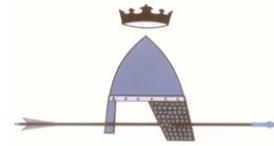




Battle Town Council



Minutes of the COUNCIL MEETING held on TUESDAY, 19 JUNE 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, P Fisher, J Gyngell, M Kiloh, A Ratcliffe, A Russell, D Wheeler and I Williams.

In Attendance: District/County Cllr K Field, PCSO J Pearce-Martin, C Harris (Town Clerk)

Public Question Time

PCSO Pearce-Martin(JPM) reported that, due to **changes within Sussex Police**, there is no longer dedicated Battle PCSOs. However, she is working as much as possible in the Battle area. JPM confirmed that, as a result of Rother District Council's decision to recommend Criminal Parking Enforcement, **illegal parking is now being enforced by Sussex Police**. She highlighted the continued difficulties at **Battle & Langton School** for which she had secured funding from the Police Property Act(PPA) to match fund A boards to educate drivers in that area. JPM advised that volunteers from the **20's Plenty campaign** are being trained to undertake **Community Speed Watch** exercises throughout the town. She welcomed more volunteers for this scheme. JPM reported that she is working on the provision of CCTV in the Market Square: BTC's unused cameras will be examined for possible reactivation; contact is being made with the retailers to identify a possible location for the new system; funding will be sought once costs are known. Cllr Dixon agreed raise this with RDC. She highlighted the successful application for PPA funds for **trees at Lake Meadow**.

Members thanked PCSO Pearce-Martin for her attendance.

1. **Apologies for absence** – Cllrs J Boryer and M Howell.
2. **Disclosure of interest** – None.
3. **Minutes of the Council meeting held on 20 February 2018** were agreed and duly signed by Cllr Furness. Cllr Russell highlighted the lack of membership information for sub Committees and Working Groups. The Clerk agreed to circulate the complete list of Councillor membership for all Council groups. This is attached.
4. **Matters arising from minutes of previous meeting (not elsewhere on the agenda)** – None.

5. Reports from County Councillor and District Councillors

County

Cllr Field reported that:

- Cabinet are to consider sending the request for **CPE to the Department of Transport**;
- the **waste site review** is recommending a reduction to opening times at Mountfield to 9am-4pm;
- Cregg Na Ba which supports adults with learning difficulties will be closed with the current service users being moved to somewhere more age appropriate. The intention is to use it for younger people.

District

Cllr Dixon reported that against Officers recommendation, a **planning application at Burwash** had been refused; an appeal has now been made and RDC had set aside £100,000 for this. He also confirmed that an application at North Trade Road had been approved despite lack of local support.

6. Correspondence and communications

- Members agreed to "host" **Books of Condolence** when appropriate.

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- **Kier** have issued a request for all pot holes on private/unadopted roads/tracks to be repaired by 31 August 2018 and all overhanging branches/hedges to be kept back at all times. They confirm that failure to comply may adversely affect the **waste collection** in those areas.
- The Clerk reported that the Crafty Norman retailers have indicated that, due to increased charges to provide the service, the **external ATM** may be removed. Members felt strongly that the town should retain an external ATM and asked the Clerk to ascertain the fees for retaining the ATM in its existing location.
- Confirmation had been received from the agents for NatWest that the existing agreement to manage the **Town Clock** will be included in the sale of the building.
- Members agreed that a publicity **photograph for “20’s Plenty”** campaign could include Councillors, as appropriate.

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

- Cllr Kiloh presented the minutes of the **External Relations & Town Development** meeting on 22 May 2018. These were noted.
- Cllr Favell presented the minutes of the **Environment** meeting on 5 June 2018. These were noted.
- Cllr Brown presented the minutes of the **Planning & Transportation** meeting on 12 June 2018. These were noted.

8. Battle Preschool Playgroup

The Chairman reported on an informal meeting held with Cllrs Field (as Chairman of the Battle Pre-school) and Dixon, together with the Clerk to discuss the proposal to terminate the current Lease of ground to the Pre-school. A background document received from Ms Field highlighting the financial position had been circulated to Members. **Members agreed, under the circumstances, to continue with the existing Lease.**

9. Beautiful Battle

Members discussed the work carried out by BB volunteers and **agreed to their request for the watering costs of £800 to be absorbed by Council.**

10. Payments and receipts for May 2018

The income and expenditure report, as attached, had been circulated. Members noted income of £15,205.20 and expenditure £29,384.32; both net of account transfers.

