



Battle Town Council



**DRAFT MINUTES of the COUNCIL MEETING held at 7.30pm
on Tuesday, 15 April 2014 at
The Almonry, High Street, Battle**

PRESENT: Cllr S Pry – Chairman

ALSO: Cllrs J Eldridge, G Favell, P Fisher, D Furness, J Gyngell, M Howell, R Jessop, M Kiloh, A Ratcliffe, J Sydes and D Wilson.

Public Question Time

No questions were asked by the members of the public present.

The Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming the new Councillors, G Favell and A Ratcliffe and the new Clerk, Anna Evett.

1. Apologies for Absence – Cllrs R Bye, J Ormonde-Butler and M Palmer. Absent: Cllr Boryer.

2. Disclosure of Interest – Cllrs Fisher and Pry declared personal interests in item 13 Battle Abbey School's application for a sports hall on the recreation ground.

3. Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 18 March 2014. Cllr Jessop proposed approval of the minutes, seconded by Cllr Fisher. This was agreed and they were duly signed.

4. Matters Arising from Previous Meetings – Cllr Sydes reminded those present that agenda items should be submitted to the Clerk at least three clear days before the meeting clearly detailing the proposal.

5. Police Matters – no officers were present.

6. Report from County Councillor

Cllr Field reported that the County Council was undertaking consultation about changes to the **mobile library service** with a view to rationalise the service to save money. She highlighted that her main focus is the **Fire & Rescue Service** and the possible downgrading of the Battle Service; she stressed the need to take part in the consultation that ends on 28 April 2014 and can be done online.

7. Report from District Councillors

Cllr Dixon advised that a recent planning application for an additional caravan **at Beeches Brook** has been refused by the District Council. He mentioned that when considering **grant applications**, Rother District Council (RDC) are expecting to see that Parish and Town Councils have approved at least a nominal grant before approaching the District. He then advised that the **brown bins** will be delivered next week but should not be used until the specified date in June. Cllr Jessop expressed his thanks to Cllr Dixon for his support with these matters and advised members that he would be taking the grant issue to the next RALC and SSALC meetings.

8. Correspondence & Communications

The Clerk briefed members on an email received from **SSALC about planned training events**. Members asked that the Clerk co-ordinate their training requirements and arrange the necessary training.

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9. Health Pathway

Susan Burton gave a presentation to members summarised as follows:

- The pathway will go from the car park to the recreation ground
- Battle Local Action Plan (BLAP) group are keen to take this forward
- It is closely linked with the Battle Schools Greenway project
- Architect plans have been drawn up
- The route will be 623m long and it would be ideal if it could go all around the recreation ground as a circuit
- Planning permissions are being investigated but may not be needed; would be worth seeking permission for entire circuit even if the complete circuit was completed at a later date
- All known plans of Council projects will be taken into account

Mrs Burton answered questions on:

- Could changes to the route be made to allow for the tennis court and practice area? *Yes*
- Who will maintain the route and what surface would be used? *Surface is to be decided after taking expert advice and maintenance arrangement to be agreed with the Council*
- Would users of the recreation ground have priority to cross? *Considering 'share with care' although concerns over this approach noted*
- How have costs been met so far? *Leaflets funded by the NHS, digital mapping by Battle Schools Greenway Project and architects good will.*

Cllr Fisher explained that the Estates Committee supported this in principle and that she would provide Susan with contact details for RDC Planning.

Cllr Jessop proposed that members agree in principle to take forward the health pathway and extended route to create a complete circuit around the recreation ground accepting minor alterations to be agreed with Battle Town Council. The Chairman of the Estates Committee to be the focal point for the Council. This was seconded by Cllr Fisher and agreed.

10. Concorde 1066 – Use of the Abbey Green for a military band to *Beat the Retreat*.

Simon Alexander and Peter Mills presented the proposals for this event summarised as follows:

- It is a significant event and the lynch pin of the commemoration of the Battle of Hastings for the public
- A publisher has been found for the leaflets
- Twelve local organisations are on board
- The band is likely to be the Gurkhas or the Household Division
- The wooden bollards on the Green would need to be moved to create sufficient space for the band to *Beat the Retreat*

Members asked whether the bollards could be removed without damaging them and who would pay the costs for repairing or replacing them and making the ground good afterwards. Mr Alexander confirmed that the group will have money available and that they realised what their obligations were in returning the Abbey Green to its present condition. It was discussed that changes to the Abbey Green might be considered in the future and that if this is so then it would be sensible for this project to be taken into account in future decision making.

