



# Battle Town Council



**MINUTES of a meeting of the FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE  
held on Tuesday, 27 September 2016 at The Almonry, High Street, Battle at 7.30pm**

**Present:** Cllrs D Furness (Chairman), G Favell, R Jessop and A Ratcliffe

**In Attendance:** Andy Beams (Town Clerk)

- 1. Apologies for absence** – Cllrs J Gyngell and M Kiloh.
- 2. Disclosure of interest** – Cllr Ratcliffe declared an interest in the item concerning the Almonry, as a tenant of the building.
- 3. Minutes of the meetings held on 16 August 2016** – These were duly signed by Cllr Furness as a true record of the meeting.

#### **4. Almonry**

**Planning** - The Town Clerk and Cllr Favell provided feedback on the recent meeting with RDC conservation and planning officers regarding the proposed alterations at the Almonry. The response had been generally positive, although there were a couple of specific concerns raised with one vertical beam in the meeting room, and the Catslide at the rear entrance from the current kitchen. The architect is arranging a meeting with David Martin, an expert on historic buildings, to address the identified issues.

**Security** - Members had been made aware of security issues raised by Battle Museum following recent incidents, and discussed possible remedies.

**RESOLVED:** Members agreed that the side gate will be locked by the last staff member leaving each day with immediate effect. The situation will be reviewed in the spring to attempt to avoid closing the lower garden during daylight hours. The Town Clerk was asked to obtain quotes for motion sensor lights for consideration at the next committee meeting.

#### **5. Personnel sub-committee**

Members noted the minutes of the meetings and addressed the issues in need of resolution.

**RESOLVED:** Members agreed to appoint Cllr Favell as Chairman of the sub-committee. Members agreed to introduce long-service awards for 10 and 20 years' service, and allocate an annual budget of £100. The Town Clerk was asked to investigate the cost implications of the suggested door entry and personal alarms included in the Lone Worker Policy.

#### **6. Fair Trade Town status**

Cllr Jessop had circulated in advance of the meeting research illustrating existing Fair Trade produce and practice at outlets in the Town.

**RESOLVED:** Members agreed to proceed with an application for Battle to become a Fair Trade Town.

#### **7. Commemorative tree**

Cllr Furness explained to Members the proposal for planting a tree on Caldbec Hill at the spot where Harold's men were believed to have gathered the evening before the battle in 1066, explaining the potential cost implications.

**RESOLVED:** Members agreed to a budget of £500 being created from general reserves to cover the cost of the tree, protective railings and plaque. Cllr Furness would liaise with the Town Clerk over the necessary arrangements.

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## **8. Training**

Members noted the content of the new SSALC training programme for 2017.

## **9. Financial matters**

Grants - Members reviewed the grant requests received against the grant policy and remaining budget.

**RESOLVED:** Members agreed a grant of £250 for Racing Snail, conditional on the project proceeding. Members agreed a grant of £500 for Battle Museum.

Christmas Celebrations – Members considered the request from Battle and District Chamber of Commerce to support the planned Christmas events.

**RESOLVED:** Members agreed to provide a financial contribution of £500 towards the events.

Budget reports – Members noted the content of the reports.

Payment authorisation – The Town Clerk had circulated prior to the meeting recommending keeping existing procedures in place.

**RESOLVED:** Members agreed not to amend the procedures, and that no changes to the Financial Regulations were needed.

Reserves and PWLB details – Members noted the information provided by the Town Clerk.

Local Government Finance Settlement – Members noted the details of the consultation, and the Town Clerk's comments on the potential implications.

**RESOLVED:** The Town Clerk was authorised to respond on behalf of the Town Council to the relevant questions in the consultation, objecting to the proposal to extend the referendum principles to all Parish and Town Councils.

## **10. Matters for information and future agenda items**

None

## **11. Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday 8 November 2016**

The meeting closed at 9.00pm

**CLLR D FURNESS  
CHAIRMAN**