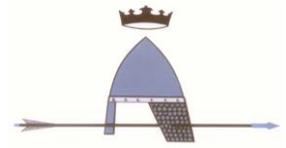




# Battle Town Council



Minutes of the COUNCIL MEETING held on TUESDAY, 20 AUGUST 2019 at  
The Almonry, High Street, Battle at 7.30pm

**Present:** Cllrs G Favell (Chairman), A Brown, V Cook, C Davies, M Holmes, A Russell, H Sharman, D Wheeler and C Would.

**In Attendance:** County Cllr K Field, District Cllr K Dixon, C Harris (Town Clerk) and one member of the public.

## Public Question Time

None.

1. **Apologies for absence** – Cllrs B Brown, J Gyngell, M Kiloh and L Samms.

2. **Disclosure of interest** – Cllr C Davies declared an interest in item 12 as a member of the Battle Festival Committee. Cllr C Would declared an interest in item 10 as a friend of the rowing team. Cllr A Russell declared an interest in item 3, confidential item as a member of the BCPNPSG.

3. **Minutes of the Council meeting held on 16 July 2019** were agreed subject to addition that Cllr J Gyngell left the meeting prior to item 13 and duly signed by Cllr Favell. Members agreed to discuss the notes of the confidential item at the end of the meeting.

## 5. Reports from County Councillor and District Councillors

### County

Cllr Field confirmed that there was nothing to report.

### District

Cllr Dixon reported that the **Audit & Standards Committee** had been unable to finalise the end of year accounts as these had not yet been completed by the Auditor.

## 4. Report from Town Clerk

A **Community Infrastructure Levy** grant application had been submitted to Rother District Council for the **Battle Health Pathway** project which included the cycle skills area and soft works. A decision should be received in October.

## 6. Correspondence and communications received post agenda publication

An invitation offer from Battle Muffins to assist with arrangements for the **official opening of the petanque** court had been received. Members agreed that this should be combined with the official opening of the **junior football pitch** on the afternoon of Wednesday 11 September. It was suggested that a District versus Town rounders match take place followed by a Muffin petanque match. Cllrs Davies, Favell and Wheeler agreed to work with the Battle Muffins to arrange this event.

Cllr A Brown(AB) reported on a '**personal newsletter**' published by a Councillor that had been brought to his attention by a local resident. AB expressed concern that fellow Councillors within the Ward had been disrespected by not being made aware of this literature and had therefore been unable to respond to any queries. He suggested that some information was inaccurate and that it inappropriately requested fixed statements to be provided to the publisher. AB stressed that Councillors had attended an informal meeting recently to discuss how to improve communication between Council and residents to facilitate a review of the current Media and Communications

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Policy. Cllr A Brown proposed that no intended public communication either personal or corporate is permitted to be issued without it first being reviewed by the Town Clerk. This was seconded by Cllr Would and agreed unanimously. This will be ratified at the next meeting.

## 7. Draft minutes and recommendations from Committee meetings:

- The draft Minutes of the **External Relations & Town Development** meeting on **2 July 2019** were presented by Cllr Would and noted. She highlighted the successful Twinning and Battle in Bloom events and confirmed that arrangements are progressing for the Remembrance Day parade.
- The draft minutes of the **Finance & General Purposes** meeting on **23 July 2019** were presented by Cllr Favell and noted. Members considered recommendations to:
  - **recruit a part-time, experienced Tourism & Town Development Officer, initially for a renewable 6 month contract at a LC1 13-17 payscale.** It was noted that this role will include social media and communication matters. **Members agreed to this unanimously;**
  - the Council Plan had been circulated for consideration. Subject to minor additions, **the Council Plan was agreed as attached.**
- The draft minutes of the **Environment Committee** meeting on **6 August 2019** were presented by Cllr Sharman and noted.
- The draft minutes of the **Planning & Transport** meetings on **9 July and 13 August 2019** were presented by Cllr A Brown and noted. **Members agreed that a verbal report from the previous week's P&T meeting will be made at future meetings with any recommendations included on the Agenda. The minutes will be formally received at the following month's meeting.**

## 8. Battle Civic Parish Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

The draft minutes from the meeting on 17 July 2019, as attached, were presented by Cllr Russell and noted. He confirmed that the Plan is behind schedule by 2-3 months; mainly due to delays by the Consultant.

The Chairman thanked the Steering Group for their persistence in moving the Plan forward.

