



Battle Town Council



**MINUTES of the EXTERNAL RELATIONS AND TOWN DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
held on TUESDAY, 7 JANUARY 2020 at The Almonry, High Street, Battle at 7.30pm**

Present: Cllrs C Would (Chairman), V Cook, G Favell, M Kiloh, H Sharman, L Samms.

In attendance: One member of the public, Helen Ogden (Marketing & Town Development Officer), Carol Harris (Town Clerk).

The Chairman wished those present a Happy New Year and welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the year.

1. Apologies for absence – None.

2. Disclosure of interest – None.

3. Minutes of the meeting held on 5 November 2019 were agreed and duly signed by Cllr Would.

4. Clerk's report

The new **festive lighting** had received a great deal of positive feedback. Queries had been raised in relation to the extension of lighting to other areas eg cross strings or a tree at St Mary's Church; Tills Courtyard. The Clerk reminded Members that the Market Square had been paid for by the leaseholders of that area, Jempsons and Tiger Tees Ltd. It was agreed that this should be discussed at the next meeting. The Chairman thanked the Committee and the Clerk for the work on this scheme.

5. Correspondence and communications received post agenda publication

- An email had been received asking for Council's support for an additional **youth club**. The Clerk had advised that the East Sussex County Council building (now an education facility) by the old skate ramp was previously a youth club but funding had ceased and that Manna House at Battle Baptist Church host a youth club. The resident is in discussion with Claverham Community College and will advise Council of progress in due course.
- Cllr Field is pursuing the issue of long-term **scaffolding at Nationwide** with both Rother District Council as a potential s125 notice and East Sussex County Council for validity in repeat licence permits.
- Confirmation that RDC have a **VE Day Celebration 2020 grant scheme** available for match funding up to £500.
- Concern had been raised at the **poor refuse collection service at Costa** in the High Street.

6. Events

- Members felt that **Remembrance Day** had been well attended and, whilst a band would be preferred, the recorded music was appreciated. It was noted that we received good sponsorship for the social gathering and it was well received. The Battle Rotary Club had requested that any excess funds from their contribution be donated to Royal British Legion. This has been actioned. Members agreed that the Clerk write to other donors to seek authority to put the remaining funds into an Ear Marked Reserve for a similar event this year. It is hoped that this will be in conjunction with the new Dean of St Mary's Church.

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- **Gala Night** Cllr Favell reported her thanks to Cllr Sharman and Cllr Davies for their assistance in decorating Santa's Grotto and assisting Santa, respectively. She highlighted the wet weather, clash with election and the cancelled children's carol singing which impacted on visitor numbers. However, it was felt that the event was still a success and would continue this year. It was suggested that the promotion of Santa's visit should be increased. It was noted that the Chamber of Commerce Christmas Committee provided the gifts and therefore funds had been passed to them.
- **Parish Assembly 2020** Members noted that Cllr Favell and the Clerk had met with the Principal of Claverham Community College and key members of his staff to discuss holding the Assembly at their facility. This had been agreed for Saturday 25 April. All groups would be invited to display information as usual to include Air Cadets, Youth Forum and Friends of Battle Skate-ramp. It had been confirmed that the Parent-Teacher Association will provide a BBQ and the Sports Centre Manager, Mr Hodder, is happy to be involved with appropriate displays of sports or dance. It was suggested that 1066 First Aid or 1066 First Responders be asked to provide a demonstration. Members agreed that a Working Group should coordinate this with the Marketing & Town Development Officer. Members agreed that Cllrs Favell, Samms, Sharman and Wheeler would form this group and that other Councillors should be invited to join.

7. Communication

- **Awareness Campaign** The next event will be held on 30 January between 2.45pm and 3.30pm, close to Battle & Langton School. As Cllr Cook is now not available, Cllrs Favell, Sharman and Wheeler will host.
- **Battle questionnaire** It was noted that the results remain predominantly in relation to parking and traffic, as attached. The document remains a good method of starting a conversation and will build evidence to produce to relevant authorities in due course.
- **Annual Report** As previously agreed, a pie-chart of expenditure will be included. In recognition of the carbon footprint, Members agreed that this should not be a full newsletter but a more condensed document. It will include the consultation on the Almonry and more visual pictures to attract readership. Royal Mail will be used for distribution to all Battle residents; it was noted that this will include some households out of the Council area due to postcode restraints. Cllr Samms agreed to assist the M&TD Officer with this task. A large print copy will be held in the office.
- **Occupiers letter** Members noted that the current Newsletter had been printed on a heavier weight paper and could therefore not be folded into an A5 envelope and sent by letter post. Members agreed that, for this quarter, the Newsletter will be sent as a large letter in A4 envelopes.

