



Battle Town Council



**MINUTES of the COUNCIL MEETING held on
TUESDAY, 21 JANUARY 2015 in
The Almonry, High Street, Battle, at 7.30pm**

PRESENT: Cllr M Kiloh – Chairman
Cllrs J Boryer, R Bye, G Favell, D Furness, J Gyngell, T Hall, M Howell,
R Jessop, J Lay, J Ormonde-Butler, S Pry, A Ratcliffe, and D Wilson.

Public Question Time

County Cllr Field and District Cllrs Davies and Dixon were present.

1. Apologies for absence – Cllrs J Eldridge and J Palmer. Cllr Palmer's continued absence was noted by, and Cllr Kiloh informed Members that the Town Clerk had written to Cllr Palmer reminding him of the 6 month attendance requirements. As yet, no reply had been received. Following a discussion, it was agreed that Cllr Furness would contact Cllr Palmer in person to clarify his situation.

2. Disclosure of interest – Cllrs Boryer and Jessop declared an interest in the grant application for BLAP.

3. Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 16 December 2014. Cllr Hall proposed approval of the minutes, seconded by Cllr Wilson and agreed unanimously.

4. Matters arising from previous meetings

None.

5. To receive a report from the County Councillor

Cllr Field reported that there would be a £21 million reduction funding from central government, which equated in real terms to a 13.7% cut taking into accounts funds which were ring-fenced for grants.

6. To receive a report from the District Councillors

Cllr Davis reported that following a number of staffing cuts, particularly in enforcement and senior planning roles, things had settled down at RDC. It was likely that RDC would propose a 0% increase in council tax, although this would depend on the scrutiny review of the budget proposal next week.

Cllr Dixon updated Members with information regarding the discussions of the sale of land by RDC at Blackfriars, clarifying the differences in the report and recommendations produced by RDC. He confirmed that Cllr Field had requested a detailed report, and this would be sent to the Town Council once received.

7. Correspondence and communications

Market Square – Cllr Kiloh explained to Members that it had been proposed to get together all interested parties to discuss the ongoing maintenance of the square. Since that time, it had been found that the owners of the square were in receivership and until such time as that was resolved, there was little point in organising a meeting.

Operation Crackdown – The Clerk had provided details of an offer from Surrey and Sussex Police to attend a Council meeting to discuss Operation Crackdown – an online tool for reporting anti-social driving. After discussion, Members agreed it was appropriate to ask them to attend a meeting of the Planning & Transport committee and the Clerk was asked to arrange this.

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Amenity site lease – Members had been copied into the emails regarding continuing payment for the lease, and backdated payments from 2010. Cllr Favell suggested that the Town Council offer to continue to maintain the area at its own cost, but pay no lease fee as there was little benefit other than ensuring the area was properly maintained. Members agreed with this suggestion and the Clerk was asked to propose this to ESCC.

Twitten repairs – The Town Clerk reported that the hole in the roof was fixed yesterday, although the issue regarding the exposed wires was no closer to being resolved as no-one was accepting responsibility for the issue.

Concorde 950 – Cllr Kiloh informed Members that following the Town Council's agreement to support in principle the plans of the Concorde group, the recent working party meeting had suggested that any invitation to distinguished guests, particularly visiting Mayors, should come from the Mayor of Battle along with the Lord Lieutenant of Sussex who had already given agreement. Cllr Furness raised concerns that parts of the Concorde 950 events program clashed with other planned events, although Cllr Ratcliffe pointed out that the working group were attempting to co-ordinate various organisations events to avoid any clashes. Members also raised whether officially invited guests incurred any obligations on the Council, including accommodation costs. Members agreed to discuss at the next meeting when it was anticipated the working group would be able to clarify some of the questions raised.

8. Minutes of the Planning and Transport Committee meetings held on 16 December 2014 and 7 January 2015. Cllr Jessop presented the minutes to Council, and proposed the addition of a Netherfield Ward Councillor to the committee. This was seconded by Cllr Howell and agreed unanimously. Cllr Pry will re-join the committee as the Netherfield Ward councillor.

9. Minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee meetings held on 25 November 2014 and 13 January 2015. Cllr Kiloh presented the minutes to Council. Cllr Jessop congratulated Cllr Wilson on the work completed on the grants awarding policy. Cllr Kiloh proposed the approval of the recommendations of F&GP regarding the grants policy. This was seconded by Cllr Boryer and agreed unanimously.

The Town Clerk explained the situation with regard to the existing Standing Orders and Financial Regulations being out of date. Cllr Kiloh proposed the approval of the recommendations of F&GP to approve the immediate mandatory change to Standing Orders and to authorise the Town Clerk to conduct a comprehensive review of both policies. This was seconded by Cllr Wilson and agreed unanimously.

Members discussed the second recommendation regarding filming, photographing and recording of meetings. The first part of this recommendation to adopt the protocol as drafted by the Clerk was agreed by the majority of Members. The second part dealt with the possibility of the Council recording its own meetings. While acknowledging this would protect the Council's interests, several Members expressed reservations. The Town Clerk was asked to check any costs which may be incurred and report on the options to the next meeting.

District Cllr Davies left the meeting at 9.00pm

10. List of payments & receipts – Payments totalling £25,067.56 and receipts totalling £2,251.51 for the period 12 December 2014 to 14th January 2015 inclusive were noted by Members.

11. Consideration of outstanding grant request from BLAP – Cllr Favell declared an interest in this item. Cllr Kiloh read the request to Members and asked for a proposal. Cllr Furness proposed the full requested amount of £500 be awarded. This was seconded by Cllr Wilson, but rejected by a majority of 5 votes to 2. Cllr Pry proposed a grant of £250. This was seconded by Cllr Bye and approved by a majority of 8 to 1.

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12. Reports from representatives of the Council and other reports

- Cllr Jessop had circulated a report covering meetings he had attended since the start of the year. He highlighted the concerns raised over the reserved parking spaces created in Lower Mount Street car park, and the Town Clerk was asked to investigate the process and legality of the decision. Members also discussed the Local Councils Award Scheme and agreed to apply for the automatic Foundation level award available free of charge to existing Quality Councils before the end of January.
- Cllrs Boryer, Kiloh and Pry had attended a Battle In Bloom meeting. Cllr Kiloh reported that consideration was being given to a change of name of the group to Town Improvement Group (TIG) to avoid confusion with Beautiful Battle. Entry was being planned to the South & South East In Bloom competition on the same basis as previous years;
- Cllr Gyngell had attended a Battle Arts & Music Festival meeting, and reported a planned Easter concert;
- Cllr Ratcliffe had attended a meeting of the Battle Marketing Group on 8 December and was due to attend another meeting tomorrow;
- Cllr Favell had attended the Remembrance Day Service; New Councillor training; ESALC AGM and a Cemetery Working Group meeting;
- Cllr Kiloh had attended the SLR meeting. Members had not received the last minutes, and the Town Clerk was asked to forward these to everyone.

13. Matters for information / future items for agenda

Cllr Ratcliffe highlighted the need to appoint someone to the sports working group. This would be agreed at the meeting of the Environment Committee on 27 January.

14. Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday, 17 February 2015

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.30pm

M KILOH
Chairman

