



Battle Town Council



Minutes of the COUNCIL MEETING held on TUESDAY, 17 OCTOBER 2017 at
The Almonry, High Street, Battle at 7.30pm

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

In Attendance: District Cllrs K Field, K Dixon. Richard Farhall (Rye Town Clerk) and Jane de Garston ((t) Deputy Town Clerk)

- 1. Apologies for absence** – Received from Cllr D Furness
- 2. Disclosure of interest** - None
- 3. Minutes of the Council meeting held on 19 September 2017 were discussed.** Cllr Boryer raised an item discussed that had not been recorded. This related to funding for community areas in next year's budget. As this had not been an agenda item it had not been recorded as the proposal could not be ratified. Cllr Jessop invited Cllr Boryer to produce a paper regarding his proposal for inclusion at the next Environment Committee meeting.
Following the discussion Cllr Jessop duly signed the minutes.
- 4. Matters arising from previous meetings, not on this agenda** - None
- 5. Richard Farhall gave apologies on behalf of Dave Gee and presented information regarding the Bexhill Town Council in Waiting Group as attached.**
Cllr Kiloh proposed the Council support the concept of a Town Council for Bexhill as a whole. This was unanimously supported by all the Cllrs. The Town Clerk is requested to write to Rother District Council expressing this view.
- 6. Reports from County Councillor and District Councillors**
Cllr Dixon reported the CPE for Rother is ongoing. Proposals from the working group, for Battle, are 30 minute meters in the High Street. A charge of 20p for 30 mins is proposed, with a reducing tariff down for less time. Permit holder parking is proposed for Glengorse, Norman Close and other areas surrounding the station.
Cllr Dixon advised his view would be to accept the existing regulations and review them at a later date rather than undertake a review now which would delay the transfer.

RDC are proposing using £7,000,000 of reserves to purchase commercial property for redevelopment within the south east. Other authorities such as Surrey use this scheme with success. It has been identified by RDC that within the next few years there will be gaps in funding so this would provide necessary funds.

A new audio system is to be installed at Bexhill Town Hall, this will allow residents to review Council meetings on You Tube after they have been uploaded.

RDC Members will be involved in a strategy for future safety following the tragedies at Camber Sands.

Cllr Field reported East Sussex County Council met earlier today. Significant changes are proposed to the funding blocks for education and a reduction in the allowances for virement is to be introduced. There are also plans to alter the Governance within the LEA. This will change the current

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nomination scheme to a selection process which will result in officers making decisions, centralising school controls.

The Library closure consultation is going ahead. The Leader of the Council is leading a petition to request the Government stop the cuts to East Sussex services. There is a link from the East Sussex County Council home page. It currently has 2,500 signatures which is significantly below what will be required.

7. Correspondence and communications – None received

8. Minutes from Committee meetings:

- **External Relations & Town Developments** on 25 September were presented by Cllr Ratcliffe and noted. Cllr Kiloh asked where the defibrillator for Marley Lane was planned to be located. Cllr Ratcliffe responded that the Town Clerk has been asked to approach Marley Stores to discuss this. There is also a unit planned for Telham but no site has been discussed yet.

Cllr Russell enquired if funds had been received from the Chamber of Commerce towards the Christmas lights. In the Town Clerk's absence this information was unavailable but Cllr Jessop offered to make a request for a contribution at the next Chamber meeting.

- **Environment** on 3 October were presented by Cllr Favell and noted. Cllr Fisher expressed concern at the purchase of the chipper and requested details of where tree works would be undertaken and where chippings would be used. The concerns were also noted from Cllr Boryer. Cllr Favell responded there are several areas including Mansers Shaw, the cemetery and the recreation ground that required tree maintenance and chippings.
- **Planning & Transport** on 10 October were presented by Cllr Jessop and noted. Cllr Jessop advised that the committee would be preparing a response to the Government's survey regarding house building "Planning for the right homes in the right places" which indicates a 40% addition to existing dwelling requirements could be sought. The Government is proposing the reduction of the Green Belt areas and introducing tree planting schemes elsewhere.

9. Boundary wall of Tills Courtyard and George Meadow. It is agreed the wall is in a poor state of repair. The Town Clerk had approached a local building historian who advised the historical ownership of properties gave no clues as to which historical owner owned the boundary itself, there are cases where the owner is a third party who retained it when the property was sold.

Cllr Kiloh asked if this is a conservation area. As there is no direct property attached to the wall this is unknown.

Cllr Field suggested the County Council be approached to ask regarding the issue of safety. Although the wall is not directly on the right of way if bricks fall away they may cause a hazard to the public.

Council requested that the Town Clerk write to the current owner of Tills Yard and advise that the wall is their liability and request reassurance that there is suitable public liability insurance and seek advice from Ian Davies at SALC if this has not already been sought.

