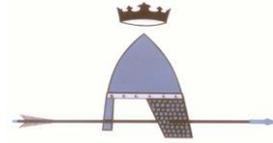




Battle Town Council



MINUTES of the EXTERNAL RELATIONS AND TOWN DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE held on TUESDAY, 2 FEBRUARY 2016 at The Almonry, High Street, Battle at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs A Ratcliffe (Chairman), G Favell, D Furness and M Kiloh.

In attendance: Andy Beams (Town Clerk), 3 members of the public

- 1. Apologies for absence** – received from Cllrs P Fisher, M Palmer and A Russell.
- 2. Disclosure of interest** – None.
- 3. To approve and sign the minutes of the previous meeting held on 1 December 2015.**
These were duly signed by Cllr Ratcliffe.

4. Social Media

The Town Clerk showed Members the website, highlighting the updated sections for the Health Pathway and the Twinning Association. Members agreed it looked very good, and were pleased that a number of contacts to the office were now coming through the website. The Twitter feed was shown to Members, with a brief explanation about how messages were retweeted by those who followed the feed.

Members discussed the idea of placing all supporting documents for meetings onto the website, which had previously been recommended by the Town Clerk. This could mitigate the number of problems caused with emails not being successfully received with large attachments.

RESOLVED: Members agreed to recommend to the Finance & General Purposes Committee that all supporting papers be loaded onto the website with agendas. This method should be trialled for a period to assess how successful and useful it was to both Councillors and Members of the public.

5. GeoTourist App

Cllr Kiloh informed Members that she and Cllr Furness had attended a meeting about the app, which people could download and use as a map while visiting the town. It featured a narrator who gave information about various sites on the trail through the town. Cllr Kiloh explained there had been some concern over ownership of the app, and recommended that the Town Council take ownership for Battle. The Historical Society had been consulted and were developing ideas at the current time. Cllr Furness had successfully secured the services of Anton Lesser to act as narrator for the Battle map. The next stage was to ask the Photographic Society to help with the pictures. Cllr Kiloh explained the offer was free from GeoTourist until Easter, so time was of the essence.

RESOLVED: Members agreed for the Town Council to take ownership of the app and to press ahead with the arrangements.

6. Art Trail

Cllr Kiloh reminded Members of the history of the proposed Art Trail, explaining that it had come from a proposal put forward by Lesley Samms and agreed by the Town Council. The first stage funding application had now been submitted, although since the concept had first been discussed, the Council's roundabout competition had been held, and a commitment given to placing the runner-up's design somewhere on the Art Trail. The finance for this had not been included in the funding application, and would need to be taken into account for any future funding bid for phase 2 of the project. Cllr Kiloh had discussed with Lesley Samms the next stages

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of the project, and Lesley had indicated a willingness to continue with the project on the same terms originally agreed by the Council.

RESOLVED: The Town Clerk was asked to contact Lesley Samms and give the Town Council's assurance that they still wanted Lesley to manage the project.

7. Annual Parish Meeting

Members discussed the date and format of the Annual Parish Assembly. Huw Merriman MP had indicated a willingness to attend if the event could be held on a Thursday, and Members agreed this would be useful. The Town Clerk had made enquiries with Battle Memorial Hall about availability and presented Members with options for the date.

Members discussed the proposed Civic Award Scheme policy drafted by the Town Clerk. Cllr Favell suggested amending the Full Council decision to the April meeting rather than May, which Members agreed.

RESOLVED: The Town Clerk to book the Annual Parish Assembly for Thursday 26 May and invite Huw Merriman as the main speaker. The Civic Award Scheme to be advertised immediately via the noticeboards, website, Twitter and the local newspaper.

8. Battle Town Council branding

Cllr Ratcliffe showed Members four designs, using the existing helmet, arrow and crown as a basis for the designs. Members debated whether other Members should be invited to put forward ideas, but agreed this would lead to too wide a choice.

RESOLVED: The designs to be put to Full Council for a decision.

9. Writing Competition

Cllr Favell had circulated an update and proposed rules for the competition. The Town Clerk confirmed that to date 13 schools had responded positively to the invite to take part. Cllr Kiloh suggested the addition of Amanda Helm to the judging panel, which was agreed by Members. Cllr Favell pointed out the need to launch the competition before the end of March due to the school holidays.

RESOLVED: Members agreed for the working group to continue to progress the competition, with any decisions needed before the next committee meeting to be agreed via email circulation.

10. Defibrillators

The Town Clerk conformed that Battle Memorial Hall had agreed to have a defibrillator attached to their property, and it was now to be decided exactly where it would be located. The money had already been allocated from the budget, and the Town Clerk was authorised to make the purchase and confirm the details with the Memorial Hall.

RESOLVED: Members agreed to publicise the new defibrillator location, as well as the existing one, at the installation and committed to the aim of providing additional units in the coming years to locate around the town and in Netherfield.

11. Better Battle

Cllr Ratcliffe explained the idea was for the Town Council to bring together all of the groups and business with interests in the town, to promote better working relationships. A Business Improvement District had been established in Hastings and it was hoped something similar could be established in Battle, although on a smaller scale, which would make the business owners feel more engaged with the town.

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Cllr Kiloh stated that 'Better Battle' could also co-ordinate volunteers for projects, for example the proposed tidy up of the High Street prior to the 950th anniversary.

Members also discussed the Christmas Lights and agreed to recommend to F & GP that the Town Council grounds staff work with the Chamber of Commerce this year, and take over in future.

RESOLVED: Members agreed for the plan to be launched at the Parish Assembly, which all business owners would be invited to attend.

12. Marketing Groups

Cllr Ratcliffe had attended a meeting of the 1066 Executive board, where the main item had been the new tourist logo. Members asked about the make-up of the board and how the finances were raised and subsequently spent. Cllr Ratcliffe was due to attend the meeting of the Battle Marketing board later this month.

RESOLVED: Cllr Ratcliffe agreed to bring a breakdown of information about the 1066 Executive board to the next committee meeting, including spending plans for the Rother area.

13. Action Plan

Cllr Ratcliffe reported that he had reviewed the action plan, and identified the need to remove the references to the Abbey Green as this was under the control of the Environment Committee. It was noted that more detail was needed on the commercial side of the action plan. The next newsletter would be produced in April to advertise the Annual Parish Assembly.

RESOLVED: The Town Clerk was asked to email all Members asking for content for the newsletter.

14. Budget

Members noted the budget report.

15. Matters for information / future agenda items

The Town Clerk alerted Members to the fact that Battle Electricals & Computer Ltd had informed the Council they would not be able to house the CCTV control unit with effect from the end of February. Members recommended the Town Clerk liaise with the police regarding future provision.

Cllr Kiloh informed Members that she had met with Rachel Linton regarding the potential venues for the 1066 Medieval Mosaic. The most likely venue appeared to be in the Lady Chapel in St Mary's Church, although the Almonry was a possibility. The mosaic would be displayed in Battle from November 2016 to January 2017.

Cllr Furness asked for consideration to be given to purchasing banners to hang on the High Street lights to advertise events in the town. A member of the public pointed out that if the Council took over the Christmas lights, they would then own metal structures which could be used for hanging banners.

16. Date of next meeting: 5 April 2016

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.15pm

CLLR A RATCLIFFE
Chairman