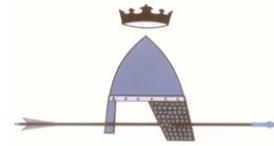




Battle Town Council



Minutes of the COUNCIL MEETING held on TUESDAY, 21 AUGUST 2018 at
The Almonry, High Street, Battle at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs D Furness (Chairman), J Boryer, A Brown, V Cook, M Dass, C Davies, G Favell, P Fisher, J Gyngell, M Howell, M Kiloh, A Russell, D Wheeler and I Williams.

In Attendance: District Cllr K Dixon, C Harris (Town Clerk)

Public Question Time

None.

1. **Apologies for absence** – Cllr A Ratcliffe.
2. **Disclosure of interest** – None.
3. **Minutes of the Council meeting held on 17 July 2018** were agreed and duly signed by Cllr Furness.

4. Presentation on the Syrian Refugee Resettlement Programme

The Chairman welcomed Florence Grover, Refugee Resettlement Officer from Rother District Council and 2 members of the Crowhurst for Syrian Refugees group to the meeting. They highlighted the Government pledge in 2014 to rehome 20,000 refugees by 2020. Within the Rother area there are 5 Councils involved with 8 families currently resettled. Syrian families are fully vetted for suitability prior to travel and RDC guarantee rent for a one year period. Private rental accommodation is sought. It was emphasised that integration is encouraged and beneficial for both sides. Councillors felt that this scheme should be encouraged and recommended that the positive nature should be more widely promoted. The Chairman thanked the presenters for the comprehensive information.

5. The Clerk's report

Further to discussion in relation to the planting of the donated Judas tree, Beautiful Battle had recommended that within the Almonry garden would be a more suitable position: the reason for the silver beech dying was unknown; there is a great deal of shrubbery on that side of the wall; and there is more opportunity for maintenance within the garden. **Members agreed to the siting of the Judas tree within the front garden, along the wall backing the Market Square area.**

6. Reports from County Councillor and District Councillors

County

Cllr Field had submitted apologies for the meeting and advised that there had been nothing to report.

District

Cllr Dixon reported that the planning application for **Chain Lane** had been withdrawn; it had also been advised that the approach to the area is private land and access had been denied. He confirmed that District Councillors will now be informed of **Tree Preservation Orders** and that the **Tourism Group Task and Finish Group** has completed.

7. Correspondence and communications received post agenda publication

A letter has been received from the **Museum** requesting a new 25 year Lease be drawn up with additional clauses in relation to notice period and subsequent alternative accommodation. This will be discussed at the next Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting.

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An email from Sussex Association of Local Councils advising of a meeting with **Giles York, Chief Constable of Sussex Police** on 16 November. They have asked that any strategic or unresolved topics be advised by 2 November for inclusion.

Confirmation had been received from Battle Muffins that a generous donation would be made towards the cost of the **Bowl Beacon** that would enable future use at appropriate events. This will now be ordered at a cost of £495.

8. Draft minutes and recommendations from Committee meetings:

- **Finance & General Purposes** minutes of 24 July 2018 were presented by Cllr Furness and noted.
- **Environment** minutes of 7 August 2018 were presented by Cllr Favell and noted. **Members agreed the recommendation that a bench to surround the Oak tree in memory of Richard Jessop be purchased from Ear Marked Reserves at a cost of £1995.**
- **Planning & Transport** meeting of 14 August 2018 were presented by Cllr Gyngell and noted.

9. Boundary wall at Tills Courtyard

Members were reminded that the owner of Tills Yard had reported joint responsibility for the wall backing onto George Meadow. This is 'leaning' and the owner is seeking a contribution towards the cost of repair. Despite writing to deny responsibility a further letter has been received from the Solicitor seeking reasons for this claim. The Clerk reported that research into boundary walls confirmed that piers are built on the owners' side. Photographs of the boundary wall were circulated highlighting the piers on Tills Courtyard side only. Land Registry documents did not confirm boundary ownership at this section of George Meadow but clearly showed ownership at properties further along the same boundary as not part of the Council's responsibility. The Clerk was asked to confirm that the Council deny responsibility for the boundary wall based on this information.

10. Funeral Exhibition

Members agreed to accept an invitation to **promote Battle Cemetery at a Funeral Exhibition in Uckfield on 13 September**. Cllrs Kiloh and Favell offered to represent the Council at this event.

11. 'International Market'

The Clerk reported that 2 retailers and the President of Battle Chamber of Commerce had expressed discontent at the 2 day event on the Abbey Green. As a result of contact from a retailer, English Heritage(EH) had also raised concern at the quality of the market and indicated that more detail should be sought prior to permission in future. The Clerk confirmed that residents' comments had been very positive, excluding one stall. It was highlighted that the Market organiser had been given permission only shortly prior to the event and may therefore not had sufficient time to arrange publicity or specific stalls. Council agreed that authority to use the area should continue to be sought initially from EH and any permitted activity notified to the Chamber of Commerce.

