

Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of the Council on Monday 19 January 2026 in the Memorial Hall at 8.00pm

Present: Mayor Cllr DJ Griffiths, Deputy Mayor Cllr S Foster, Cllr W Chant, Cllr ES Evans (attending remotely), Cllr MC Gray, Cllr FD John, Cllr B Lloyd, Cllr S Minas, Cllr BT Price, Cllr R Price, Cllr S Sehmi, and Cllr RJ Thornton; and officers S Mann (Clerk), and JS Foster (Deputy Clerk).

172 Apologies for Absence: Elected members summoned to this meeting who cannot attend must notify the Clerk in advance. Apologies are formally recorded in the minutes with reasons given and approved by the Council, as required by Standing Order 4 and the Local Government Act 1972. The attendance or absence of council officers is recorded in the minutes but does not require formal approval, as officers are not summoned under statutory requirements.

- a. Noted: Apologies received from W Mann (RFO).

173 Declarations of Interest: Members are requested to declare any personal or prejudicial interests in matters on the agenda in accordance with Standing Order 7(s) and the Council's Code of Conduct. Members are reminded that they should withdraw from discussions where their interest could reasonably be viewed by a member of the public, with knowledge of the facts, as significant enough to prejudice judgment. This procedure maintains public confidence in the Council's decision-making process.

- a. No declarations made.

174 Public Representations: Members of the public may address the Council regarding matters already listed on this agenda only, in accordance with Section 48 of the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 and Standing Orders section 7. This is distinct from formal presentations by invited speakers on specific agenda items. Public representation is limited to 20 minutes total; 3 minutes per speaker; directed to Chair only. Public participation in debate is not permitted as Council meetings are formal decision-making forums where elected Councillors deliberate and vote on behalf of the community. Questions requiring detailed responses should be submitted to the Clerk outside of meetings.

- a. No public representations made.

175 Precept Recommendation for the Financial Year April 2026 to March 2027

(Deferred: 12 January 2026 RESOLVED to defer the item to an Extraordinary Meeting of Council on Monday 19 January 2026 to include the Finance Committee information with options to consider)

The recommendation by the Finance Committee is that the precept is increased from £60000 to £108000. I have attached a summary of the budget which the committee has scrutinised in

detail and as you can see this means that on 31st March 2027 the anticipated deficit for the year will be just £606.

The impact of the increase of the precept from £60000 to £108000 on households in each Council tax band is illustrated in the table below.

For example, for a household in Council tax band D the recommended precept will represent a monthly increase of £2.92.

	£60,000		£108,000	
BAND	ANNUAL PRECEPT COUNCIL TAX	Additional Amount Monthly	ANNUAL PRECEPT COUNCIL TAX	Additional Amount Monthly
A	£29.14	£2.43	£52.46	£4.37
B	£34.00	£2.83	£61.20	£5.10
C	£38.86	£3.24	£69.94	£5.83
D	£43.71	£3.64	£78.69	£6.56
E	£53.43	£4.45	£96.17	£8.01
F	£63.14	£5.26	£113.66	£9.47
G	£72.86	£6.07	£131.14	£10.93
H	£87.43	£7.29	£157.37	£13.11

The major consideration by the committee was the need to maintain Council general (revenue) reserves within an accepted range of between three to twelve months of gross expenditure. This is requirement outlined in the recommended guidelines provided by Welsh Government and outlined in the statutory accounting practices for community Councils in Wales.

Impact of budget deficit and precept increase on reserves.

Based upon our current reserves (at December 2025) and the anticipated income and expenditure between January 2026 and 31st March 2026 the anticipated deficit on 1st April is calculated to be £29243.

The diagram below shows the values of Council reserves on 31st March of each year from 31st March 2022 and includes the anticipated reserves on 31st March 2026 and the impact of the 2026/ 2027 budget recommendation on reserves on 31st March 2027.

The figures on the left illustrate how reserves are maintained at £101278 by March 2027 following the precept recommendation and the diagram on the right illustrates the impact if the precept is not increased.

ILLUSTRATION OF THE IMPACT OF PRECEPT UPON RESERVES at 31st MARCH 2027							
Increasing Precept from £60000 to £108000			Not increasing Increasing Precept from £60000				
Mar-22		£106,451	Mar-22		£106,451		
Mar-23		£125,950	Mar-23		£125,950		
Mar-24		£114,568	Mar-24		£114,568		
Mar-25		£131,127	Mar-25		£131,127		
Mar-26	Anticipated Projection	-£29,243	£101,884	Mar-26	Anticipated Projection	-£29,243	£101,884
Mar-27	Anticipated Projection	-£606	£101,278	Mar-27	Anticipated Projection	-£48,606	£53,278

Conclusion

Without an increase in the precept the anticipated Council reserves in March 2027 will have fallen to £53278 which would have been significantly below the statutory guidelines of at least one third of gross revenue expenditure.

RESOLVED: To approve the Finance Committee recommendation of £108,000.00 as the precept for the financial year 2026-27, as proposed by Cllr S Foster and seconded by Cllr RJ Thornton.

A recorded vote was requested by Cllr ES Evans in accordance with Standing Order 7q with the following result:

Councillors voting for the motion (6):

Cllr W Chant

Cllr S Foster

Cllr B Lloyd

Cllr S Minas

Cllr BS Sehmi

Cllr RJ Thornton

Councillors voting against the motion (5):

Cllr ES Evans

Cllr MC Gray

Cllr FD John

Cllr BT Price

Cllr R Price

The motion was carried by 6 votes to 5.

The Clerk was authorised to submit the Council's decision to Pembrokeshire County Council by the requested deadline of 23 January 2026.

Any Other Business

Advisory (5 minutes): Members are reminded: lengthy detailed reports must be submitted to the Clerk for formal agenda inclusion - further to 3 March 2025 resolution 209; information-only items require written documentation as Council meetings are formal decision-making forums where elected Councillors deliberate and vote on behalf of the community.

Information submitted prior to this meeting - these items are for information only and do not require Council decisions - can be found in Supporting Documents:

Items for information only

- Cllr RJ Thornton: Requested the Clerk to purchase additional Council's Crest Shields.
- Cllr R Price: Requested that the PCNPA Pre-application response be circulated to Councillors ahead of the Caretaker House Working Group meeting scheduled Friday 23 January.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.20pm

Signed Date
Chair

DRAFT