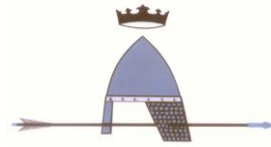




# Battle Town Council



Minutes of the COUNCIL MEETING held on TUESDAY, 20 FEBRUARY 2018 at  
The Almonry, High Street, Battle at 7.30pm

**Present:** Cllrs D Furness (Chairman), J Boryer, C Davies, G Favell, P Fisher, J Gyngell, A Ratcliffe, A Russell.

**In Attendance:** District/County Cllr K Field, Representatives from ATC: Jon Bulgin Civilian Committee Chair and Cadet Sargeant Gregory Boon; Andrew Brown, Mary Dass, C Harris (Town Clerk)

1. **Apologies for absence** – Cllrs M Howell, M Kiloh.
2. **Disclosure of interest** - None.
3. **Minutes of the Council meeting held on 16 January 2018** were agreed and duly signed by Cllr Furness.

#### 4. Reports from County Councillor and District Councillors

##### County

Cllr Field confirmed that an **increase in Council Tax of 5.99%** has been agreed: 2.99% general increase plus 3% for Adult Social Care levy. She reported that there is an increase of **2.94% by the Fire Authority** to allow for additional sprinklers to be installed in high rise properties. KF advised that the **library consultation** has completed and that a **re-provisioning of care homes consultation** will start shortly. She highlighted that the consultation process is a legal requirement but that the Council is not obliged to heed the results. KF confirmed that the **grass cutting regime will be cut** unless local authorities wish to pay for additional cuts or take on the task.

##### District

Cllr Dixon reported that there will be a **2.95% increase** which equates to £303.34 annually for Band D properties in Battle; the highest in Rother. He confirmed that the Council's request for a **Governance review** will be considered at the meeting in March. KD agreed to report to RDC that the Council do not wish to change the current **ward boundary** arrangement.

#### 5. Matters arising from minutes of previous meeting (not elsewhere on the agenda)

The Clerk reported:

- Solicitors have been instructed to complete the **land transfer at Mansers Shaw**;
- A letter and response from RBS regarding the **closure of NatWest** had been received. She confirmed that an informative presentation had been made by the Manager of NatWest at the previous evening Chamber of Commerce meeting and that this can be made at the Parish Assembly to ensure residents are aware of the options. It had also be suggested that the retention of the ATM is being considered.

#### 6. Correspondence and communications

- Representatives from the **Battle ATC 88 Squadron** were invited to detail the background to their search for appropriate alternative accommodation. Members were advised that: there are currently over 40 Cadets with a further 10 on the waiting list; the current shared accommodation is no longer suitable for their needs; and they have no outside space to perform drills. It was emphasised that, whilst temporary accommodation would be considered, their own improved facility is aimed for. The Clerk was asked to liaise with the ATC representative and report to Council any required action.

*Representatives from the Battle ATC 88 Squadron left the meeting.*

- The Clerk confirmed that Cllr Howell had volunteered to lead on the Council's ladies' team for the **Marbles competition** on 30<sup>th</sup> March 2018. Cllrs Davies, Favell and Gyngell agreed to join the

# Battle Town Council

team. The Clerk was asked to contact Cllr Kiloh as a previous participant with Cllr Fisher as a reserve. Cllrs Boryer, Furness, Ratcliffe and Russell agreed to form a team if available and a further member could be found.

- Notification that the proposed consultation regarding **Household Waste Recycling Site Service** from East Sussex County Council had been postponed.
- As part of the Heritage Arts Trail, the **Battle Visual Arts Development Committee** had purchased 2 ceramics that relate to historic events in Battle. These will be a source of activity for the Poets who will interact with the community. Whilst a cabinet is being built the Council are requested to display the ceramics at The Almonry. **Members agreed that the ceramics could be displayed in the Office and asked the Clerk to arrange insurance for these pieces of art.**

## 7. Applications for Councillor vacancies

Three applications for co-option to the Council had been received and circulated prior to the meeting. Mary Dass and Andrew Brown were invited to introduce themselves.

