



# Battle Town Council



MINUTES of the COUNCIL MEETING held at 7.30pm  
on Tuesday, 16 July 2013 at  
The Almonry, High Street, Battle

**PRESENT:** Cllr R Bye – Chairman

**ALSO:** Cllrs C Bishop, J Carter, Mrs P Fisher, D Furness, Mrs J Gyngell,  
R Harris, Mrs M Howell, R Jessop, Mrs M Kiloh, Ms M-L Neill,  
Ms J Ormonde-Butler, M Palmer, Mrs S Pry and D Wilson.

## Public Question Time

Tony Perkins presented a detailed proposal for a **tennis “development centre”** at the recreation ground, the principal element being a rebound fence. He asked that the Council’s support should be given at an early stage in order that he can pursue grant options. In the meantime he is also seeking public endorsement of his idea. In order to expedite the Council’s opinion it was agreed, at Cllr Jessop’s suggestion, that it be placed as an item on the next Council meeting agenda. The proposed location will be inspected on the forthcoming Estates Committee tour. Cllr Ms Neill underlined the importance of ensuring that, in the event that the project goes ahead, appropriate management and maintenance arrangements are put in place.

The hope that **more candidates** might come forward to stand for **election to the Town Council** was expressed by a member of the public.

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1. **Apologies for Absence** – Cllrs J Boryer and J Eldridge.

2. **Disclosure of Interest** – In the event that the allotments are discussed under item 11 Cllr Carter declared a potential interest as an allotment holder.

3. **Minutes of the Council Meeting** held on 18 June 2013. Cllr Carter proposed approval of the minutes, seconded by Cllr Mrs Howell. This was agreed and they were duly signed.

## 4. **Matters Arising from Previous Meetings** –

Cllr Ms Ormonde-Butler had attended the **Parish Conference** which she felt had helpfully allowed more time for discussion than on previous occasions. The Clerk said that he had just received a summary of the conference from the District Council which he was asked to circulate to all Council Members.

Following up the Council agreement given in March 2012, and in discussion with Cllrs Bye and Harris, the Clerk had now arranged the purchase of a **new trailer and replacement tractor** at a total cost of £9400. This included the part exchange value of the old tractor.

## 5. **Police Matters**

No representatives from the police were present. Members had received the usual **crime updates for June/July** and no questions were raised.

Cllr Furness has yet to obtain agreement for the Council to become a full member of the **Safer Rother Partnership**. He is approaching District Cllr Patten on the matter.

## 6. **Report from County Councillor**

Cllr Field had sent her apologies and said that, had she been present, she would only have reminded those present about the further increase in the cost of the **Link Road**.

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## 7. Report from District Councillors

Cllr Davies had sent her apologies.

Referring to matters discussed at the latest Cabinet meeting Cllr Dixon said it had, after all, been agreed to continue to support the **Bexhill Town Forum** and that thoughts about an **electoral review** had been abandoned for the time being. Regarding the **Core Strategy** he emphasised that the revised housing numbers are still to be ratified by the Inspector.

## 8. Correspondence & Communications

A **request** had been received from the **Twinning Association** to host their guests from **St Valery-sur-Somme** on 23 August. **Cllr Bye** proposed that expenditure up to **£100** be approved for this event under section 137 of the **Local Government Act 1972**. This was seconded by **Cllr Ms Neill** and agreed unanimously.

The Clerk said that the **£30,000 Business Bond** is due for renewal. **Cllr Bye** proposed that renewal should take place. This was seconded by **Cllr Carter** and agreed unanimously.

The Clerk drew attention to the fact that a previously arranged **Chairmanship briefing session** to be held at East Horsley Village Hall is being rearranged for 24 July. Any Member interested should let him know as quickly as possible.

9. **Minutes of the Planning Committee meetings held on 19 June and 13 July** were reported by Cllr Jessop and noted.

10. **Minutes of the Estates Committee meeting held on 25 June** were reported by Cllr Mrs Fisher and noted. **She drew attention to the expenditure of £2400 on urgent tree work and invited Council to approve this retrospectively. This was agreed.** She also mentioned that she is arranging a **visit to all the areas** for which the **Estates Committee** is responsible. This will now take place on 13 August and all Council Members are welcome.

Cllrs Jessop and Boryer have now met regarding a **strategy plan** which will be reported to the next Estates Committee meeting.

11. **Minutes of the Services Committee meeting held on 9 July** were reported by Cllr Mrs Kiloh and noted. **She proposed the recommendation that the street lighting maintenance contract be renewed for a further 3 years. This was seconded by Cllr Mrs Fisher and agreed unanimously.**

12. **List of Payments and Receipts** was noted.

## 13. Reports from Representatives of the Council

Cllrs Bye, Harris, Mrs Kiloh and Mrs Pry had assisted the work staff in **preparing the cemetery** for the forthcoming South & South East in Bloom inspection.

Cllrs Bye, Mrs Pry, Bishop, Boryer and Wilson had represented Council in the **Bonfire Boys Carnival Parade**.

Cllr Mrs Kiloh - had attended 2 meetings of the **Beautiful Battle Committee**;

Cllr Mrs Fisher - attended the opening of the recreated **orchard garden at Battle Abbey**;  
- at a meeting of the **Sports Centre Committee** had heard that repair costs for the swimming pool are awaited in the

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light of which a decision will be taken as to whether or not it would be cost effective to go ahead with them;

Cllr Jessop

- had chaired the **Parish Conference**;
- had escorted the judges in the **Scarecrow Competition**;
- had attended the **RALC AGM**;
- reported from the latest **Chamber meeting** that the police are concerned about drug dealing in the Market Square; that consideration is being given as to whether Rother should be requested to change the parking regime in the 2 car parks; and that relationships with English Heritage continue to be positive;
- had attended the **ESALC Board meeting** earlier that day. He will circulate a summary of the proceedings;

Cllr Ms Ormonde-Butler

- had attended the **Parish Conference**;

Cllr Mrs Pry

- had also attended the opening of the **Battle Abbey orchard garden project**;

## 14. Mayor's Engagements

The Mayor had attended an **evening reception at the High Sheriff's residence**; the opening of the **walled garden project at Battle Abbey**; the final **SCITT graduation ceremony** at Battle Abbey and awarded the certificates; the **Chairman of East Sussex Summer reception** at Michelham Priory; the **Battle Abbey School end of year school service and prize giving**; had welcomed a group of **Rotary cyclists** who are cycling around Kent raising money helping to eradicate polio.

## 15. Matters for Information/Future Items for Agenda

The Clerk said that the Assistant Clerk wishes to make a minor **amendment to her contract** to provide for 4 day working. This will need to be approved by Council at the next meeting.

The Clerk reminded Members that the **Battle in Bloom awards evening** will be 1 August in the Almonry garden starting at about 6pm.

Concluding the meeting the Chairman invited Members to share in a **vote of thanks for the Clerk** whose work had been much appreciated over the last 13 years.

## 16. Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday, 20 August 2013

The meeting closed at 8.30pm

CLLR R BYE  
Chairman

