Cyngor Cymuned **BODORGAN** Community Council

BUDGET FORECAST 2023 / 2024

INCOME		FORECAST EXPENDITURE	
Current precept	12000	Grass cutting – Footpaths	750
Cemetery Fees	1250	- New Cemetery	1000
		- Old Cemetery	9000 *1
		- Other	300
Plot Rents	3307	Clerks Wages	4105 *2
Footpath Recharge	0	Donations	1500
VAT Refund	912	Bodorgan Estate	3225
		Audit fees	6200 *3
		Water Rates	50
		Insurance	500
		Admin Costs	500
		Membership	170
		Election Costs	2500 *4
		Contingency	2000 *5
	17,469		31,800

NOTES

Point *1
It has been accepted that the Council needs to spend considerably at the Old Cemetery in Trefdraeth and the expenditure (£9,000) includes the annual ongoing grass cutting contract and other additional essential site clearance works. This forecasted figure is generous but not unrealistic. The New Cemetery Grass Cutting Contract to be reviewed at £80 per cut (twice per month).

Point *2
The Current Wage Structure and Payscale was calculated on assumption that meetings were to be held bi-monthly. During the last 12 months, this has not been the case and if the Council is to continue meeting on a monthly basis, a recommended review to fall in line with the current guidelines was needed meaning an annual increase of £745 (PAYE allowance has been factored into this amount and needs Council's approval following the recent receipt of the revised NALC Pay Increase (i.e. Same Payscale to apply - Based on Pay Scale LC2 (Point 26) (£32,909pa pro rata) @ 20 hours per month = £4105.

Point *3
This figure represents the £4,750 still outstanding for Audit fees following the 2019 Public Interest Report. Despite a request made 12 months ago, the Council is still waiting for a breakdown explanation. Although the last 2 years Annual Governance report has now been completed, no actual invoices have been received from Audit Wales and the Council must now factor this expense in the 2023 Annual Budget (projected £500 per annum = £1,500).

Point *4
The Council is still expecting an invoice from the Local Authority, estimated to be approximately £2,500 for two contested elections during 2022

Point *5
There is also the assumption once again that no member will accept the payment of £150 to which that they are entitled unless they notify the Clerk in writing. Should any member accept the payment then an allowance has been made in the contingency forecast.

The above budget forecast shows a deficit of **£14,331 between 1.1.2023 & 31.3.2024**

The forecast is based on necessary and outstanding expenditure and uncertain estimates such as average burial fees over the last 2 years. Plot Rental and the VAT Refund forecasted will be actual amounts expected during 2023/2024. VAT to be reclaimed in 2024/25 will cover the element paid on the Cemetery – approximately £1,700.

The Community Council has circa £9,750 in its Current Account and £16,000 in reserve as at 31.12.2022 and this will be substantially reduced during 2023 to meet these costs. **Total Anticipated Balances held remaining as at 31.3.2024 expected to be in the region of £12,500 that will be sufficient enough to cover the above budget deficit.**

Given the current climate of austerity and to achieve the above outcome, I would like to recommend to the Council to retain the level of the precept at **£12,000** per annum to ensure the Council also has sufficient in reserve to complete the maintenance clearance at the Old Cemetery and for any other emergency payments.

Alun Foulkes (Clerk) 1/1/2023.