



Battle Town Council



MINUTES of the COUNCIL MEETING held on TUESDAY, 16 JUNE 2015 in
The Almonry, High Street, Battle, at 7.30pm

PRESENT: Cllrs M Kiloh (Chairman), J Boryer, G Favell, D Furness, J Gyngell, R Jessop, J Lay, S Pry and A Ratcliffe.
County & District Cllr Field, District Cllr Curtis, Laura Cooke (Observer), Andy Beams (Town Clerk), 1 Member of the public.

Public Question Time

- 1. Apologies for absence** – Cllr M Howell. Cllr M Palmer was absent.
- 2. Disclosure of interest** – Cllr Kiloh declared a personal, non-pecuniary interest in the correspondence relating to the war memorial.
- 3. Minutes of the Council meeting** held on 19 May 2015. Cllr Furness proposed approval of the minutes, seconded by Cllr Lay and agreed unanimously. These were duly signed by Cllr Kiloh.
- 4. Matters arising from previous meetings** – None.
- 5. To receive a report from the County Councillor**
Cllr Field reported on the first meeting of the strategic overview committee regarding the impact of budget cuts to date, and how these considerations will be taken into account regarding future budgeting. Cllr Field had also attended a Children's Services meeting to review the learning points from interventions carried out.
- 6. To receive a report from the District Councillor**
Cllr Gary Curtis introduced himself as the newly elected Member for Crowhurst Ward, and agreed to report back to future meetings on any relevant point he was asked to investigate. Cllr Field reported that she had undergone finance training for the District Council, which had been very helpful. Cllr Jessop questioned the approach the District Council had taken in recent years with regard to setting the precept. Cllr Field responded that following the change of Minister at the DCLG, there was an opportunity to review the approach, and this would be debated in the near future.
- 7. Correspondence and communications**
The Town Clerk read a letter from the Dean of Battle outlining a suggestion for an augmented Roll of Honour to be produced to hang permanently in St Mary's, and asking for the Town Council's opinion. Cllr Boryer stated that a quotation had been obtained in the past to add missing names to the existing memorial, which would keep all the names in one place. Cllr Kiloh questioned if there would be enough room to include all the names, and this was one of the reasons for the alternative suggestion. Cllr Kiloh also pointed out that the memorial did not belong to the Town Council, and suggested we limit our response to the idea put forward. The Town Clerk would respond to the Dean saying the Town Council had no objection to his plan.
The Town Clerk passed around three sample name badges, each with different designs. The Town Clerk explained that ordering 30 was the cheapest option, and those not used immediately would be available as staff members and/or Councillors changed. Members agreed to go ahead with the badges and agreed on their preferred design.

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The Town Clerk informed Members of an invitation from the Battel Bonfire Boyes inviting the Mayor and Councillors to head the carnival procession through the town on Saturday 27th June. Members felt they should be involved and the Town Clerk was asked to respond to the Bonfire Boyes accepting the invitation, and emailing the date as a reminder to all Members.

8. Minutes of the Environment Committee meeting held on 26 May 2015

These were presented by Cllr Favell, with no questions from Members.

9. Minutes of the External Relations and Town Development Committee meeting held on 2 June 2015

These were presented by Cllr Pry, with no questions from Members.

10. Minutes of the Planning & Transport Committee meetings held on 3 June 2015

These were presented by Cllr Kiloh. Cllr Jessop expressed his disappointment that the committee had not dealt with the business and action plan item on the agenda. Cllr Kiloh stated that given the large number of absentees at the meeting, including the committee chairman and vice-chairman, and that not all of those present had fully studied the proposals, Members had agreed to defer a decision to the next meeting.

11. Progress Report on The Almonry Development Project

Cllr Kiloh had circulated a report in advance of the meeting to all Members. Since the document was circulated, a meeting with the Museum had taken place, resulting in the Museum agreeing to put together a proposal for consideration at the next F&GP meeting regarding the heritage aspects of The Almonry development.

Cllr Jessop commented on correspondence he had received with regard to the position of the Project Manager, and asked for clarification on the situation. Cllr Kiloh confirmed that the Project Manager had resigned from his role. The Town Clerk informed Members that a hand-over meeting with the Project Manager was scheduled for Wednesday, after which the Town Clerk would assume project management responsibility and send out a document clarifying the current position and next actions for the project.

12. Amenity Field

The Town Clerk reported that the Town Council's potential interest in a future purchase of the site had been registered with ESCC. An invoice had been received from ESCC for £1,701.53 for a license for the site covering the period 1 April 2010 to 27 May 2015. The license had not been renewed during this period, although the Town Council had continued to maintain the area at its own cost.

