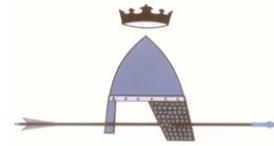




Battle Town Council



Minutes of the COUNCIL MEETING held on TUESDAY, 16 OCTOBER 2018 at
The Almonry, High Street, Battle at 7.30pm

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

In Attendance: County Cllr K Field, District Cllr K Dixon, C Harris (Town Clerk) and one member of the public.

Public Question Time

None.

- 1. Apologies for absence** – Cllrs J Boryer, P Fisher and I Williams.
- 2. Disclosure of interest** – None.
- 3. Minutes of the Council meeting held on 18 September 2018** were, subject to the amendment at item 13 from ~~July~~ to *August*, agreed and duly signed by Cllr Furness.
- 4. Clerk's report**
 - The bowl beacon had now been delivered
 - A response from the solicitor for Tills Yard had not yet been received

5. Reports from County Councillor and District Councillors

County

Cllr Field reported that the recent Cabinet meeting had been cancelled, however, it was acknowledged that **further cuts** are required.

District

Cllr Dixon reported that: at the recent Planning meeting **Marbat, Marley Lane** had been refused, in accordance with BTC comment; the Full Council had agreed the provision **Development and Site Allocations** document ready for public consultation. He highlighted that Battle is relatively excluded due to the emerging Neighbourhood Plan although Marley Lane, at the Sedlescombe end is proposed as an employment site; at Overview & Scrutiny it had been confirmed that there is a **£1.8m deficit** and that some services will need to be reduced and possible increases in garden waste and car park charges. Public toilets could be closed as these are not a statutory duty; Cabinet have put a plan together for the **Blackfriars development** but are still awaiting confirmation of release of funds for the infrastructure road.

6. Correspondence and communications received post agenda publication

The Clerk reported that the **Beyond the Battle application** will not be taken to the Heritage Lottery Grant panel in December: reasons had been given and advice on the new application process in January confirmed. She advised that the Finance & General Purposes Committee will now consider next action. Cllr Kiloh highlighted the change from original plans to develop the building to a full heritage application. She suggested that F&GP consider a return to the former proposals.

Battle Town Council

7. Minutes and agree any recommendations from Committee meetings:

- **Finance & General Purposes** meeting on 25 September 2018 were presented by Cllr Furness and noted.
- **Environment** meeting on 2 October 2018 were presented by Cllr Favell and noted.
- **Planning & Transport** meeting on 9 October 2018 were presented by Cllr Gyngell and noted. She highlighted the item for **Yard Signs** and suggested that any interested Councillors that wished to help with the research on the background to these would be welcome. It was noted that RDC are responsible for road naming and signs.

8. Beautiful Battle

The Clerk reported that, as agreed at the recent BB meeting (minutes previously circulated), a proposal to alter the financial arrangements had been received. Ultimately, BB requested the full budget payment be made direct to BB with an increase of 20% to cover the VAT charge. Members considered the points raised but agreed that it did not make financial sense to alter the existing arrangement.

9. 10 year Licence to Battle Baptist Football Club

The Clerk advised that, as part of the Fit for Battle project, a 10 year Licence for Battle Baptist Football Club is required to satisfy funding sources. She confirmed that the Environment Committee had approved the document as attached. The Clerk highlighted that the use of the facilities are not restricted to sole use and the usual fees would be applied. **Members agreed the Licence Agreement to Battle Baptist Football Club for a 10 year period from 1 May 2018.**

10. Six month report from the Environment Committee

Cllr Favell presented the six month report as attached, in line with the Committee's Terms of Reference. This was noted.

11. List of payments and receipts for September 2018

The income and expenditure report, as attached, had been circulated. Members noted income of £2,967.93 and expenditure £29,225.77; both net of account transfers.

12. Reports from representatives of the Council

Cllr Gyngell - **Recreation Ground Working Group** meeting;

Cllr Ratcliffe - **Battle Neighbourhood Planning Steering Group** meeting;

Cllr Howell - **Rother Association of Local Councils**

Cllr Russell - meeting with Natasha Williams (English Heritage) and the Clerk to discuss plans for **lighting of the beacon** on Abbey Gatehouse tower;

- **Battle Heritage Charter Working Group** at which acceptance of the Heritage Charter by the Town Council was applauded. The second task was to compile a local heritage list which gives some protection to buildings that are not listed by Historic England. Two toll booth houses on the North Trade Road and the police station and old magistrate's court buildings were successfully nominated at this meeting;
- meeting with Principal and Head of English at **Claverham CC** to discuss their possible involvement in Battle's Over event on 11 November. Two pupils one boy, one girl to read the poems which are part of the GCSE English syllabus: The

Battle Town Council

Manhunt and Remain by Simon Armitage are contemporary poems about recent conflicts and are appropriate as they relate to the mental harm such as PTSD which unlike in the earlier World Wars is now recognised as a psychological problem which needs to be addressed. It will be good for the audience which is likely to be of an advanced age to see what the young are currently being taught in school and reflect on how armed conflict can impact on the soldiers of today;

- meeting of **Battle Civil Parish Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group** with Cllr Ratcliffe 4th chair. The meeting with consultant, Donna Moles has been rearranged. The outcome of a survey of local open spaces was tabled but deferred to next meeting to allow input from Bev Marks, Ramblers Association.

Cllr Kiloh

- **Battle Museum** where the replacement of the entrance fee for donations was felt to be a success, approx. 13k visitors this year, acknowledgement of the space restriction and concerns at the security at the rear of the building had been raised;
- **Battle Charities** which highlighted the difficulties in identifying worthy recipients of grant as a result of GDPR;

Cllr Favell

- **Recreation Ground Working Group** at which there was many tasks identified to take forward;
- a **Beautiful Battle** meeting which the minutes had been circulated;
- a photo opportunity with 2 **Claverham Community College** students and **PCSO Pearce-Martin** with the presentation cheque from the Police Property Fund for the Youth Shelter project;

Cllr Furness

- two **Friends of Battle Cemetery** coffee morning which had been well received;
- meetings with the **Heads of the 3 local schools** who have welcomed teachers from Sierra Leone recently to show English teaching methods. Teachers from B&L will be reciprocating next year;
- meetings with English Heritage, MP and industry leaders to discuss the bid for the **Bayeux Tapestry** to be displayed at Battle Abbey. A bid has been made that includes proposals for spectacular buildings to house the Tapestry. Communication has also been ongoing with a well-connected native French resident who has confirmed that the Mayor of Bayeux has been instructed not to get involved with discussions on this matter.

Cllrs Furness, Gyngell and Davies reported on attendance at many **Festival** events and expressed thanks to those that have supported.

Cllrs Brown, Cook, Kiloh and Wheeler attended the **Gala Night** fundraiser for the Health Pathway Project. Praise for a fun evening was expressed to Cllrs Favell and Cook, the Battle Guides and Alice Osborne, a student from Battle Abbey School.

13. Future agenda items / matters to note

The Clerk reminded Members that responses for attendance at both the traditional Remembrance Day Service and the Battle's Over events on 11 November are required as soon as possible.

14. Date of next meeting: Tuesday, 20 November 2018

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.10pm

CLLR D FURNESS
CHAIRMAN