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PENTYRCH COMMUNITY COUNCIL



CYNGOR CYMUNED PENTYRCH

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PCC Budget and Precept for 2018-19

Each January, Community and Town Councils have to agree a budget for the coming financial year and then set a Precept. The Precept is the amount of money the council requests from its residents via council tax. It is collected for us by Cardiff and paid to PCC in April.

Over the last few years, PCC has kept its Precept down, being sensitive to the economic problems we all face. However, this has rather caught up with us. We are required by the Welsh Audit Office to hold financial reserves. These general reserves should be a minimum of 25% of our gross annual expenditure. We now find that our general reserve is too low as our expenditure has increased. That increase is partly to pay pension contributions for our four members of staff. Over the years, no pension has been paid but this changed at the end of our last financial year. Welsh Government expects all councils like PCC to become increasingly professional and has introduced more things that we have to do to run the council at the new higher standards. This has increased the workload on the office staff and the part-time hours of both the Clerk and Admin Assistant have risen slightly recently.

As the services provided by Cardiff continue to be cut, PCC wants to be ready to do what it can to keep up and if we can, improve standards in our communities.

We have set up a new Planning Committee. With the very long and detailed applications for the big new housing developments along the A4119 it is important that we have enough time to discuss them and meet the deadlines for responses. We are also setting up a new Finance Committee to take some of the load off the monthly meetings and give a smaller group more time to discuss issues in depth. You will read elsewhere in this issue of the Community Link how we have already met with the developers Persimmon Homes. We cannot change the planning consent has already been granted but what we can do is to be aware of development issues before they happen and to keep residents aware of the changes through our website, Facebook pages and through the Community Link.

PCC owns and manages some 300 acres with our outdoor team of two who cut grass, mend fences, make fallen trees safe, repair benches, and trim hedges. Key areas that they collect litter from daily are Creigiau Rec. and the Frog Pond; Memorial Park, Ael y Bryn and Lon y Fro green spaces in Pentyrch.

In the next couple of months you will receive a survey from the Community Council asking your household's opinion of what you want the Council to provide within our villages. It is important to complete and return the survey to guide the Council on setting its business plan for the coming years.

Councillors have been attending training sessions to help them keep up to date and widen their knowledge of things like planning, law, finance, employment. They are your elected representatives but unpaid so all the work they do is in their own time. None of the PCC members claims the £150/year allowance that is now available to community councillors.

After much discussion and reviewing draft budgets in our November and December meetings, PCC set the following budget and Precept at its January 2018 meeting. The budget for 2018-19 is £150,783 with a Precept of £143,000. There's no question that this is a sizable increase from last year and before. Below are tables that show your Council Tax over recent years and for 2018-19. While the percentage change is big this year, the absolute increase in £/year is small.

Year	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
Council Tax Base	3,127	3,108	3,131	3,140	3,184	3,258	3,263
Precept	£73,000	£80,000	£80,000	£85,000	£85,000	£91,000	£143,000
Cost for Band D	£23.35	£25.74	£25.55	£27.07	£26.70	£27.93	£43.82
% change	+2.68%	+10.23%	-0.73%	+5.95%	-1.37%	+4.63%	+57%

Council Tax Band	PCC contribution 2017-18 £/year	PCC contribution 2018-19 £/year
D	28	44
E	34	54
F	40	63
G	47	73
H	56	88
I	65	102

Helena Fox
Clerk to PCC