Members authorised the Town Clerk to respond to ESCC refusing payment, as no license was in place during this period. Cllr Field offered to assist in the event an amicable agreement could not be reached directly with ESCC.

13. Councillor training

Cllr Kiloh reminded Members of previous discussions regarding training. There were no new Councillors following the election, but the new committee chairman had been booked on the relevant SSALC course. Training had also been identified as a priority in each of the committee strategic plans, and Cllr Kiloh recommended organising a session focussing on areas which Members felt would be beneficial.

Cllr Jessop stated that he had enquired with ESCC officers whether Town Councillors and staff could join relevant highway training, and this had been agreed. Cllr Favell suggested that budget training could prove particularly useful.

The Town Clerk was asked to contact SSALC and find out the cost of providing bespoke training. This could be offered to other local councils to attend to share the cost.

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14. Mayor's charity

Cllr Kiloh reminded Members that she had previously proposed this in October 2014, and it had been agreed to re-visit the idea after the elections. The proposal would involve the Town Mayor organising a small number of fund raising events during the year, with the proceeds going to the Mayor's nominated local charity. Cllr Pry restated her previous concerns that this would increase the Mayor's workload. Cllr Kiloh recognised this, but felt it was achievable with support from a small fundraising group made up of other Councillors and representatives of local organisations.

Cllr Jessop proposed adopting the idea, initially for a two year period, then re-evaluating the impact of the additional work and the success of the venture. Cllr Favell seconded this, and it was agreed by the majority of Members.

15. Co-option

The Town Clerk reported that following the recent advert for the vacancies, there had been no responses by the deadline. Rother District Council had been consulted, and confirmed that all reasonable steps had been taken to attempt to fill the vacancies. The Town Clerk recommended advertising again after the summer holidays, although anyone interested in the meantime should be directed to the office for more information. Cllr Ratcliffe had introduced a potentially interested candidate to the Town Clerk, who was arranging for full details to be forwarded.

16. Policies for adoption

Draft policies for a Co-option Policy, Document Retention Scheme, Members' Allowances Policy and Staff Expenses Policy had been distributed to all Members in advance of the meeting. Cllr Jessop commented that they were broadly in line with those other Councils applying for the Local Councils Award Scheme had submitted, and proposed adoption. This was seconded by Cllr Favell and agreed unanimously.

17. List of payments and receipts

Payments totalling £47,881.19 and receipts totalling £10,865.59 for the period 14 May to 10 June inclusive were noted by Members.

18. Reports from representatives of the Council and other reports

Cllr Furness reported attendance at a number of Arts & Music Festival meetings, the AGM of Battle Memorial Hall and a meeting with the Museum.

Cllr Gyngell had also attended the Arts & Music Festival meetings, and a meeting of the Sports & Leisure working group.

Cllr Jessop had circulated in advance to Members details of meetings he had attended.

Cllr Pry had attended the Bexhill Mayor Making ceremony.

Cllr Favell had attended a meeting at Battle Sports Centre regarding seniors' activities, and the Sports & Leisure working group meeting.

Cllr Boryer had attended the Town Improvement Group (TIG) meeting.

Cllr Lay had attended the Sports & Leisure working group meeting. He had also been involved in assisting residents in the Coronation Gardens area regarding seeking improvements to the playground on land owned by Amicus Horizon.

Cllr Kiloh had attended the Bexhill Mayor Making ceremony, a meeting in Seaford with Wave Leisure regarding swimming pools on behalf of BLAP, the TIG meeting, the museum meeting and the Scouts AGM.

19. Matters for information / future items for agenda

Cllr Furness confirmed that Keane had agreed to play a concert as part of the Arts & Music Festival on 8 August. The venue would be confirmed once all the licensing permission had been agreed.

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Cllr Ratcliffe asked for assistance in distributing some of the event guides which were in the Town Council office.

Cllr Jessop questioned the reasons for changing the date of the F&GP meeting in July. Cllr Kiloh confirmed the Town Clerk had agreed to her request, as Cllr Kiloh was reluctant to miss such an important meeting, and ample notice of the change of date had been given to all attendees.

Cllr Favell informed Members that the scarecrow being built for the Town Council was almost complete. She also asked for assistance with the forthcoming memorial inspection due to take place on a Wednesday afternoon in July.

The Town Clerk informed Members that the police had been unable to attend this meeting, but would endeavour to send someone to the next meeting. If there were any detailed questions from Members, they were asked to forward them to the Town Clerk in advance to allow the police to find the information requested.

20. Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday, 21 July 2015

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.50 pm

Cllr M Kiloh, Chairman

