

FALMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Council held on Monday 20th January 2025 at 8.20pm held in the Atherton Suite, The Old Post Office, The Moor, Falmouth. TR11 3QA

Present: Councillors A L Rowe CC (Town Mayor), L D Coley (Deputy Mayor), D E Clegg, S D Eva, D V Evans BEM, A J Jewell CC, D A Konik, T M Pearce, J C Robinson, D W Saunby CC, E E Seiler, and J M P Spargo.

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

C6041 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received and approved from Councillors Edwards (family matter), and G F Evans (ill).

C6042 INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

None received.

C6043 PRECEPT 2025/26

The Town Mayor requested the Chair of the Finance and General Purposes Committee to present the agreed 2025/26 budget to enable the Council to confirm the 2025/26 precept call which needed to be notified to Cornwall Council. This notification had been delayed from 31st December 2024 to allow the Council to further consider its draft budget. The precept would be paid in two instalments on 1st April 2025 and 1st September 2025.

The Chair of the Finance and General Purposes Committee outlined the process of budget setting through service committees and service leads which had been thorough and considered. She recognised the considerable efforts of the Responsible Financial Officer 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 second homes levy income would create an earmarked reserve for renovation works to the Municipal Buildings. 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.

The Mayor requested that the thanks and recognition of the Council for the efforts of the Responsible Financial Officer be noted.

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

RESOLVED that the Council confirms the 2025/26 budget and sets its precept for 2025/26 at £3,677,262.79.

A Council Tax Band D equivalent of £444.06 per annum. An increase of 2.97% (£12.82 per annum at band D) over 2024/25.

Councillor Saunby had requested that voting be recorded. Those voting for the motion: Councillors Clegg, Coley, Eva, Konik, Pearce, Robinson, Rowe, and Seiler. Those voting against: Councillors D V Evans, Jewell, Saunby and Spargo.

There being no further business to transact the Town Mayor declared the meeting closed at 8.40 pm.

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