12. Suite 6 at the Almonry

The Clerk reported that there had been one viewing of the vacant office equipment which had resulted in an offer at the asking rent of £3000pa by a provider of an independent bridal brand. The space would mainly be used as a showroom and to send out orders to stockists. Small alterations to dresses may be carried out. Visitors would be limited to three per appointment. **By a majority, Members agreed to accept this offer subject to the lease including a limit to the number of visitors and to the tenant paying a substantial contribution towards the Council's legal costs.**

13. Memorial board

Members were reminded that a budget of £600 had been approved for the provision of a Memorial board to be placed in the Memorial Hall. The Clerk had been asked to investigate the cost of a board to match

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the design of the existing Memorial board. An estimate had been received in the sum of £2950. In light of the cost and the time restraint, **Members agreed by a majority to place the order for a Memorial board in the same design as the Community board recently installed.**

14. Agreement with Beautiful Battle

The Clerk reminded members that the existing Agreement includes at para 7 a contribution of £800 towards watering costs. It had been agreed that this sum would be absorbed by the Council. Additionally, para 10 allows for “any unspent provision in the budget will be carried forward to the following year and added to the sums referred to above”. She confirmed that this is contrary to audit regulations. Members agreed that both these statements be removed. However, any specific agreed expenditure could be carried forward to an Ear Marked Reserve.

15. Payments and receipts for July 2018

The income and expenditure report, as attached, had been circulated. Members noted income of £4,876.50 and expenditure £37,071.25; both net of account transfers.

16. Reports from representatives of the Council

- Cllr Boryer
- a meeting of the **Beautiful Battle Committee** at which all appears well;
 - the **Battle in Bloom** awards event;
 - a discussion with the tree surgeon to discuss work to the Ash tree at the recreation ground;
- Cllr Fisher
- the **Twinning Association** meeting where arrangements for the forthcoming St Valery Visit was discussed;
- Cllr Davies
- **Battle in Bloom** awards event;
- Cllr Gyngell
- **Battle in Bloom** awards event;
 - apologised that she had been unable to attend the **Memorial Hall** meeting but reported that their Chairman would like to be present at the next Wedding Venue Working Group meeting to discuss working together for Weddings etc;
- Cllr Wheeler
- the SSALC **Councillors’ training day** which had been very informative;
- Cllr Favell
- **Recreation Ground Working Group** meeting. The notes of which will be presented to the Environment Committee;
 - carried out **interviews for the Grounds Maintenance position**. A suitable candidate had been agreed and will be starting employment on 3 September;
 - **Battle in Bloom** event;
 - the SSALC **Councillors’ training day**;
 - **Battle Health Pathway**, minutes are available on request but will be reported to Environment Committee;
 - **Senlac Allotment Association’s** summer BBQ;
 - **Rother Voluntary Action** networking event. It was reported that grants from the Town Council are available;
 - A meeting with a representative of a company providing **Health and Safety procedures and advice**. This will be reported to F&GP;
- Cllr Howell
- **Battle in Bloom** awards event;
 - **Battle Community Neighbourhood Planning Steering Group** meeting;
 - **Rother Association of Local Councils** meeting;

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- CLlr Russell
- **Battle in Bloom** awards event;
 - **Battle Community Neighbourhood Planning Steering Group** meeting. There are now 2 consultants, one provided directly from the Grant funders, assisting on the project. The criteria are being confirmed and site assessments are planned for September.
- CLlr Brown
- **Battle in Bloom** awards event;
 - the SSALC **Councillors' training day**;
- CLlr Dass
- **Battle in Bloom** awards event;
 - the SSALC **Councillors' training day**;
- CLlr Kiloh
- **Battle in Bloom** awards event;
 - several meetings to ensure the **Heritage Lottery Fund** application for **Beyond the Battle** project was completed on time. This had been submitted and a case officer appointed. It will be assessed for value for money and, if agreed, will be taken to the Panel in December;
- CLlr Furness
- **Battle in Bloom** awards event;
 - presented prizes for the **Run on the Rec** event.

Councillors also reported attendance at other meetings at which they did not represent the Council. Several Councillors had supported the **fundraising** event for **the Health Pathway**. Members noted that the **Battle Festival** brochures will soon be available.

17. Information to note/Future agenda items

On behalf of the Council, Cllr Favell thanked Cllr Kiloh on her exceptional work on the application to HLF for the **Beyond the Battle** project.

18. Date of next meeting: Tuesday, 18 September 2018

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.50pm

CLLR D FURNESS
CHAIRMAN