



MINUTES

of a meeting of the **Executive** held on
Friday 17th December 2021 at 10.30am
 by ZOOM

Executive	Cllr J Butterfield MBE (President), Cllr P Morton (Chair), Cllr B Roberts, Cllr B Bertola, Cllr D Hainge, Cllr B Mcloughlin and Cllr L Edwards. Robert Robinson MBE (Secretariat)
Responsibilities	To prepare the agenda for the main meetings, to consider governance in more detail, to make decision on matters which need to be completed before a full Association meeting.

1. Attendance record

Present were:

Cllr Peter Morton Chair

Cllr Alyn Ashworth Vice Chair

Cllr Brian Bertola

Cllr Lynet Edwards

Cllr Brian Roberts

Robert Robinson Secretary

Apologies for absence received were from:

Cllr Joan Butterfield and Cllr Bernise McLoughlin

2. Minutes of the last Executive Meeting

The meeting considered and approved the minutes of the last meeting.

3. Financial Report

The meeting considered a financial report.

- a) The meeting noted the current bank balance which is £6,135.74p
- b) The meeting noted that membership fees are coming, those not yet paid are to receive reminders after the Christmas break.

4. The Quarterly Meeting - October 2021

The meeting considered the Quarterly Meeting Agenda for January 2022 as per that issued with the agenda. The final agreed agenda is attached to these minutes.

It was noted that the Health Board had not confirmed that they could attend. However the MP for Holyhead is to be asked if she would like to attend.

NOTE One late information item to be added regarding changes in Community Councils with regard to governance.

5. To consider meeting arrangements for the Quarterly Meeting

The meeting confirmed that due to the Covid 19 situation the meeting arrangements for the January Meeting should remain as Zoom.

**6. Elections – May 2022**

The meeting noted the two changes for the May 2022 elections being the voting age being reduced to 16 and the possible need to provide identification at the Polling Stations.

7. Climate change and a Policy for the Association.

The meeting consider if the Association should have a Climate Change Policy. The meeting **agreed** that this item should be added to the agenda for the next quarterly meeting and that the proposed actions proposed (as attached to these minutes) should be put forward.

8. Council Tax

The meeting reviewed where we are on the campaign to seek changes to the Council Tax system. After some discussion it was **agreed** that the paper prepared be put to the next quarterly meeting with the addition of the community charge system (payment per person over 16 years of age).

9. Homeless

The meeting noted the Welsh Government figures on the homeless (some 12,500 identified since Covid 19) and that there is now a high level plan being put in place to try and help the situation.

10. Planning changes

The meeting noted the changes to the Planning system in Wales with regards to the permitted development rights and the use class order.

This item is to be added to the quarterly meeting agenda for information.

11. Transport for Wales

A short update was given on the rail services. At the present time train services in Wales are at a very low level and much improvement is needed.

12. Actions to be taken forward

The actions to be taken forward from the meeting are set out below:

No	
1	Minutes to be prepared and circulated
2	Minutes to be published on web site
3	Quarterly agenda to be published and circulated
4	Revised Council Tax Paper to be added to agenda for next quarterly meeting
5	Membership fees from Councils who have not renewed to be sent out after the Christmas break



AGENDA

for the quarterly meeting of the **Association** to be held on
Friday 21st January 2022 at 10.30am
 to be held by Zoom

1. Welcome

To receive a welcome from the Chair to the meeting.

2. Record of attendance

To record a record of attendance and to receive any apologies for absence.

3. Minutes of the last Full Association Meeting

To approve the minutes of the last full Association meeting held in October 2021.

4. Holyhead free port

To receive Virginia Crosbie MP for Anglesey regarding the Holyhead Port.

