks report was **NOTED**. It was **RESOLVED** from all members to **APPROVE** Gorseinon Town Councils 5 year Priorities 2022-2027.

Presiding Chair closed the meeting at 19.55pm

Presiding Chair signature