



Battle Town Council



**MINUTES of the COUNCIL MEETING held on TUESDAY, 17 MARCH 2015 in
The Almonry, High Street, Battle, at 7.30pm**

PRESENT: Cllrs M Kiloh (Chairman), J Boryer, G Favell, D Furness, T Hall, M Howell,
R Jessop, J Lay, S Pry and A Ratcliffe.
County Cllr Field and District Cllr Dixon

Public Question Time

- 1. Apologies for absence** – Cllrs R Bye, J Gyngell, M Palmer, J Sydes and D Wilson.
- 2. Disclosure of interest** – None.
- 3. Minutes of the Council meeting** held on 17 February 2015. Cllr Furness proposed approval of the minutes, seconded by Cllr Pry and agreed unanimously. These were duly signed by Cllr Kiloh.
- 4. Matters arising from previous meetings** – Cllr Jessop reported that due to unavailability of Members, there would be no Town Council men's marbles team this year.
- 5. To receive a report from the County Councillor**
Cllr Field reported that ESCC had agreed to look at the cuts to children's services and the actual impact on the children affected after the election. She also had additional information with regard to the impending changes to bus services, and would provide this to the Town Clerk to forward to all Members.
- 6. To receive a report from the District Councillor**
Cllr Dixon reported that he had attended the RDC planning committee meeting, and confirmed the application for Upper Lake which would have resulted in Heringtons vacating the premises had been refused. Cllr Field reported that at the RDC scrutiny committee meeting they had reviewed key performance indicators for the Council. Housing benefits claims were in the worst quartile in the country, and RDC had decided to hire Capita to attempt to improve performance in this area.
- 7. Correspondence and communications**
Elections – The Town Clerk reported that he had attended a meeting at RDC confirming the process for the upcoming elections. Nominations open at 10am on 30th March and close at 4pm on 9th April. As this period stretches over the Easter weekend, RDC encourage candidates to get their nominations in before the Easter break, to ensure they can be checked. They cannot guarantee to do this if they are submitted after Easter. Candidates are reminded that Town Council staff can only assist candidates with provision of electoral role numbers, and cannot check forms on behalf of candidates.
- 8. Minutes of the Planning & Transport Committee meetings held on 11 February, 25 February and 11 March 2015**
Cllr Jessop presented the minutes, and expressed his delight with the officer report supporting the refusal of the application at Upper Lake. This would prove helpful in the event of any subsequent appeal. Cllr Jessop also informed Members of the agreed response to the CIL consultation, which was generally in support of the principle, but recommended adoption of the higher figure of £240 for Battle as recommended by Peter Brett Associates.

Battle Town Council

9. Minutes of the Finance and General Policy Committee meeting held on 10 February 2015

Copies of the minutes were circulated to Members as these had not previously been distributed. Cllr Kiloh explained the principle that committees were to be encouraged to use their delegated authority powers to make decisions, subject to the limitations outlined in the new standing orders and financial regulations. The Town Clerk would provide both electronic and paper copies of these documents to each Member, and encouraged anyone with questions to contact him directly.

All agendas and minutes would be circulated to every Member, along with important information from ESCC and RDC to ensure all Members are kept informed.

10. Cemetery Plan

Cllr Favell informed Members that following meetings with CDSL and revisions to the initially produced plans, a new version had been drawn up. This was subject to some minor changes, as Cllr Jessop had pointed out the problems with providing hard surfaces under the tree canopy. Areas on the plan could be moved around to accommodate this and still provide the desired facilities.

Cllr Favell reported that there were still a number of documents outstanding from CDSL, and the Deputy Clerk was asked to chase them up for these items. CDSL had also been asked to provide a list of recommended contractors to complete the work, and this had not been received yet.

Cllr Favell proposed the general plan, subject to the minor amendments, as the basis for future planning permission. This was seconded by Cllr Howell and unanimously agreed.

11. New Councillor training

Members discussed the options available for both new and existing Councillors after the election. SSALC had arranged some new Councillor training events, and Cllr Jessop informed Members that RALC and the Kent Association of Local Councils were organising something similar which would be held locally. Cllr Kiloh suggested another option would be to hold an internal event, which the Town Clerk would be happy to facilitate, where any training could be customised to Battle Town Council. Members were asked to let the Town Clerk know any other suggestions they may have.

12. List of payments and receipts

Payments totalling £21,633.73 and receipts totalling £8,232.11 for the period 13 February to 12 March inclusive were noted by Members.

13. Reports from representatives of the Council and other reports

Cllr Furness attended a meeting of the Battle Arts and Music Festival, where Anton Lesser had been confirmed as the new patron, and a liaison meeting with the Safer Rother Partnership.

Cllr Howell attended meetings of BLAP and The Town Improvement Group (TIG).

Cllr Jessop attended a meeting held by the National Grid to discuss mitigating the effect of electricity pylons in the AONB. Cllr Jessop also attended a meeting of the Bexhill Alliance, where discussions are ongoing about the possibility of establishing either a Town Council or a number of parishes within Bexhill.

Cllr Jessop, along with Cllrs Howell and Pry, attended a meeting with RDC officers to discuss the production of a neighbourhood plan.

Cllr Jessop attended the Chamber of Commerce AGM, where all existing officers were reappointed and Trevor Houghton-Berry was made a community member.

Cllr Boryer attended the TIG meeting.

Cllr Ratcliffe attended the Battle Marketing Group meeting, and a meeting of the 1066 executive group who control a budget for the 2016 events.

Battle Town Council

Cllr Kiloh attended meetings with the National Grid, Beautiful Battle and TIG, and in her capacity as Mayor, had attended the Hastings Piano Concerto competition, which was a wonderful event. Cllr Kiloh also reminded Members that the Battle past and present photographic exhibition was opening in the library from 21st March.

14. Matters for information / future items for agenda

Cllr Jessop requested footpath works was included on the agenda for the next Planning & Transport committee meeting.

Cllrs Kiloh and Ratcliffe requested the Sports working group was included on the agenda for the next Environment committee meeting.

15. Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday, 21 April 2015

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.00pm

M KILOH, Chairman