11. To receive reports from representatives of the Council

- Cllr Gyngell - a meeting of the **Memorial Hall** at which the tea concert was agreed;
- the **footpaths walk** with Bev Marks;
- a **Wedding Venue Working Group** meeting;
- an **Almonry Community Heritage Centre Working Group** meeting;
- a meeting of the **Writing Competition Working Group**;
- Cllr Ratcliffe - reported that he represents Battle on the **1066 Executive Board**: not just the Town Council. Members agreed that he should continue in this role;
- the **footpaths walk** with Bev Marks;
- a **recreation ground project information** tour;
- Cllr Wheeler - the **footpaths walk** with Bev Marks;
- a **recreation ground project information** tour;
- Cllr Russell - the **Heritage Policy Working Group** which has allocated tasks to the group. A policy will be discussed on 16 July and brought to Council for comment;

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- confirmed that the **Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group** had elected Cllr Ratcliffe as its new Chairman, in light of the resignation of Cllr Brown due to work commitments. A funding application is in progress;

Cllr Fisher

- expressed her concerns at the lack of information circulated on the **Almonry Community Heritage Education Centre project** – particularly in relation to the education aspect. Cllr Furness confirmed that this had been approved by Council over 2 years ago and is now being taken forward as Planning Permission has already been granted. He reported that English Heritage and the Museum are on the Working Group. Cllr Kiloh advised that the group report to F&GP and that promotion for an open exhibition about the project that was held recently was via: a leaflet drop; notice boards; social media; and the Council's website. It was also a topic at the Parish Assembly. Cllr Fisher emphasised the purchase of the property in 1992 and the neglect of the kitchen facilities. She announced that she would be facilitating a **Friends of the Almonry**;

Cllr Brown

- the **footpaths walk** with Bev Marks;
- confirmed that he had stepped down as Chairman of the Neighbourhood Plan SG but would assist where possible;

Cllr Davies

- a **Writing Competition Working Group** meeting;

Cllr Kiloh

- a **Heritage Policy Working Group** meeting;
- a meeting of the **Almonry Community Education Heritage Centre**. Had visited the Smarden Heritage Centre that had been in receipt of a HLF grant for archive and digitisation;

Cllr Favell

- **Chamber of Commerce meetings** in May and June: English Heritage are suggesting that coach companies extend their stops in Battle to encourage browsing in the Town. It was noted that there is a vital lack of volunteers at events – more required; the probable loss of the Crafty Norman's external ATM had raised queries in relation to alternative sites; the Town Council was asked to raise the possibility of making the road around the Abbey Green a "no entry to buses and coaches", moving the bus stop onto the High Street and marking the pull-in as a delivery bay. It was agreed to ask SLR to discuss this. Cllr Williams highlighted the danger for European coaches off-loading passengers onto the busy road;
- **Battle Health Pathway** meeting which had been reported to the previous Environment Committee meeting;
- As **Deputy Mayor**:
 - o opened the **Battle Photographic Society Exhibition**;
 - o attended the **summer reception hosted by the High Sherriff** of East Sussex.
- **Wedding Venue Working Group** meeting;
- **1066 Writing Competition Working Group** meeting;
- attended the **service at the Polish War Memorial**;
- attended the **Wildflower fundraising event**;
- attended the **Tea Concert at the Memorial Hall**.

Cllr Dawes

- the **footpaths walk** with Bev Marks;
- attended a **Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group** meeting and subsequently attended an audit of trees walk;

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- Cllr Furness
- a **Wildflowers Fundraising event** which had approx. 80-90 visitors raising just under £600 for rattle seeds;
 - a meeting with the Cllrs Dixon and Field about **Battle Pre-school**, as reported above;
 - Battle Festival meetings.

12. Matters for information / future items for agenda

Cllr Favell highlighted the agreement of the ER&TD Committee to allow all youth groups to enter the **1066 Writing Competition** and recommended that the Rules be amended to any number of entries from each year group; rather than the 3 currently stipulated. This was agreed.

Cllr Brown highlighted the disappointment of many residents that tickets for the **Battle Festival's Keane acoustic concert** had sold out online and suggested that residents should have priority. On behalf of the Festival Cllr Furness reported that this was under the control of the Keane Management team.

13. Date of next meeting: Tuesday, 17 July 2018

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.45pm

CLLR D FURNESS
CHAIRMAN