



# Battle Town Council



MINUTES of the COUNCIL MEETING held at 7.30pm  
on Tuesday, 17 April 2012 at  
The Almonry, High Street, Battle

**PRESENT:** Cllr R Harris – Chairman  
**ALSO:** Cllrs C Bishop, R Bye, J Eldridge, R Jessop, Mrs M Kiloh,  
R McDonald, A Mitchell, Ms M-L Neill, M Palmer, Mrs S Pry  
and D Wilson.

Immediately prior to the meeting the new **Town Flag** was raised and flown on the flagpole outside the Almonry.

All present stood in silent tribute in memory of former colleague and Town Mayor, **David Hussey**.

## Public Question Time

Commenting on an item discussed at the latest Estates Committee meeting John Harmer said that he had spoken to the County Rights of Way Team who expect to reconstruct the **tumbledown stile** during the current calendar year.

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The Chairman welcomed Cllr Clive Bishop to his first meeting.

**1. Apologies for Absence** – Cllr J Boryer, J Carter, Mrs T Farr, Mrs P Fisher and Mrs M Howell.

**2. Disclosure of Interest** – Cllr Jessop drew attention to planning application RR/2012/578. Although the minutes record that this was not discussed in the absence of a quorum, had the matter proceeded all Members would have declared a personal and prejudicial interest since the application was submitted by a fellow Councillor.

**3. Minutes of the Council Meeting** held on 20 March 2012. Cllr Jessop proposed approval of the minutes, seconded by Cllr Bye. This was agreed and they were duly signed.

## 4. Matters Arising from Previous Meetings

Cllr Harris said that he had received a response from the Leader of the **District Council** regarding the **increase in car park charges**. This simply reiterated the District Council's decision to raise such charges as a consequence of the reduction in Central Government funding.

## 5. Police Matters

The usual **PCSO's report for March** and the latest **Crime Updates** were noted and no specific matters arose. However, PCSO Tom McAspurn was present and invited questions including whether or not the Council continues to regard, in priority order, speeding, parking and antisocial behaviour as the **ongoing issues**. Whilst the general consensus supported this, Cllr Harris asked that **unauthorised parking in the loading bay** should continue to be watched and Cllr Ms Neill highlighted the **increase in speeding in North Trade Road**, particularly close to the roundabout. Regarding the latter PCSO McAspurn said that he expected the mobile traffic calming vehicle to again be available in the near future together with the use of the speed gun. Cllr Harris asked that feedback be provided on the information arising from these monitoring activities. On other matters, Cllr Bye drew attention to matters raised at a recent Chamber meeting including the continued

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circulation of **forged £20 notes** and **tricksters confusing traders** when asking for change. PCSO McAspurn confirmed that the Police are aware of both matters. Finally, in response to questions from Cllr Jessop, PCSO McAspurn indicated that **shift patterns** are being reviewed which may provide more cover on Saturdays and that PCSOs may have to provide additional cover for other officers transferred to duties associated with the Diamond Jubilee and Olympic Games.

## 6. Report from County Councillor

Though the recent Budget statement appeared to confirm that the **Link Road** will go ahead, Cllr Field reminded the meeting that the result of the compulsory purchase order enquiry remains outstanding. Nevertheless, the current assumption is that the scheme will proceed with work being completed by the end of 2014.

Following a recent Ofsted inspection she was pleased to report that the Council's **Adoption Services and related activities** had been given an Outstanding report.

Finally, she anticipated that a decision on the recommendations in the **parking restrictions review** report will be made on 18 April.

## 7. Report from District Councillors

Cllrs Davies and Dixon had sent their apologies. Cllr Field spoke about the current **scrutiny process** examining the **Bexhill seafront** project and also referred to a forthcoming debate about consequential changes in the **Code of Conduct** arrangements including the question of representation of Parish Councillors on the Standards Committee.

## 8. Correspondence & Communications

The Clerk drew attention to an invitation to all Members to attend an **open event at the new Satellite Information Point at Yesterdays World on 25 April from 2.00pm until 4.00pm**. Bearing in mind the Council's previous comments about the provision of tourist information Cllr Harris encouraged as many Councillors as possible to attend.

Cllr Harris reminded all present of the **invitation to attend the opening of the extension to St Mary's Church on 22 April at 10.30am**.

