

COEDFFRANC TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee held on Wednesday 5th December 2019

Attendance: Cllrs A Wingrave, C Wingrave, A Aubrey.

Part Attendance: Cllr JS Jones.

1. Apologies: Cllrs M Harvey, K Whitehead, APH Davies.

2. To discuss what specification would be needed in order to obtain quotes for CCTV for Skewen Park.

The Clerk was asked what the capital budget situation was likely to be for the next financial year. The Clerk reported that she had been notified that the pension contributions for employers (Coedffranc Town Council) is being increased from 20.2% to 24.1% for the next financial year. The Clerk also explained that every 3 years the Council as an employer has to re-enter any members of staff that have previously opted out of the pension, back into the pension fund under regulations imposed by the Pensions Regulator. The Clerk reported that 3 members of staff who had previously opted out of the pension fund have now decided to stay in the fund, and both of these factors would have a significant impact on the salaries budget for the next financial year. Cllr J Thomas reported on the promises made by all the political parties to increases to the minimum wage from anywhere between £10 per hour to £10.50 per hour. Cllr Thomas reported that he had done some rough calculations, and this would result in an increase for the full time grounds staff and park attendants of anywhere in the range of £1,924 to £2,886 per employee for the next financial year.

It was noted that Cllr Mike Harvey who was a Crime Prevention Officer for South Wales Police had stated that the Council should not install CCTV in the park because children should not be filmed, and CCTV tends not be effective enough to enable prosecutions. It was stated that it was not fair to ask CCTV companies to spend time coming onto site and then drafting tenders when it is unlikely that the Council could afford to move forward with the proposal to install CCTV in Skewen Park.

Recommendation: The Committee reluctantly agreed that the Town Council could not afford to install CCTV in Skewen Park because the impending salary budget increases. Therefore, the recommendation is to not draft a specification, and not to move forward onto receiving quotes for the installation of CCTC in Skewen Park.

Cllr J Thomas
Vice Chair