



Battle Town Council



MINUTES of the ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING held on TUESDAY, 17 MAY 2016 in
The Almonry, High Street, Battle, at 7.30pm

PRESENT: Cllrs M Kiloh (Chairman), C Davies, G Favell, P Fisher, D Furness, J Gyngell, M Howell,
R Jessop, M Palmer, A Ratcliffe, J Reeves and A Russell.

Cllr Kathryn Field, 1 member of the press, Andy Beams (Town Clerk)

Public Question Time – None

1. To elect Council Chairman and Mayor

The outgoing Chairman thanked Members and staff for their support during her term as Chairman and Mayor. The Town Clerk reported there had been one nomination received for Cllr Furness, which had been duly seconded. Members were invited to make any additional nominations, but none were received.

RESOLVED: Members agreed to elect Cllr Furness as Chairman and Mayor, and he signed the declaration of acceptance. Cllr Furness thanked Cllr Kiloh for her dynamic approach during her term, particularly the setting up of the Mayor's charity.

2. To elect Council Vice-Chairman

Town Clerk reported there had been one nomination received for Cllr Jessop, which had been duly seconded. Members were invited to make any additional nominations, but none were received.

RESOLVED: Members agreed to elect Cllr Jessop as Vice Chairman.

3. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr Boryer and District Cllrs Curtis and Dixon.

4. Disclosure of interest

Cllr Reeves declared an interest in the appointment of a presentative to Battle Cricket Club as her husband is the club's chairman.

5. To approve and sign the minutes of the Council meeting held on 19 April 2016

These were proposed by Cllr Jessop, seconded by Cllr Russell and agreed by all. Cllr Kiloh signed the minutes as the Chairman of the meeting at that time.

6. Standing Orders and Financial Regulations

The Town Clerk had provided a report recommending the existing standing orders and financial regulations were re-adopted, as they had been extensively revised and updated in 2015.

RESOLVED: Cllr Favell proposed adopting both documents, which was seconded by Cllr Jessop and agreed by all. Cllr Jessop asked for thanks to be recorded to the Town Clerk for the work undertaken to bring the documents up to date.

7. Standing Committees

Members had been asked to express their wishes as to which committee(s) they wished to serve on. The Town Clerk had received the requests and explained the position to Members, including the ex-officio roles, quorum requirements and membership arrangements for the Finance and General Purposes Committee.

RESOLVED: Delegated authority was renewed for the Environment, External Relations & Town Development, Finance & General Purposes and Planning & Transport Committees. Membership was agreed as detailed below:

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	<u>ENVIRONMENT</u>	<u>ER&TD</u>	<u>F&GP</u>	<u>P&T</u>
Ex-Officio	Cllr Furness	Cllr Furness	Cllr Furness (CH)	Cllr Furness
Ex-Officio	Cllr Jessop	Cllr Jessop	Cllr Jessop (VC)	Cllr Jessop (CH)
	Cllr Boryer	Cllr Favell	Cllr Favell	Cllr Gyngell (VC)
	Cllr Davies	Cllr Fisher	Cllr Gyngell	Cllr Howell
	Cllr Favell (CH)	Cllr Palmer	Cllr Kiloh	Cllr Palmer
	Cllr Fisher	Cllr Ratcliffe (CH)	Cllr Ratcliffe	Cllr Ratcliffe
	Cllr Gyngell	Cllr Russell (VC)		
	Cllr Howell			
	Cllr Kiloh (VC)			
	Cllr Reeves			

8. Council Representatives

The Town Clerk reminded Members that it had been agreed to provide a deputy for the roles where there is a sole representative.

RESOLVED: Members agreed the representatives as below. Cllr Jessop informed Members that it was likely that the Battle Partnership would be closed down after the annual meeting, therefore no deputy was appointed. Also, no deputy was appointed for Netherfield Village Hall, as this role should be held by a Netherfield Ward Member, and this position was currently vacant.

	Representative 1	Representative 2	Representative 3	<i>Deputy</i>
Battle Abbey Explanatory Board	Cllr Furness			<i>Cllr Jessop</i>
Battle Area Sports Management Committee	Cllr Fisher			<i>Cllr Favell</i>
Battle Chamber of Commerce	Cllr Jessop			<i>Cllr Ratcliffe</i>
Battle Charities Trustees	Cllr Jessop	Cllr Kiloh		<i>Cllr Furness</i>
Battle Cricket Club	Cllr Furness			<i>Cllr Russell</i>
Battle Health Pathway	Cllr Favell			<i>Cllr Boryer</i>
BLAP	Cllr Boryer	Cllr Fisher	Cllr Reeves	

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Battle Marketing Group (& 1066)	Cllr Ratcliffe			<i>Cllr Palmer</i>
Battle Museum	Cllr Kiloh			<i>Cllr Russell</i>
Battle NHP Steering Group	Cllr Howell	Cllr Jessop	Cllr Russell	
Battle Partnership	Cllr Jessop			
Beautiful Battle	Cllr Boryer			<i>Cllr Gyngell</i>
Concorde 1066	Cllr Furness			<i>Cllr Jessop</i>
ESALC	Cllr Jessop	Cllr Kiloh		
Netherfield Village Hall	Cllr Boryer			
RALC	Cllr Howell	Cllr Jessop		
RVA	Cllr Howell			<i>Cllr Gyngell</i>

9. Asset register

The Town Clerk had forwarded in advance of the meeting an update of the asset register, which had been reviewed by the internal auditor. At the next F&GP meeting, a detailed review of the land and buildings assets was to be completed.

