



# Battle Town Council



MINUTES of the EXTERNAL RELATIONS AND TOWN DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE  
held on TUESDAY, 2 JULY 2019 at The Almonry, High Street, Battle at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs C Would (Chairman), B Brown, V Cook, G Favell, M Kiloh, L Samms, H Sharman  
In attendance: Carol Harris (Town Clerk).

1. **Apologies for absence** – None.
2. **Disclosure of interest** – None.
3. **Minutes of the meeting held on 30 April 2019** were agreed and duly signed by Cllr Would.
4. **Clerk's report**
  - The **Resilience Plan** has a dedicated page on the website.
  - An excellent reference had been received for Gala Lights Ltd and a 5year contract for **festive lighting** had therefore been placed, as agreed at the previous meeting.
  - Confirmation from Jempsons that repair work to the **Market Square bandstand** are in hand.
  - English Heritage had confirmed that, due to the current political issues, there has been no further activity on the bid to bring the **Bayeux Tapestry** to Battle.
5. **Correspondence and communications received post agenda publication** – none.
6. **Events**
  - It was agreed that: Council Chairman will welcome the **Battle and St Valery sur Somme Twinning Associations**; all Councillors to be invited to the event and to assist with serving refreshments; local English wine, particularly rose as this was popular previously, to be served with genoa cake and savoury snacks.
  - The Mayor and Deputy Mayor to hold a **civic meeting with M Bocquet** and Presidents of Twinning Associations on Friday 12 July. This will include a tour of Council projects and possibly a game of petanque, should the court be completed in time. The tour will culminate at the Memorial Hall to meet other members of the Twinning Associations.
  - Members agreed that all **Battle in Bloom** entrants to be invited to the **Awards evening**, together with Friends of the Almonry, Beautiful Battle, County and District Councillors, all Councillors and staff with their partners. It was agreed that 'finger food' and fairtrade wine should be provided.
  - The Clerk confirmed that a road closure has been applied for and contact had been made with the Parade Marshall for leading at the **Remembrance Day** parade. Members agreed that he should contact a pipe band for the event. The Clerk was asked to contact Battel Bonfire Boyes to request marshals for the road closure and all youth groups and services to join the parade.
7. **To receive a report from Working Groups and receive any recommendations**
  - As this project is nearing completion, it was agreed that **Heritage Charter** WG would continue with the existing Members until completion of the project.
  - Members noted that as Cllr Wheeler was no longer on this Committee, he would like to pass over the coordination of the **Resilience Plan**. Cllr Brown volunteered to take this forward. As volunteers have proved difficult to recruit, it was suggested that the Mayor should speak

# Battle Town Council

to targeted groups. All Councillors are asked to provide the name of at least one volunteer with a particular skill from their street/area for the next meeting.

- Cllr Favell had nothing to report on the **Writing Competition**. Members discussed the value of this and it was agreed to consider its continuation next year.

## 8. Competitions

- Cllr Favell reported that there had been a great deal of advice from the **South & South East in Bloom** judges on how to improve the Almonry garden. Cllr Kiloh stated that this was the judges' first visit to Battle and their first experience at Judging for SSEiB. She confirmed that the tour included areas away from the High Street including Mansers Shaw, Amenity Field, Caldbec Hill and Cherry Garden allotment garden. Emphasis had been placed on the new trails and encouraging people to enjoy the environs. The awards will be made in September. It was acknowledged that a great deal of work had been put in and that preparation must be started earlier next year.
- Cllr Kiloh reported that Paula Williams of BRITISH design BRITISH made had carried out a great deal of work to enable an entry to the **Great British High Street** competition. The shortlisting will be undertaken in August. It was highlighted that this initiative is to encourage improvements to the town for residents, visitors and businesses. If the initial application is successful, Cllrs Samms and Sharman agreed to work on this project jointly.
- The owners of the former Steamer Trading premises have agreed to promotional banners being put inside the shop windows. Other empty shop owners have been approached and responses awaited. Cllr Samms confirmed that the banners would be moveable with heritage items relating to the town and agriculture promoted. In light of an agreed contribution towards competition costs (1800) from Rother District Council, **Members agreed that up to £500 for banners and frames to display heritage items inside empty shop premises should be purchased from the competition budget ((4070)**. The Clerk was asked to contact Nationwide for an update on the repairs/scaffolding issue.

## 9. Website accessibility

The Clerk confirmed that the existing provider had confirmed that they are currently undertaking upgrades to allow for full accessibility of the current site. Members asked that **information updates** be provided on the front page of the website.

## 10. Parish Assembly 2020

As requested by Full Council, Members discussed the attendance at the Parish Assembly and reiterated the wish to be fully inclusive to all residents. It was felt that a mid-week evening may prevent parents and those that work from attending. **Members agreed that the local schools be approached for the provision of the Parish Assembly on Saturday 25 April; to enable family activities prior to the formal meeting at 6pm.** It was agreed that the Community be asked for suggested relevant speakers.

## 11. Youth Involvement

Cllr Would had circulated a draft proposal for a Youth Forum. Members were fully supportive of this initiative, as attached. It was agreed that this will be taken forward in the new academic year by Cllr Would.

## 12. Battle Marketing

The **minutes of meetings held on 30 January and 8 May 2019** were noted, as attached.

# Battle Town Council

## 13. Action Plans

CLlr Favell was thanked for her work in updating and reformatting the Action Plans, as attached. It was noted that actions are generally on target.

The discussion to hold a **Civic Service** will be undertaken at the next meeting.

The Clerk was asked to invite youth groups and services to join the **Remembrance Day Parade**. Members agreed that a pre-meeting to discuss the arrangements with other groups should be held prior to the next meeting at 6.30pm.

It was noted that the Council will be responsible for the provision of **Father Christmas at Gala Night** and the Clerk was asked to contact Peter Mills, previous volunteer of this post.

It was agreed that a separate, informal meeting to discuss **communications** will be held on either Wednesday 7 August at 2pm or Thursday 8 August at 11.30pm. The Clerk to ascertain availability and confirm date.

The Clerk confirmed that an indicative cost for an architect to produce plans for the adaptation of the **Market Square bandstand to house the Town Model** at £750 plus planning application fees etc had been received.

## 14. Budget report

The reports to **year end 2018/19** and the **current position to 31 May 2019** were noted, as attached. **Members agreed that the unspent EMR Kingsmead Tree (350) £331.09 be vired to Social Media & Marketing (4460)**

## 15. Matters to Note / future agenda items

## 16. Date of next meeting: 3 September 2019 at 6.30pm

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.45pm.

CLLR C WOULD  
Chairman

- a. Item 7 bullet point 2. Maybe say name of volunteer required rather than bring person to meeting lol
- b. Item 8 bullet point 1. Change “ judges ” to “ judges’ ”
- c. Item 8 bullet point 3. Either “owner has agreed” or “owners have agreed”.
- d. Item 8 bullet point 3. Just check wording after “ in light of” as wasn’t quite sure what this was saying.