



# Battle Town Council



**MINUTES of the EXTERNAL RELATIONS AND TOWN DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE  
held on TUESDAY, 30 APRIL 2019 at The Almonry, High Street, Battle at 7.30pm**

**Present: Cllrs M Kiloh (Chairman), C Davies, G Favell, V Cook, D Wheeler and C Would.**

In attendance: Cllr A Russell, Carol Harris (Town Clerk) and one member of the public.

- 1. Apologies for absence** – Cllr D Furness.
- 2. Disclosure of interest** – None.
- 3. Minutes of the meeting held on 5 March 2018** were agreed and duly signed by Cllr Kiloh.
- 4. Clerk's report**
  - The **Market Square barrier** has been installed to prevent vehicles parking in the open space. There had been some negative feedback from retailers but Jempsons have agreed use of their loading area to assist with deliveries. Beautiful Battle have been authorised to park one vehicle within the site on a Thursday morning. The office has received many positive comments at the increased safety in the area;
  - Information from the Chamber of Commerce confirms that that the High Street **Pancake race** ceased through not enough support from businesses and the Battle & Langton school race on health and safety grounds;
  - As other work has taken priority, the **new occupiers letter** will commence next week;
  - There has been no response from **Cityscape Maps** in relation to removal of the equipment. The covering of the old map is in progress as the map on each machine varies in size;
  - Hugo Fox, the **website** host has confirmed that the current site does not facilitate an event diary. The Clerk confirmed that new legislation requiring website accessibility for all comes into effect in September 2020. Hugo Fox has confirmed that they are currently working on this. The Clerk was asked to confirm what they propose to do and by when.

**5. Correspondence and communications received post agenda publication**

An email had been received from a member of the public suggesting that the Council assist with ways to improve the town centre: reduced for free parking; reduced rent on empty shops; a local reduced rate bus service within the town. The writer appreciated that these ideas would have a cost issue. The Clerk confirmed that a response had indicated that, whilst Members agree with many of these proposals, the Council has no powers to enforce them and had previously put forward resident parking schemes to the relevant Authority.

**6. Events sub Committee**

Cllr Russel presented the **minutes of the meetings held on 19 March and 16 April 2019**. These were noted, as attached.

Cllr Russell reminded Members that the events currently undertaken are: Parish Assembly; Remembrance Parade; Battle in Bloom awards evening; and the bi-annual Twinning Association reception. **Cllr Russell proposed that, with the smaller number of Councillors and limited functions to arrange, the Events sub Committee should be subsumed by this Committee and any necessary work carried out by an appropriate Working Group. This was agreed.**

# Battle Town Council

## 7. Reports from Working Groups and receive any recommendations

- **Heritage Charter** Cllr Russell (AR) reported that there had been no further meetings. He confirmed that as a result of the display and presentation at the Parish Assembly, there had been 3 offers of properties for inclusion on the Heritage list. AR advised that an email of complaint at the inclusion of a photograph of a property on the display had been received and he will be responding to this. He reported that the next phase is open spaces that are not protected by the Battle Neighbourhood Plan; examples to be considered are Chain Lane and Canada. Post 1910 properties are also to be considered.
- **Resilience Plan** Cllr Wheeler reported that the wording had been agreed and information will shortly be published on the Council's website. He confirmed that volunteer consent forms had been available at the Parish Assembly but that no responses had yet been received. It was suggested that these forms be targeted at specific groups. A timescale for the completion of this project is to be confirmed to the next meeting.
- **Writing competition** Cllr Favell confirmed that the posters and rules have been updated and all are available on the website. The closing date for this competition is 31 October. The Clerk was asked to forward posters to adult education providers.

## 8. Christmas light designs

Three contractors had provided designs and costs for a 3 and 5 year lease of Christmas lighting schemes for the town centre. These would include the dressing of the 5 real trees. It was noted that annual charges for the 5 year lease term was not significantly higher than current fees for installation and taking down of the existing lighting scheme. It would also ensure modern, safe lights are installed which will be changed after 5 years. The service provided by each company was considered and **Members agreed that a 5 year lease at an approximate cost of £12,500 per year with Gala Lights was best value and should be accepted**, subject to satisfactory references.

