

WENTLOOGE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Serving the Communities of St Brides and Peterstone

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Dear Member

MEETING OF THE WENTLOOGE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

PETERSTONE VILLAGE HALL

TUESDAY 7TH JANUARY 2025 @ 1900

MINUTES

Present:

Chair, Cllr Judy Clatworthy

Vice Chair, Cllr Julie Foster

Cllr Ann Farrugia

Cllr Ann Picton

Cllr Lucy Turner

Clerk Sara Nurse

Apologies/Declaration of Interest

Cllr Frank Lovejoy

Cllr Richard White

1. Feedback on Audit from Audit Wales

Discussed in detail the qualified result as follows:

Accounting Statement does not properly present the Council's receipts and payments and financial position:

The Council has reported in Line 8, the balances recorded on its bank statements and in line 9 cheques issued in 2023-24 that remained unrepresented at 31 March 2024.

Council felt this did not represent a qualified audit considering advice was sought on this last year and was also approved by the internal auditor and an accountant. All agreed to challenge Audit Wales and seek further clarification to prevent a repeat. Result will not be posted until agreed.

The Auditor made it clear that whilst the result was qualified in their opinion no matters have given cause for concern and that :-

- Accounts have been prepared in accordance with proper practices
- Relevant legislative and regulatory requirements have been met
- Accounts are consistent with the Council's governance arrangements
- Council has proper arrangements in place to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources.

2. Draft budget

Draft budget was presented to be ratified at full Council Meeting on 21st January 2025. Clerk presented budget spending for last 5 years and a consensus drawn on estimated spending going forward. Due to a reserve accumulated the budget has been reduced and precept adjusted accordingly. Reserves will remain for contingency against flood and Legal fees.

3. 2025/2026 Precept

Precept submitted to NCC at £40.49 which is a reduction of £10.67 due to strong financial controls in the year. See below submission.

4. Review of Section 137 funding

All agreed to adopt the policy but to add a threshold be set for the amount of cash held by an organisation and agreed that any organisation with more than £5k as a reserve should be discounted.

5. Councillor Training Plan

Chair made clear this is now a requirement within the first 6 months that as a minimum Code of Conduct and basic Financial Training must be undertaken.

6. AOB

Council reviewed gateway signage, planters and bins and agreed to purchase awaiting notifications from Newport City Council.

This is a closed meeting and not subject to public or press notification

The meeting was closed at 2150