

# Battle Town Council



**MINUTES of the COUNCIL MEETING held on TUESDAY, 19 SEPTEMBER 2017  
in The Almonry, High Street, Battle, at 7.30pm**

**Present:** Cllrs D Furness (Chairman), J Boryer, C Davies, G Favell, P Fisher, J Gyngell, R Jessop, M Kiloh, A Ratcliffe, J Reeves and A Russell.

In attendance Carol Harris (Town Clerk)

**1. Apologies for absence – Cllr M Howell.**

**2. Disclosure of interest – None.**

**3. Minutes of the Council meeting held on 15 August 2017 were agreed and duly signed by Cllr Furness.**

**4. Reports from County Councillor and District Councillors**  
None received.

**5. Correspondence and communications**

Letters from:

- the **Lord Lieutenant congratulating the Council on signing of the Military Covenant** and expressing gratitude for the kind hospitality to everybody concerned;
- **Battle Festival** expressing thanks for the grant towards the Winter Giant event on 7 October.

**6. Minutes from Committee meetings:**

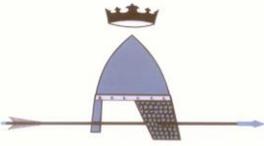
- **Finance & General Purposes** on 5 September were presented by Cllr Furness and noted. The Clerk confirmed that the documentation for planning and listed building application for the Almonry project has been received and will now be submitted to RDC by the Architects.
- **Events sub Committee** on 12 September were presented by Cllr Russell and noted. He reported that a meeting with the ATC is to be arranged as soon as possible to discuss their crucial involvement in the Remembrance Sunday Service.
- **Planning & Transport** on 12 September were presented by Cllr Jessop and noted. He advised that, subsequent to that meeting, RDC had approved outline planning permission for up to 63 units at Tollgates (RR/2017/1259/R) despite several policy objections submitted by Council.

**7. Councillor vacancy**

An application for co-option to the Council had been circulated prior to the meeting. **Members considered this and agreed by a majority to co-opt Maurice Holmes to fill the vacancy at Telham.** The Clerk was asked to arrange a meeting with Mr Holmes, the Chairman and Vice Chairman to sign the Declaration of Office.

**8. Consecration of the new Cemetery**

The Clerk reminded Members that the admin and legal costs for the consecration of any part of the cemetery will be £1000. In light of this, the 4 churches had been approached for a contribution towards this cost. She confirmed that Our Lady Immaculate had generously made a



# Battle Town Council



donation but that St Mary's Church had indicated no contribution would be made unless a further area of the cemetery is included in the scheme. A full response from the Methodist and Baptist Church are awaited. The Clerk confirmed that this matter may not be revisited without a written request by 6 Members (Standing Order 7). After some discussion, Members agreed to proceed with the existing resolution. The Clerk highlighted the general misconception of the term 'consecration' and reported that this will be an item in the forthcoming Newsletter.

## 9. Amenity Field

The Clerk reported that no firm proposal has been received from East Sussex County Council, although an indication of a form of peppercorn rent may be proposed, together with any legal fees applied. Cllr Boryer highlighted the benefit of this land in conjunction to Mansers Shaw and that it would be managed as a wildflower meadow. Cllr Furness suggested that a Sussex Lund fund may be available for this. **Members agreed that the management of the Amenity Field should be considered on this basis.**

## 10. Street light conversion to LED lamps

The Clerk confirmed that figures had only been received today but that costs for full conversion of all the Council's lights could be in the region of £73,500. Members acknowledged the eventual savings of LED lamps but felt that the costs are prohibitive. **Council agreed to budget for the replacement of approximately 10 poor condition lamps for LED in 2018/19 and to monitor their effectiveness prior to any further conversions.**

## 11. Business Plan

Members discussed and agreed the Business Plan as attached.

