



Battle Town Council



MINUTES of the COUNCIL Meeting held on Tuesday 22 November 2016 at The Almonry, High Street, Battle at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs D Furness (Chairman), C Davies, J Boryer, G Favell, A Russell, P Fisher, M Kiloh, A Ratcliffe, M Howell, R Jessop, J Reeves
In Attendance: County & District Cllr Mrs K Field, District Cllr Mr K Dixon

Immediately prior to the meeting the Mayor welcomed representatives of the various organisations around the town who have helped to make the town as beautiful, lively and as interesting as it is. He was also able to present to the Battle Museum the first pressed 50 pence piece showing the Battle of Hastings along with the mold used to form the press and an explanation which was all framed for display. The Mayor also made a point of thanking the grounds staff and office staff for their exceptional efforts in making the 1066 Commemorations so successful for the Council.

1. **Apologies for Absence** – District Councillor G Curtis

2. **Disclosure of Interests** – None

3. **Minutes of Previous Meeting held on 11 October 2016**

Cllr Jessop proposed approval of the minutes, seconded by Cllr Gyngell and unanimously agreed. These were duly signed by the Chairman.

4. **Reports of County and District Councillors**

County Cllr Kathryn Field congratulated the Council on the great job done on the memorial statue on the roundabout. The continuing funding problems of East Sussex County Council, particularly surrounding social care, were reported and the cancellation of the Education Bill the effects of which would be closely followed.

District Cllr Kevin Dixon reported that two hours free parking in the Market Square car park had been agreed on Saturdays 26 November and 17 December 2016. Concerns had been received about the new ticket machines in the car park and he stated that these were being introduced throughout Rother District. Concerns had been raised about the independence of the new Independent Chair of the Bexhill Community Governance Committee.

5. **Correspondence and Communication**

None reported.

6. **Minutes and Recommendations from Committee Meetings**

Environment : 25 October 2016 – Discussion on whether to vire the balance on the Lund Fund but as there is expenditure still to come it was decided not to move this at present. The cycle trail is to be implemented through the Battle Health Pathway.



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External Relations & Town Development: 1 November 2016 – Next year's budget would include a Tourist Information office, and a notice seeking interest from local businesses was placed in the Battle Observer. Battle Town Council would be responsible for the Christmas lights from 2017 onwards and three quotations for purchasing lighting and the maintenance thereof were being pursued. This would be a costly expense for Council but an activity which enhances the town centre. It may involve an increase in the budget although local businesses could be asked to contribute. Discussions were underway concerning moving the Council noticeboard in Netherfield to the wall by the shop. It was reported that the Events Sub-Committee Terms of Reference had been amended. The Sub-Committee does not have a budget but passes any expenditure to the External Relations & Town Development Committee.

Finance & General Purposes: 8 November 2016 – It was reported that increased spending had been identified and would be reported to the Council meeting in January 2017.

Planning & Transport: 19 October & 2 November 2016 – Minutes of the meeting held on 16 November 2016 will be presented at the next Council meeting. It was confirmed that the Committee recommended objecting to the Darvel Down development. At the next Committee meeting on 30 November 2016 representatives from Battle Abbey School and Battle & Langton School would attend to raise concerns about the traffic in Battle, it was hoped the local MP would also attend. The leading objector to decriminalised parking enforcement at Rother District Council has been invited to attend or to send a senior representative.

7. **Battle Heritage Trail**

The successful bid for £40,000 for a permanent Heritage Trail was reported. The amount related mainly to the laying of the foundations. It was hoped that volunteers would act as guides. A report would be submitted to the External Relations & Town Development Committee in December 2016.

8. **Payments and Receipts**

Information was not available.

9. **Reports from Representatives of the Council**

Councillors reported on the various events attended in the preceding month.

10. **Matters for Information/ Future Agenda Items**

- Deer strikes on A2100. Clerk to contact Brian Banks, Highways Department, East Sussex

County Council with a view to the erection of warning signs.

- Green pathway in Market Square. Complaints about the colour had been received particularly as this was a tourist entry point. To be placed on the agenda of the Planning & Transport Committee. Cllr Jessop agreed to investigate the owner of Market Square via the Town Clerk.



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8. Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday 10 January 2017 at 7.30pm at The Almonry, High Street, Battle.

Confidential Item

Council resolved that pursuant to section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 and because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, the public leave the meeting during consideration of the following staffing matter.

Appointment of Town Clerk

Members received feedback from the Finance & General Purposes Committee on the outcome of the interview and suggested hours of work, probation period and salary. The Committee recommended acceptance of the appointment and employment package. The meeting unanimously approved the appointment.

Meeting closed 8.25pm.

Cllr D Furness
Chairman