## 9. South East in Bloom competition

Cllr Kiloh reported that the Great British High Street competition criteria is expected 15 May. Entry will require joint action with businesses. She confirmed that the SEiB judges' report from 2017 and items that need to be improved had been considered. It was noted that this year judging will take place on 2 July. A walk of the town entry the week before was agreed. It was suggested that Western Ave and Mansers Shaw should be included. Promotion of groups' activities in vacant shop windows and removal of fly posting was considered important. Cllr Kiloh agreed to produce a brief for the judges.

## 10. Battle Trails

The draft **Treasure Trail** had been undertaken by three different age groups and comments sent to the designer. These had been included in the final draft. It was agreed to request that the front page photo of the Abbey, which is rather dark, be changed for a 1066 Statue image. Members were advised that these will retail at an online cost of £6.99 from the publisher. Ten copies will be provided to the Council. Further copies may be purchased at £42 for 10 copies. **It was agreed that 50 copies should be purchased for sale at local shops, school fairs and the Council office (200/4460)**. Members suggested that further information on the clues should be available on the Council's website.

A further draft **Heritage Arts Trail** leaflet was circulated. Members agreed that this should be de-cluttered by the moving of information from the map to the reverse page. The map should be enlarged to allow the full 5km trail to be followed. The stone markers information should also be

# Battle Town Council

included. It was agreed that additional footpaths and Keane trail should be removed.

Cllr Wheeler had carried out a survey and found only 5 missing or broken **Town Trail** plaques. The originator of the plaques was Roy Calthorpe and he had agreed to reproduce these for the cost of firing not the materials. The Clerk confirmed that the wording is available and could be reproduced onto a new leaflet in-house. This was agreed.

It was hoped that all three trail leaflets would be available for the **12 May launch** of the Heritage Arts Trail, to which all Councillors are invited.

## 11. Action Plan

- **Gun power mortars** Cllr Kiloh confirmed that further information had been researched although the existing budget of £250 would not provide an appropriate display product. She suggested that a millstone would enhance the display for siting at the footpath 84 near to the cricket ground. Members agreed that further funds should be considered for 2020/21 budget.
- **Accessibility audit** Cllr Favell highlighted that a mobility audit of the town centre had been completed with members from the Hastings & Rother Disability Forum. This had highlighted specific issues:
  - Too few disabled parking spaces at Market Road with one containing a trolley park. RDC to be contacted;
  - Pavement from Senlac Vets to Mount Street in poor condition making access difficult for able bodied and impossible for wheelchair users. To be raised at the next SLR meeting;
  - Concern at double height pavement in the High Street with a suggestion that barriers similar to those at Mount Street be installed – it was noted that cyclists are not in favour of barriers on main roads which restrict ability to move away from traffic. An item for SLR;
  - Many businesses without adequate awareness of access issues. It was agreed that this should be highlighted to the Chamber of Commerce.

Members agreed that Autism Sussex, Royal National Institute of Blind, British Deaf Association should be asked to assist with a further audits to attempt better access for all.

## 12. Provisional budget report to 31 March 2019

Members noted that the attached budget report is provisional and subject to end of year adjustments eg transfer of receipt of £3790 (current in budget 1800) from HLF to be transferred to EMR HLF Grant (360). It was highlighted that there remains a negative balance that sales of the Activity Book will reduce over time. It was highlighted that the EMR for Kingsmead tree (350) now needs to be closed as a completed project.

## 13. Matters to Note / future agenda items

The Clerk was asked to confirm with:

- Jempsons the action to repair the electrics on the bandstand;
- English Heritage the progress of the bid to bring the Bayeux Tapestry to Battle.
- Town Model and Market Square
- Youth Involvement – Cllr C Would

## 14. Date of next meeting: provisionally, 2 July 2019

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.25pm.

CLLR M KILOH  
Chairman