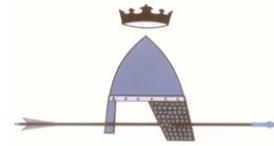




Battle Town Council



Minutes of the COUNCIL MEETING held on TUESDAY, 20 MARCH 2018 at
The Almonry, High Street, Battle at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs D Furness (Chairman), J Boryer, A Brown, M Dass, C Davies, G Favell, P Fisher, J Gyngell, M Howell, M Kiloh, A Ratcliffe, A Russell.

In Attendance: District/County Cllr K Field, D Wheeler, C Harris (Town Clerk)

1. **Apologies for absence** – None.
2. **Disclosure of interest** - None.
3. **Minutes of the Council meeting held on 20 February 2018** were agreed and duly signed by Cllr Furness.

4. **Reports from County Councillor and District Councillors** **County**

Cllr Field reported that all 7 **libraries and the mobile** which were the subject of the consultation will close but not before local communities have had the opportunity to provide alternative solutions. However, Hampden Park Library will have expanded services (Rhyme Time etc) to reflect the needs of that community. She confirmed that, together with Cllr Dixon, they are organising a **petition calling for a pedestrian crossing on Battle Hill**. KF advised that the leaflet is not a political action but will include a small reference to the LibDem Party.

The Clerk reported that a request had been received for the **Town Council office to receive completed forms** from those that did not wish to use the Freepost address. **Members agreed to this.**

District

Cllr Dixon reported that: RDC will be managing a **high quality restaurant at the Colonnade in Bexhill**; **Criminal Parking Enforcement** will now be discussed by Cabinet, although the process will still take approximately 2 years from now. The Police had agreed enforce traffic restrictions in the short term upon agreement of CPE. All Traffic Orders would be checked and lines repainted prior to the implementation of CPE. KD agreed to provide a timetable of the scheme when ratified; **permission has been granted for 25 dwellings at Darvel Down**; there is to be a discussion resulting from the **Ombudsman decision** in relation to the **temporary accommodation** provided to a homeless person; the **governance review** is progressing with solicitors instructed, a public consultation after Easter and all District Councillors invited to discuss the proposal; further **Community Grants** had been approved but there had been no Battle applications; ESCC had resolved to reduce the grass cutting from 6 to 2 cuts per year. RDC have agreed to **fund the additional cuts for the Rother area** for 2018-19 to allow for local authorities to consider alternative plans for 2019-20.

5. **Matters arising from minutes of previous meeting (not elsewhere on the agenda)**

The Clerk reported:

- that any **enforcements of Bye-laws or the proposed Public Spaces Protection Orders** will be carried out by RDC Officers or the Police upon complaints received;
- Claire Lands from **NatWest Bank** had agreed to present at the Parish Assembly;
- The **ceramic pieces of art** purchased as part of the Heritage Arts Trail are on display in the Almonry and included on the Council's insurance policy;
- The **Battle ATC 88 Squadron** have been offered a structure suitable for their needs and now urgently seek land. They are in discussion with various groups in the town but any suggestions would be gratefully received.

Battle Town Council

Members were reminded that the **clock on the present NatWest building** belongs to the Town Council. The Clerk was asked to ensure that this is known to the developers.

6. Correspondence and communications

- Grass cutting location information from ESCC – this had been reported under item 4.

7. Applications for Councillor vacancies to Marley and Watch Oak wards

Two applications for co-option to the Council had been received and circulated prior to the meeting. Dale Wheeler was invited to introduce himself.

DW confirmed that he had attended a majority of recent meetings and felt that he could usefully contribute to the Council. He advised that he is of a practical/technical nature, is cost-conscious and has excellent IT skills. **Members agreed unanimously to co-opt Dale Wheeler as a Councillor for the Watch Oak ward.**

Cllr Kiloh reported that Vikki Cook had felt unable to attend this meeting but had confirmed her interest. It was noted that VC has many interests and is a well-known member of the community. **Members agreed unanimously to co-opt Caryl Victoria Cook as a Councillor for the Marley ward.**

8. Allocation of new Councillors to Committees

Following discussions of interests and skills with the recently co-opted Councillors, **the Clerk proposed:**

- Andrew Brown** - **Planning & Transport Committee; he will also represent the Council on the Neighbourhood Planning Steering Group;**
- Mary Dass** - **Environment Committee;**
- Ian Williams** - **External Relations & Town Development Committee**

This was agreed.

9. Agenda for Parish Assembly

- Welcome and introduction from Cllr David Furness, Chairman of Battle Town Council
- Questions submitted by members of the public in response to the Town Council Annual Reports
- The Battle Neighbourhood Plan – an update by Maurice Holmes, Chairman of the Steering Group
- NatWest Bank Forward Plan – Claire Lands, Battle Branch Manager and Community Banker
- Wild flowers in Battle – Keith Datchler
- Plans for the Almonry Community Heritage Centre
- Proposed memorial event on Abbey Green – commemoration of the signing of the 1918 Peace Treaty
- Autism Awareness – Sarah Clements, Autism Sussex
- Presentation of the Civic Award
- Presentation by District/County Councillors
- Open forum

Members agreed the Agenda and asked that all speakers be advised of a 5minute time limit.

