



Battle Town Council



**MINUTES of a meeting of the FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE
held on Tuesday, 8 November 2016 at The Almonry, High Street, Battle at 7.00pm**

Present: Cllrs D Furness (Chairman); G Favell, J Gyngell, R Jessop, M Kiloh and A Ratcliffe
In Attendance: Carol Harris (Acting Town Clerk)

- 1. Apologies for absence** – None.
- 2. Disclosure of interest** – Cllr Ratcliffe declared a personal interest in any discussion relating to the Almonry building as a tenant.
- 3. Minutes of the meetings held on 25 October 2016** – These were approved by Members and duly signed by Cllr Furness.

4. Matters arising from previous meetings

Cllr Favell reported that a successful interview of the ATC for the Post of Town Clerk had resulted in a unanimous decision of the **Personnel sub-Committee to recommend to Full Council that Carol Harris be offered the appointment of Town Clerk. This was agreed.** The Committee further agreed that the post for Deputy Town Clerk be advertised by SALC in due course. Cllr Favell agreed to work with the ATC to produce a suitable person specification for the role.

5. Financial matters

- the budget report to date was noted.
- Members discussed the proposed F&GP budget for 2017/18 and it was agreed as attached. The Committee discussed the suitability of the **Mayor's regalia and agreed that this should be replaced at a cost of £5,000.**
- the Chairman of each Committee highlighted the additional funds requested for the 2017/18 budget

F&GP	Mayor's regalia	£5,000
ER&TD	Erection, removal and maintenance of Christmas lights	Cost to be confirmed
ER&TD	Donation towards provision of Tourist Information Point	£6,000
Planning & Transport	Neighbourhood Plan	£3,000
Planning & Transport	Capital repayment on resurfacing of Mount Street overflow car Park	£7,000
Environment	Setting up of recreation ground café, including staff costs	£20,000
Environment	New castle theme play Equipment	£15,000
Environment	Ride-on mower	£6,500
Environment	Wood shredder	£10,000
	Total additional expenditure	£72,500 plus Christmas lights

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The Committee were reminded of the recommendation that general reserves should be set at a level of between 35-45% of the precept. The current rate of reserves is in the region of 25%. Members agreed that further consideration should be given to the level of increase necessary and the implications of this to the Band D Council Tax amount prior to the next meeting.

6. F & GP action plan

Cllr Kiloh reminded Members that the Almonry conversion plans are ongoing. RDC's Conservation Officer had issued a report and comments are awaited from both the Architect and David Martin. The ATC was asked to pursue these. Cllr Furness highlighted the necessity of the Asset report which is being undertaken.

Members agreed that the Councillor vacancies should be activity promoted.

7. Grant requests

Details of grant applications had been circulated and **Members agreed to award the following:**

- **Battle Area Community Transport £1,000**
- **Revitalise £100**

8. Matters for information and future agenda items

Cllr Furness confirmed that an application to the Heritage Lottery Fund for the Heritage Arts Trail had been successful and that this would be discussed at the next Full Council meeting. The project would then be under the remit of the ER&TD Committee.

9. Date of next meeting: 20 December 2016

The meeting closed at 9.10pm

**CLLR D FURNESS
CHAIRMAN**