



Battle Town Council



MINUTES of the COUNCIL MEETING held on TUESDAY, 21 JULY 2015 in
The Almonry, High Street, Battle, at 7.30pm

PRESENT: Cllrs M Kiloh (Chairman), G Favell, D Furness, J Gyngell, M Howell, R Jessop, M Palmer, S Pry and A Ratcliffe.
County & District Cllr Field, District Cllr Dixon, 1 member of the public, Andy Beams (Town Clerk)

Public Question Time – none.

1. **Apologies for absence** – Cllrs Boryer and Lay, and District Cllr Curtis.
2. **Disclosure of interest** – Cllr Ratcliffe declared a personal interest in agenda item 5 as the applicant is a personal friend. Cllr Furness declared an interest in agenda item 12 as the matter had been raised via the Battle Arts & Music Festival.
3. **Minutes of the Council meeting** held on 19 May 2015. Cllr Favell proposed approval of the minutes, seconded by Cllr Furness and agreed unanimously. These were duly signed by Cllr Kiloh.
4. **Matters arising from previous meetings** – None.
5. **Co-option of new Councillor** – Mr Alan Russell was introduced as a prospective Councillor. His written application had been circulated in advance of the meeting to all Members. Mr Russell provided additional verbal information in support of his application, highlighting the skills and experience he could bring to the role.
RESOLVED: A vote was taken to decide whether to co-opt Mr Russell to the Town Council, with eight in favour and one abstention due to the declared interest. Mr Russell was duly co-opted, signed his declaration of acceptance of office and joined the Members for the remainder of the meeting.
6. **To receive a report from the County Councillor**
Cllr Field reported that she had been busy involved in the appointments process for school governors. The scrutiny committee were due to meet on Friday to review how cuts had affected services. Members were informed that ESCC are in need of additional foster families in the local area.
7. **To receive a report from the District Councillor**
Cllr Field reported that the scrutiny committee had met on 19th July and received a report on domestic violence. Everyone was encouraged to not be afraid to report any suspected incidents. Seafront spending had not been discussed, as the item was being referred to Full Council for discussion.
8. **Correspondence and communications** – none.
9. **Minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting held on 7 July 2015**
These were presented by Cllr Kiloh, with no questions from Members.
10. **Minutes of the Planning & Transport Committee meetings held on 17 June, 1 and 15 July 2015**
These were presented by Cllr Jessop, with no questions from Members. Cllr Jessop highlighted the budget and cashflow projection agreed by the committee for referral to Finance & General Purposes Committee.

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11. Fundraising consultants

The Town Clerk had circulated a report detailing the meeting which had taken place, how the consultants operated and were paid, and providing a recommendation to appoint Scott Clarke Associates. Cllrs Kiloh and Furness confirmed the suitability of the company based on the meeting that had taken place.

Cllr Jessop questioned why this particular company had been approached, and whether others needed to be considered to meet the Town Council's financial regulations. Cllr Kiloh stated that it had been a recommendation from Lesley Samms of the Pure Art Group, and had first arisen from discussing funding for the proposed Arts trail. The Town Clerk confirmed that given the fee structure was effectively 'no win – no fee', there was no cost attached to the Council, and those particular regulations therefore did not apply.

RESOLVED: Cllr Jessop proposed accepting the recommendation to appoint Scott Clarke Associates. This was seconded by Cllr Pry and agreed by all.

12. 'Wings' project

Cllr Furness explained the idea to Members, and that given the lack of suitable wall space, a temporary wooden structure was being proposed on the Abbey Green during the time the Festival was on. Cllr Jessop questioned whether the presence on the Abbey Green would be approved by English Heritage. Cllr Furness stated he had already spoken to Jo Stewart of EH, and they supported the idea. Cllrs Favell and Pry questioned the relevance to Battle, and Cllr Furness explained that the actual design of the wings could be tailored to promote the Town. Cllr Russell asked how much the project would cost the Town Council, and Cllr Furness confirmed the Arts & Music Festival would be responsible for any costs involved.

RESOLVED: Members agreed to the concept as a temporary structure on Abbey Green.

13. Lettings policy

Following the Finance & General Purposes committee meeting, the Town Clerk had drafted a lettings policy based on the principles agreed, and circulated to Members in advance of the meeting. Members discussed which rate was appropriate for political parties to use the Almonry meeting room, as they were neither local/charitable groups or fully commercial.

RESOLVED: Cllr Jessop proposed a rate of £40 for political parties, which was seconded by Cllr Pry and agreed by all.

14. Financial Services Compensation Scheme (FSCS) changes and banking arrangements

The Town Clerk had circulated a background paper explaining the FSCS changes and how these related to the way the Town Council's balances should be split. Additionally, the Town Council's existing bank was withdrawing its free banking facility for Local Councils, which could lead to around £70 per month based on the current usage.

Members agreed the basic principles for future banking arrangements as recommended by the Town Clerk, namely to use multiple banks to benefit from FSCS protection, to continually review main banking facility to minimise charges and to increase use of electronic payments to reduce costs. The Town Clerk was asked to provide a full report and recommendations to Full Council in September to allow a decision to be made.

15. List of payments and receipts

Payments totalling £7,308.00 and receipts totalling £110.00 for the period 11 to 30 June inclusive were noted by Members. The Town Clerk explained that in future, the listings would be for the previous calendar month as this allowed for any adjustments that may have been made during the reconciliation process to be included.

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16. Reports from representatives of the Council and other reports

Cllr Jessop had circulated in advance to Members details of meetings he had attended.

Cllr Furness had attended tea with the Bishop of Chichester, a Law Society function, and meetings of the Battle Arts Festival, Battle Partnership and Battle Museum.

Cllr Ratcliffe had attended the 1066 Marketing Group executive board meeting, and was due to attend the Battle Marketing Group meeting on 23 July.

Cllr Favell had attended a meeting with Dr Feltwell regarding the tree trail, the Senlac Allotment Association meeting, the Bonfire Boyes parade with Cllrs Kiloh and Jessop, a meeting with Graham Stevens about the chapel with Cllrs Kiloh and Howell, the Battle Area Sports Centre AGM, the cemetery in bloom judging with Cllr Kiloh, the Health Pathway project meeting, Sports & Leisure working group meeting, allotment judging, and memorial inspections at the cemetery.

Cllr Gyngell had attended the Battle Arts Festival meeting.

Cllr Kiloh had attended the Carnival, ESCC summer reception, Battle Abbey prize giving evening, SLR meeting, South East in Bloom judging, cemetery chapel meeting, fundraising meeting and a museum committee meeting.

17. Matters for information / future items for agenda

Newly co-opted Cllr Russell will be elected to committees at the next meeting. In the meantime, he was invited to attend any committee meetings to help gain an understanding of their ongoing work.

18. Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday, 15 September 2015

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.30 pm

Cllr M Kiloh, Chairman

