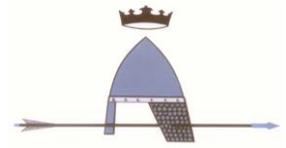




# Battle Town Council



Minutes of the COUNCIL MEETING held on TUESDAY, 19 MARCH 2019 at  
The Almonry, High Street, Battle at 7.30pm

**Present:** Cllrs G Favell (Chairman), J Boryer, V Cook, M Dass, C Davies, G Favell, P Fisher, M Howell, M Kiloh, A Ratcliffe and D Wheeler.

**In Attendance:** County Cllr K Field, Cllr K Dixon, C Harris (Town Clerk) and eight members of the public.

## Public Question Time

The tenant of Suite 3 of **the Almonry** had circulated a letter and reiterated her concern at the confusion and misinformation being circulated in relation to the works at the property; particularly in relation to when her tenancy might be terminated. She confirmed that although she has known of the plans for several years, she requests Council assurance of due notice. The Chairman confirmed that F&GP will be discussing the detail of the proposals at next week's meeting and will formally respond thereafter.

*1 member of the public left the meeting.*

- 1. Apologies for absence** – Cllrs Brown, Furness, Gyngell and Russell.
- 2. Disclosure of interest** – None.
- 3. Minutes of the Council meeting held on 19 February 2019** were agreed and duly signed by Cllr Favell.
- 4. Report from the Clerk**  
Sussex Association of Local Councils had advised that formal tender quotes are required prior to submission of an **application to Public Works Loan Board**. A meeting has been arranged with the architect for 25 March to consider appropriate tender documents.

Rother District Council Cabinet have agreed the principle of **office sharing in Suite 1**. The proposed Heads of Terms will be presented at F&GP next week. RDC may require adaptations for accessibility and details are awaited.

## 5. County Councillor and District Councillors

### County

Cllr Field confirmed there was nothing to report on County business.

### District

Cllr Field reported that she had requested a notice at the previous **Help Point** advising of the Customer Service facility at the Library on a Friday.

Cllr Dixon(KD) advised that there had been several meetings including Planning which had approved **25 houses at North Trade Road** and **4 chalet bungalows at 25 Tollgates**. He confirmed that Cabinet had agreed: a grant of **£25k for the Battle Health Pathway**: relocation of a **Customer Service Representative** to the Almonry; and **4 areas within the Battle** area are included for consideration as areas to **increase funds**: land behind Watch Oak; Kingsmead; lower Market Road car park and Netherfield woods. The penultimate area was of concern in light of the agreed Civil Parking Enforcement forcing cars back into car parks. KD reported that the **Council tax** had been agreed with Battle's proportion now at £317.06 for Band D properties; this is £95.95 more than Bexhill and £16

# Battle Town Council

more than Rye. He reported that an Extraordinary meeting to discuss **development at Bexhill** had resulted in no decision and is referred back to Planning. Finally, KD confirmed that **industrial units in Beeching Road** are being purchased to provide rental income.

## 6. Correspondence and communications received post agenda publication

As highlighted during PQT, a letter from the tenant of **Suite 3** highlighted concerns of her position in light of uncertain plans being circulated for the Almonry. This will be addressed by F&GP.

Confirmation that the Council had been successful in obtaining a National Lottery Awards for All grant of £10,000 to sponsor **The Big Blue event for Battle Festival**. The Clerk confirmed that there is no cost to the Council for this event.

A request for assistance from **Netherfield Village Hall and Recreation Ground Committee** for a **dog waste bin**. Although part of RDC's remit, they had indicated no further bins could be added due to the change in contractor. The Clerk reminded Members that Council have no bins in Netherfield and therefore no cause to undertake regular visits to Netherfield. She suggested that a compromise with RDC may be possible and the Clerk was authorised to contact RDC to attempt to resolve this matter.

## 7. To receive draft minutes and agree any recommendations from Committee meetings:

- The minutes of **External Relations & Town Development** on 5 March 2019 were presented by Cllr Kiloh and noted.
- The minutes of **Planning & Transport** on 12 March 2019 had been circulated and noted. Cllr Kiloh asked that the item "Parking issues and declassification of A2100" be an agenda item for May. In response to a question, Cllr Dixon confirmed that CIL funds are calculated on floorspace, not number of units and that the 4 chalet bungalows recently approved would produce £164k Community Infrastructure Levy funds.

