



Battle Town Council



**MINUTES of the ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING held on
TUESDAY, 20 MAY 2014 in
The Almonry, High Street, Battle, at 7.30pm**

PRESENT: Cllrs J Boryer, R Bye, J Eldridge, Mrs G Favell,
Mrs P Fisher, D Furness, Ms J Gyngell, Mrs M Howell, R Jessop,
Mrs M Kiloh, Ms J Ormonde-Butler, Mrs S Pry, A Ratcliffe, J Sydes
and D Wilson.

Public Question Time

No members of the public were present. District and County Councillors were present and a member of the press.

14/1. Election of Chairman

Two nominations were made - **Cllr Kiloh**, proposed by Cllr Bye, seconded by Cllr Mrs Fisher; **Cllr Jessop**, proposed by Cllr Boryer, seconded by Cllr Ms Gyngell. A vote was therefore necessary and it was agreed that Standing Order 10 be adopted to enable this to be done by signed ballot. The result of the ballot was 8 votes for Cllr Mrs Kiloh and 5 for Cllr Jessop with 1 abstention. **Cllr Mrs Kiloh was therefore duly elected** to serve as Chairman for a further year. She thanked Members and undertook to serve the Council to the best of her ability. The outgoing Chairman, Cllr Bye paid special thanks to Cllr Mrs Pry for her dedicated service as Vice Chairman before handing over to the new Chairman.

14/2. The Chairman's Declaration of Acceptance of Office was duly signed by Cllr Mrs Kiloh.

14/3. Election of Vice Chairman

Cllr Bye proposed the nomination of Cllr Furness, seconded by Cllr Mrs Kiloh. With no other nomination all present supported this proposal. **Cllr Furness was therefore duly elected to serve as Vice Chairman for the ensuing year.**

14/4. Apologies for Absence – Cllr M Palmer. Councillors wished Cllr Palmer and the Deputy Clerk a speedy recovery.

14/5. Disclosure of Interest

Cllr Jessop declared a personal and prejudicial interest under item 8 as a Director of the East Sussex Associations of Local Councils Ltd and Cllr Mrs Pry declared a personal interest in item 20, the update the Sports Hall.

The Chairman reminded everyone that an **additional item** had been added to the agenda by the Clerk within the statutory time limits about the **Cricket Ground flooding** and that Cllr Fisher had an additional item about the **Great British Tennis Weekend**.

14/6. To Approve the Formation and Membership of the Standing Committees

Suggested Committee Membership had been circulated and was discussed. There was unanimous agreement that the existing Standing Committees should continue and that the Membership should be as the attached list.

14/7. To Appoint Representatives of the Council to Other Bodies

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A list of the bodies to which appointments need to be made had been circulated. With the exception of Community Transport it was agreed that the Council should have representation on these bodies. The complete list for the year is attached.

14/8. Annual Subscriptions

Cllr Jessop repeated his personal and prejudicial interest and took no part in the discussion or vote concerning SSALC.

It was agreed that the Council continue membership of the Sussex Association of Local Councils, the Rother Association of Local Councils and the National Association of Local Councils. The Town Clerk was authorised to join the Society of Local Council Clerks.

14/9. Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 15 April 2014. Cllr Sydes asked that the result of the vote undertaken at item 13 (Battle Abbey's application for a sports hall) be recorded. **Cllr Sydes proposed approval of the minutes, seconded by Cllr Mrs Fisher – agreed.**

14/10. Matters Arising from Previous Meetings

All covered under main agenda items.

14/11. Correspondence & Communications

Cllr Bye informed members that he, as Mayor, had been invited to attend the Queen's Garden Party at Buckingham Palace on 10th June 2014. He had been nominated by SSALC and it was the first time that a member of the Battle Town Council had been invited to attend.

The Clerk reported **invitations** to:

- the **Annual Mayor Making Ceremony** at the Town Hall, Bexhill on 28 May 2014;
- a reception at **Bentley** on Thursday 12 June 2014 from the **High Sheriff of East Sussex**;
- the launch of the **ESCC Highways Community Self-Serve** event at Uckfield on 16 June 2014.

14/12. Correspondence Received Requiring a Decision:

- (1) the **Fire & Rescue Service** would like to hold a Road and Vehicle Safety Event on the Abbey Green on Saturday 14 June – **agreed**;
- (2) **KH Infinity Events** would like to hold a children's event on the recreation ground sometime in July (to be agreed.) All insurances would need to be seen in advance and if the event was profit making a charge to be made for use of the ground – **agreed**.