MD advised that she had been a teacher in the area and has a particular interest in horticulture and meadows for biodiversity. **Members agreed unanimously to co-opt Mary Dass as a Councillor for the Watch Oak ward.**

AB reported that he is interested in committing time to the community, particularly in relation to planning and transport, now that he is retired. **Members agreed unanimously to co-opt Andrew Brown as a Councillor for the Marley ward.**

Cllr Fisher testified that Ian Williams had been a long standing resident of Battle who had also previously owned a business in the town. **Members agreed to co-opt Ian Williams as a Councillor for the Watch Oak ward.**

## 8. Councillor memberships

- Members agreed additional members:
  - Cllr Davies - Finance & General Purposes Committee
  - Cllr Gyngell - Personnel sub Committee
- Council representation for outside groups:
  - Cllr Favell - Chamber of Commerce;
  - Cllr Fisher - Battle Charities Trustees;
  - No additional members - Battle Abbey Explanatory Board; ESALC;
  - Cllr Furness - RALC;
  - Upon signing Declaration of Office, Andrew Brown - Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

## 9. Minutes and agree any recommendations from Committee meetings:

- **External Relations & Town Development Committee** of 23 January 2018 were presented by Cllr Ratcliffe. He highlighted the formation of a Wildflower Meadow Working Group and a forthcoming meeting of the Town Information and Model Exhibit Working Group. He also reminded Chairmen that reports are required for the Newsletter/Annual Report.
- **Environment Committee** on 6 February 2018 were presented by Cllr Favell.
  - The existing Abbey Green Agreement had been circulated to Members and the recommendation from Committee was that **the current Terms of Agreement remain unchanged and that a further 10-year lease from 1 December 2018 be requested. This was agreed.**
  - It was noted that a circular bench to be installed around the Oak tree had been agreed once the existing planting has been removed. **Committee recommended that the bench should be dedicated to the memory of Richard Jessop. This was agreed.**
- **Planning & Transport** on 15 February 2018 were presented by Cllr Gyngell. She highlighted that the Clerk and Cllr Boryer had been authorised to produce a tender document and circulate as required by Financial Regulations for the resurfacing of the overflow car park.

# Battle Town Council

## 10. Visit to St Valery sur Somme and Bayeux

Cllr Furness suggested that an informal meeting with the Mayors of St Valery sur Somme and Bayeux in March or April should be arranged to promote the relationship between the Twinned Town and gain support for the bid to bring the Bayeux Tapestry to Battle. A further formal meeting with English Heritage could then be organised. He confirmed that he would be prepared to pay for overnight accommodation for himself but that the Clerk should be accommodated by the town. **Members agreed that this should be paid for from the Hospitality budget.**

## 11. Beautiful Battle

A draft agreement from Beautiful Battle for the 3 year period from 1 April 2018 had been circulated. Subject to a minor addition to wording and an increase in the reimbursement of water costs, due to the rise in utility costs, the Agreement was approved as attached. The Clerk was asked to suggest this to BB for consideration.

## 12. Payments and receipts for January 2017

The list of income £8,585.35 and expenditure £22,692.54, both net of internal bank transfers, were noted.

## 13. Reports from representatives of the Council

The reports from Cllrs Favell and Russell had been circulated and included:

- Cllr Favell
- the launch of Battle Twinning Association tapestry;
  - Recreation Ground Working Group meeting with the Architect and Battle Baptist Football Club at the pavilion;
  - First meeting of the Almonry Wedding Venue Working Group;
  - Battle Health Pathway which focussed on fundraising for the 'community contribution';
  - Meeting with Steve Scott and Town Clerk to discuss progress of funding application for the facilities at the recreation ground. NB successful application to National Lottery (through SS) for funding for the aeroskate;
- Cllr Russell
- Battle Visual Arts Development Committee(BVADC) Finance sub Committee where sponsorship had been received and used to pay for the 2 ceramics and a time sheet review had been undertaken;
  - BVADC at which detail on all aspects of the project were discussed as being on target for completion;
  - Battle Museum of Local History meeting: finances in good order with 50% increase in shop sales. The museum had agreed to open on Remembrance Day with an exhibition of WW1 and WW2 items. Concern had been raised at the viability of the Museum should the Almonry be sold and the lack of clarity in the redevelopment plans.
- Cllr Furness
- Meetings with English Heritage and Huw Merriman MP about the Bayeux Tapestry proposition;
  - Battle Abbey annual school play and music concert;
- Cllr Boryer
- Beautiful Battle meeting – the minutes of which had been circulated;
- Cllr Gyngell
- the Memorial Hall Committee meeting that introduced the new manager and advised of a new caretaker that will be available to carry out tasks at an additional cost;

# *Battle Town Council*

- Cllr Davies
- The Recreation Ground Working Group meeting with the Architect and Battle Baptist Football Club at the pavilion;
  - the Energy roadshow that highlighted the priority in storm situations with a source register available. There is also a new number for information on power cuts.

## **14. Matters for information / future items for agenda**

Cllr Russell queried the General Data Protection Regulations that are due to change in May. The Clerk confirmed that she and the Deputy are due to attend training on this shortly.

- Suggestions for conservation of Mortars.

## **15. Date of next meeting: Tuesday, 20 March 2018**

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.30pm

CLLR D FURNESS  
CHAIRMAN