## 12. Mayoral Regalia

Cllr Jessop reported that as a result of a personal donation to cover the costs of the Mayoral Chain he had attended a meeting with a local jeweller and the Town Clerk to discuss a suggested design. A sample of the Chain, made from sterling silver in a chainmail design, and suggested engraving for silver domes were circulated to Members for consideration. Cllr Jessop confirmed that the chain would be weighted at the back; the existing pendant and name plaques would be added to the lengthened chain. It was suggested that one of the domes should include the Netherfield crest. **Members agreed this design and thanked the anonymous donor for the generous gift.**

## 13. Insurance cover renewal

The Clerk reported that 3 quotes had been received for comparative cover. One far exceeded the other two; which were similar in cost. She confirmed that the existing cover with WPS/Aviva Insurance had proven effective on any minor claims that had been necessary during the current 3 year contract and they had offered a free re-build valuation for all Council property by Barrington Corp and Harrington. **The Clerk recommended insurance renewal with WPS/Aviva at a premium of £4471.58 and this was agreed by Members unanimously.**

## 14. Reports from representatives of the Council

Cllr Jessop had circulated his report which included attendance at:

- two **Chamber of Commerce** meetings: presentations had been made by Huw Merriman MP and Leo Cacciatore from Battle Fire Station to promote recruitment of 'on call' officers;
- **Neighbourhood Plan** meeting; the minutes are on the Council's website;



# Battle Town Council



- the **Twinning reception** and signing of the **Armed Forces Covenant** over the Bank Holiday weekend;
- **Rother Neighbourhood Forum** where a presentation on how to preserve AONB was made;
- the unveiling of the refurbished **Town Model** by Mike Dawes;
- the winding up meeting of the **Battle Partnership** as there are no further funds available;
- a meeting of **SALC Directors** to discuss interim arrangements following a staff member's illness leave for 4 weeks;
- a visit to a local Jewellers to discuss the **mayoral regalia** with the Town Clerk;
- a meeting with a road surfacing contractor's surveyor to agree the specification for the **resurfacing of the overflow car park at Mount Street**;
- Cllr Fisher - attended the unveiling of the refurbished **Town Model**. It was highlighted that a new home is required it to be displayed;
- Cllr Davies - had attended the **signing of the Covenant** event;
- Cllr Favell - had attended the **RVA** meeting, in Cllr Howell's absence, where it had been reported at Age UK propose to extend their services into Battle but will be looking for funding;
- attended both the **Twinning and signing of the Covenant** events;
- Cllr Ratcliffe - attended a meeting to discuss the provision of **interactive information boards** in Battle. He confirmed that E&TD would be discussing the setting up of a Working Group to take this forward;
- Cllr Russell - had attended a **Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group** meeting and had requested that P&T receive an update at every meeting;
- was present at both the **Twinning** and **signing of the Covenant** events;
- in Cllr Kiloh's absence, had attended a **Battle Museum** meeting that had presented its financial report with appears relatively healthy;
- Reported that the BVADC had not met recently but that a Finance sub Committee meeting will be held within the next week to ensure all expenditure is in line with projected costs;
- Cllr Gyngell - reported on the **Battle Festival** events soon to commence;
- had attended a **Battle Memorial Hall** meeting. She reported that the signs have been replaced with the title of Memorial Hall (plural has been removed) and the foyer refurbished;
- Cllr Furness - attended the unveiling of the **Town Model**;
- had presented prizes to the winners of the Wildflower poster competition to pupils at **Battle & Langton School** with **Huw Merriman MP** and Keith Datchler;
- a meeting with **East Sussex Fire and Rescue**;
- had attended **Battle Festival** meetings;
- presented prizes to the **Run on the Rec** winners;
- attended the closure of the **Battle Partnership** meeting.

## 15. To receive list of payments and receipts for August 2017

The income £11,434.05 and expenditure £20,931.95 for August 2017 was noted, as attached.



# *Battle Town Council*



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

Cllr Fisher reported the constant intermittent closure of the Rother Community Point in Market Square with no opening times displayed. Members asked the Clerk to report this to the District Councillors.

Cllr Ratcliffe highlighted that many other **Councils meet earlier in the evening** and asked that this be considered. Members felt that 7.30pm should be retained to enable attendance by those that may work out of the area to attend, including future Councillors.

Cllr Boryer reported that RDC have instructed work be undertaken to the **rear wall of the 1066 Butchers** property.

## **17. Date of next meeting: Tuesday, 17 October 2017**

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.40pm