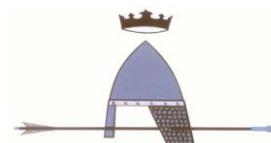




# Battle Town Council



MINUTES of the COUNCIL MEETING held at 7.30pm  
on Tuesday, 18 September 2012 at  
The Almonry, High Street, Battle

**PRESENT:** Cllr R Bye – Chairman

**ALSO:** Cllrs C Bishop, J Carter, J Eldridge, Mrs P Fisher, Ms M-L Neill,  
Mrs S Pry and D Wilson.

## Public Question Time

No members of the public were present

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1. **Apologies for Absence** – Cllrs J Boryer, Mrs T Farr, R Harris, Mrs M Howell, R Jessop, Mrs M Kiloh and M Palmer.

2. **Disclosure of Interest** – None.

3. **Minutes of the Council Meeting** held on 21 August 2012. Cllr Wilson proposed approval of the minutes, seconded by Cllr Mrs Fisher. This was agreed and they were duly signed.

## 4. Matters Arising from Previous Meetings

Despite nominating 3 delegates to the planned **Councillor Update and Briefing Training session on 13 September** this had been **cancelled** in the absence of a sufficient number of delegates to make it viable.

## 5. Police Matters

All present confirmed that they had received the **weekly Crime Updates** and there were no matters arising. However, Cllr Mrs Fisher asked that the police redouble their efforts to deal with breaches of the parking restrictions particularly in relation to the loading bay. Members agreed that it would be important to also ensure that the recently installed additional double yellow lines are also monitored.

## 6. Report from County Councillor

Cllr Field had sent her apologies but had asked the Clerk to confirm that **budget cuts** of the order of £60-£70m are **being considered for 2013-14**.

Cllr Mrs Fisher asked that both the County and District Councillors be enlisted to help in making arrangements to open the **Claverham swimming pool** during the summer break. In the meantime, the Clerk was asked to enquire the reasons why it had not been open this summer and also to check arrangements for meetings of the **Sports Centre Committee**.

## 7. Report from District Councillors

Cllr Dixon confirmed the outcome to planning applications relating to the sites at **Beeches Brook** and the **new church at Harrier Lane**. A decision about the **Greenacres Holding poultry unit** will be made this week. Regarding the **Code of Conduct** he said that all District Councillors will be receiving specific training on the new Code and that they would be asked to guide and advise Parish and Town Councils. Regarding **the Solar UK building** in North Trade Road all present agreed with him that it was time for the ugly, temporary hoardings to be removed.

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Cllr Davies spoke about a recent local **press report** headed "**Town One More Step Closer to Control**". She explained that this referred to an internal report from Rother's Devolution Working Group to the Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting on 10 September, and that the outcome will be formally reported to the Town Council shortly.

## **8. Correspondence & Communications**

Members noted that **Cllr Mitchell has now resigned.**

The Clerk drew attention to an invitation to all local Town and Parish Councillors to attend a meeting and "**Question Time**" **session with candidates for Police and Crime Commissioner** to be held at the Memorial Hall on 5 October at 7.45pm.

Members agreed to the usual request from the Chamber of Commerce Christmas Committee to use **Abbey Green for Christmas activities and place a tree in the Almonry garden.**

**9. Minutes of the Planning Committee meetings held on 29 August and 12 September** were reported by Cllr Mrs Fisher and noted.

## **10. Planning Committee Meetings**

In view of the recent difficulties in gathering a quorum for daytime Planning Committee meetings Cllr Bye had circulated all Members with a proposal that such meetings should, in future, take place in the evening. This had received a generally favourable response and **Cllr Bye therefore proposed that, in future, Planning Committee meetings take place on the scheduled date but at 7.30pm. This was seconded by Cllr Ms Neill and carried by a majority.** As a consequence of this decision Cllrs Bye and Mrs Pry reversed their decision recorded in the minutes of the Council meeting held on 19 June 2012 not to serve on the Planning Committee. Cllr Carter confirmed that he would no longer be able to serve on the Committee. Following Cllr Mitchell's resignation this left a gap of 2 in the Membership. It was understood that Cllr Palmer wished to fill one of these vacancies and, accordingly, he was appointed. The second vacancy remained unfilled.

