



# Battle Town Council



**DRAFT MINUTES of an Informal Meeting of the  
FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE  
held on Tuesday, 10 December 2014 at  
The Almonry, High Street, Battle at 7.30pm**

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

- 1. Apologies for Absence** – J Sydes, J Boryer
- 2. Disclosure of Interest** – None
- 3. Minutes of the Meeting held on 25 November 2014.** Were not approved - informal meeting
- 4. Matters Arising from Previous Meetings** - None

**6. Budget 2015-16 and Forward Plan –**

Councillors discussed whether the proposed 21.16% increase in the budget for 2015/16 (to £266570.00) could be justified in this economic climate. Councillors Jessop and Wilson argued for a realistic increase in the precept so as to rebuild reserves and cater for future expenditure. As an alternative Councillor Bye proposed a budget of £240,000.00, an increase of 9.06% on 2014-15, seconded M Kiloh.

The proposal was **agreed** by a majority of 3:2 and the figure was met by taking out of the previous budget allocations £20,000 allocated for the Almonry boiler, £5000.00 transfer to reserves for Abbey Green resurfacing and £1000 out of the playground reserve budget.

It was **agreed** that CTS grant of £8622.91 will be put in the unallocated reserves

It was agreed that a press statement should be prepared in advance to be put out immediately after the full Council meeting

**7. Almonry Working Group**

Cllr Furness presented a report from the Almonry Working Group outlining proposals for the development of the Almonry – to be funded by outside/grant funding and to involve collaboration with the museum. The proposals include

- Reconfiguration of the ground floor to include a reception hall/exhibition space, council office, council chamber, refurbished toilet, refurbished kitchen and store
- Joint public access to the ground floor and museum, with a covered walkway to the rear courtyard, redeveloped with a lantern roof over to provide display and education/meeting facilities.

The meeting approved further development of the plans and recommended that drawings be made available for comment at the full Council meeting.

**8. Matters for Information and Future Agenda Items** - None

**9. Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday, 13 January 2015**

The meeting closed at 9.30pm

CLLR M KILOH  
CHAIRMAN