**9. Minutes of the Planning Committee meetings held on 28 March and 11 April** were reported by Cllr Jessop and noted. He repeated the point made under item 2 regarding the *personal and prejudicial interest of Members in application RR/2012/578*. He was particularly pleased to draw attention to the forthcoming discussions with the District Council about **site allocations**. Cllr Harris referred to the petition received against the use of the **1066 Pub by Costa Coffee** and explained why the Council had been unable to respond.

**10. Minutes of the Estates Committee meeting held on 13 April**. Since she was not at that meeting Cllr Ms Neill was unable to present the minutes; and in the absence of Cllr Boryer, Cllr Harris simply invited Members to note the minutes.

## 11. Purchase of Car Parks

Following the latest meeting with the District Council on this subject Cllr Harris had circulated a note of the outcome to all Members. This had simply confirmed that the District Council could not justify disposing of an asset which currently contributes at least £200,000 a year to their budget. However, there were indications that the District Council had acknowledged the impact of car parking charges on the economic wellbeing of the town and had invited suggestions for different charging regimes provided they would generate an equivalent level of income to that currently being received. Though the

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outcome was disappointing, all present agreed with Cllr Harris that the exercise had been worthwhile, not least in demonstrating that, had the District Council been a willing seller at the assumed market value, the Town Council could have constructed a strong business case for acquiring the car parks.

Cllr Jessop wished to place on record thanks to Cllr Harris for all the work which he had put in to this exercise.

## 12. Review of Current Training Strategy and Statement of Intent on Future Training

As agreed at the previous meeting the draft document on this subject had been re-presented to more closely reflect the guidance from NALC. The document had been circulated **and was recommended for adoption by Cllr Wilson. This was seconded by Cllr Ms Neill and agreed unanimously.** The agreed document is attached to these minutes.

## 13. Parish Assembly

The Clerk reminded the meeting of the arrangements for the forthcoming Parish Assembly on 9 May. He confirmed that a number of organisations have indicated their wish to have a table display in the adjoining St Valery Room. Though there has been a slight delay, the Council's Annual Report, incorporating the Parish Assembly arrangements will be circulated to all residents in the next few days (together with the latest Newsletter). A press release had also been issued promoting the Assembly and inviting those wishing to raise topics to submit them in advance for the Question Time session. As part of the Chairman's opening remarks to the Assembly there will be a brief presentation by Chief Inspector Katy Woolford.

14. **List of Payments and Receipts** was noted.

## 15. Reports from Representatives of the Council

Those who had been involved in the **Marbles event** reported their participation as did those who had attended the day's **funeral service for David Hussey**. In addition:

- Cllr Mrs Pry - had attended the latest **Battle in Bloom Group** meeting;
- Cllr Jessop - tabled his list of recent activities which included attendance at **RALC** and a **Big Event Steering Group** meeting;
- Cllr Mrs Kiloh - had also attended the latest **Battle in Bloom Group** meeting;
- Cllr McDonald - had been involved in several discussions about **Battle's Big Event**;
- Cllr Bye - had represented the Council at both the latest meeting of the **Memorial Hall Management Committee** and the celebration event to **launch the retractable seating**;  
- had attended the **Spring Art Fair** at the Powdermills Hotel;
- Cllr Harris - reported on the latest **Battle Abbey Advisory Group** meeting at which there had been lengthy discussion about the visit of the Olympic Torch. In the light of this the Clerk has written to LOCOG suggesting that the Torch be

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presented in front of the Abbey Gatehouse rather than within the Abbey walls. The meeting had also heard that the mid-week closure of the site in winter had been offset by increased attendance at weekends;

- had Chaired the recent **Battle in Bloom Group** meeting which had looked particularly at the preferred route for those judging the town in the South & South East in Bloom competition;
- had attended a **Lions Charter Event**;
- in referring to the **marbles competition**, thanked everybody for taking part enabling the Council to enter both a men's and ladies' team.

## **16. Matters for Information/Future Items for Agenda**

Cllr Harris reminded those present that the **next meeting** will be the **Council's AGM** at which the Chairman and Deputy Chairman will be appointed.

In closing the meeting **Cllr Harris expressed his gratitude** for all the help and support which he had received throughout his year as Chairman.

## **17. Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday, 15 May 2012**

The meeting closed at 8.15pm.

**CLLR R HARRIS**  
Chairman

