



Battle Town Council



**MINUTES of the COUNCIL MEETING held on TUESDAY, 19 JULY 2016 in
The Almonry, High Street, Battle, at 7.30pm**

PRESENT: Cllrs D Furness (Chairman), J Boryer, G Favell, P Fisher, J Gyngell, R Jessop, M Kiloh, A Ratcliffe, J Reeves and A Russell.

Cllr Kevin Dixon, Cllr Kathryn Field, Inspector Dan Russell (Rother District Neighbourhood Police), 2 members of the public, Andy Beams (Town Clerk)

Cllr Furness introduced Don Gray to Members and described how he had been responsible for the organisation and management of the Town's Christmas lights over the last twenty years. Members were grateful to Mr Gray for all his hard work, and he was presented with his Civic Award by the Mayor.

Cllr Furness then introduced Inspector Dan Russell of the Rother District Neighbourhood Policing team, who spoke to Members about the recent changes to Neighbourhood policing and the role of the PCSO. Inspector Russell explained the background to the changes, and the saving that Sussex Police needed to make. Policing would still be split into three main strands – emergency, investigations and prevention (which included Neighbourhood policing). Prevention would be where most of the savings would be made, primarily through reductions in personnel. The nature of crime had changed over the years, and where burglaries and car crimes had reduced cyber-crime, fraud and scams were on the increase. There will now be 9 PCSO's covering the whole of Rother, with 3 on shift at any one time. There would no longer be a named PCSO for each area, and they would be deployed where needed. Hastings and Rother police were joining up and a further 15 PCSO's from Hastings where available should the situation arise. Inspector Russell also confirmed that the response officers currently based in Battle will be moving to the Hastings base in mid-August.

Inspector Russell answered questions from Members and the public present, confirming that the police were still responsible for parking in Rother until such time that it is decriminalised, but would deal with issues based on the threat, harm and risk and available resources. He also recommended organisations such as Neighbourhood Watch, and encouraged greater participation and cooperation with Rother Neighbourhood Watch as it was unclear what scheme operated in Battle.

Cllr Furness thanked Inspector Russell for his attendance and honesty during the meeting.

1. Apologies for absence – Received from Cllrs C Davies, M Howell, M Palmer and Cllr G Curtis.

2. Disclosure of interest – None.

3. Minutes of the Council meeting held on 17 May 2016. Cllr Jessop proposed approval of the minutes, seconded by Cllr Russell and agreed unanimously. These were duly signed by Cllr Furness.

4. Appointment of Town Council Representatives

Battle Memorial Hall – Cllr Gyngell volunteered to be the representative, with Cllr Reeves as the deputy.
Netherfield Village Hall – Cllr Boryer volunteered to be the representative. Cllr Boryer raised a query regarding the payment of grant/maintenance to the hall, which he would investigate further with the Town Clerk.

4. To receive a report from the County Councillor and District Councillors

Cllr Field reported that ESCC are carrying on with their plans while the political turmoil of the last few weeks settles down. With the changes to Government, one of the sticking points of the Three Southern Counties devolution bid may now have been removed. A recent extraordinary meeting of the Scrutiny

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committee had received information about cyber bullying of children, and work was now underway to ensure all schools had in place suitable policies to help identify all forms of bullying.

Cllr Dixon informed Members that the controversial application for Lillybank Farm had been approved on the Chairman's casting vote. The Local Enforcement Plan had recently been discussed, and the key elements were that the taking of enforcement action was a discretionary function, and that enforcement action would only be taken in the wider public interest where breaches of planning control had a serious impact on amenity or the environment.

5. Correspondence and communications

The Town Clerk reported receipt of the following communications:

- Battle Choral Society – thanking the Town Council for their grant and illustrating how the money had been spent
- Concorde 1066 – a method statement for the removal and replacement of items on the Abbey Green for the anniversary celebrations. Members agreed to discuss this fully at the next Environment committee meeting where members of Concorde would be invited along to answer any questions
- Battle Twinning Association – highlighting recent vandalism to plants in the Almonry Garden
- RDC – information about the Great British High Street competition. Members agreed to discuss fully at the next External Relations & Town Development committee meeting.

6. Minutes of the Environment Committee meeting held on 21 June 2016

These were presented by Cllr Favell. Cllr Boryer raised the issue of the Amenity Field. It was explained that F&GP were conducting a full review of the existing land and building assets, and other potential areas of interest were included in the scope of this review. The Deputy Clerk was making enquiries about access across the field in the interim.

7. Minutes of the External Relations and Town Development Committee meeting held on 28 June 2016

These were presented by Cllr Ratcliffe with no questions from Members. The Town Clerk confirmed that a full report on TownCityCards.com would be considered at the next committee meeting. It was also agreed to review the Annual Assembly at the next committee meeting.

8. Minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting held on 5 July 2016

These were presented by Cllr Furness with no questions from Members.

8. Minutes of the Planning & Transport Committee meetings held on 18 May, 1 June, 15 June and 29 June 2016

These were presented by Cllr Jessop with no questions from Members.

16. Payment and Receipt listings

Member's noted the following reports:

Payments totalling £19,910.58 and receipts (including internal transfers) totalling £49,066.87 for the period 1 to 30 April inclusive

Payments totalling £30,132.47 and receipts (including internal transfers) totalling £27,941.93 for the period 1 to 31 May inclusive

Payments totalling £44,743.03 and receipts (including internal transfers) totalling £39,847.08 for the period 1 to 30 June inclusive

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17. Reports from Councillors

- Cllr Furness had attended: the Law Society summer reception on June 10, St Mary in the Castle Sussex Youth Orchestra June 24, opened the Battle Photographic summer exhibition June 25 with Cllr Jessop, Battle Choral Society summer concert at St Marys Church June 25, Fairlight International piano competition July 3, Vinehall school opera master classes July 9, Judicial blessing service at St Marys Church July 12, Battle Festival summer concert July 12 and English Heritage open day July 14 with Cllrs Field and Dixon
- Cllr Jessop had circulated his report, and added the RALC meeting on 13 July
- Cllr Boryer had attended the police briefing at Heathfield, the Gatehouse opening at Battle Abbey, and been involved with approximately 14 hours tree work, mainly removing old timber
- Cllr Gyngell, along with Cllrs Favell, Howell and Kiloh, had spent three days weeding at the Cemetery to help prepare for the judging
- Cllr Favell thanked those who had helped at the Cemetery, she had also attended a Health Pathway meeting and a meeting with representatives of Battle Baptists FC
- Cllr Ratcliffe had attended meetings of Battle Marketing Group on June 7 and 1066 Marketing Group on June 12, along with meeting with the MP to discuss broadband and 3G/4G coverage in the town and other issues
- Cllr Reeves had attended the police roadshow and had circulated her report.
- Cllr Kiloh had hosted the South and South East in Bloom judges, along with Cllr Favell, and been liaising with the Linton family regarding the 1066 mosaic

19. Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday, 30 August 2016

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.45pm

Cllr D Furness, Chairman