



# Battle Town Council



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

**PRESENT:** Cllrs M Kiloh (Chairman), C Davies, G Favell, P Fisher, D Furness, J Gyngell, M Howell, R Jessop, A Ratcliffe, J Reeves and A Russell.  
Cllr Kevin Dixon, Cllr Kathryn Field, 7 members of the public, 1 member of the press, Andy Beams (Town Clerk)

**Public Question Time** – A representative of Battle Baptists FC spoke to express the regret of the club with regard to the article printed in the Observer appearing to criticise the Town Council's lack of action regarding the football pitch. He stated the football club had not authorised the article, which had been written by a player who was a trainee journalist, and the club wanted to continue to work with the Town Council to improve the recreation ground for the whole community.

A second representative of the club confirmed the desire to work with the Council and sought confirmation of the Council's continued cooperation. Cllr Favell, as Chairman of the Environment Committee, confirmed the Town Council's support for the football club's funding efforts and suggested setting up a working group of Councillors and football club representatives to work towards a solution.

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- 1. Apologies for absence** – Received from Cllrs J Boryer, M Palmer and District Cllr G Curtis.
- 2. Disclosure of interest** – none.
- 3. Minutes of the Council meeting** held on 15 December 2015. Cllr Furness proposed approval of the minutes, seconded by Cllr Jessop and agreed unanimously. These were duly signed by Cllr Kiloh.
- 4. To receive a report from the County Councillor**  
Cllr Field (ESCC) reported that the budget was due to be set on 9 February. A 1.99% increase in precept was likely, along with the additional funding available for adult social care. The library opening hours consultation was now open, and Cllr Field urged as many people as possible to respond, and take the opportunity to ensure the amended opening hours were relevant for the usage needed by users, particularly those reliant on the additional services offered by libraries.  
Cllr Dixon (RDC) had nothing to report.  
Cllr Field (RDC) reported that the Asset Realm team were conducting work at present and would be in touch with Town and Parish Councils to discuss potential improvements.
- 5. Correspondence and communications**  
The Town Clerk reminded Members of the correspondence received from the Chamber of Commerce giving notice that they will resign all responsibility for organising the town's Christmas lights after the 2016 season. Cllr Ratcliffe requested adding this to the External Relations & Town Development Committee agenda to discuss further, which Members agreed.
- 6. Minutes of the Finance & General purposes Committee meeting held on 12 January 2016**  
A number of Members stated they had not received the minutes, and the Town Clerk acknowledged he had been made aware of some problems with Members receiving emails. Cllr Jessop stated that he would find it difficult to discuss the precept without all the figures, and proposed arranging a separate meeting. This was seconded by Cllr Fisher. Cllr Kiloh pointed out that all the key information was included in the Town Clerk's note, and copies of the minutes could be provided now for Members to read during a short interval in the meeting.

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**RESOLVED:** The motion to arrange another meeting was voted on and defeated by 9 votes to 2. The meeting was suspended while paper copies of the relevant part of the F & GP minutes were distributed. Cllr Jessop recommended the Town Clerk investigate the use of Google Drive as a secure distribution tool for future meeting papers.

## **7. Minutes of the Planning & Transport Committee meetings held on 16 December 2015 and 13 January 2016**

The minutes were presented by Cllr Jessop with no questions from other Members.

## **8. Precept 2016/17**

Cllr Kiloh reminded Members that the committee budgets had been considered by F & GP in November, and a decision on recommending the precept had been held over pending receipt of information with regard to the tax base, the CTS grant and a review of the existing reserves. This information was available at the January meeting and based on the revised figures, a recommended precept of £252,683 was proposed, which represented an increase of 1.5% per Band D equivalent.

**RESOLVED:** Cllr Kiloh proposed the recommendation, which was seconded by Cllr Furness. All Members agreed the proposal, with the exception of Cllr Fisher who felt unable to vote as she had not received all the information.

## **9. Appointment of JDC Architects to complete works at the Almonry.**

Members had been forwarded the quotation, along with a summary of the previous unsuccessful attempts to find a suitably qualified expert to carry out the work required to progress the project.

**RESOLVED:** Members agreed unanimously to appoint JDC architects as per the terms of the quotation.

## **10. Grant application from Battle Health Pathway**

The grant request had been previously considered by the F & GP committee, however Cllr Jessop had questioned the need for the topographical survey and the committee requested confirmation from the applicant. This had now been received, providing an expert opinion as to the need for the survey.

**RESOLVED:** Members agreed unanimously to approve the grant request for £720.00.

## **11. Request to support the Bayeaux Tapestry Project 950 at Battle Railway Station**

Members had been forwarded information regarding the proposal by Battle Museum to place a mural at Battle station. Southeastern had provided the majority of the funding, but support from the Council in the amount of £100 was being sought. The Town Council logo would be included on the advertising with the mural.

**RESOLVED:** Members felt this was an excellent idea, and agreed unanimously to provide the £100 support.

## **12. Library opening hour's consultation**

Members had been provided with details of the consultation, and were invited to provide individual responses if they wished to. While the questionnaire was aimed at individuals, it was agreed the Council could also send a written response based on a summary of Members thoughts.

**RESOLVED:** After discussion, it was agreed that the Town Clerk would summarise the points raised, stressing the importance of the library as a community asset, and draft a response for the February Full Council meeting to consider.

## **13. Writing Competition**

Cllr Favell had provided details of the competition and a preliminary budget proposal, which included a grant application to RDC. She reminded Members that it had been agreed to run the competition. A working group had been established, which would report to the ER & TD committee.

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**RESOLVED:** Members agreed to support the grant application to RDC and provide Town Council funding of £375 towards the project.

## 14. Council representation on Concorde 1066

Cllr Jessop reported that at present the Deputy Mayor was the Town Council representative, but if he was unable to attend there was no nominated deputy. Cllr Jessop offered to be the deputy to ensure attendance at every meeting.

**RESOLVED:** Members agreed unanimously to Cllr Jessop's appointment as deputy representative.

## 15. List of payments and receipts

**RESOLVED:** Payments totalling £21,206.84 and receipts totalling £8,780.03 for the period 1 to 31 December inclusive were noted by Members.

## 16. Reports from representatives of the Council and other reports

Cllr Jessop had circulated a report to Members in advance of the meeting.

Cllr Howell had attended a meeting of the Town Improvement Group.

Cllr Ratcliffe had attended a meeting of the 1066 Executive Board, where the rebranding of the 1066 website was discussed, and the SLR meeting.

Cllr Kiloh had attended the SLR meeting and a meeting of the Museum.

## 17. Matters for information / future agenda items

Cllr Fisher reminded Members of the Health Pathway open day on Saturday.

## 16. Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday, 23 February 2016

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.55pm

Cllr M Kiloh, Chairman

