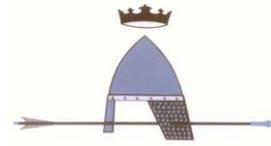


# Battle Town Council



**DRAFT MINUTES of a Meeting of the  
FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE  
held on Tuesday, 25 November 2014 at  
The Almonry, High Street, Battle at 7.30pm**

**Present:** Cllr M Kiloh - Chairman  
Cllrs: D Furness, J Boryer, R Bye, J Sydes and D Wilson.

**1. Apologies for Absence – None.**

Cllr Jessop was absent.

**2. Disclosure of Interest –** Cllr Furness declared a personal and pecuniary interest in item 10, applications for grants, as the Chairman of the Battle Arts and Music Festival. Cllr Boryer expressed a personal interest in item 10, applications for grants, as a member of the Netherfield Village Hall Committee.

**3. Minutes of the Meeting held on 4 November 2014.** Cllr Wilson proposed approval of the minutes, seconded by Cllr Boryer. This was unanimously agreed and they were duly signed.

**4. Matters Arising from Previous Meetings – None.**

**5. Correspondence and Communications**

A letter had been received from **Rother District Council** confirming an anticipated 15% decrease in the **Council Tax Reduction Scheme** grant for 2015. This would equate to £8622.91. This was noted.

**6. Budget 2015-16**

As requested at the previous meeting, the ATC had circulated an estimated budget proposal to each Committee Chairman to agree with their Members a recommendation to be brought to this meeting. Each Chairman highlighted items that were felt to be of a priority for the forthcoming year and those that could be deferred. Each Chairman presented their plans:

**Communications:** Cllr Sydes was pleased to highlight the decrease in expenditure over the last 2 years on the production of the Council's publications but felt that the website is a priority item and a budget of £2000 should be allowed for this. An information board at £600 should also be included;

**Services:** Cllr Boryer reported that some work that the Committee recommended should be carried out within this current financial year eg storage heaters in the Chapel and further works to the allotments. Assuming the PWLB loan application is successful, a budget of £7500 for repayments must be allowed. He also suggested that regular increased sums should be included for maintenance of the bus shelter and seat repairs. Cllr Boryer highlighted the necessity in allocating £10,000 for tree work, as identified in the 2013 survey. The Committee agreed that a separate budget heading should be allocated for this item. It was agreed that a majority of the items necessary at the Cemetery will be covered by grants or the PWLB loan;

*Cllr Sydes left the meeting.*

**Estates:** Cllr Wilson reported the poor condition of the play equipment and suggested an annual budget of £9000 for a repair and replacement programme. This was reduced to £6000 after discussion. The maintenance of the Pavilion and overflow car park at £1,000 and £600 respectively are recommended – it was noted that these 2 items will be reallocated to the Buildings Sub Committee and Planning Committee next year. A reserve of £5000 for the resurfacing of the Abbey Green was also a priority. It was felt that the

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process of 'earthquaking' the football pitch at £500 should be accepted;

**F&GP:** Cllr Kiloh reminded the Committee of the Council's agreement to a review of the Parish Basic Allowance which should allow a budget of £4080. The allowance for training/courses should be increased to £1000 and the Councillors expenses to £250. It was noted that the elections in May will require £2000. Members acknowledged that there is a great deal of work required to the Almonry building but that it was hoped grant funding would help with this.

The ATC was asked to circulate a revised budget, including these items, to F&GP for consideration prior to the next Full Council meeting.

Cllr Furness reported that one of the Town Clerk applicants had a showed wealth of experience in project management. It is suggested that he be asked to expedite the projects that the Council is currently undertaking eg the Almonry re-organisation and cemetery extension on an hourly rate on a self-employed basis. It was felt that his salary could be covered within the bids and grants obtained for these developments although the appointment would be made immediately and therefore be taken from this year's budget. Cllr Kiloh confirmed that the new Town Clerk has no objection to this suggestion. **Cllr Furness proposed that Full Council be recommended to appoint Trevor Houghton-Berry as Project Manager on an hourly, self-employed basis. This was seconded by Cllr Wilson and agreed by a majority.**

## 7. Grants

Five grant applications had been received:

- **Battle Chamber of Commerce** for the Christmas lights, decorations etc;
- **Concorde 1066** towards the brochure or Gurkha band (cost in region of £1500);
- **1066 Cycle Club** contribution to installation of cycle parking at the Market Square (cost of £1124.40)
- **Battle Arts & Music Festival** towards the 2015 Event;
- **Netherfield Village Hall & Recreation Ground**, as per agreement, towards the cost of grass cutting.

These were discussed by the Committee. It was highlighted that a Grant Policy is in the process of being formed for future grant considerations. **Cllr Wilson proposed that Council be recommended to make a grant of £250 each to Battle Chamber of Commerce Christmas Committee; Concorde 1066 and 1066 Cycle Club; with £500 to Battle Festival. A sum of £250 should be given to Netherfield VH & RG but not from the grant budget. This was seconded by Cllr Bye and agreed unanimously.**

## 8. Meeting Dates 2015

**Cllr Kiloh proposed that the list of meeting dates as attached be recommended to Council for approval. This was seconded by Cllr Furness and agreed unanimously.**

## 9. Almonry Garden Report

Beautiful Battle Chairman, Marilyn Waughman had provided a report detailing the progress of bulb planting and general winter preparation of the gardens.

## 10. Matters for Information and Future Agenda Items

## 11. Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday, 13 January 2015

The meeting closed at 10.15pm.

CLLR M KILOH  
CHAIRMAN

