



# Battle Town Council



MINUTES of the COUNCIL MEETING held on TUESDAY, 17 NOVEMBER 2015 in  
The Almonry, High Street, Battle, at 7.30pm

**PRESENT:** Cllrs M Kiloh (Chairman), J Boryer, C Davies, G Favell, P Fisher, D Furness, J Gyngell, M Howell, R Jessop, M Palmer, A Ratcliffe and A Russell.  
Cllr Kathryn Field, Cllr Kevin Dixon, 2 members of the public, member of the press, Andy Beams (Town Clerk)

**Public Question Time** – None.

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1. **Apologies for absence** – Received from Cllr Jo Reeves, and District Cllr Gary Curtis.
2. **Disclosure of interest** – None.
3. **Minutes of the Council meeting** held on 20 October 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 assign newly co-opted Councillor to a committee**

Although Cllr Reeves was absent due to a pre-existing commitment, she had indicated a willingness to go on either the Environment or External Relations committees. As the committees were evenly balanced at present, it was felt the heavier workload of the Environment committee would benefit more by the addition of another member. Cllr Jessop extended an invitation to Cllr Reeves to attend a Planning & Transport meeting to see the work the committee does.

**RESOLVED:** Members agreed to assign Cllr Reeves to the Environment Committee.

**6. To receive a report from the County Councillor**

Cllr Field reported that there was no further news on the budget at this time. The school improvement service was being re-inspected following an 'ineffective' judgement at the last inspection. ESCC had agreed to make vacant property it owned available for community use in the short term, subject to the normal terms and conditions. ESCC had also agreed to continue its ban on neonicotinoids on land owned and/or managed by ESCC.

**7. To receive a report from the District Councillor**

Cllr Field reported that there had been an extraordinary meeting of the Council to discuss the boundary review. As a result, the proposal now being put forward affecting Battle would result in a one Member ward for Marley and Telham and a two Member ward for Whatlington, Watch Oak and Netherfield.

**8. Correspondence and communications**

Cllr Kiloh raised the recent correspondence from English Heritage regarding the future of the Battle Abbey Advisory Group (BAAG). A new group, the Battle Abbey Explanatory Board (BAEB) was being set up to explain English Heritage's plans for the future of the Abbey, with apparently little room for consultation. The BAAG had previously been a vehicle for two-way communication. Cllr Fisher explained to Members the origin of BAAG, and how the membership had dwindled over the years. She felt it was a great shame that BAAG was being cast aside, as the town and the Abbey needed to work together productively for mutual benefit. Cllr Field, who was also a member of BAAG, stated she had contacted English Heritage expressing the same concerns.

# *Battle Town Council*

Members were asked their views on the new structure and what benefit remained in BAAG. It was thought that membership of BAEB would be similar to BAAG, although this was yet to be confirmed. Members agreed that it was important for the Town Council to be involved in at least the initial meeting of BAEB, and Cllr Furness offered to attend and report back to Council. He would also contact the BAAG members to see whether they wanted the proposed meeting later this week to go ahead.

## **9. Minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting held on 10 November 2015 and provisional budget proposal**

These were presented by Cllr Kiloh, who explained the budget proposal was provisional at this time due to not all the information being available. The Town Clerk explained that the Tax Base and Local Council Tax Support Grant information was due to be released mid-December, and this would help shape the final proposal. Cllr Jessop asked what information had been discovered regarding the anticipated cost of future Almonry building maintenance. The Town Clerk replied that he was still searching through the files to retrieve the details previously provided.

## **10. Minutes of the Planning & Transport Committee meeting held on 4 November 2015**

These were presented by Cllr Jessop, who reminded Members of the need for an additional Member of the Council to join the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group. Cllr Russell volunteered to join the group, which was agreed by all present. Cllr Furness thanked Mr Marks for his work with regard to requesting improved access at Battle Railway Station, and requested the Council's gratitude be minuted, which was agreed by all.

