

FALMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a special meeting of the Council held on Monday 15th January 2024 at 8.20pm held in The Atherton Suite, The Old Post Office, The Moor, Falmouth.

Present: Councillors K J Edwards (Town Mayor), D E Clegg, L D Coley, S D Eva, D V Evans BEM, A J Jewell CC, J S Kirkham CC, J C Robinson, B M A Ross, D W Saunby CC and J M Spargo.

In Attendance: A M Williams (Town Clerk)
R N Thomas (Responsible Financial Officer)
D C Shankland (Communications Officer)

The Mayor advised of the death of former Mayor Roger Bonney and the Council stood in a minute's silence of remembrance.

C5821 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received and approved from Councillors Chin-Quee (ill), Rowe (family bereavement) and Seiler (holiday).

It was proposed by Councillor Eva, seconded by Councillor Ross and

RESOLVED that an extended period of absence for Councillor Chin-Quee be permitted due to illness until the September 2024 Council meeting.

C5822 INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

None received.

It was proposed by Councillor Eva, seconded by Councillor Ross and

RESOLVED that the dispensation granted to the members of the Planning and Licensing Committee to enable it to make a time sensitive comment to the Planning Authority in respect of planning application PA23/10102, land under the ownership of the Council, be approved as it was in the public interest as otherwise the business of the Council would be impeded.

C5823 PRECEPT 2024/25

The Town Mayor requested the Chair of the Finance and General Purposes Committee to present the agreed 2024/25 budget to enable the Council to confirm the 2024/25 precept call which needed to be notified to Cornwall Council. The precept would be paid in two instalments on 1st April 2024 and 1st September 2024.

The Chair of the Finance and General Purposes Committee recognised the efforts of councillors, service committees, the Responsible Financial Officer, and Council Service Managers in preparing the budget recommendation, she referenced inflation and increasing commodities and contractor costs and the Council's commitments to address its low General Fund Reserve balance. The recommendation saw consolidation and resilience for the Council's services. In response to Councillor questions the Responsible Financial Officer advised that it was not fiscally responsible to use general reserves balances as part of budget setting, nor set a budget that would knowingly require the use of reserves.

It was proposed by Councillor Robinson, seconded by Councillor Clegg.

RESOLVED that the Council confirms the 2024/25 budget and sets its precept for 2024/25 at £3,352,214.39.

A Council Tax Band D equivalent of £431.24 per annum. An increase of 1.93% (£8.18 per annum at band D) over 2023/24.

Councillor Jewell had requested that voting be recorded. Those voting for the motion: Councillors Clegg, Coley, Edwards, Eva, Kirkham, Robinson, and Ross. Those voting against: Councillors D V Evans, Jewell, Saunby and Spargo.

An amendment proposed by Councillor D V Evans, seconded by Councillor Jewell that the Council reduces its 2024/25 budget to a level requiring a 0% increase in precept over 2023/24 level was lost. Councillor Jewell had requested a recorded vote on the Amendment. Those voting for the amendment: Councillors D V Evans, Jewell, Saunby and Spargo. Those voting against: Councillors Clegg, Coley, Edwards, Eva, Kirkham, Robinson, and Ross.

There being no further business to transact the Town Mayor declared the meeting closed at 7.40 pm.

Signed..... Date.....