

At a Special Budget Meeting of Pembroke Dock
Town Council held at the Pater Hall, Pembroke
Dock on Thursday 6th January 2011

PRESENT:

Councillor M Colgan (Mayor), A McNaughton,
M Murton, D Humphreys, D Earl, K Becton, P Gwyther,
P E George, S Perkins, E Cook, C Gwyther & P Kraus

IN ATTENDANCE:

Moira Saunders- Town Clerk
Sarah Scourfield- Assistant Town Clerk

152. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors K Higgs, T Wilcox & C Fortune

153. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

154. SETTING THE BUDGET FOR 2011/2012 PRECEPT REQUEST

Sunderland Trust Grant Request

The Town Clerk asked that members consider the grant application request from the Sunderland Trust before making decisions on the budget as this had not been included in budget preparations. Members felt that the Sunderland Trust have been doing an excellent job attracting people to the town, but felt that the Sunderland Trust was wealthier than other organisations of the town.

It was

PROPOSED by Councillor E Cook
SECONDED by Councillor A McNaughton

**RESOLVED- That the Town Council award the
Sunderland Trust £500.**

An Amendment was proposed

PROPOSED by C Gwyther
SECONDED by S Perkins

**RESOLVED- That the Town Council do not
award any financial assistance to the
Sunderland Trust as the Grant application**

A Vote was taken on the amended resolution 8 members voted for the Town Council not awarding financial assistance to the Sunderland Trust and 2 members voted against the amended motion.

Administration

The Town Clerk informed members that there had been two finance group meetings recently and the budget headings had been looked at with some detail she stated that some headings and increased but others had been reduced.

She informed members that the Legal fees had been reduced to £6,000 but as the public enquiry will be in May 2011 at the end of March 2011 she would be asking that the residue of the legal fees budget is ring fenced to go towards the legal bill and be added to the £6000 fees to help pay for the public enquiry legal fees. Councillor K Becton informed members that the finance group felt that the precept could not be increased and the £6,000 was agreed due to concerns over low reserves.

The Town Clerk informed members that the Office Equipment heading had been increased for new desks and computers, she stated that due to the use of email postage costs and printing and stationary will possibly be decreasing. Councillor K Becton questioned if £500 could be taken off the Office Equipment the Town Clerk and other members agreed. She also

commented that the Training heading seemed to be high, it was commented that the training budget seemed to be low and courses are expensive. The Town Clerk stated that most courses are subsidised and that she would be happy for the training heading to be reduced by £250.

Salaries and Wages

The Town Clerk informed members that the Wages and Salaries heading will be staying the same.

Official Entertainment

The Town Clerk informed members that the Mayoral and Deputy Mayor Allowances have stayed the same, and the Official entertainment heading had decreased by £500. She stated that this budget heading was mainly used for Civic Dinner costs.

Pater Hall

The Town Clerk stated that there is no change to the rates and rent for the Pater Hall.

Town Decoration & Improvement

The Town Clerk informed members that the Christmas Lighting heading had increased by £3,000. She stated that extra work would need to be done for next year as permanent fixings would be needed and also some of the lights may need to be replaced.

The Town Clerk stated that the Maintenance Pump House heading had been decreased she informed members that materials for the new fascias would be purchased before 2011/2012 financial year.

The Town Clerk informed members that the Hanging Baskets heading had been reduced as the full amount had not been spent last year.

Section 137

Members felt that £100 could be taken off the Donations heading to bring it down to £1,500 to which all agreed.

The Town Clerk informed members that the figure for the Pater Hall Community Trust had increased she stated that this was based on last years contribution as this amount is a donation towards the Wages for staff. It was suggested that a contingency of £5,000 was added for the Grant Pater Hall as there were issues surrounding this heading which had to be discussed at the next meeting of the Town Council. The Town Clerk stated that with the budget as it stood there was a surplus of £5,000 which could be allocated to the Pater Hall Grant if members agreed at the next meeting.

Miscellaneous

The Town Clerk informed members that there was no change to items in this heading.

Members felt that £4,800 was a lot of money for CCTV contributions and felt that the Town Clerk should contact the Local Police Force again to clarify if the CCTV in the town has helped solve crimes in the area.

Promotion of Tourism

The Town Clerk stated that the Promotion of Tourism heading had been reduced by £500 and the Summer Festival heading had been increased by £500.

The Town Clerk informed members that reserves of the Council were very low and any surplus not used within the budget would be added to reserves.

She stated that the precept request would be £151, 000 which is calculated at £45.82 for a Band D property in the Pembroke Dock area. Members requested that a press release is sent to the Local Paper stating that the precept of Pembroke Dock Town Council has stayed the same for 2011/2012.

It was

PROPOSED by Councillor S Perkins
SECONDED by Councillor D Earl

RESOLVED- That the Town Council adopt the proposed budget with the agreed alterations to

Administration and Donations headings.

155. Any Other Business

Amendment for Pater Hall Trust Grant

Councillor C Gwyther stated that she wanted to bring an amendment to the next meeting; she informed members that she would give the information to the Town Clerk to be sent out with the papers for the next meeting on 13th January 2011.

Coastguard Agency meeting

Councillor C Gwyther informed members that the Coastguard Agency were due to have a meeting regarding the threat to the service in the area. She commented that she wanted to raise support to keep the local coastguard open and keep the service local. It was agreed for Councillor C Gwyther to attend the meeting and to bring the information back to the next meeting on 13th January 2011.

Christmas Lights Display

Councillor P Gwyther suggested a letter was sent to Mr & Mrs Whitehouse of Cross Park in Pennar for the Christmas Lighting display which they had. He stated that the weather was not very good during December and commented that a lot of hard work was put into the display where all donations go to the Children's Ward in Withybush.