**11. Minutes of the Finance General Purposes Committee meeting held on 4 September** were reported by Cllr Bye and noted. **He proposed:**

- **that the rent for George Meadow and Upper Stumblets be increased as recommended by the Council's advisor. This was seconded by Cllr Ms Neill and agreed unanimously;**
- **that the existing Business Bond of £30,000 be reinvested for a further 9 months at an interest rate of 1.5%. This was seconded by Cllr Mrs Fisher and agreed unanimously;**
- **that the agreement with Beautiful Battle for the maintenance of the Almonry garden be renewed for a further 3 years from 1 April 2013, the annual payment remaining at £2,500. This was seconded by Cllr Mrs Fisher and agreed unanimously.**

Cllr Bye also drew to the attention of all Councillors the requirement in the recently adopted Financial Regulations to prepare a **3 year forward plan.**

Cllr Bye displayed the **Quality Council reaccreditation certificate** which had now been received. In this connection, the Clerk mentioned that, in the light of recent consultations, NALC had identified some conflicting views on how the Quality Council Scheme should develop and that from 1 October no new or reaccreditation applications would be accepted pending the outcome of a further review.

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## 12. Appointment of Council Representatives:

Cllr Harris expressed his wish to stand down from the **Battle in Bloom Committee**. Cllr Ms Neill offered to replace him as one of the Council's 3 representatives.

Following Cllr McDonald's resignation a vacancy had occurred on the **Battle Partnership**. In view of the uncertain, long-term future of the Partnership it was agreed not to appoint a replacement and to rely on Cllr Ms Neill to represent the Council.

Following Cllr Mitchell's resignation it was necessary to appoint a representative to the **Battle Museum Committee**. Cllr Eldridge volunteered to take this on.

## 13. Reports Back from Parish Conference and Annual Meeting with County Council

Together with the Clerk and Cllrs Mrs Howell and Mrs Kiloh, Cllr Bye had attended the **Parish Conference** and felt that the themed discussion sessions had been too short to allow adequate debate. In the Clerk's experience the fact that the Town and Parish Councils attending are so diverse in terms of responsibilities and aspirations makes it difficult to develop a common approach on specific issues. The facilitators of the various discussion groups will be providing written reports.

Reporting on the **County Council's Annual Parish and Town Council Meeting**, the Clerk said that the County is planning for further minimum budget cuts of at least £60m. The morning session had focussed on highways issues including potential new arrangements with utilities under a formal permit scheme which could impose strict conditions and financial penalties. All present were encouraged to make contact with their Highway Steward if they had not already done so. The afternoon session covered, with examples, ways in which local councils can support older and young people within their communities and encouraged such groups to get involved in local decision making. Members were particularly keen to follow this up in relation to young people.

## 14. South & South East in Bloom Awards

The Clerk confirmed that the Almonry garden had again received a Gold award, and that the town had received a Silver Gilt. The weather had clearly played a part in this year's competition as none of the entries in the Small Town category had achieved the Gold standard. In addition the cemetery had been complimented by the judges and awarded a Silver Gilt.

## 15. List of Payments and Receipts was noted.

## 16. Reports from Representatives of the Council

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|-----------------|---|
| Cllr Mrs Fisher | - said that there will be a <b>Museum</b> book launch of Battle in Pictures at the Memorial Hall on 27 October. Visitor numbers to the Museum this year are down on 2011;   |
| Cllr Ms Neill   | - had attended the <b>Battle of Britain Commemorative Service</b> ;   |
| Cllr Bye        | - had presented <b>Camera Club</b> awards;<br>- had given out the trophies following the <b>Bonfire Boyes 10k run</b> ;<br>- had opened the recently <b>refurbished tennis courts</b> ;<br>- had also attended the <b>Battle of Britain Commemorative Service</b> . |

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**17. Matters for Information/Future Items for Agenda – None.**

**18. Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday, 16 October 2012**

The meeting closed at 8.40pm

**CLLR R BYE  
Chairman**