## 9. Review of policies

A suggested allocation of Council policies had been circulated to Members, as attached. This was agreed. The addition of footers to include a review date was approved. Councillors were asked to forward any suggestions for updates and amendments to current policies to the Clerk for circulation in time for review by the Finance & General Purposes Committee at its meeting on 26 November 2019. Any issues should be reported to the Clerk.

*Cllr Would repeated her interest in the following item.*

## 10. British Army's Force Atlantic and ABF The Soldiers' Charity

A request for sponsorship towards a fundraising and awareness "Talisker Whisky Atlantic Challenge" had been received. Further enquiries had confirmed that initial funds are for the equipment required with a proportion of any remaining funds going to the ABF The Soldiers' Charity. However, a donation could be made purely to the ABF Charity. In light of Council grant funding policy and the Armed Forces Covenant, **Members agreed to donate £150 to the ABF Charity.** It was felt that sponsorship would be provided by corporate organisations.

## 11. St Mary's Christmas tree festival

Members noted that all £5 entry fees (or donations) would be given to two local organisations: Snowflake Night Shelter operating in St Leonards and Hastings; and another to be agreed. The theme is Special Anniversaries or Occasions and Cllrs A Brown, G Favell and H Sharman agreed to produce the Council's tree.

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*Cllr Davies repeated her interest in the following item.*

## **12. Abbey Green and Almonry garden**

A request from **Battle Festival** to place works of art: ceramic beehive with bees made by local children; and a series of landscapes made from metal found by pupils from the Teaching and Learning Centre in the Almonry Garden and the Wings on the Abbey Green during October. Coloured pigeons would also be placed in various locations. **Members agreed to these requests.**

## **13. Payments and receipts for July 2019**

The income and expenditure report, as attached, had been circulated. Members noted income £5,571.13 and expenditure £27,865.67; both net of account transfers.

## **14. Reports from representatives of the Council and other reports**

Cllr Davies - **Battle Twinning Association** BBQ;

- assisted with the recent **Almonry Garden wedding**. A report will be made to F&GP;
- **Battle Festival Scarecrow** awards event at which the Council's Scarecrow won the Best Business entry
- **Battle in Bloom awards event**;

Cllr A Brown - **Battle in Bloom awards event**. He congratulated the Mayor's Cadet on her superb presence;

- **1066 Country Ride event**;

Cllr Sharman - **Code of Conduct training** session;

- **Battle in Bloom awards event**;
- **Beautiful Battle** Chairman's lunch and a Committee meeting on 14 August, draft minutes attached;
- **Battle Festival Scarecrow** awards event;
- **Bat Walk** at the cemetery;
- **1066 Country Ride** event;
- informal discussion on **communication with residents**;

Cllr Holmes - currently finalising, with Cllr Sharman, a **Forum in Netherfield for 29 August at 4.30pm in the Netherfield Shop, Café & Post Office**. This has been widely advertised and feedback will be reported at the next meeting;

Cllr Wheeler - **1066 Country Ride** which raised approximately £600 for the Battle Health Pathway project;

- **Bat Walk** at the cemetery;

Cllr Russell - had circulated his **report, as attached**;

Cllr Would - Chaired the informal **communications meeting** which will be reported to the next ER&TD Committee meeting;

- **Battle Marketing** meeting. Minutes are currently being amended and will then be circulated. An official launch of the website is currently being finalised. The unsuccessful bid to the Great British High Street had been reported;

Cllr Cook - presented the Allotment awards at the **Battle in Bloom event**;

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- **Run on the Rec** event which raised funds for the Battle Health Pathway project;
- informal discussion on **communication with residents**;

Cllr Favell - **report circulated, as attached**;  
- **Chamber of Commerce** draft minutes for the meeting on 15 July attached.

## 15. Future agenda items / matters to note

As previously agreed, Members will hold a **BTC Awareness Campaign**. The first will be held on the **Abbey Green on Friday 20 September**. Cllrs Cook, Favell and Wheeler agreed to support this. All Councillors available to take part should contact the Clerk to ensure 2 Councillors are present at all times.

Cllr Favell highlighted a P&T traditional **Christmas meal** that Members had suggested should be offered to all Councillors. All agreed that this year all Councillors will be invited.

- Card payment facility
- Short term bonds

## 16. Date of next meeting: Tuesday, 17 September 2019

*Cllrs Dixon and Field and a member of the public left the meeting.*

*Cllr Russell repeated his interest in the following item.*

### 3. Confidential Item from previous meeting

Members agreed amendments to the notes. This will be circulated.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.32pm

CLLR G FAVELL  
CHAIRMAN