



Battle Town Council



Minutes of the COUNCIL MEETING held on TUESDAY, 16 JULY 2019 at
The Almonry, High Street, Battle at 7.30pm

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

In Attendance: County Cllr K Field, C Harris (Town Clerk) and four members of the public.

Public Question Time

Bev Marks confirmed that the Market Square clock is finally showing the correct time.

Paul Redstone updated the Council on the current situation with the attempt to provide an external ATM in the High Street. He congratulated Cllr Field on her efforts to persuade Rother District Council to waive Business Rates on the machine and confirmed that Huw Merriman MP had submitted a Private Members Bill to force Banks to provide one ATM in a Town. This was not passed but has encouraged action. He reported that the Link network provider is keen to explore options and has agreed to subsidise an ATM in Battle. Various sites had been considered but it was felt that the previous NatWest building remained the strongest option. He highlighted the current planning issues and requested the Council's support to persuade RDC to accept the necessary changes to the internal building to enable a change of use.

1. **Apologies for absence** – Cllr L Samms.
2. **Disclosure of interest** – Cllrs A Brown, J Gyngell, A Russell and D Wheeler declared an interest in item 13.
3. **Minutes of the Council meeting held on 18 June 2019** were agreed and duly signed by Cllr Favell.

5. Reports from County Councillor and District Councillors

County

Cllr Field reported that a further £20m of cuts are still required.

District

Cllr Field confirmed that discussions had been undertaken with the Conservation Officer and others in relation to the removal of internal walls and the safe at the old NatWest building to enable Costa Coffee to move into the premises. The Conservation Officer was also unhappy at the reinstallation of the ATM. Cllr Field confirmed that the façade would not be affected by any internal alterations and it was felt that many were modern additions. Cllr Gyngell, Chairman of Planning & Transport Committee was invited to a meeting with Planning Officers at the Bexhill Town Hall to discuss further.

4. Report from Town Clerk

- Due to the urgent nature, information relating to the planning issues for **Costa at the NatWest** building had been circulated to all Members. Members agreed to write to RDC stating "The Town Council supports the removal of the safe and the other changes to the interior that are necessary to facilitate a change in business use. It remains very keen for the exterior ATM to be re-instated".
- Thanks were expressed to Councillors that represented the Council at the **Battle's Big Event**. This was extremely successful in promoting activities and functions. It was agreed that the Council should attend this annual event.

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- The **statue information board** has been delayed due to sourcing appropriate posts. This will be located on the bed opposite the kebab shop, at the entrance/exist to the Market Square.
- Malcolm Johnston at RDC had confirmed that an 8 week invitation period for **Rother's CIL fund** is the standard time-frame and that the aim is for only projects 'ready to go' to be submitted for funding.
- The Architect contracted to produce the **structural, condition and roof surveys for the Almonry** had reported that, due to ill health, these will not be available this week, as agreed.

6. Correspondence and communications received post agenda publication

A **letter of thanks** from the **Battle Twinning Association** for the **welcome reception** for the hosts and visitors from St Valery sur Somme.

An **invitation to all Councillors** to the Institution and Induction of The Reverend Lee Christopher James Duckett as 48th Dean of Battle on **Thursday 26 September** at 7.30m at St Mary the Virgin Church.

7. Draft minutes and recommendations from Committee meetings:

- The draft Minutes of the **External Relations & Town Development** meeting on **2 July 2019** were tabled. As they had not been circulated prior to the meeting, it was agreed that these would be formally noted at the next meeting. **Cllr Would proposed that, to encourage a wider resident attendance, the Parish Assembly be held on Saturday 25 April 2020 at 6pm, preceded by a "community event". This was agreed.**
- The draft Minutes of the **Planning & Transport** meeting on **9 July 2019** were tabled. As they had not been circulated prior to the meeting, it was agreed that these would be formally noted at the next meeting. **Cllr Gyngell proposed that, as the Battle Neighbourhood Plan is moving towards Regulation 14 and more decisions would be required, the Battle Civic Parish Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group should report direct to Full Council. This was agreed.**

8. Battle Health Pathway project

The Clerk confirmed that the tender process, in accordance with the Council's Financial Regulations, had been completed for the Battle Health Pathway project. She confirmed that 5 tenders had been received and duly considered by Cllr Favell, Chairman of Council, Mrs Sue Burton, BHP Project Manager and the Clerk. Three contractors had been invited to interview with the same panel. After clarification on one point raised, and a slight amendment to the surface dressing, **the panel recommend the tender in principle, subject to grant funding, from CJ Thorne & Co at a cost of £244,038.95. This was agreed.** The Clerk was asked to clarify appropriate wording to ensure no legal or binding commitment is conveyed to the proposed contractor in communication of the Council's decision.

