**C Y N G O R T R E F C A E R F F I L I**

**C A E R F F I L I T O W N C O U N C I L**

**CLERC Y TREF: MAER Y TREF:**

**TOWN CLERK: TOWN MAYOR:**

**P G Davy Cllr M Prew**

**MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE CAERPHILLY TOWN COUNCIL HELD BY REMOTE ACCESS ON 5TH FEBRUARY 2024**

**Present:**

Councillor P J Bevan, M Downes, J Fussell, J Grenfell, S Kent, C Lewis, A Broughton Pettit, M Prew

**Apologies:**

Councillor C Elsbury, J Pettit, P Reed, D Roberts

**In Attendance:**

P G Davy, Town Clerk

**86 Declarations of Interest**

There were no Declarations of Interest.

**87 Caerphilly County Borough Council – Draft Budget Proposals for 2024/25**

The meeting had been convened to consider the CCBC draft budget proposals for 2024/25 which were the subject of public consultation until 13 February 2024.

A copy of the draft savings proposals had been circulated. There were proposed permanent and temporary savings totalling £30.984m and proposed one off use of reserves of £11.394m. To enable the CCBC to set a balanced budget for the 2024/25

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financial year an increase in Council Tax of 6.9% had been proposed. The final budget

will be presented to Cabinet and Council for approval on 27 February 2024.

It was noted that further potential savings of £46.7m may be required in the two year period 2025/26 and 2026/27.

Following discussion it was resolved to make the follow representations to CCBC:

**EE 10 Close Coffi Vista**

This is a public funded building of unique design at a strategic location in the heart of the town adjacent to the cenotaph and with spectacular views of Caerphilly Castle. It was originally conceived as the Caerphilly Visitor Centre and had a central part in the tourism strategy for the County Borough. As a public / community asset the Town Council believes there should be a thorough review of alternative options including use, management arrangements, and income and expenditure. To this end the closure of Coffi Vista should be deferred to allow time to explore the possibilities for community asset transfer, community interest company, social enterprise, or joint venture. Any future arrangements should maintain the public toilets and the continuation of Y Galeri.

**SS10 Home Assistance and Reablement.**

The Town Council queried the extent to which this would impact on individuals waiting to leave hospital and the knock on consequences to the NHS, and whether there is coordination with Aneurin Bevan Health Board.

**ELL 24 Schools Budgets**

The further pressure on schools budgets will result in insufficient resources to fully fund all teaching staff.

**Council Tax**

The County Borough Council should consider using more of its reserves to reduce the increase in Council Tax for 2024/25 given the pressures on household budgets with many struggling to cope with large increases to all domestic bills.

The meeting closed at 7.30 pm