Cllr Boryer raised concern at including the **Neighbourhood Plan presentation**. He suggested that: the process is not cost-effective and up to date; RDC had approved substantial applications that were contrary to the Council's comments; it is possible that not all submitted sites have been acknowledged by the Steering Group; and there may be possible conflict of interests not declared. He felt that these facts could expose the Council to damaging criticism at the Parish Assembly. The Clerk confirmed that the Council has overall responsibility for the Group and that the 3 approved Council representatives on this group report to Planning & Transport Committee regularly with minutes circulated to all Council Members for transparency. Cllr Russell suggested that an informal meeting to discuss these concerns should be arranged between Chairman of Council and the Chairman of the NHP Steering Group.

Battle Town Council

10. Minutes and agree any recommendations from Committee meetings:

- **Finance & General Purposes on 6 March 2018** were presented by Cllr Furness and noted.
- **Planning & Transport on 13 March 2018** were presented by Cllr Gyngell and noted.
- **Provisional draft minutes from Events Sub Committee on 6 March 2018** were tabled. Cllr Russell reported on a full meeting to discuss the Remembrance Day event. It is proposed, subject to discussion by the St Mary's PCC and residents at the Parish Assembly, that the Parade arrive at the War Memorial in St Mary's Churchyard before 11am for the commemoration and laying of wreaths prior to the church service or Abbey Green (Memorial Hall if inclement weather) event.

11. Conservation of mortars

Members agreed that a source of funding to take this forward should be discussed at the next External Relations and Town Development Committee meeting, as this is an item on its Action Plan.

12. Payments and receipts for February 2017

The income and expenditure report, as attached, had been circulated. Members noted income of £15,948.13 and expenditure £38,029.01; both net of account transfers.

13. Reports from representatives of the Council

The reports from Cllrs Favell and Russell had been circulated and included:

- Cllr Favell
- attended the **Rural Rother Community Network** at which Rural Isolation was discussed. A copy of their directory of members "to be used to better connect local organisations" is in the office. GF highlighted *Helping Hands* as an example of a support group that could benefit Battle;
 - presented medals to finishers and trophies to winners at the '**Gunpowder Run**' organised by Battel Bonfire Boyes;
 - attended the **Chamber of Commerce AGM** at which the declining membership was highlighted although all retail spaces, except the gift shop, appear to be taken;
- Cllr Russell
- attended the **BVADC Finance sub Committee** which confirmed that most budget heads now spent with sale of booklets for children to cover outstanding invoices for professional fees not yet claimed. BVADC steering group meeting was cancelled but an email report had been circulated to include **a request for the Orb sculpture to be placed in the Almonry Garden and the 'Bonfire' stone marker to be installed at George Meadow between the footpath and boundary wall of High Street properties. Subject to agreement of exact siting, this was agreed;**
 - meeting to share work completing Historic Environment section of **Neighbourhood Plan;**
 - **Neighbourhood Plan steering group** meeting at which it was confirmed that: a temporary member of staff was required to handle research issues, gathering information and report writing; any grant not used by 31 March 2018 would need to be returned but that it is hoped that a new application would be successful; a new website is available; a regular article will be in the Observer; an update on call for sites was agreed; a short presentation at the Parish Assembly on the aims and objectives; concern was shared at the Crowhurst NP strategic gap; resignations had been received from Bev Marks and Tom Gray;
- Cllr Fisher
- reported that the **Twinning Association AGM** will take place in the St Valery Room of the Memorial Hall at 2.30pm on Thursday 22 March

Battle Town Council

- CLlr Kiloh - attended a **Battle Charities** meeting at which the Council's second Member had been queried. This is Cllr Fisher and the Clerk will ensure that this is relayed to Tim Roberts;
- CLlr Boryer - carried out the scheduled **allotments inspection** at which there appeared to be no issues;
- had checked the flail work at **Amenity Field**;
- work at **Mansers Shaw** had been hindered by the weather;
- noted the quick removal of an abandoned vehicle at Darvel Down;
- CLlr Ratcliffe/
CLlr Brown - attended the **A21 meeting** with the **Roads Minister** with other stakeholders. The road is considered high priority although the work is likely to be undertaken in sections and funding will not be confirmed until summer of 2019. It was noted that some towns did not support the dualling of the A21 but it was felt to benefit the majority. The cancellation of the average speed camera scheme will be investigated;
- CLlr Ratcliffe - attended the **AGM of the 1066 Country Marketing group** – minutes to be circulated shortly;
- visited **St Valery sur Somme** with the Clerk to meet with the Deputy Mayor as part of the joint Twinning Tapestry project. A tour of the area (with lunch) had been provided. The facilities provided in the town and amount of funding receiving was amazing. They receive immense income from car parking charges although residents have free parking. The exhibition was very well attended with a good display of both old and new Battle photographs;
- CLlr Howell - attended the **Neighbourhood Plan** meeting where she had agreed to write a monthly article for the Observer;
- CLlr Gyngell - attended the **Memorial Hall** meeting. A new lift has been installed to the newly carpeted Wynne Room. She had been one of the working party to take up the old carpet and lay foundations for the new one. Improvements to the heating have also been made;
- CLlr Furness - attended the **RVA Roadshow** of charitable groups. He reported that there were many voluntary groups which had been wonderful to see. He felt that an annual event at the Market Square should be considered;
- had opened a new premises for **Dapper Dans** which looks great;
- attended the **Battle Rotary Writing and Speaking Competition**.

14. Matters for information / future items for agenda

CLlr Favell recorded **thanks to ESCC** on their handling of the snow conditions that included useful regular updates on actions taken.

15. Date of next meeting: Tuesday, 17 April 2018

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.35pm

CLLR D FURNESS
CHAIRMAN