5. Actions from and since last meeting

To consider the actions taken since the last full Association meeting:

No	Item	Status
1	Prepare minutes and post on website	Completed
2	Accounts for 2020-2021 audit	Under way
3	Holywell transport issues to be raised at the transport liaison meeting	On agenda for this meeting
4	Meeting with Welsh Government over a minister for North Wales to be progressed.	On-going
5	Invite Betsi Cadwallader Health Board to the January meeting.	Not attending.
6	Respond to the Homeless Consultation	Completed
7	Raise the subject of electric cars with the Executive at its next meeting (Holywell request)	On agenda for this meeting

6. Financial Report

To receive a financial report from the Secretary.

7. To receive a report on Homeless in North and Mid Wales

To consider an update on the above.



8. North Wales Coast Transport

To consider matters relating to transport in Wales as follows:

- a) Rail Services North Coast report from the Committee.
- b) Electric cars (raised by Holywell Town Council).
- c) Transport issues in Holywell.

9. Consultations

The note the consultations completed since the last meeting which were:

- a) Homeless Consultation,
- b) The IRPW Consultation.
- c) Planning changes (permitted development and the use class order with regard to second homes)

10. Council Tax

To consider progress on seeking a review of Council Taxation.
See appendix A.

11. Climate change and a Policy for the Association.

To consider if the Association should have a Climate Change Policy.
To consider the proposed actions as per appendix B.

12. VAT

Some information on VAT for Councils that are not registered.

13. Any other matters of business

To consider any other items of business raised by Members.

14. Date for next meeting

To note the dates for future meeting.

Quarterly Meetings

Friday 21st January 2022

Friday 22nd April 2022

Executive Meetings

Friday 17th September 2021

Friday 17th December 2021

Friday 18th March 2022

Friday 10th June 2022

All meetings start at 10.30am and will be by Zoom until restrictions allow.



