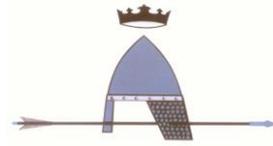


Battle Town Council



MINUTES of the EXTERNAL RELATIONS AND TOWN DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
held on TUESDAY, 23 JANUARY 2018 at The Almonry, High Street, Battle at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs A Ratcliffe (Chairman), C Davies, G Favell and D Furness.

In attendance: Carol Harris (Town Clerk)

1. **Apologies for absence** – Cllr P Fisher.
2. **Disclosure of interest** – None.
3. **Minutes of the meeting held on 28 November 2017** were agreed by Members and duly signed by Cllr Ratcliffe.

4. Matters arising from previous minutes, not on this agenda

The Clerk confirmed that the **Almonry notice board** has been refurbished and placed in a new position close to the entrance of the building.

5. Town Improvements

The comments from Beautiful Battle on last year's **South & South East in Bloom Competition** had been circulated. Members agreed that although there should be no Town entry to this year's SSEiB completion, the Council should continue to work towards improving the floral displays. Cllr Kiloh confirmed that her Councillors Basic Parish Allowance will be donated to purchase further window boxes. These will be placed outside retailers that are happy to maintain the Council purchased shrubs that Beautiful Battle have agreed to plant.

- 6. The minutes from Events sub Committee meetings** held on 19 December 2017 and 16 January 2018 were noted. The Committee thanked the sub Committee for their continuing work. Members noted the request from F&GP to add to the Action Plan a budget for improving **links with St Valery sur Somme**.

7. TIME Working Group

The Clerk confirmed that the meeting had been postponed. Discussions continue to identify how to improve the Market Square area. It was also suggested that the TIME group could be invited to work in conjunction with the Almonry Community Heritage Centre project

8. Battle Visual Arts Development Committee and Finance sub Group

The **minutes of Finance sub Group meeting 18 December 2017** had been circulated and noted. The concerns for footpath safety on one of the proposed Trails was raised and it was confirmed that Cllr Russell has arranged a site visit to determine any issues.

9. Membership of Wildflower Meadow Working Group

Cllrs Furness and Davies agreed to represent the Council together with James Newmarch, ESCC, Keith Datchler and Cllr Kathryn Field, with others invited as necessary. Members agreed that the wishes of the residents should be considered as well as the potential improvements to the environment. Cllr Furness agreed to lead and arrange a meeting for this working group.

10. Battle Resilience Plan

Members were reminded that Council had requested that this be added to the Action

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Plan. Cllr Favell confirmed that there is a simpler template available on ESCC and it was agreed that she should complete and bring to the next meeting. It was suggested that emergency volunteers be sought at the Parish Assembly.

11. Writing Competition

Cllr Favell circulated the proposed rules and promotional poster for this year's "Along the Twitten & through the Shaw" competition. These are attached to the minutes. She confirmed that the closing date has been extended to allow for schools' routines. Cllr Davies agreed to join the Working Group. It was agreed that information packs will be available at the Parish Assembly.

12. Gunpowder Mortars

Members noted the interest of Battle Museum in the mortars but emphasised that these had been received from Hastings Museum by the Town Council.

13. Action Plan

The Chairman and Clerk agreed to revise and include additional items: Tourism; Bayeux Tapestry; improved links with Twinned Town, St Valery sur Somme. This will then be attached to these minutes.

14. Marketing groups

The minutes of the 1066 Marketing Group had been circulated and noted. Cllr Ratcliffe highlighted: proposals to improve rail links between Hastings and Ashford; the negative impact that AirBnB is having on traditional hotel and guest house businesses; that visitor numbers are down 10% and Battle Abbey -40% (although this was felt to be due to the increase last year for the 950th commemoration).

15. Financial matters

The **budget report** to 31 December 2017 was noted. It was agreed that some extra budget headings would be useful to highlight expenditure eg notice boards.

16. Matters for information / future agenda items

- Better Battle competition

17. Date of next meeting: Tuesday 27 March 2018

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.25pm.

CLLR A RATCLIFFE
Chairman