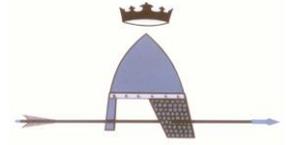




Battle Town Council



MINUTES of the EXTERNAL RELATIONS AND TOWN DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
held on TUESDAY, 13 DECEMBER 2016 at The Almonry, High Street, Battle at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs A Ratcliffe (Chairman), G Favell, P Fisher, D Furness, R Jessop and M Palmer.

In attendance: Cllr M Kiloh and Carol Harris (Town Clerk)

1. **Apologies for absence** – Cllr A Russell.
2. **Disclosure of interest** – None.
3. **To approve and sign the minutes of the previous meeting held on 1 November 2016.**
These were approved by Members and duly signed by the Chairman.

4. **Heritage Arts Trail**

Cllr Ratcliffe reminded the Committee that Council had supported the formation of Battle Visual Arts Development Committee over 18 months ago. An application had been made to the Heritage Lottery Fund for the formation of an Arts Trail which has been successful and monies have been received to take this project forward. As there had been no representatives elected at this year's meeting, Members were asked to consider recommending to Full Council suitable Councillors to attend the BVADC meetings. Members debated how many representatives should be appointed.

Members agreed to recommend to Full Council that:

- **the Town Clerk/RFO be invited to attend in an advisory capacity;**
- **3 representatives be nominated with any two attending each meeting;**
- **Cllr Reeves, Cllr Furness and Cllr Russell be proposed as Council representatives on the BVADC.**

(Post meeting note: Cllr Furness has decided to withdraw from this recommendation)

Members agreed that it was important to ensure all actions are completed in an honest, open and transparent manner to achieve targets for the benefit of all of Battle. The Clerk was asked to request that the next meeting of the BVADC be after the Full Council meeting.

5. **Tourist information**

The Chairman confirmed that Rother District Council had been approached for match funding to provide a TIP in Battle. This is ongoing. The Clerk confirmed that there had been no response to the request for interest placed in the Observer.

6. **Christmas lights**

The Clerk confirmed that two quotes had been received; although clarification is awaited to ensure all items are included. She is also awaiting an indication from Battle Chamber of Commerce in relation to the income and expenditure experienced in the last few years. **Members agreed to recommend to F&GP a budget of £10,000 for the Christmas lights.**

7. **Events sub-committee**

The minutes of the inaugural meeting were noted. Cllr Jessop confirmed that he had stepped down from the Scarecrow competition organisation and the Chamber had suggested that the Town Council might like to take this on. Cllr Jessop advised that he would be happy to seek traders' support but that all other aspects would need to be provided by others. The Clerk was asked to

Battle Town Council

approach local youth groups such as: Scouts; Air Cadets; Police Cadet; Guides for volunteer assistance.

8. Annual Concorde 1066 day on 14 October

The Committee noted that members of the Concorde 1066 group had attended the Events sub-Committee with the proposal of an annual Concorde 1066 day. Cllr Kiloh confirmed that there had been no suggestion of an appropriate event. After some discussion, **Cllr Ratcliffe proposed that this should not be taken forward at this time. This was agreed.**

9. Twinning relations between St. Valery and Battle

Cllr Russell had been contacted by Battle Twinning Association requesting closer association with the Council. **Cllr Favell proposed that Cllr Fisher be recommended to Council as representative to the Battle Twinning Association. This was agreed.**

10. Website

The Chairman reported that he had discussed the issue of the website with the Clerk and all appeared to be in order.

11. Defibrillators

Cllr Favell reminded Members that a new defibrillator has been provided at the Memorial Halls. **Cllr Favell proposed that £1,000 for the purchase of a defibrillator at Netherfield be recommended to F&GP for the 2017/18 budget. This was agreed.** The Clerk was asked to contact the Netherfield Village Shop to obtain permission in principle to the placing of a defibrillator at their premise.

12. Writing Competition

Cllr Favell had circulated a report highlighting the success of the writing competition and that there had been no cost to the Council as the result of a grant from RDC and various generous donations. She confirmed that all prizes had now been awarded and that there will be an article in the forthcoming newsletter. **Cllr Favell proposed that a Working Group to formed to continue the competition with a title of "Magic Battle" next year with a budget of £50. This was agreed.**

13. Great British High Street Competition

Cllr Ratcliffe reported that this is a national competition for market towns with under 10k residents. He agreed to obtain further information and bring it to the next meeting. Cllr Furness confirmed that a Battle trader had indicated that business was much improved on late night shopping and that there was optimism of further occupants of vacant shops in light of the reduction to business rates next year.

14. Marketing groups

Cllr Ratcliffe reported that the new Battle Guide has been circulated and that a strategic review was announced at the 1066 Exec Board meeting. It was suggested that the addition of other languages be investigated for the Geo tourist app.

15. Financial matters

The latest performance against budget was noted.

Members agreed to recommend to F&GP a Hospitality budget of £1,000 for 2017/18.

Other items as agreed previously in these minutes:

- **£10,000 for the Christmas lights**

Battle Town Council

- **£1,000 for the purchase of a defibrillator at Netherfield**

These items are in addition to **£6,000 contribution towards a Tourist Information Point**, as agreed at the previous meeting.

16. Matters for information / future agenda items

Cllr Furness reported that the memorial statue has been well received and that permission and costs for floodlights is now being sought. **Cllr Furness proposed that Full Council be recommended to take ownership of the statue. This was agreed.** He confirmed that discussions had taken place with ESCC in relation to the sponsorship signs and it had been suggested that these could be removed with the refund cost of sponsorship being taken from the usual claim for maintenance charges. **Cllr Furness proposed that the sponsorship signs be removed and that no further signs be erected. This was agreed.**

17. Date of next meeting: Tuesday 31 January 2017

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.55pm.

CLLR A RATCLIFFE
Chairman