## 8. Website

Members requested that: links to other websites be included eg Battle Neighbourhood Plan; photographs be added to the gallery; the Town Mayor's Charity and Writing Competition be updated. The Clerk reported that Survey Monkey may be added to the website at a cost of £125pa. This was agreed.

## 9. Rother Valley Railway

This was discussed and Cllr Dixon advised of background information to this project. Members agreed to defer to the next meeting when more information may be presented.

## 10. SALC meeting with Giles York, Chief Constable, Sussex Police

Members had no recommendations but asked that the Clerk circulate notes from previous meetings to identify the type of issues raised.

## 11. Payments and receipts for February 2019

The income and expenditure report, as attached, had been circulated. Members noted income £5,351.83 and expenditure £21,785.63; both net of account transfers.

## 12. Reports from representatives of the Council

Cllr Howell - reported on a meeting at the **House of Commons** with Kit Malthouse MP, Housing Minister, John Howell MP and Huw Merriman MP to discuss Neighbourhood Plan matters. She confirmed that this was a very worthwhile meeting that highlighted

# Battle Town Council

the housing numbers are not sacrosanct and may be challenged. They are encouraging Planning Inspectors not to be negative in their considerations of local neighbourhood plans;

- Cllr Kiloh
- had circulated a report on the **Battle Museum of History** meeting at which she had emphasised the difference between the Lottery Bid, which had been for a Heritage Education Centre, and the BTC application for a capital loan for the renovation and extension of the Almonry. Other matters raised included finance, the museum shop, analysis of visitor returns and a report on use of social media, volunteers and their forward plan. Concern had been raised at the difficulty in recruiting and retaining volunteers. There will be a pre-season reception on 28 March and a reception for contributors to the book "Battle at War" (by Adrian and Sarah Hall) on 10 April;

- Cllr Boryer
- a **Beautiful Battle** meeting. Minutes to be presented to F&GP;
  - **Strengthening Local Relationships** meeting. Minutes to be presented to P&T;
  - **Battle Health Pathway** meetings. Minutes to be presented to Environment;

- Cllr Ratcliffe
- **Battle Civic Parish Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group(BCPNPSG)** meetings. Minutes to be presented to P&T. He confirmed that Regulation 14 should be reached by 14 May subject to a 6 week consultation period;

The Chairman thanked all Council representatives on this group for their efforts on this challenging project.

- Cllr Fisher
- reported on the revival of the Friends of the Almonry that held its inaugural meeting the previous Saturday. It had been a successful gathering and a further meeting is scheduled for 4 May;

- Cllr Favell
- **Battle Health Pathway** meetings. Notes to be presented to Environment;
  - Carried out the **accessibility audit** with members of **Hastings & Rother Disability Forum**. The report will be presented to ER&TD. There were many shops without adequate ramp facilities; with one retailer immediately placing an order for a ramp. The safety issue of the double kerb on the south side of the High Street was emphasised and Members agreed that this was not just a risk for the less abled. It was suggested that this should be raised again at SLR;
  - **Senlac Allotment Association** meeting. Minutes to be presented to Environment;
  - As Deputy Mayor, attended the presentation of the Tapestry by Battle Twinning Association at their AGM.
  - **Chamber of Commerce AGM** at which Helen Baker had agreed to continue as Chairman. A request for choirs, bands and volunteers for the Late Night Christmas Shopping event had been made. Minutes to be circulated.

Written reports had been received:

- Cllr Russell
- **BCPNPSG** meetings. Minutes to be presented to P&T;
  - **Heritage Charter Working Group** walk-by surveys completed on accessible major roads;

- Cllr Furness,  
Town Mayor
- AGM of the Twinning Association at which he had received the Tapestry for the Town. This is currently on display at the Memorial Halls;

# Battle Town Council

- A meeting with the Battle Muffins to discuss possible location for the 3m Tapestry to be exhibited;
- A meeting with English Heritage in relation to their support for the Almonry project.
- 

## **13. Future agenda items / matters to note**

The Clerk reported that **formal induction sessions** will be undertaken after the Council Annual Meeting. Members agreed that training is important; particularly for Chairmanship and Planning.

*Members of the public left the meeting.*

## **14. CONFIDENTIAL - Battle Community Award**

**Four nominations** had been received. Following discussion a unanimous decision was reached and the Clerk was asked to arrange the appropriate engraving of a goblet and a Certificate for presentation. She was asked to confirm the outcome to all that made nominations.

## **15. Date of next meeting: Tuesday, 16 April 2019**

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.30pm

CLLR G FAVELL  
CHAIRMAN

DRAFT