



Battle Town Council



**MINUTES of the COUNCIL MEETING held on TUESDAY, 21 APRIL 2015 in
The Almonry, High Street, Battle, at 7.30pm**

**PRESENT: Cllrs M Kiloh (Chairman), J Boryer, G Favell, D Furness, J Gyngell, M Howell,
R Jessop, J Lay, S Pry, A Ratcliffe and D Wilson.**
County Cllr Field and District Cllr Dixon

Public Question Time

1. Apologies for absence – Cllrs J Eldridge, T Hall, M Palmer and J Sydes, and District Cllr Davies. Cllr Eldridge had circulated a note following his decision not to stand at the next election, expressing his thanks and offering best wishes to all involved with the Town Council. Cllr Kiloh passed on similar sentiments from Cllr Hall who was also not standing again.

2. Disclosure of interest – None.

3. Minutes of the Council meeting held on 17 March 2015. Cllr Furness proposed approval of the minutes, seconded by Cllr Favell 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 that there was nothing to add to her detailed report delivered at the Parish Assembly the previous week. Cllr Field was thanked for her attendance at the Parish Assembly, and for answering questions from members of the public.

6. To receive a report from the District Councillor

Cllr Dixon apologised for missing the Parish Assembly due to work commitments (these had been noted at the Assembly). He reported that Kingsmead meadow, a designated wildflower area, had been mowed which had damaged the flowers. The area was owned by RDC and they were currently investigating why this had happened.

Cllr Field reported that following the publicised criticism of lack of clarity of information on RDC's website, the scrutiny committee had agreed to a full review of their procedures.

7. Correspondence and communications

The Town Clerk reported that ESCC had replied regarding the Amenity site. Following an exchange of correspondence regarding the license, ESCC had declined the Town Council's offer of maintaining the area at BTC's cost in exchange for waiving of the license fee. ESCC are considering disposal of the site and requested BTC's views.

RESOLVED: Members agreed to consider all possible options in more details at the next F&GP committee meeting.

8. Minutes of the Environment Committee meeting held on 24 March 2015

These were presented by Cllr Favell, who chaired the previous meeting. The minutes were accepted without any questions from Members.

9. Minutes of the Planning & Transport Committee meetings held on 25 March and 8 April 2015

These were presented by Cllr Jessop. Cllr Boryer questioned the attendance by the police at the committee meeting, feeling that police presentations should be given to Full Council. Cllr Ratcliffe

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pointed out that the presentation was specifically for Operation Crackdown, and at a previous Full Council meeting it had been agreed that the Planning & Transport committee was the most appropriate place for receipt of the presentation.

Cllr Kiloh expanded the conversation to ask whether Members wanted to receive more regular reports from the Police, and Cllr Lay suggested regular reports could also be requested from other local service providers such as the fire brigade, doctors, etc.

RESOLVED: Members agreed for the Town Clerk to invite the police to attend the June Full Council meeting to report on general crime levels in the area.

10. Minutes of the External Relations and Town Development Committee meeting held on 7 April 2015

These were presented by Cllr Pry. Cllr Wilson pointed out that the explanation of delegated authority recorded in the minutes was ambiguous. It was confirmed that the committee has got the delegated authority in question, not that it was delegating authority to someone else.

11. Cemetery Extension

Cllr Favell gave an update to Members on the current situation. Cllr Field had recommended a local tree expert who could assist with the design, and following a meeting between him and Cllrs Favell and Kiloh at the cemetery, he had offered his services free of charge to assist the Town Council. It was anticipated that the plan would be finalised early in May, and work could then be started shortly afterwards. The Town Clerk had received 6 positive responses to the expressions of interest letters sent out in March, so these companies could be approached when the full specification had been agreed. CDSL had provided a quotation to provide specification details for the tendering process, along with provision of other services not included in the original fee quote.

RESOLVED: Cllr Favell proposed acceptance of the quote, which was seconded by Cllr Howell. Members agreed with 10 votes in favour and 1 abstention. Cllr Jessop recommended that a duty of care agreement is also reached with CDSL for this work.

12. To agree membership of standing committees

Cllr Kiloh explained that as there would not be a contested election in Battle or any new Members in May, there was an opportunity to prepare committee membership in advance of the AGM. Members would be required to double up on committees in the short term, subject to any additional Members joining the Council through co-option in the coming months. A provisional breakdown of committee membership had been circulated by Cllr Kiloh, and Members were asked to provide their thoughts to the Town Clerk in advance of the AGM, where a final decision will be made.

13. List of payments and receipts

Payments totalling £12,003.28 and receipts totalling £2,466.40 for the period 13 March to 31 March inclusive were noted by Members.

14. Reports from representatives of the Council and other reports

Cllr Jessop provided a written report for Members outlining his activity.

Cllr Ratcliffe explained to Members what the working group had been doing to this point regarding the 950th celebrations, although the group now had limited membership. He requested Members consider whether the Town Council itself wanted to do anything to mark the event, or continue in a supporting/co-ordinating role, as there had been concerns raised at the Parish Assembly regarding what was being organised. Members felt that there were projects being run by the Town Council which were related to the anniversary, namely the Almonry refurbishment, the stone monument and the roundabout sculpture, and efforts should be focused on completion of these rather than take on anything additional. Cllr Ratcliffe requested any other ideas to be

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sent to him in advance of the next External Relations & Town Development meeting, where he would provide an update.

Cllr Furness reported that he had attended a performance of the East Sussex Youth Orchestra which had been superb, and encouraged other Members to attend performances if they had the opportunity.

Cllr Favell reported that she had attended a meeting of the Health Pathway group. Tenders documents were being prepared for the required work, and some funding was being kindly provided by this year's Scarecrow Festival.

15. Matters for information / future items for agenda

Cllr Kiloh, on behalf of the Town Council, thanked Cllr Wilson for his contributions to the Council, as he was not standing again in May.

16. Date of Next Meeting: AGM Tuesday, 19 May 2015

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.40pm

M KILOH, Chairman

