



Blackwood Town Council

Draft Unapproved Minutes of Policy and Finance meeting 8th December 2025.

Present in person: Councillors G Etheridge, C Erasmus, D Davies, D Box, J Griffiths, K Etheridge, C Clark.

Apologies for Absence.

Cllr K Williams,

Declaration of Interests [Councillors and Officers are reminded of their personal responsibility to declare any personal and/or prejudicial interest(s) in respect of any item of business on this agenda in accordance with the Local Government Act 2000, and the Code of Conduct for both Councillors and Officers.

1. To receive the Minutes of the last meeting 19th November 2025.

The minutes were agreed.

2. Precept Proposals

Precept – The clerk has been asked to remodel figures as the highest previous figure the outgoing clerk had modelled was £17.50. The clerk provided calculations based on increases of £25, £30 and £35 and illustrated how much additional income would be raised. Calculations for each figure were presented to councillors in detail and had been shared prior to the meeting. The figures were broken down into council tax bands and showed how much each household would pay annually and also weekly.

The clerk presented costs of Band D households as this is the category that the precept is set upon. Councillors were also told that it was unlikely that there would be any CIL funding next year and various projects had already been identified for the existing CIL monies and this should be taken into account.

Councillors discussed potential increases over the next few years and what impact these might have.

There was a proposal that the precept is increased by £35.00 per year or 67p per week on Band D properties, with an amendment of £30 increase. The amendment was voted upon and the amendment failed. The original proposal was then voted on and carried therefore, the recommendation of a £35 increase will be presented to full council.

It was expressed that as CCBC was possibly looking to pass on the cost of non-essential services to town councils, we should look at saving an amount each year out of the budget to be ready for this. The money would need to be earmarked, and this would be acceptable to



auditors. Councillors felt that a reasonable increase was needed in the precept, we will then be able to give more back to the community.

The best way to deliver this information was discussed and the prospect of renting a franking machine was put forward. Costs have previously been sought and prices quoted, £149 per quarter three years, 4 year £119, 5 years £99 this covers upkeep.

Councillors felt it was important to engage with a younger demographic through the use of potential podcasts and Youtube.

3. To review the payment list to date.

Payments List will be updated and circulated after the meeting.

4. Quotes for Projector and Screen

Three quotes were presented, and it was agreed that as the purchase was under £1000 the clerk and deputy could make the purchase and recommend which model was bought in line with financial regulations if required.

5. Representation at Local Development Group Workshop

This is a new initiative, and they are expecting one representative, the workshop will take place in in Caerphilly Miners. A member has agreed to attend on 27th January 2026 and represent the council will report back in February 's meeting.

6. Petty cash

It was proposed that this was increased from £50 to £100. This was agreed.

7. Other Matters

Councillors expressed their thanks to the clerk for all the work and attendance at the Christmas fair.

The co-option of a town councillor was discussed. The staffing subcommittee will deal with this in the new year as there has only been one applicant. It was felt it should be readvertised.

Signed

Date

Cllr C Clark, Vice Chair

