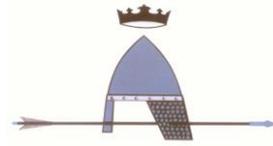


Battle Town Council



MINUTES of the EXTERNAL RELATIONS AND TOWN DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE held on TUESDAY, 27 MARCH 2018 at The Almonry, High Street, Battle at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs A Ratcliffe (Chairman), C Davies, G Favell, P Fisher and D Furness.

In attendance: Cllr A Russell, Mr M Dawes (TIME Working Group), Carol Harris (Town Clerk)

1. **Apologies for absence** – None.
2. **Disclosure of interest** – None.
3. **Minutes of the meeting held on 23 January 2018** were agreed by Members and duly signed by Cllr Ratcliffe.
4. **Battle Visual Arts Development Committee and Finance sub Group**
 - The minutes of Finance sub Group meeting 26 February 2018 were noted, as attached. Cllr Russell confirmed that an evaluation will be completed by the end of March so that the final balance can be requested. He reported that most budget headings had been spent and that proceeds from the sale of booklets for children will cover any outstanding invoices for professional fees.
 - The Chairman of the BVADC Committee had offered her apologies. The Clerk was asked to circulate the written report when received.
5. **Matters arising from previous minutes, not on this agenda**

The Clerk reported a request from Cllr Boryer(JB) that he be added to the Council's representatives on the Wildflower Meadow Working Group. She confirmed that JB had been involved in the informal group from the beginning and remains actively involved with Mansers Shaw and the Amenity Site. He would also like to promote Darvel Down into the scheme. Members agreed to invite Cllr Boryer to join the Wildflower Meadow WG.
6. **Events sub Committee**
 - **The minutes of the meetings held on 20 February and 6 March were noted. An outline programme for the Armistice event** had been circulated for debate. The Committee suggested that the Armistice event be held after the Church Service. Those not wishing to attend the Service will be offered tea/coffee at the Memorial Hall. The Clerk was asked to contact John Southam for his assistance with the sound system. The draft programme, as attached will be used as a discussion document at the Parish Assembly. The Clerk was asked that an article confirming details of the Parish Assembly and this proposed event be submitted to the local Observer. The Committee thanked Cllr Russell for his work on this event.
 - Cllr Ratcliffe(AR) reported on the recent visit, with the Town Clerk, to **St Valery sur Somme** at which a tour of the town was enjoyed; taking in the wonderful facilities provided with 3-way funding from central, district and local authorities. He reported that immense revenue from car parking was received despite residents receiving free parking provision. AR confirmed that the Town's bid for the Bayeux Tapestry had been received positively.
7. **The minutes from the TIME Working Group meetings held on 8 February and 15 March** were noted. **Members agreed to recommend that, in light of the relationship with the**

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Almorny Community Heritage Centre project, that this WG should report to F&GP. Mr Dawes(MD) reported his frustration at the slow progress. The Clerk confirmed that there is ongoing activity and agreed to meet with MD to discuss further.

8. Notes from the Wildflower Meadow Working Group meeting held on 6 March were noted, as attached together with the Terms of Reference for this group. Cllr Furness reported on a subsequent visit to Great Dixter at which Fergus Garrett invited the Council's groundstaff to undertake on-site training on maintenance of wildflower meadows. It had been suggested that arisings from existing areas could be spread in the natural burial area of the cemetery. Cllr Furness advised that the Group will consider appropriate marketing at their next meeting.

9. Proposal to adopt a policy on "Heritage"

Cllr Russell was invited to speak on this proposal. He had circulated a proposed document, which is attached as amended. Cllr Russell highlighted the importance of this aspect in any lottery grant application and planning issues. The structures suggested included the Police and old Court House buildings and the roundabout statue. **Members agreed to the formation of a Heritage Working Group and asked Cllr Russell to coordinate this.**

10. Battle Resilience Plan

Cllr Favell highlighted the need for:

- a Co-ordinator plus assistants to take this forward;
- items and services that residents can offer e.g. overnight accommodation or a meal in an emergency; chainsaws; knocker-uppers to support the Police etc.

and suggested that forms could be provided at the Parish Assembly for people to volunteer services. **Members agreed that a form be provided and a verbal plea for volunteers should be made at the Parish Assembly.**

11. Gunpowder Mortars

Cllr Furness confirmed that the Heritage Lottery Fund had declined to accept the gunpowder mortars as an appropriate item for grant. **Members agreed that an application should be made to the Rother Community Grant scheme.** If this is unsuccessful, consideration could be given to funding in 2019-20.

12. Better Battle competition

Cllr Ratcliffe reminded the Committee that the aim of this scheme is to encourage retailers to work together to improve services and produce better businesses. It was highlighted that many businesses do not open on a Sunday or during special events. Members agreed to discuss this and the Great British High Street competition in the future.

13. Action Plan

Members agreed to purchase a defibrillator for the Marley area and asked the Clerk to liaise with the village store for a suitable location. It was also suggested that First Responders should be considered in the future.

14. Marketing

The minutes of the recent Battle Marketing Group had been circulated. The minutes from the 1066 Country Marketing AGM will be distributed in due course. The new Event card will be included with the Council's Newsletter.

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The Newsletter, highlighting the forthcoming Parish Assembly, will be circulated next week. Cllr Favell was thanked for her extensive work on this.

It was noted that Cllr Howell will be submitted a monthly report to the Observer on behalf of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group. The Clerk was asked to provide a regular Council article for the local newspaper.

15. Financial matters

- a. The budget report to 28 February 2018** was noted.
- b.** Members noted that the **Chairman and Clerk will agree Ear Marked Reserves for 2018-19** eg unspent Christmas lights budget (4470). The Clerk was asked to research replacement lights.

16. Matters for information / future agenda items

- **Writing Competition**
- **Christmas lights**

Members were reminded that both the ladies and gentleman have a team entered into this year's Marbles competition.

17. Date of next meeting: provisionally, Tuesday 22 May 2018

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.55pm.

CLLR A RATCLIFFE
Chairman