APPENDIX A

COUNCIL TAX

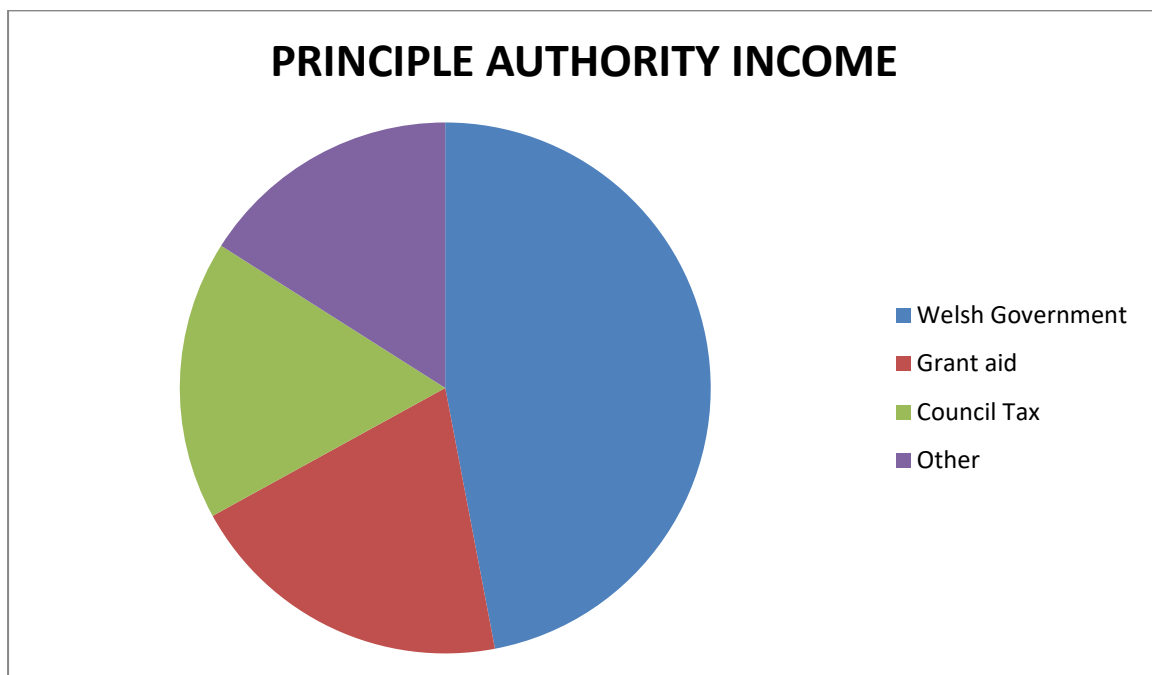
1. Introduction

There has been a number of calls for Government to find a more fair and equitable method of funding local services through Council Tax. This paper gives some ideas as to what the Association might wish to consider.

A government think tank recently posted ‘Is there an alternative? There has to be. As courts continue to be brought to a standstill by council tax debt cases and bailiffs make more visits to desperate families, Westminster needs to wrestle with the issue as some governments before have tried to do, to find a way of updating council tax for the post-property boom age, and make the wealthy pay their fair share compared to those on low incomes.’

2. What does the Council Tax pay for

The Council Tax collected is retained by the principle authority to pay for local services. The proportion of Council Tax to the total income of a principle authority is shown in the chart below:





The Welsh Government allocation includes business rates.

The above is that published in Denbighshire but all Principle Councils are similar.

3. The issues

The main issues include:

- i) With more people being employed on the minimum or living wage the proportion of take home pay spent on Council Tax is disproportionate.
- ii) It is one of the very few taxes which are not progressive and based upon ability to pay.
- iii) It is a property tax in the way it is assessed.

4. History

There has for decades been a form of 'rates or tax' on residential occupation.

The schemes which have been in place (or nearly put in place) in recent times are:

- i) Rates: An amount paid in the pound against a rateable value. The rateable value was based upon the rentability of the property.
- ii) Community Charge: An amount paid by each person over the age of 18. (i.e. if there is one person in a home they pay one share, if there are five people in one home they pay five shares)
- iii) Council Tax: A charge based upon property sale values within set bands.

5. The alternatives

Possible alternatives to the current Council Tax taking into account 'ability to pay' could be:

- i) **Council tax with revised bandings**
Create more upper tax bands lowering the amount paid by those in smaller and less valuable properties. However this does not address the 'ability to pay' aspect but will go a long way towards it.
- ii) **Local Income Tax**
To apply a local income tax. This is complicated, difficult to administer and very difficult to collect.



iii) Rates

To return to the 'old rates system' whereby a property has a rateable value (based upon rentability of the property) against which a rate in the pound would be applied. More complicated than Council Tax but easier to administer than local income tax.

iv) Community Charge

To make an annual charge based upon the number of persons per household over voting age. This charge to be reduced for those in full time education and for senior citizens.

6. What can we do

The Association could, if it so wished, campaign to see a change in the Council Tax System as agreed with the Membership at a full quarterly meeting from a recommendation by the Executive. The Executive supports (iv).

**R A Robinson FRICS
December 2021**



APPENDIX B

The Town Council Climate Change Action Plan

LIST OF POSSIBLE ACTIVITIES
Drive less - Walk, bike, car-pool or take mass transit more often. You'll save one pound of carbon dioxide for every mile you don't drive! Use vehicles less.
Executive Meetings – Host Executive Meetings by Zoom to reduce travel.
Recycle more - Reduce paper copies to only those needed to function.
Avoid products with a lot of packaging – when purchasing goods for the Association to consider who is used to reduce packaging.
Plant a tree - Plant a tree in the area of the Chairs Council each year.
Turn off electronic devices – All Association equipment to be turned off at the end of each day.
Efficient equipment - When equipment is renewed to replace with energy efficient products.
Renewable Energy - Support renewable energy schemes where they are environmentally friendly.
Publicity - Make the public aware of the Association's actions and consider how to promote the global warming issues.
Monitoring - Ensure monitoring of the policy so that progress is made.