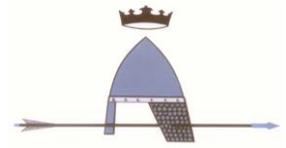




Battle Town Council



Minutes of the COUNCIL MEETING held on TUESDAY, 15 JANUARY 2019 at
The Almonry, High Street, Battle at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs D Furness (Chairman), J Boryer, A Brown, V Cook, M Dass, C Davies, G Favell, P Fisher, J Gyngell, M Howell, M Kiloh, A Ratcliffe, A Russell and D Wheeler.

In Attendance: County Cllr K Field, C Harris (Town Clerk) and one member of the public.

Public Question Time

None.

1. **Apologies for absence** - None.

2. **Disclosure of interest** – Cllr Cook declared an interest in item 10 as a Member of St Mary’s PCC.

3. **Minutes of the Council meeting held on 16 October 2018** were agreed and duly signed by Cllr Furness. Cllr Cook reported that her apologies had been submitted, albeit a little late due to an emergency.

4. Clerk’s report

- An error had been made in the **Full Council Minutes of 21 August** under item 8: “... bench to surround the Oak tree in memory of Richard Jessop be purchased from **General Ear Marked Reserves** at a cost of £1995.” This was noted.
- In February, Rother District Council will be ratifying the recommendation to contribute the cost of extra cuts to preserve, for 2019-20, the previous **grass cutting** regime.
- The **defibrillator** for Marley had been installed. The occupant and ESCC have approved the location for the Telham Ward defibrillator and this will be in place upon receipt of the licence. A training session for defibrillator use is being arranged.
- An interview for **work experience** had been held with a pupil from the Horizon School, with his school facilitator. The 15yr old boy will be starting on Monday, subject to a satisfactory Risk Assessment. The appointment is for one day a week for a six week period. He appears a very enthusiastic person with a true focus on his future ambitions. His performance will be monitored by the Clerk and school.
- RDC had confirmed that they will continue to work with ESCC, after **Civil Parking Enforcement** is incepted, to ensure the vehicle parking pricing regimes fit together.

5. Reports from County Councillor and District Councillors

County Cllr Field(KF) reported that the **budget review** had been undertaken with particular attention to the council tax retention scheme pilot. She highlighted a recent meeting with Nicholas King, ESCC, and the Clerk to discuss the condition of the **skateboard ramp**, which has now been out of commission for some months. She and the Clerk had presented a positive report on the need of the facility and Mr King had agreed to obtain costs for reinstating the ramp; a quote for the dismantling and removal had already been attained. It had been indicated that the ongoing maintenance of the ramp may require a partnership arrangement with the Town Council.

District Cllr Dixon had offered his apologies. Cllr Field confirmed that the budget is awaited.

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6. Correspondence and communications received post agenda publication

A heartfelt letter of thanks for the **memorial bench** at the Oak tree dedicated to **Richard Jessop** had been received from Julie Jessop and their sons.

7. Draft minutes and agree any recommendations from Committee meetings:

- **Planning & Transport** meeting on 8 January 2019 were presented by Cllr Gyngell and noted.

9. Boxing Day meet on Abbey Green

Members noted the recent report in the Observer but highlighted the inaccuracies it contained; particularly in relation to the contact with the Town Council and the permissions received for use of the Abbey Green. It was emphasised that this 'meet' attracted many to the town and was considered a traditional event. **Council agreed that organisers should be reminded that permission should be sought for use of the Abbey Green and that a formal road closure ought to be applied for from RDC, to ensure safety.** The Clerk advised that English Heritage will be opening the Abbey on Boxing Day and this could impact on this event.

10. War Memorial

A report from the (t)DTC had been circulated which highlighted the cost of adding 70 names to the memorial at £5,513.61. She confirmed that Mrs Dixon is researching the origins of the names inscribed at the time of the memorial installation. The Clerk reported that caution had been recommended by the originator of the additional names to ensure appropriateness and to consider the consequences of further additions.

11. Boundary wall dispute

As a result of the serving of a Party Structure Notice by the owner of Tills Yard, the Clerk had met with the Insurer's Loss Adjuster to advise how to resolve this issue. Based on the recommendation, **Members agreed to the instruction of a property surveyor.**

12. Action Plan for External Relations & Town Development Committee

Cllr Kiloh presented the document and reported that, as a result of the recent F&GP meeting, some amendments will be discussed at the next ER&TD meeting. This was noted.

13. Payments and receipts for December 2018

The income and expenditure report, as attached, had been circulated. Members noted income of £8,074.01 and expenditure £38,413.42; both net of account transfers. Cllr Kiloh confirmed that the Discovery Games expenditure of £500 would provide for the production and marketing of a Treasure Trail for Battle.

The Chairman invoked Standing Order 3.3 for the following confidential item and members of the public, excluding Cllr Field, were asked to leave the meeting.

9. Co-option to Council's Watch Oak Ward

Three applications had been circulated to Members prior to the meeting. Following a discussion, **a signed ballot was taken and Caroline Would was co-opted to represent the Watch Oak Ward by a majority.**

14. To receive reports from representatives of the Council

Cllr Favell - attended a meeting of the **Beautiful Battle Committee**. There was nothing of significant note and the minutes will be presented to F&GP;

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- attended a meeting of the **Battle Health Pathway** group. The minutes will be presented to the Environment Committee;

CLlr Gyngell - reported that she will be attending a meeting of the **Memorial Hall Committee** on Monday which will include a discussion on the Wedding Fair proposal for 17 February. She highlighted a proposal to postpone this to allow a professional team to undertake the event. Members were concerned at the cost implications of this and felt that the Wedding Venue Working Group should consider keeping to the original plans;

CLlr Furness - attended the recent **RALC** meeting at which possible future caps on local authority precept was highlighted, the likely cost of local elections was reported by RDC, and updating of war memorials in 4 Parishes was noted;

- invited to Battle & Langton School to receive a cheque for £530 for the **Mayor's Sierra Leone charity**;
- attended a **Wildlife Meadow** group meeting.

15. Future agenda items / matters to note – None.

CLlr Fisher highlighted her concern at the **deteriorating town centre** and proposed an informal meeting to discuss Council's suggestions for improvement. This was agreed for Tuesday 29 January at 6pm, to enable recommendations to be presented to the ER&TD Committee.

16. Date of next meeting: Tuesday, 19 February 2019

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.25pm

CLLR D FURNESS
CHAIRMAN