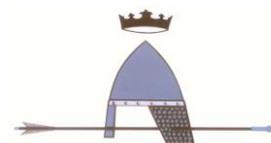




# Battle Town Council



MINUTES of the COUNCIL MEETING held at 7.30pm  
on Tuesday, 15 January 2013 at  
The Almonry, High Street, Battle

**PRESENT:** Cllr R Bye – Chairman  
**ALSO:** Cllrs C Bishop, J Carter, Mrs P Fisher, R Harris,  
Mrs M Howell, R Jessop, Mrs M Kiloh, Ms J Ormonde-Butler,  
Mrs S Pry and D Wilson.

## Public Question Time

No members of the public were present

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- 1. Apologies for Absence** – Cllrs J Boryer, J Eldridge, Ms M-L Neill and M Palmer. The Chairman reported receipt of a letter of **resignation from Cllr Thelma Farr**. In responding he was asked to record the Council's appreciation for her service over the last 11 years.
  - 2. Disclosure of Interest** – Cllr Harris said that he would have a personal and prejudicial interest in that part of item 10 relating to the grant application from the **Memorial Hall**. Cllr Bye said that he would have a personal interest in the same item.
  - 3. Minutes of the Council Meeting** held on 18 December 2012. Cllr Carter proposed approval of the minutes, seconded by Cllr Mrs Kiloh. This was agreed and they were duly signed.
  - 4. Matters Arising from Previous Meetings** – None.
  - 5. Police Matters**  
The Police representatives had sent their apologies and no matters were raised in relation to the latest set of **Crime Updates**.
  - 6. Report from County Councillor**  
Cllr Field had sent her apologies and had no matters to report. It was understood that her absence was due to a family bereavement and Cllr Bye was asked to send condolences on behalf of the Council.
  - 7. Report from District Councillors**  
Cllrs Davies and Field had sent their apologies. Cllr Dixon drew attention to comments made by **the Inspector** conducting the examination into the soundness of the **Council's Local Plan Core Strategy**. In relation to housing numbers, those comments had suggested that the Core Strategy was not in general conformity either with the South East Plan or the Government's National Planning Policy Framework. In response to these comments the District Council is considering increasing the target for new dwellings. In doing so, however, the District Council had acknowledged that Battle was already being asked to accommodate a significant proportion of new development. Cllr Jessop expressed his view that the South East Plan was no longer relevant but Cllr Dixon said that Rother felt obliged to respond positively to the Inspector's comments. Cllr Jessop queried the current position regarding the establishment of **travellers' sites**. Cllr Dixon said that site visits to all prospective sites are now being arranged.  
Anticipating the forecast bad weather, Cllr Dixon underlined the importance of all residents putting out **bins for collection** on the due date as contractors will collect them even if there is some delay.

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On the question of **refuse bins** Cllr Mrs Fisher congratulated Rother on the arrangements over the Christmas period though Cllr Harris felt that the information provided about revised collection dates had not been as clear as it might have been.

## 8. Correspondence & Communications

The Clerk reported receipt of the latest training details from **SALC**. This includes a **Councillors' briefing and update session** on Saturday 23 February at the Reigate Manor Hotel. Cllr Ms Ormonde-Butler indicated that she would wish to attend. Cllrs Bishop and Mrs Pry will also check their availability and let the Clerk know if they wish to be delegates.

**9. Minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 2 January** were reported by Cllr Jessop and noted. Since there is only a single, non-contentious application on the agenda for the following evening's meeting it was agreed that the meeting be cancelled and that the Clerk send any comments to Rother based on Cllr Jessop's consultation with fellow Committee Members.

**10. Minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting held on 8 January** were reported by Cllr Bye and noted. The various recommendations were considered in turn:

- **Cllr Bye proposed that the insurance arrangements be amended to reflect the revised Almonry and Chapel/Workshop valuations. This was seconded by Cllr Jessop and agreed unanimously;**
- *Cllrs Harris and Bye repeated their interests in the grant application made by the Memorial Hall. Cllr Jessop proposed that the grant be paid as recommended by F&GP. This was seconded by Cllr Mrs Kiloh and all were in favour;*
- Cllr Bye briefly reminded Members of the issues which had been discussed in setting the budget, including the contribution made by Cllr Jessop in relation to the creation of a repairs and replacement fund. Cllr Jessop expanded on this topic **and then proposed that the budget be accepted with a precept requirement of £199,820. This was seconded by Cllr Mrs Fisher and agreed unanimously;**
- **Cllr Bye proposed that the Council confirm retrospectively the further commitment of the Treasury Deposit Investment Bond. This was seconded by Cllr Wilson and agreed unanimously.**

## 11. Devolution

Cllr Bye said that he had written to the local MP as agreed at the previous meeting. In response the MP had asked for a meeting with Cllr Bye to discuss the various issues. It was agreed that this invitation should be accepted and that Cllr Harris should participate in view of his previous close involvement on the topic of devolution. Cllr Mrs Fisher hoped that it would be made clear to the MP that the Council feels that it has been misled by the District Council about their approach to this subject.

Cllr Harris then suggested that the Council should review its policy regarding the areas of land in respect of which it had expressed an interest in assuming responsibility. In his view, the current terms on offer are entirely unreasonable since they effectively give the Town Council simply a "caretaker" role with no secure interest in the land. Cllr Mrs Pry raised, in particular, the discussions between local residents at Darvel Down and the District Council during which the residents had been led to believe that the play area would be transferred to the Town Council and that any request to enhance the play equipment should therefore be made in that direction. This indication had clearly been premature, though Cllr Harris acknowledged that in setting its future plans the Town Council might wish to be seen as supportive of such a proposal.

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Concluding the discussion it was agreed that a further meeting with Rother should be arranged but after the meeting with the MP.

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

**13. Reports from Representatives of the Council**

Cllr Jessop - had circulated his list of activities during the last month. This had included a meeting of the **East Sussex Association of Local Councils** and chairing a meeting of **RALC**. The latter had included a presentation and question and answer session with the new Police and Crime Commissioner, Katy Bourne;

Cllr Mrs Pry - reported on the latest **Battle in Bloom Group** meeting. This had discussed ideas for rejuvenating the private gardens categories and also how funding for the planned gateways might be obtained;

Cllr Bye - had also attended the **RALC** meeting.

**14. Mayor's Engagements** – None.

**15. Matters for Information/Future Items for Agenda**

Cllr Jessop confirmed that he would be leading on the organisation of this year's **Scarecrow Festival**. The Police and Crime Commissioner had agreed to be a judge and the plan is that proceeds from the Festival will be given to the Police charity. A theme reflecting this involvement is being considered.

In response to a question from Cllr Mrs Fisher whether she could pass on to BACT the recent presentation about **bus services** made at SLR, it was agreed that this would be perfectly acceptable.

**16. Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday, 19 February 2013**

The meeting closed at 8.20pm

**CLLR R BYE**  
**Chairman**