10. Gift of land adjoining Mansers Shaw from the owners of Coultershaw. Cllrs unanimously agreed to accept the gift with the Town Council paying all legal fees subject to confirmation that the owners of Coultershaw do not make any restrictions to the use of the land. Cllr Boryer asked if Coultershaw would retain responsibility for their fence. Cllr Jessop responded this would be considered as part of the legal documents which will need to be drawn up.

11. Support for Rother District Council's funding bid to Homes Community Agency towards a new spine road at Blackfriars. Cllrs debated the Blackfriars spine route. Cllr Jessop advised that the original planning permission had been for Outline consent and that the exact route for the road would not have been decided at that time. A feasibility study and further planning consents would

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still be required before the route was approved. This support is to allow grants to be sought to relieve pressure on the developers who could not agree who should build the required initial infrastructure. Cllrs Reeves and Kiloh expressed they would have liked more time to develop a deeper understanding of this development and the response already submitted by the Town Council but the response time required from Rother was extremely short.

Cllr Jessop proposed the letter that was sent in support of the spine road be ratified, Cllr Ratcliffe seconded this proposal. This was agreed.

12. Reports from representatives of the Council

Cllr Jessop had circulated his report which included:

- Attended **Neighbourhood Plan meeting**; the minutes are available on the Council's website
- Assisted with the planting of **wildflower plug plants** on Caldbec Hill
- Attended **ESALC AGM**. Items discussed were the current position on any new route for the A27 between Chichester and Polegate. There may be a start on site in 2022. There is to be £20 M of track improvements on the railway and between Canary Wharf, London and Brighton – the cost is expected to be £16,000 M and could be funded via private companies; Transport for the South East with East Sussex County Council leading in the SERCAF area; the Community Infrastructure Levy (CiL) could be removed following pressure from developer companies and replaced with a "Tariff", it was noted that responses to a government consultation on their document "Planning for the Right Homes in the Right Places" should be made by 9th November.
- Attended **South East Counties Association Forum (SERCAF)** at Wallingford, Oxfordshire. Items discussed included the Local Council Quality awards and if any changes are to be made to them by the National Council; the new structure of the National Council and who would be put forward for the board positions, the need for better publicity via the tv media and the expectation that parishes will be tasked with taking on non-statutory services other than education and social services. The lowering of the threshold to allow parishes to have the Power of Competence is to be chased and, finally, getting the government to agree that councillors can be paid a salary as for Districts to recognise the time and effort that councillors contribute to their communities.
- Attended **ESALC** meeting, this was today so will be reported at the next Full Council meeting.

Cllr Russell

- Attended **Neighbourhood Steering Group meeting**; a new consultant has been appointed following the withdrawal of services by Roger Comerford.
- Attended **BVADC** finance meeting where a detailed breakdown of expenditure to date was available
- Met with representative from the **ATC** to discuss the arrangements for Remembrance Day services in the town.

Cllr Favell

- Attended a meeting with **Battle Health Pathway**; discussion was to avoid conflict of funding between the pathway and the pavilion project. Sue Burton will be seeking advice from RVA and will arrange to meet with Annette Buswell from Step Up who is arranging fund raising for the recreation ground.

Cllr Ratcliffe

- Attended Chairmanship training with SALC today in place of Cllr Furness.

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Cllr Fisher

- Attended a meeting of the Twinning Association; they were pleased to report that they had new members but are seeking a treasurer. Battle Town Twinning Association are due to visit St Valery in 2018.
- Attended the celebration of the refurbishment of the Souvenir Normandy memorial stone, conducted by the Dean John Edmondson.

Cllr Boryer

- Attended a **Beautiful Battle meeting**
- Assisted with the planting of **wildflower plug plants** on Caldbec Hill
- Reported that a local junior from Netherfield is to play Petanque for team GB in the upcoming World Championships.

Cllr Howell

- Attended **RALC meeting**

Cllr Kiloh

- Attended a meeting of **Battle Museum**; visitor numbers are reported to be good with positive feedback being received. There were some concerns regarding vandalism in the gardens but this is being addressed with the Town Clerk. The museum is seeking a new Secretary as Trevor Wayne has decided to stand down. The AGM is 15th November at the Memorial Hall.

Cllr Reeves

- Attended a **Recreation ground working party** meeting

Cllr Gyngell

- Attended **Battle Festival** and **Battle Memorial Hall** meetings

13. Payments and receipts for September 2017

The income of £5,538.81 and expenditure of £29,454.78 for September was noted; as attached.

14. Matters for information / future items for agenda

Cllr Favell requested an update on the investigation into reducing the number of Councillors for the Town Council.

Cllr Ratcliffe requested an update on the Almonry repairs following the erection of the scaffolding. Cllr Jessop advised that he is to inspect the works carried out to date within the next few days.

Cllr Boryer advised the verges on North Trade Road at Battle Gates are in need to cutting. It is unclear if these have been cut as part of the wild flower verges or are on the urban cut schedule.

15. Date of next meeting: Tuesday, 21 November 2017

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.50pm