## **11. To ratify the appointment of Agrifactors as cemetery extension contractors**

Cllr Kiloh reminded Members of the tender process undertaken earlier in the year. Following receipt of tenders and subsequent interviews involving herself, Cllr Favell, Cllr Jessop and the CDSL representative, Agrifactors were the only acceptable company.

**RESOLVED:** Members agreed to appoint Agrifactors as the cemetery extension contractors.

## **12. To discuss the 1066 writing competition**

Cllr Favell had circulated a paper explaining the idea for the competition. She was planning to use the anniversary year to launch the competition and hoping it would still be going in 2066. Cllr Gyngell stated that the Battle Arts Festival would be pleased to include the competition in their plans, although Cllr Favell pointed out she saw it as a Council run event, in conjunction with the Festival. The Council would need to decide on judging panels and resource three trophies for prizes.

**RESOLVED:** Members agreed with the principle of the competition, and Cllr Kiloh agreed to donate one of the trophies.

## **13. To discuss the 1066 anniversary logo**

Cllr Kiloh informed Members that she and Cllr Ratcliffe had met with the owner of the anniversary logo to talk about its potential use during 2016. Unless the Town Council endorsed the logo, the marketing group would not endorse it either. It had been suggested that the owner was willing to gift ownership of the logo to the Town Council in perpetuity. Members debated whether to accept this offer, and the implications of doing so and whether to apply to register it as a trademark for potential future licensing use by others. The Town Clerk expressed his concerns regarding the office staff's capacity to manage a licensing arrangement for the logo.

**RESOLVED:** Following a proposal by Cllr Jessop, seconded by Cllr Boryer, Members agreed a proposal for the Town Council to register the logo for possible future use by the Council and others, subject to it not already being registered and confirmation of it being gifted to the Town Council in perpetuity.

# Battle Town Council

## 14. List of payments and receipts

Payments totalling £30,587.34 and receipts totalling £9,405.00 for the period 1 to 31 October inclusive were noted by Members.

## 15. Reports from representatives of the Council and other reports

Cllr Jessop had circulated a report to Members.

Cllr Fisher reported on behalf of BLAP with an update on the Health Pathway project, including information about public consultation and a request for funding from the Town Council. The Town Clerk was asked to send a grant application form to the applicant.

Cllr Furness had attended meeting of the Battle Arts Festival and Battle Memorial Hall.

Cllr Favell had attended the RVA workshop along with Cllr Howell.

Cllr Howell had attended a Neighbourhood Plan meeting.

Cllr Boryer had attended the Health Pathway meeting, the Neighbourhood Plan meeting and the remembrance service.

Cllr Kiloh reported that the Museum had been experimenting with free entry, which had resulted in increased donations and takings on those days. As a result, it had been decided entry would be free throughout 2016. The Museum had also almost reached its £7,000 target for funding for the Battle Axe.

Cllr Kiloh had also attended a meeting with English Heritage (along with the Town Clerk) regarding the future of the Abbey Green, the ESALC AGM, remembrance services and a performance of the Mikado by Battle Light Opera Group.

Cllr Russell had been assisting the event planning for the Mayor's charity and had attended ESCC's Adult Social Care consultation.

Cllr Gyngell had attended meetings of the Battle Arts Festival.

## 16. Matters for information / future items for agenda

The Town Clerk raised the issue of parking in Market Square. Over the last week, the number of vehicles parking in the square has increased considerably. Apparently, it is the staff of Jempsons who have been told to park there rather than at the rear of the store. Whilst this may mean the long running ownership issues have been resolved, which will help with future maintenance in the square, the parking is causing concern due to safety issues with pedestrians, especially children, in the square and it also makes one of the prime entrances to the town look untidy. Members asked the Town Clerk to write to Jempsons pointing out these issues. Cllr Dixon agreed to register an enforcement complaint with RDC.

Cllr Kiloh reminded Members that traditionally there would be a small Christmas get together after the December meeting, which would be chaired by Cllr Furness in Cllr Kiloh's absence.

## 17. Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday, 15 December 2015

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.40 pm

Cllr M Kiloh, Chairman