9. Rother District Council's Community Infrastructure Levy fund

The Clerk had circulated to Members information received from RDC confirming that projects must cost in excess of £100,000; be for infrastructure; and ready to action. It was noted that many of the items discussed at the previous meeting would not comply with these conditions. **Members agreed that the Battle Health Pathway and Cycle Skills Area, as one project, should be submitted to RDC for CIL funding.**

10. Payments and receipts for June 2019

The income and expenditure report, as attached, had been circulated. Members noted income £10,813.07 and expenditure £30,185.25; both net of account transfers.

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11. Reports from representatives of the Council and other reports

- Cllr Davies - **Battle Twinning Association** at which the St Valery visit and the welcome reception had been discussed;
- assisted on the Council's display at **Battle's Big Event**. Stabilisers for the boards are required for windy conditions;
- Cllr A Brown - **BCPNPSG** meetings;
- **Footpath familiarisations** walk with Bev Marks;
 - assisted on the Council's display at **Battle's Big Event**, which was very successful with encouraging feedback on current projects, particularly the café on the rec. A gazebo for hot weather is necessary;
- Cllr Sharman - assisted on the Council's display at **Battle's Big Event** which had been well received;
- **Beautiful Battle** meeting at which the new site for the statue information board had been welcomed;
 - had met with the **Netherfield Shop/Café owner** with Cllr Holmes. It was suggested that a local forum group be arranged to encourage more linked working to improve the area;
- Cllr Holmes - as reported by Cllr Sharman; a very constructive meeting with the **Shop/Café owner**;
- Introduced himself to the **Museum** and would be attending his first meeting next week;
 - **Footpath familiarisation** walk which was extremely helpful;
- Cllr Wheeler - **BCPNPSG** meetings;
- assisted on the Council's display at **Battle's Big Event**;
 - **Sussex & Surry Association of Local Council's training** which was useful but repeated a previous session;
 - The **Almonry garden tidy** in preparation of the South & South East in Bloom judging;
 - The **Wildlife Meadow** clear up at Caldbec Hill;
- Cllr B Brown - **SSALC training** at which information on the benefits of being a Competent Council had been highlighted: more powers in relation to transport, services and housing;
- **Battle Area Sports Centre** meeting. The notes will be presented to Environment Committee;
 - **Wildlife Meadow Group** meeting;
 - assisted at the **Twinning Associations** welcome reception;
- Cllr Russell - had circulated his **report, as attached**. He highlighted items for discussion from the **Heritage Charter WG**;
- **SSALC training**;
- Cllr Gyngell - weeding at the **Almonry garden**, prior to the SSEiB judging;
- **Footpath familiarisation** walk, which was gratefully presented by Bev Marks;
 - **Battle Festival** which would be launching the Scarecrow Festival at the end of the week with 30 scarecrows erected around the town;

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- Cllr Would
- **Battle Memorial Hall Committee** that had received new curtains through a donation. There had been major refurbishments and, due to the efforts of the new manager, had many regular bookings. However, the building is in need for a new roof;
 - assisted on the Council's display at **Battle's Big Event**. Found that the new projects are welcomed; there are many new people with young children moving into Battle; teenagers have good ideas as many currently go to Bexhill and Tunbridge Wells;
 - **Air Cadets AGM**, as a parent, and other youth groups in preparation for the Youth Forum in September;
- Cllr Cook
- A **BHP fundraising** coffee morning at Nationwide;
 - **Claverham Community College** Youth Forum meetings;
 - carried out **allotment judging** with Cllr B Brown;
 - the **CCC consultation** on the new build. It was alarming to find that no allowance has been made for the increase in numbers in line with new planned development;
 - **Chamber of Commerce** meeting at which it was highlighted that there is a lack of communication between groups;
- Cllr Kiloh
- **weeding at the Almonry and Cherry Gardens** in preparation for SSEiB judging. The need to plan further in advance was highlighted. It was agreed that the areas should look at their best all year round and not just for judging. Accompanied the judges on their tour of Battle;
 - The **welcome reception** for the Twinning Associations;
 - The **Civic meeting** with Deputy Mayor M Bocquet of St Valery sur Somme to encourage links with different groups to work together to improve facilities. This will be discussed by the ER&TD Committee;
- Cllr Favell
- **report circulated, as attached**;
 - **Chamber of Commerce** had asked to be informed of Beautiful Battle's chosen floral colour scheme for the town;

12. Future agenda items / matters to note

Cllr Favell thanked Cllr Kiloh and the Clerk for their work in submitting the **Heritage Action Zone** application. She also thanked the Clerk and Paula Williams from BRITISH design BRITISH made for the **Great British High Street** application. It was noted that minutes being delayed were the consequence of these applications.

CONFIDENTIAL ITEM

13. Formal complaint

This was comprehensively discussed and a response agreed.

14. Date of next meeting: Tuesday, 20 August 2019

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.50pm

CLLR G FAVELL
CHAIRMAN