

NEWPORT TOWN COUNCIL BUDGET & FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD IN THE ECO CENTRE, LOWER ST. MARY STREET 7 pm 13/3/07.

PRESENT: Cllrs. Paul Harries (Committee Chairman)
Byron James (Town Council Chairman)
Sandra Bayes & Patricia Foot.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Cllr. Glyn T. Rees & Glyn Rees, Peter Harwood.

The Minutes of the Budget & Finance Committee Meeting held on the 18th December 2006 were approved and seconded by Cllrs. Sandra Bayes and Byron James.

The Committee Chairman gave the meeting a review of Council spending during the past 12 months and explained the Income & Expenditure and Reserves details provided for all present.

The Committee Chairman considered the Council needed ½ly Bank Statements, and not the annual Statements we receive for some of our accounts at present.

There is £1,000 capital expenditure to be used by the end of our financial year. Cllr. Patricia Foot felt this could be used towards the unexpected expenditure we have for storm damage at Brynhyfryd Cemetery.

Suggestions for Town improvements included purchasing a portable "Pagoda" or small/medium size marquee for use by festivals, school sports, carnivals etc., multi brackets for Christmas lights, bunting and possibly flower baskets, planting the bus shelter garden with flowers and possibly other areas in the Town, bus shelter seat.

It was agreed to propose to the full Council that we again concentrate donations to local organisations, and that £300 be equally divided between the Newport Forum, Brynberian Eisteddfod, and whilst not solely local but essential for this Town the Wales Air Ambulance Service, and the Noah's Ark Appeal for the Welsh Childrens Hospital. Plus we use £200 of our undesignated reserves to give to the Newport Senior Citizens Friday Luncheon Club.

Requests for financial assistance had been received from the Newport Bay Festival Committee towards the cost of tuition for circus skills and kayaking and the Committee suggested £500, and the Newport Youth Club, Memorial Hall, Sounds Possible and N.U.T.S. all asked for finance for musical and lighting equipment, tuition, digital camera etc. and the Committee suggested inviting representatives from all these organisations to attend a meeting with Councillors and try and come to an agreement whereby a £750 grant from the Council could be used towards equipment that could be of use and shared by all the various groups.

The Clerk's Contract of Employment etc. had still to be drawn up, and the present system of paying her salary 6 months in arrears changed. The Clerk will contact One Voice Wales for advice and liaise with Cllr. Patricia Foot.

The long drawn out saga about rebuilding/replacing the Cwm shelter was discussed, and the Committee Chairman reported that the land Owner preferred the replacement to be open sided to discourage unsocial behaviour, and built further away from her private residence. Further discussions will take place between the Council, N/P and the land Owner.

The Town Website provoked a discussion on sharing costs with the Chamber of Trade, the list of forthcoming events prepared by Cllr. Sandra Bayes for the Forum, and the need by the Clerk to send the Chamber an account for the period September 2006 to March 2007.

Parrog Yard. The Committee Chairman had made extensive enquiries to try and obtain a better return on the savings account we have for this project, and will recommend placing the money with the Princepality Building Society in Fishguard.

Eradication of bracken on Carn Ingli. The Clerk was requested to reply to the recent request from the Commoners for financial assistance towards this work by stating that whilst we support the need to control the bracken, and will set some finance aside, we need more information about the effect of aerial spraying as many local people are opposed to this method because of possible contamination to spring water supplies, and the fact that the site is a S.S.S.I.