



Battle Town Council



MINUTES of the COUNCIL MEETING held on TUESDAY, 15 DECEMBER 2015 in
The Almonry, High Street, Battle, at 7.30pm

PRESENT: Cllrs D Furness (Vice-Chairman), J Boryer, C Davies, G Favell, P Fisher, M Howell, R Jessop, J Reeves and A Russell.

Cllr Kathryn Field, Cllr Gary Curtis, 1 member of the public, Andy Beams (Town Clerk)

Public Question Time – None.

1. **Apologies for absence** – Received from Cllrs J Gyngell, M Kiloh and A Ratcliffe.
2. **Disclosure of interest** – Cllr Favell declared an interest in item 12 regarding the Health Pathway as a member of BLAP.
3. **Minutes of the Council meeting** held on 17 November 2015. Cllr Jessop proposed approval of the minutes, seconded by Cllr Russell and agreed unanimously. These were duly signed by Cllr Furness.
4. **Matters arising from previous meetings** – None.
5. **To receive a report from the County Councillor**
Cllr Field reported there had been a cabinet meeting today, although no final budgets had been set as some figures were still awaited. The Secretary of State for Education had launched a plan for all secondary schools to become academies. In East Sussex, about half were already academies at present. This could impact on the ESCC School Improvement service currently provided. The news about retaining business rates would not help ESCC, as it was a net importer of rates. ESCC were inclined to accept the 2% tax rise to offset part of the necessary £10 million savings needed from the Adult Social Care budget.
6. **To receive a report from the District Councillors**
Cllr Curtis reported that bin collections problems appear to have been resolved, and that the new road was due to open on Thursday.
Cllr Field reported that RDC had discussed civil parking enforcement, and had not dismissed the idea. Cllr Jessop added that as Chairman of RALC, he would be invited to attend future discussions on the matter.
7. **Correspondence and communications**
The Town Clerk updated Members on the situation regarding car parking in Market Square, where Jempsons have now agreed not to park any vehicles.
The Town Clerk reminded Members of the library consultation which begins in January, details of which had already been circulated. Cllr Field added that following discussions with younger library users, it was hoped that imaginative ways of using the reduced opening hours would be considered.
8. **Minutes of the Environment Committee meeting held on 24 November 2015**
These were presented by Cllr Favell. And noted by Members.
9. **Minutes of the External Relations & Town Development Committee meeting held on 1 December 2015**
These were presented by Cllr Furness, who explained to Members the reasoning behind the decision not to proceed with the registration of the 950th logo, as previously recommended by Full Council.

Battle Town Council

10. Minutes of the Planning & Transport Committee meetings held on 18 November and 2 December 2015

These were presented by Cllr Jessop, who added that the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group were continuing to work well. A draft survey had been prepared and was being reviewed by Norman Kwan at RDC prior to being sent out to all households in the parish. A grant application for £6,034 had been approved for use before the end of March 2016, and the Steering Group planned to apply for an addition grant to go up to the maximum £8,000 in the next financial year.

11. To authorise scrub clearance to begin at the Cemetery

Cllr Favell informed Members that following a site visit with Agrifactors (the appointed cemetery extension contractors) and CDSL, it had been discovered that the cost of the scrub clearance had not been included in the original tender. Agrifactors have provided a quote to complete the works, which are essential prior to the rest of the extension work.

RESOLVED: Members agreed to accept the quote of £3,720 plus VAT from Agrifactors and authorised the Town Clerk to make the necessary arrangements for the work to be completed as soon as possible.

12. To agree the Town Council's role in and contribution to Health Pathway questionnaire

Cllr Favell had circulated information to Members, explaining that the questionnaire had been adapted to include questions relating to a shelter and adult exercise equipment. The Town Council would use the information gathered to support any future grant application to evidence need for the projects. In return, the Town Council have been asked to contribute £150 towards the cost of printing the questionnaire.

RESOLVED: Members agreed for the £150 contribution towards the cost, and for it to be taken from the Environment committee budget.

13. List of payments and receipts

Payments totalling £17,051.45 and receipts totalling £8,111.87 for the period 1 to 30 November inclusive were noted by Members.

14. Reports from representatives of the Council and other reports

Cllr Jessop had circulated a report to Members.

Cllr Furness had attended a meeting of the Arts Festival, the late night shopping event and a carol concert at Battle Abbey School.

Cllrs Favell and Fisher had attended the BLAP meeting.

Cllrs Howell and Russell had attended the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group meeting.

15. Matters for information / future items for agenda

The Town Clerk reminded Members of the updated information from RDC regarding the tax base, and how this impacted the budget for 2016/17. The F & GP committee would make a final budget recommendation at its January meeting, prior to the final decision being made at the January Full Council meeting.

16. Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday, 19 January 2015

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.05pm

Cllr D Furness, Vice-Chairman