RESOLVED: Members noted the register as reviewed by the internal auditor.

10. Insurance

The Town Clerk's report detailed the existing arrangements, including details of the existing three year term agreed through the broker which was due to expire in 2017. During the internal audit, the insurance arrangements had been agreed as adequate.

RESOLVED: Members noted the existing insurance arrangements and the Town Clerk's comments regarding renewal arrangements in 2017.

11. General Power of Competence

The Town Clerk's report detailed the eligibility requirements for the General Power of Competence, and that the Council currently did not qualify due to not having enough elected Members.

RESOLVED: Members noted the Town Clerk's report and acknowledged the Council did not qualify.

12. Meeting schedule

The F&GP committee had previously reviewed alternate schedules drafted by the Town Clerk, and agreed a recommendation based on a 6 weekly cycle of meetings. This version provided additional committee meetings to allow discussions and decisions to be made in a timelier manner.

RESOLVED: Members agreed the proposed schedule as recommended by the F&GP committee

13. Direct debit arrangements

The Town Clerk provided Members with a list of regular payments currently paid by direct debit, requesting agreement to renew the arrangements.

RESOLVED: Members agreed to renew direct debit payment arrangements to the following companies:

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- BNP Paribas
- British Gas
- Eon Energy Ltd
- Greencore Recycling Ltd
- Insight Systems
- Rother District Council
- Talk Talk Business
- South East Water

14. Annual Governance Statement

The Town Clerk explained the importance of the annual governance statement to Members, and that the statement had been verified and reviewed by the internal auditor.

RESOLVED: Members approved the annual governance statement which was signed by Cllr Furness in his capacity as Chairman of the Council.

15. Annual Return

The Town Clerk had circulated in advance of the meeting a copy of the completed annual return, along with the supporting accounting statements, which had been verified and reviewed by the internal auditor.

RESOLVED: Members approved the annual return which was signed by Cllr Furness in his capacity as Chairman of the Council.

16. Correspondence and communications

None.

17. County Councillor report

Cllr Field reported that ESCC are currently consulting on the closure of 2 schools in Lewes and Rodmell. A petition to save them had been signed by over 5,000 residents, which had triggered the matter being debated by Full Council. As a result, the recommendation to Cabinet was to not close the schools, although cabinet would make the final decision. The other matter being debated at the moment related to the proposal to force all schools to become academies, although the Secretary of State had now altered the parameters. There had been problems with finding suitable sponsors for some ESCC schools who had previously looked into becoming academies.

18. District Councillor report

Cllr Field reported that the new chairman of Rother District Council had been elected and was Paul Osborne from Rye.

19. Annual Assembly

Cllr Furness explained that committee chairmen would be asked to say a few words about the achievements of their committees over the last year, along with the primary objectives for the coming year. This would be based on the recent reports completed for the Council business plan. Where any chairman was unable to attend, Cllr Furness would speak on their behalf.

The Town Clerk was asked to draw up an agenda to send to Cllr Furness for approval, which would include reports from County and District Councillors, along with the main speaker for the evening Huw Merriman MP.

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20. Roundabout statue proposal

Cllr Furness had circulated in advance of the meeting a detailed proposal regarding the roundabout statue. He reminded Members that the winning design had been selected from a shortlist of the favourite entries chosen by the public, following the open competition in 2015. A number of sculptors had been approached, and one had agreed to carry out the work. Pictures of his design, based on the winning entry, were included in the report.

Members raised a number of questions about the size and style of the design, and requested the opportunity to display a model to obtain public opinion. It was suggested that a model could be on display at the Annual Assembly for members of the public to comment on.

RESOLVED: Cllr Jessop proposed that the Council agree to the financial support requested in the proposal, and assign £1,000 towards the project. If for any reason the project did not go forward, this money would be returned to the Council. This was seconded by Cllr Gyngell and agreed by the majority of Members.

21. To receive the minutes of the Planning & Transport Committee meetings held on 20 April and 4 May 2016

These were presented by Cllr Jessop with no questions from Members.

22. To receive the minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting held on 10 May 2016

These were presented by Cllr Kiloh with no questions from Members.

23. List of payments & receipts

Due to the list not being circulated in advance of the meeting, Members agreed to review these at the next meeting.

24. Reports from representatives of the Council and other reports

Cllr Jessop circulated a written report in advance of the meeting.

Cllr Ratcliffe had circulated to Members the minutes of the last marketing meeting, and would do so again with future meetings.

Cllr Fisher reported she had attended the Battle for Tennis AGM, where they had discussed holding classes on the courts at the recreation ground.

Cllrs Favell and Gyngell had attended the PCC hustings and had circulated a written report to Members.

Cllr Favell had attended a Battle Festival meeting.

Cllr Kiloh had attended the Museum meeting, where they are concentrating on the reaccreditation process, and continuing to attempt to recruit volunteers for the busy summer period.

25. Matters for information / future items for agenda

Cllr Jessop reminded Members of the busy weekend of activities coming up at the end of May. ELF was taking place on the Friday, Streets of Battle on the Saturday and the Medieval Fayre on the Sunday and bank holiday Monday. Members were requested to support the events wherever possible.

26. Date of next meeting: Tuesday, 19 July 2016

Meeting closed at 8.30pm

Cllr D Furness, Chairman