



Battle Town Council



**MINUTES of the additional FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE
held on TUESDAY, 7th DECEMBER 2021 at
The Almonry, High Street, Battle at 6pm**

Present: Cllrs G Favell (Chairman), V Cook, M Howell, M Kiloh and H Sharman.

In Attendance: One member of the public, C Harris (Town Clerk)

Public Question Time – None.

- 1. Apologies for absence – None.**
- 2. Disclosure of interest – None.**
- 3. The minutes of the meeting held on 23rd November 2021** were agreed and duly signed by Cllr Favell.

4. Budget and Precept for 2022-23

Following budget discussions by each Standing Committee, initial draft budget and precept spreadsheets had been circulated to all Members. The Clerk reported receipt of the tax base for 2022/3 that allowed for a more accurate calculation of the effect on council tax. Members noted that to include all Committee project requests indicated a potential precept increase of 14.5%, which was not acceptable. The Clerk reminded Members that Council had agreed a maximum 3% precept increase without public consultation. It was suggested that Council should consider if there is justification to consult with residents for a future precept rise.

The Chairman had circulated a revised proposal that required a precept increase of slightly under 3% for discussion. **Each item was considered and Members agreed to recommendation to Full Council:**

	*Projects identified by each Committee	Recommended by F&GP	Comments
F&GP			
New signage for Almonry Maintenance Plan EMR	5000	1000	Use Tourist Information Point Ear Marked Reserve, if necessary
Wedding venue licence	15000	0	As works will be under 6 month defect guarantee, defer for one year
Garden restoration	3000	0	To allow for repair to gardens, defer for one year
Members parish allowance	1000	1000	
	3380	0	Defer until elections. Ear Marked Reserve available £300 if needed.
	27380	2000	
Environment			
Floodlighting MUGA	10000	6000	Apply for Lottery Fund grant £10,000
Pavilion rebuild	10000	5000	Propose to Council additional local CIL funding

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Street light replacement	15000	10000	Netherfield lights brought forward to current year.
Tennis court refurb	500	500	Deferred from last year
Litter bin replacement	2500	2000	Apply for green grants
Abbey Green resurfacing	500	0	Defer for one year
	38500	23500	
ER&TD			
Town Clock repair/relocation	10000	3000	Suggest option to vire £5,000 from Christmas lights EMR. A grant may also be available
Queens Jubilee Information signage	1000	500	
		0	Defer as project not specified
	11000	3500	
P&T	0	0	
TOTAL	76880	29000	

Members noted the calculations for income and expenditure:

		Actual Last Year	Current Budget	Proposed budget 2022/23
Committee				
F&GP	Income	110976	17100	16200
	Expenditure	228693	273140	279812
		-117717	-256040	-263612
Environment	Income	324704	16790	23104
	Expenditure	393572	82283	85315
		-68868	-65493	-62211
ER&TD	Income	2179	1705	750
	Expenditure	17791	19340	19883
		-15612	-17635	-19133
P&T	Income	0	0	0
	Expenditure	10831	13100	13735
		-10831	-13100	-13735
Total income		437859	35595	40054
Total expenditure		650887	387863	398745
PRECEPT		374644	368830	

Members agreed unanimously to recommend to Full Council a precept of £387,850 based on the above.

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5. Lease to Battle Museum of Local History

Following a discussion with the Council's solicitor and email communication with the BMoLH, it was noted that to include the break clause, as requested by the Museum, would take away their protection of the Landlord and Tenants Act of 1954. Members agreed unanimously to remove the break clause.

6. Matters for information and future agenda items

The Almonry Working Group will be presenting a proposal to Full Council for consideration.

7. Date of next meeting: 25th January 2022

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 6.30pm.

CLLR G FAVELL
CHAIRMAN

DRAFT