



# Battle Town Council



MINUTES of a meeting of the FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE  
held on TUESDAY, 2 MAY 2017 at The Almonry, High Street, Battle at 7.30pm

**Present:** Cllrs D Furness (Chairman), G Favell, J Gyngell, R Jessop, M Kiloh and A Ratcliffe.

**In Attendance:** Carol Harris (Town Clerk)

**1. Apologies for absence – None.**

**2. Disclosure of interest –** Cllr Furness and Cllr Gyngell declared a personal interest in item 7 as members of the Battle Festival Committee. Cllr Ratcliffe declared a personal interest in item 6 as a tenant of the property.

**3. Minutes of the meetings held on 21 March 2017 –** These were approved by Members and duly signed by Cllr Furness.

**4. Report from the Town Clerk**

The Clerk reported a conversation with Mark Anderson(MA) of John D Clarke Architects in relation to the **design plans for the Almonry**. He advised that although the space allocated as the Council Chamber is not large; he feels that it is sufficient for a table with 18 chairs and adequate moving space. As an alternative, the Chamber and public area could be reversed; as they are currently. In relation to the suggestion of removing the low partition; MA reported that the Conservation Officer's request had been to rebuild it fully and that, as there is evidence of the partition in both the Medieval and C16, he would recommend leaving it as the plan. MA advised that a verbal conversation with the Conservation Officer had indicated support of the new plans for the 'Range'. He had suggested that once Council approve the plans they could be ready for submission for planning permission in approximately 6 weeks. **Members discussed the options and agreed unanimously to accept the plans as submitted.**

**5. Almonry Valuation**

The revised valuation was noted although Members felt that better property comparisons should have been made. Members agreed that an alternative source of valuation should be sought.

*Cllr Ratcliffe repeated his personal interest in the following item.*

**6. Notice of Alteration to Rating list**

The Clerk reported that following an alteration to the rating list, the adjustment notice had been issued at a vastly increased rate bill for 2017-18. Advice had been received that the Council has a duty to ensure best value and should request individual tenant be responsible for their own rates. **Members agreed that the Clerk should write to the tenants strongly suggesting that the responsibility for rates be transferred to their business.**

*Cllrs Furness and Gyngell repeated their personal interests in the following item.*

**7. Scarecrow Festival**

Cllr Furness reported that the Chamber of Commerce had agreed to hand over the Scarecrow Festival to the Battle Arts & Music Festival(BAMF). It had been agreed that it will be for the last week of July and first two weeks of August. BAMF had requested physical assistance from one member of work staff for half a day at the beginning and end of the period to erect and take down the stakes and to provide a store for the stakes when not in use. **Members agreed to provide this assistance at no charge.**

**8. Terms of Reference**

**Members agreed to recommend the Terms of Reference to Full Council as attached.**

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## **9. Financial matters**

The income and expenditure to March 2017 was noted.

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

The Clerk reported that there had been an incident at the **Museum** the previous weekend which had required the attendance of a Police Officer. Nobody had been hurt but it had raised concern at safety issues for Museum volunteers that they will be considering further.

Cllr Furness highlighted the potential of the **Almonry garden for civil wedding ceremonies**. The DTC was asked to investigate the potential of the Arbour structure being used for this purpose.

The Chairman emphasised the success of the **Parish Assembly** with the attendance of approx. 160 residents. Members discussed the various suggestions in relation to the **Mayoral Chain of Office** and agreed that a request for a design concept should be requested via the newspaper and website.

- To review existing committee structure and agree future arrangements
- To receive Annual Return and year-end figures for recommendation to Full Council

## **11. Date of next meeting: provisionally additional meeting 9 May 2017**

The meeting closed at 8.06pm

**CLLR D FURNESS  
CHAIRMAN**