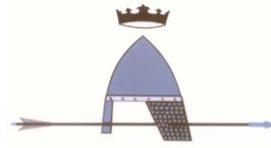




Battle Town Council



Minutes of the COUNCIL MEETING held on TUESDAY, 18 SEPTEMBER 2018 at
The Almonry, High Street, Battle at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs D Furness (Chairman), A Brown, V Cook, M Dass, G Favell, P Fisher, J Gyngell, M Kiloh, A Ratcliffe, D Wheeler and I Williams.

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

Public Question Time

None.

- 1. Apologies for absence** – Cllrs J Boryer, C Davies, M Howell and A Russell.
- 2. Disclosure of interest** – None.
- 3. Minutes of the Council meeting held on 21 August 2018** were agreed and duly signed by Cllr Furness.
- 4. The Clerk's report**
 - Donations had been received for the **bowel beacon** and an order had therefore been placed.
 - A solicitor had been appointed to produce a **Lease for Suite 6**.
 - An order has been placed for the **Memorial Board**.
 - **Beautiful Battle** had been advised of the amendment to the **Agreement**.

5. Reports from County Councillor and District Councillors

County

Cllr Field was pleased to report the Outstanding Ofsted report for **Children's Social Services**. She confirmed that the budget cuts for this had been deferred and that the individual **music lessons** had been saved with organisations being sought to take on the service.

District

Cllr Dixon reported Council had agreed: the **Governance Review** to reduce the number of Town Councillors from 17 to 13 with effect from the elections in May 2019; and that the **ward boundaries** for Battle will remain as existing: Marley, Netherfield, Telham and Watch Oak. He reported that the costs had been queried at the Council's **Café at Colonnade**, Bexhill.

Cllr Furness highlighted the heavy bias of Bexhill and Rye on the **Twitter media**. Cllr Dixon confirmed that this is actioned by ESCC but he would raise it as an issue.

6. Correspondence and communications received post agenda publication

An invitation from St Mary's Church to enter the Christmas Tree Festival had been received.

7. Minutes and any recommendations from Committee meetings:

External Relations & Town Development meeting on 4 September 2018 were presented by Cllr Kiloh and noted. **Cllr Kiloh proposed the Heritage Charter for the Civic Parish of Battle, as attached, should be adopted for use by the whole Council. This was agreed unanimously.**

Events sub Committee meeting on 4 September 2018 were presented by Cllr Kiloh, in the absence of Cllr Russell, and noted.

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Planning & Transport meeting on 11 September 2018 were presented by Cllr Gyngell and noted.

8. Mayor's Charity

Cllr Furness highlighted the difficulty in following the excellent events completed by the previous Mayor, Cllr Kiloh. He reported that his initial plans had been thwarted by Home Office decisions not to allow teachers from Sierra Leone into the Country. Cllr Furness confirmed that he had, instead, been working with the 3 schools in Battle to form strong twin links with schools in Sierra Leone to promote mutual, long-term benefits. Concern was raised at the time required to carry out charitable activities in addition to Mayoral duties and whether chosen benefactors should be local. **It was agreed by a majority to continue with the Mayor's Charity with decision of charity remaining with the Mayor.**

9. F&GP Terms of Reference

In light of the activity of Committees that necessitate fundraising it was agreed that, to avoid duplication or conflict, F&GP should:

- review all Committee Action Plans at each meeting
- agree funding sources for grant applications

The Terms of Reference to be amended accordingly.

10. High Street external ATM

Members acknowledged that the way in which the ATM is financially managed is changing. As a result the Crafty Norman no longer feels it is viable to retain it at their premises. The Clerk confirmed that the Council has no Powers to directly influence the situation. Other locations and solutions are being investigated and Cllr Dixon agreed to explore whether RDC can assist. Cllr Furness confirmed that Huw Merriman MP is involved. The Clerk was asked to contact the MP to suggest that Nationwide, as the only surviving financial institution may be able to provide an external ATM. It was also suggested that the NatWest Community Banker be contacted for advice.

11. Boundary wall - 19 High Street (Tills Courtyard)

The Clerk confirmed that a letter had been written to the third party's solicitor, as agreed at the previous meeting. A response had been received refuting all arguments and threatening a "Party Wall Notice". It was agreed that the Clerk should seek substantive evidence from the surveyor for the party wall claim. The Clerk confirmed that contact had been made with the Council's insurance legal team and a claim had been registered.

12. Questions for the Police and Crime Commissioner, Katy Bourne

Members raised no questions.

13. Payments and receipts for July 2018

The income and expenditure report, as attached, had been circulated. Members noted income of £6,889.35 and expenditure £20,516.08; both net of account transfers.

Cllr Cook left the meeting at this point.

14. Reports from representatives of the Council

Cllr Fisher - the **Twinning Association** are considering holding an information stall at the Battle Abbey re-enactment;

Cllr Kiloh - the **Battle Museum** meeting included discussion about the Beyond the Battle project. Their newsletter had recently been circulated; this highlights the request to Council to change the lease detail. This will be considered at next week's F&GP meeting;

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- Cllr Favell
- **Recreation Ground Working Group** meeting. The group will now work under the umbrella name of "Fit for Battle". The notes will be presented to the Environment Committee;
 - **Battle Health Pathway**, minutes are available on request but will be reported to Environment Committee. There is a Gala Film Night planned for Friday 5 October at the Memorial Hall. A red carpet reception will be followed by a showing of Titanic. Tickets available at Spoilt Rotten and White Sails;
 - **Wedding Venue Working Group** meeting. Notes will be presented to F&GP;
 - **More than just a Funeral Exhibition**, with Cllr Kiloh, displayed Battle Cemetery and networked with other exhibitors to exchange ideas and trends;
 - a meeting with representatives from Battle Baptist FC, Rural Rother Adult social Care and Health and Rother District Council to discuss the provision of **Walking Football to over-50s** in conjunction with Fit for Battle and the RDC Community Fund grant for levelling of the junior football pitch. A letter from BBFC will be discussed at the next Environment meeting;
 - **Chamber of Commerce** meeting that had been concerned with the likely removal of the ATM at Crafty Norman. The issue of scaffolding in the High Street, when no work is being carried out, had also been raised and has been taken on by Paul Redstone, working with Huw Merriman MP. A donation of £50 towards the beacon had also been agreed. The minutes will be presented to ER&TD;
 - Attended the **Sussex Lund Awards Celebration** following another successful application for Mansers Shaw pathway extension and wildflower meadow work at Amenity Field;
- Cllr Gyngell
- **Wedding Venue Working Group** meeting;
- Cllr Ratcliffe
- had toured the sites submitted to the **Neighbourhood Plan SG** with the AECOM consultant and Bev Marks: whose help had been invaluable;
- Cllr Furness
- communicated with the Lord Lieutenant to discuss attendance at the **Battle's Over event**;
 - Met with Huw Merriman MP to discuss the bid for the **Bayeux Tapestry**. It was noted that English Heritage will submit a bid against the British Museum and Victoria & Albert Museum;
 - Discussed **twinning with schools in Sierra Leone**, as reported above;
 - Attended the **Social Media course** with many local community groups and the (t)DTC.

Cllr Gyngell also reported that the **Battle Festival** launches on 30 September with a wonderful day of activities and free entry into the Abbey. Information of all the events may be found at various locations around the town, including the Almonry.

15. Future agenda items - None

16. Date of next meeting: Tuesday, 16 October 2018

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.15pm

CLLR D FURNESS
CHAIRMAN