



# Battle Town Council



MINUTES of the COUNCIL MEETING held on TUESDAY, 20 OCTOBER 2015 in  
The Almonry, High Street, Battle, at 7.30pm

**PRESENT:** Cllrs M Kiloh (Chairman), J Boryer, C Davies, G Favell, P Fisher, M Howell, A Ratcliffe and A Russell.

1 member of the public, 1 member of the press, Andy Beams (Town Clerk)

**Public Question Time** – None.

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1. **Apologies for absence** – Cllrs Furness, Gyngell and Jessop, County Cllr Field and District Cllr Dixon. Cllr Palmer was absent.

2. **Disclosure of interest** – None.

3. **Minutes of the Council meeting** held on 15 September 2015. Cllr Russell proposed approval of the minutes, seconded by Cllr Favell and agreed unanimously. These were duly signed by Cllr Kiloh.

4. **Matters arising from previous meetings** – None.

5. **Presentation to roundabout competition winner** – Cllr Kiloh presented a certificate to the winner Mr Kenneth Higgs, whose design has been chosen as the basis for the statue to be placed on the roundabout, and congratulated him on his success. Mr Higgs thanked the Town Council for the award and praised them for the initiative. Mr Higgs further explained that his design was originally drawn as part of the 900<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations in 1966, and was delighted to provide a link to the previous anniversary.

6. **Co-option of new Councillor** – Members had received details of an application for a new Councillor, who was unable to attend the meeting due to a prior engagement. Cllr Russell declared a personal interest as the applicant was known to him, and did not participate in the vote.

**RESOLVED:** Members agreed to co-opt Jo Reeves to the Town Council and the Town Clerk was asked to complete the necessary paperwork for the new Councillor.

7. **Appointments to committees**

**RESOLVED:** Members agreed to allocate Cllr Davies to the Environment Committee and Cllr Fisher to the External Relations & Town Development Committee. Cllr Russell was elected as Vice-Chairman of the External Relations & Town Development Committee.

8. **To receive a report from the County Councillor**

In Cllr Field's absence, there was no report.

9. **To receive a report from the District Councillor**

A no District Councillors were present, there was no report.

10. **Correspondence and communications** – Cllr Ratcliffe updated Members regarding a meeting between himself, Cllr Kiloh and the proposer of the alternate logos for the Town. One was specifically to mark the 950<sup>th</sup> anniversary, and it was possible that although the Town Council did not want to change its own logo it could endorse this specifically for that purpose. The marketing group were not keen to support it unless the Town Council would endorse it. A number of questions had been raised with

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the proposer regarding ownership rights, and once resolved this would be discussed at Full Council in November.

## **11. Minutes of the Environment Committee meeting held on 22 September 2015 and report on the committee's progress**

These were presented by Cllr Favell, with no questions from Members. Cllr Kiloh thanked Cllr Favell for the comprehensive report showing the hard work being undertaken by the committee and their careful consideration of their action plan.

## **12. Minutes of the External Relations & Town Development Committee meeting held on 6 October 2015**

These were presented by Cllr Ratcliffe, with no questions from Members. Cllr Ratcliffe confirmed the website issues had now been resolved, and the Tourist Information point had been established. Discussions were continuing regarding the placement of defibrillators, with the hope that Network Rail would provide a further one at the station.

## **13. Minutes of the Planning & Transport Committee meetings held on 9 September, 23 September and 7 October 2015**

These were presented by Cllr Kiloh, with no questions from Members. Cllr Kiloh highlighted the meeting on 6 October with the police regarding community wardens, which she attended along with Cllr Jessop and the Town Clerk. The community wardens would not be given powers to deal with any traffic and parking issues, and as such were considered of little benefit to the Town at this time. Cllr Jessop is arranging a meeting with Cllr Maynard of RDC to discuss civil parking enforcement, and the MP is still trying to broker agreements to move forward with this change.

## **14. To discuss the electoral review and decide how to respond**

The Town Clerk explained the review and highlighted the two options proposed and how they would affect the District Council representation in Battle. Members discussed the benefits and disadvantages of each of the proposals.

**RESOLVED:** Members agreed that the proposal outlined in Appendix A appeared most beneficial for Battle and its residents, i.e. one Councillor for each of three proposed wards of Battle South, Battle Central and Battle North.

## **15. To agree correspondence to HSBC regarding withdrawal from the Town**

Cllr Kiloh reported she had been approached by a member of the public requesting the Town Council write to HSBC to express their disappointment at the withdrawal from Battle, and requested approval from Members to do so.

**RESOLVED:** Members agreed unanimously for Cllr Kiloh to write on behalf of the Town Council.

## **16. Staff Training**

The Town Clerk had circulated a list of recently attended training courses and those booked over the next few months, which was noted by Members.

**RESOLVED:** Members agreed that the Finance & General Purposes Committee should draw up a training plan to include staff and Councillor training.

## **17. Mayor's Charity**

Cllr Kiloh reported on the success of the event and the sponsored slim she and the Deputy Mayor had committed to. Cllrs Fisher and Favell commented on how well the evening had gone and congratulated Cllr Kiloh on the success and raising over £400 on the evening. Further events were scheduled for 2016, including a dinner at Battle Abbey School on 7 April and a spa experience day at the Powdermills Hotel on

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19 March. Cllr Kiloh also reported that Battle & Langton School had agreed to make the Mayor's charity their charity of the year, and both Battle Abbey School and Claverham had agreed to do fundraising too.

## **18. List of payments and receipts**

Payments totalling £17,658.87 and receipts totalling £357.00 for the period 1 to 30 September inclusive were noted by Members.

## **19. Reports from representatives of the Council and other reports**

Cllr Howell had attended a meeting of the Town Improvement Group.

Cllr Boryer had attended meetings regarding Kingsmead and the Health Pathway. He also reported the sad news that Ron White, who had been instrumental in the Darvel Down Residents Association and other activities throughout the local area had passed away.

Cllr Fisher had attended events held by the church to celebrate their 900<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

Cllr Favell had attended meetings regarding the cemetery tender exercise, Kingsmead, potential new playground equipment, SALC Chairman training event and the Senlac Allotment Association AGM.

Cllr Ratcliffe had attended a meeting of the Battle Marketing Group, and reported on the 1066 Marketing Group meeting which he had been unable to attend.

Cllr Kiloh had attended a number of the same meetings as other Members, and additionally met with Hugh Merriman MP regarding issues for Battle, which had led to establishing regular quarterly meetings. She had also visited the schools and been invited to attend the Claverham School Council meeting, and met with a builder regarding the proposed works to the Almonry.

## **20. Matters for information / future items for agenda**

Cllr Howell raised a question about the use of the Abbey Green. Cllr Kiloh informed Members that she and the Town Clerk were meeting with Jo Stewart of English Heritage next week to discuss some of the issues which had occurred recently.

Cllr Favell requested inclusion on the next Full Council agenda the 1066 writing competition.

## **21. Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday, 17 November 2015**

**Cllr Kiloh reminded Members that the precept would be discussed at this meeting to allow time for any subsequent changes to be made before submission to the District Council in January.**

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.40 pm

**Cllr M Kiloh, Chairman**