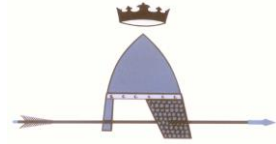




Battle Town Council



MINUTES of the EXTERNAL RELATIONS AND TOWN DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
held on THURSDAY, 1 JUNE 2017 at The Almonry, High Street, Battle at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs A Ratcliffe (Chairman), C Davies, G Favell, P Fisher.

In attendance: Alan Deeproose, President Battle Chamber of Commerce, Carol Harris (Town Clerk)

1. **Apologies for absence** – Cllrs D Furness and M Palmer.
Cllr R Jessop was absent.

2. **Disclosure of interest** – None.

3. **Minutes of the meeting held on 25 April 2017. These were agreed by Members and duly signed by Cllr Ratcliffe.**

4. **Matters arising from previous minutes, not on this agenda** – None.

5. **Minutes of the Events sub-Committee meeting held 19 April 2017 were noted.**

6. **Membership of Events sub-Committee and confirm Terms of Reference**

The Clerk confirmed that Cllrs Russell, Howell and Kiloh had agreed to continue as Members. Cllr Russell had further agreed to Chair the sub Committee. The Clerk highlighted the importance of having an ER&TD Member to report to Committee and Cllr Favell agreed to join the Events sub Committee.

Subject to the amendment of

1. To ~~recommend~~ agree dates and venues of Town Council events, including Annual Assembly.
The Terms of Reference were agreed as attached.

7. **Christmas lights**

The Town Clerk had circulated a document detailing two quotations received from recommended contractors; a third had declined to quote. **The Chairman and Town Clerk were delegated to make further enquiries and subsequently to instruct the successful contractor up to the budgeted sum of £10,000.** The Clerk was asked to make applications to Rother District Council and the Battle Muffin Club for financial donations and Beech Farm for the main tree at the Abbey Green.

8. **Battle Arts & Music Festival request**

A request to use the wall brackets, provided for Christmas trees, for flags during the Festival period had been received. Members agreed that, whilst there was no objection in principle to this use, it must be the responsibility of the Battle Arts & Music Festival to approach property owners and then to arrange insurance and safety checks prior to the erection of any flags.

9. **Website**

Cllr Ratcliffe confirmed that he had looked at the website and was generally happy with the content. It was suggested that a link to accommodation in the area would be advantageous. Cllr Favell confirmed that she is assisting on an additional website to promote the cemetery. The



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subject of including Councillors' photographs on the website will be discussed at the next Full Council meeting.

Alan Deeprise, President of Battle Chamber of Commerce joined the meeting.

10. Defibrillators

The Clerk confirmed that enquiries are ongoing in relation to the defibrillator at Netherfield. Members were reminded that others are to be provided at Telham and Marley Lane. The Clerk was asked to make a grant application towards a defibrillator to the British Heart Foundation.

11. Civic Awards board

The Clerk reported that the Battle Memorial Hall Committee had agreed that a Civic Awards Board could be placed in the Memorial Hall, to the right of the first set of internal doors. However, they would not wish to see any reference to the Town Council as it was felt this could cause some confusion and not be appropriate in the memorial building. Members understood these comments and suggested that the Battle logo would be more acceptable. The Clerk was asked to forward this proposal to the BMHC for approval.

12. Battle Heritage Trails Project (BHTP)

The latest minutes had been circulated, as attached, and were noted. Members were advised that the suggestion of adding the Mortars to the project would be discussed at the next meeting.

13. Armed Forces Covenant

The Clerk reported that, as a result of communication with the Battle Twinning Association and Capt Jonathan Darrington-Slegg, it was suggested that the signing of the Covenant be undertaken on the morning of Sunday 27 August; to coincide with the St Valery sur Somme visit. **Members agreed to request that the Events sub Committee make the arrangements for the signing of the Covenant on 27 August 2017. It was further agreed that the detail of the Covenant should be agreed by Full Council.**

14. Tourist Information Point

The Chairman welcomed Alan Deeprise(AD) to the meeting and emphasised how the Council wish to collaborate with the Battle Chamber of Commerce(BCoC) to improve relations with the businesses of the town.

Cllr Ratcliffe reminded Members that there is £6k in the budget towards the provision of a TIP. Unfortunately, no business has been identified that is able to take on this facility within this cost. It was suggested that Rother District Council may offer assistance if a business was identified. AD agreed to put this item on the agenda for the next BCoC meeting. **Members agreed to ask Full Council to consider how to take the provision of a Tourist Information Point forward.**

15. Town Improvements and Battle Business Award

AD reported that communication has improved; particularly in relation to the parking issues that have been experienced throughout the town. He suggested that further support from the Town Council in relation to RDC car parks issues and signage would be beneficial. AD confirmed that communication with Battle Abbey has also increased. Business rates and the issue of some property owners not taking responsibility for general maintenance may also benefit from the assistance of BTC.

The Chairman highlighted the Council's plan to implement a Battle Business Award and asked that, as President of the BCoC, thoughts on suitable criteria would be appreciated. In the medium term, it was hoped that the British High Street competition could be entered.

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The Battle Card was emphasised as a scheme that could assist businesses and AD agreed to promote this at the next BCoC meeting.

Cllr Ratcliffe thanked AD for his attendance and invited him to attend future meetings to take forward ideas of how joint working could improve Battle.

16. Marketing groups – no meetings to report.

17. Financial matters

The income and expenditure to 30 April 2017 was noted.

18. Matters for information / future agenda items

Cllr Favell reported that the writing competition criteria had been slightly amended and would be recirculated to all schools.

- **Planting at the Oak tree bed**

19. Date of next meeting: Tuesday 25 July 2017

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.10pm.

CLLR A RATCLIFFE
Chairman