8. To receive updates from Working Groups

- **Heritage Charter** The notes of the meeting held on 11 December were noted, as attached.
- **Writing competition** The notes of a meeting held on 19 November were noted, as attached. It was agreed to continue with the adult competition and to increase promotion.
- **Resilience Plan** It was agreed that Cllr Sharman would circulate the invitation to register as a volunteer to community groups. This will be raised at the Parish Assembly.

9. Cityscape Maps' equipment

After several emails, Cityscape had finally agreed to remove the equipment. As an alternative they had suggested that the Council could use the main frame structure for its own use for a minimum

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period of two years. The Battle Marketing Group had previously raised this and Members agreed to pass the Cityscape offer to the Group for consideration.

10. River bench

Cllr Samms reported that a local resident had offered a felled Oak tree to form into a river bench, as proposed for the Heritage Arts Trail. The artist had confirmed that whilst the Oak was not suitable for a river bench it may be possible to be planked into benches and engraved/sponsored. More information will be brought to the next meeting.

11. UNESCO bid

Cllr Samms reminded Members that the Heritage Charter Group had identified many buildings that had been neglected. Subsequently, a Conservation Group had been formed volunteers to raise the profile and produce a plan to work towards a Battle UNESCO World Heritage status bid. The MP will be asked to action the application once all preparations have been undertaken. The list for consideration by UNESCO are undertaken every 10 years and is likely to be soon. As the process is extensive and can take in excess of 20 years, the Council must be the lead body. However, it would continue to be actioned by existing volunteers including Cllr Samms with Harpers & Holland as sponsors. **It was agreed to recommend to Full Council that the Council support the Battle UNESCO World Heritage status bid.** Cllr Samms was asked to confirm the involvement of Holland and Harper. Cllr Would thanked the Conservation Group for their work on this.

12. Town & Youth Forums

Cllr Favell reported that there had been more attendees at the inaugural **Town Forum** than anticipated and that it had received very positive feedback. The topic had been the strengths and weaknesses of Battle. Results had highlighted concerns at the future of the High Street. Mickey Caira, Deputy Town Clerk & Business Enterprise Manager at Hailsham Town Council is to be invited to the next meeting in February to report on how Hailsham had been regenerated and the Chamber of Commerce membership significantly expanded. A calendar of events remains a top priority.

Cllr Would confirmed that the inaugural **Youth Forum** meeting will be held on 27 January 2020 in the Almonry. The aim is to ensure a safe space for youth to voice their opinions and ideas for the town. The MP had agreed to invite members of the Forum to visit the House of Commons. The skate-ramp and fundraising would be topics for discussion.

13. Accessibility audits

The report following the inspection with Aspens was noted, as attached. Cllr Cook agreed to carry out the visually impaired audit.

14. Battle Marketing/1066 Marketing Group

Cllr Would and the M&TD Officer will attend the next meeting in February. Cllr Samms is progressing the Breakfast Networking meeting with the Dean.

15. Action Plan

Members agreed that the **Children's Activity book** should remain at £5. The M&TD Officer is asked to increase promotion of this literature and the Spy Trail.

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It was acknowledged that as part of the protection of the High Street, the **pollution** caused through excess traffic should be highlighted. It was suggested that an increase in floral displays would be of benefit.

Members agreed that the Town should enter the 2020 **South & South East in Bloom competition**.

Cllr Would agreed to discuss the Action Plan with the M&TD Officer.

16. Budget report

The Clerk highlighted the unexpected income at 1800 comprises contribution from RDC for the South & South East in Bloom competition £750 and donations towards the Remembrance Day gathering £275. Defibrillator (4480) expenditure was a result of the theft of the equipment at Marley Stores. A claim for the cost, less excess, had been submitted to Insurers. It was agreed that a website/social media news item of the location of defibs to remind residents should be published.

It was noted that, at the request of Battle Rotary Club, their excess donation will be passed to the Royal British Legion. Members agreed that other contributors should be asked for authority to create an Ear Marked Reserve towards this year's Remembrance Day gathering in the hope that this will be a larger event, possibly to be arranged with the Dean.

The **budget report to 30 November 2019** was noted, as attached.

17. Matters to Note / future agenda items

Cllr Favell reported on a letter from a year 5 pupil at Battle & Langton asking Council to consider facilitating becoming a **Fairtrade Council**. She had confirmed that the Council had undertaken this some years ago but more effort is required for Battle to become a Fairtrade Town. The Clerk was asked to source Fairtrade tea and coffee.

Members were asked to consider a theme for the **Christmas Tree Festival 2020**.

The Clerk was asked to send the draft letter for **M Bocquet, Deputy Mayor of St Valery sur Somme** to Cllrs Kiloh and Samms to seek translation.

18. Date of next meeting: 3 March 2020

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

CLLR C WOULD
Chairman