

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE FINANCE & AUDIT COMMITTEE**  
**HELD ON MONDAY 12 DECEMBER 2014 AT 7.00PM**  
**IN THE PARISH OFFICE**

**Present:** Parish Councillors: John Roberts (Chairman)  
Robert Booth  
Peter Greig  
Margaret Hogg  
Malcolm Hogg  
Colin Penny

**In attendance:** Parish Clerk Caro Slaymaker

**FA-0179 Apologies**

All Committee members were present.

**FA-0180 Declarations of Interest**

Cllr Penny declared an interest in the Village Hall as a member of the Committee.

**FA-0181 Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the meeting held on 6 January 2014 were **approved** as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

**FA-0182 Reserves**

The Committee considered the Clerk's report on Reserves. The Chairman noted that transparency in considering financial matters was important. The Clerk explained that recent guidance was that Reserves should generally be around 50% of the annual precept. This was a point which had been stressed at several sessions with SALC during the year and External Auditors would be looking to see that Councils were not "stockpiling" funds unjustifiably. It was **agreed** to come back to the Clerk's proposal's later in the meeting.

**FA-0183 Proposed Budget and Precept 2015/16**

The Committee considered the draft Budget in detail and some minor changes were made. It was agreed that the Band D tax rate should remain at its present level. This would generate a small surplus over the budget which would be re-invested in major projects. The Clerk would review specific allocations discussed and would rework the budget with this in mind.

**FA-0184 Grant for the new Play Area**

It was **agreed** that the Committee would recommend to Full Council the award of a grant of £4,000 specifically to be used for the new Play Area.

**FA-0185 Grant for NSSMS**

It was **agreed** that the grant previously agreed could be used for a future purchase since the original purchase had proved so difficult to obtain. The grant could not be used for purchases that had already been made, and the Committee was not prepared to provide make a simple monetary contribution.

**FA-0186 Date of Next Meeting**

A further meeting would be arranged to review the revised budget before the Christmas break.

The meeting closed at 9.15pm