Additional Items

14/13. Battle Cricket Ground

The Clerk explained that she had been asked to put this on the agenda as an urgent item and was seeking further instruction. Part of the cricket ground was flooded and the cricket club are unable to play league matches. Work was undertaken last year when the ground was flooded to find out where the water was coming from; Southern Water conducted extensive tests that revealed the water was untreated and therefore not from the sewage or mains water system. Two contractors have investigated the problems and agreed that this is natural water probably from springs and surface water draining from the surrounding area; the cricket pitch is on lower ground to surrounding properties and the water is finding the lowest level. Both contractors had recommended a 'French drain' and verbal *like for like* quotes for installing a drain from the area of flooding to the Abbey side had been received for £7,000-9,000 and £4,500 respectively. The Clerk has also received a quote for an open drain, basically an open channel for £2,500.

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Discussions took place about the three quotes and concerns were raised that the beech and stone covering of the drain may cause problems with mowing and that the size of the boundary may be an issue. The quotes do not include the installation of a *soak away* and this would need to be considered at a later date. Concerns were also raised that presenting three quotes is normal but it was acknowledged that the Clerk had been asked to bring this matter with only two quotes because of the urgent nature of the problem. Cllrs Boryer and Eldridge were nominated to meet the contractor on site to discuss the works. The Clerk was authorised to proceed with the cheaper of the two *like for like* quotes for £4,500 for the installation of a French Drain as soon as possible – **agreed**.

14/14. Great British Tennis Weekend

Cllr Mrs Fisher reported that **Battle for Tennis** had verbally requested the use of the MUGA, tennis court and pavilion for this event on **21 June 2014** from 2 – 4pm. Council **agreed** this but asked the Clerk to write to the club reminding them of the need to apply in writing to the Council well in advance of future events.

Cllr Mrs Fisher updated members on her meeting with ESCC about the **swimming pool at Claverham Community College**. She circulated a report from the County Council and summarised that the swimming pool isn't economically viable and that the amount of money needed to repair and run it for the six weeks per year was extremely high. She concluded by saying that Battle Local Action Plan Group are looking at a pool for Battle but may need to start from scratch as Claverham doesn't appear to be an option.

14/15. Report from County Councillor

Cllr Field had nothing to add further to her update at the Parish Assembly.

14/16. Report from District Councillors

Cllr Dixon reported on personnel changes at Rother District Council. He expressed his concern that the District Council Report had not been included in the Town Council's Annual Report and said that he would be willing to meet with the Communications Committee to discuss this.

14/17. Report from the Police

The **Crime Reports** for April/May were noted. Sgt Masterson reported that reported crime in Battle has dropped for a third year but shoplifting was a problem; thieves are travelling from the Hastings area. There have been staff changes in Battle but there are no plans for changes to Battle Police Station. The double yellow lines in North Trade Road appear to have eased congestion. He thanked the outgoing chairman, Cllr Bye, for his support.

14/18. Minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 23 April were presented by Cllr Jessop and noted.

14/19. Draft Minutes of the Services Committee meeting held on 29 April were presented by Cllr Kiloh and noted.

14/20. Verbal report form the Parish Assembly. Cllr Bye reported on the Assembly and stressed that there was strong feelings expressed about the application from Battle Abbey School for a sports hall on the recreation ground.

14/21. List of Payments & Receipts was noted.

14/22. Reports from Representatives of the Council

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- Cllr Jessop - had attended a **RALC** meeting, a **Chamber of Commerce** meeting and AGM, a **SSALC** meeting, the **BLAP AGM and the Parish Assembly**;
- Cllr Mrs Pry - had attended the **Parish Assembly**;
- Cllr Mrs Fisher - had attended the BLAP AGM, a meeting with ESCC about the Claverham swimming pool and the Parish Assembly;
- Cllr Wilson - attended the BLAP AGM and the Parish Assembly
- Cllr Boryer - attended the BLAP AGM, the Darvell Down AGM and a Beautiful Battle meeting;
- Cllr Bye - had attended the St. George's day parade and service, the Parish Assembly and the Rother reception at Bodiam;
- Cllr Mrs Favell - attended the BLAP AGM and the Parish Assembly;
- Cllr Ratcliffe - attended the St. George's Day Parade and the Battle 1st Scouts AGM;
- Cllr Sydes - attended the Parish Assembly;
- Cllr Furness - attended the Battle Arts Festival and the Parish Assembly.

14/23. Matters for Information/Future Items for Agenda

The planned meeting with Battle Abbey School about their proposal for a sports hall on the recreation ground had been postponed. All councillors were asked to familiarise themselves with the proposals and forward any comments or questions to the Chairman. Cllr Mrs Fisher declared an interest in this matter and as such would not be able to attend the meeting; Cllr Boryer would attend on behalf of the Estates Committee.

Cllr Jessop asked queried the position with the new councillor and the Clerk was asked to seek guidance on the matter.

14/25. Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday, 17 June 2014

The meeting closed at 8.30pm.

M KILOH
Chairman