Cllr Edridge proposed that members agree in principle to the use of the Green and removal and repair/replacement of the bollards at no cost to the Council. This was seconded by Cllr Sydes and agreed unanimously.

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11. Grant application for Battle Chamber of Commerce.

Members considered the application and **Cllr Eldridge proposed that £100 be awarded. This was seconded by Cllr Jessop and agreed.**

12. Minutes of the Planning Committee meetings held on 26 March and 9 April

were reported by Cllr Jessop and noted. On behalf of the committee **Cllr Jessop proposed (amended) that following the decision from Rother District Council (RDC) to cease sending out hard copies of planning applications, that a projector and screen is purchased so that applications can be examined at committee meetings and that the Clerk be authorised to purchase these items up to the value of £1,000.** He added that these could be used by other Committees and for other events run by the Council. Members queried whether RDC were going to help towns and parishes with set up costs as this is likely to be a large financial burden for smaller parishes. **Cllr Jessop's proposal was seconded by Cllr Pry and the Clerk was authorised to contact RDC and ask for a contribution toward purchase of the items. This was agreed unanimously.**

Councillors Fisher and Pry repeated their personal interests in this item.

13. Minutes of the Estates Committee meeting held on 1 April were reported by Cllr Fisher and noted. **Cllr Jessop proposed that Battle Abbey School's application for a sports hall on the recreation ground be supported in principle by Council.** Cllr Jessop explained that there was lots of detail to be considered and further negotiations with the school would need to take place before reporting again to Council; agreement in principle would allow further discussions to take place to see what the community would gain from the project. Cllr Sydes and others expressed concern that by agreeing in principle the school's hopes might be raised and more money spent without knowing the outcome. Council would also need to be mindful of not giving the school an unfair market advantage over other independent schools or businesses. Members added that lighting on the pathway, vehicle access, car parking and other issues would need to be considered and that discussions with the school had already taken place. After further discussion it was agreed that the proposal should be amended. **Cllr Furness proposed to authorise the Chairmen of the Estates and Planning Committees or their deputies to enter into discussions with the school about the facilities on offer to the community and location of the sports centre, under no obligation to the Council. This was seconded by Cllr Jessop and following a vote, agreed by a majority of one and one abstention.**

14. Arrangement for the Parish Assembly on Wednesday 14 May 2014 the Clerk reported the arrangements which were noted.

15. Battle Fire & Rescue Service Update. The Clerk reported that the recent march and public meeting had been well attended.

16. Nominations for the Community Awards

This item was discussed in the confidential session.

17. Councillor Vacancy

This item was discussed in the confidential session.

18. List of Payments and Receipts was noted.

19. Reports from Representatives of the Council

Members had attended:

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- Cllr Jessop - (Cllr Jessop submitted a report) Battle Arts and Music Festival concert, the Battle Museum opening exhibition, Fire Service consultation meeting, ESALC Board Meeting, Battle and District Partnership meeting;
- Cllr Eldridge - the Battle Museum Opening Exhibition;
- Cllr Favell - the public meeting about the fire station;
- Cllr Fisher - the Battle Museum Opening Exhibition;
- Cllr Furness - a Battle and District Partnership meeting and a Battle Arts and Music Festival concert;
- Cllr Gyngell - the public meeting about the Fire Station, the Battle Museum Exhibition opening and the Battle Arts and Music Festival concert;
- Cllr Howell - the public meeting about the closure of the Fire Station;
- Cllr Kiloh - a meeting of Battle in Bloom, South East in Bloom, Beautiful Battle and the Battle Museum Exhibition opening;
- Cllr Wilson - the Allotments Association meeting;
- Cllr Pry - a meeting of Battle in Bloom.

20. Mayor's Engagements

In the absence of the Mayor the Clerk reported that he had attended the opening of Battle Museum and had chaired the public meeting about the fire station after leading the protest march.

21. Matters for Information/Future Items for Agenda

Cllr Howell reminded members that the Town Council would be entering a ladies' team for this year's **Marbles Competition** on Good Friday.

22. Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday, 20 May 2014

The meeting closed at 9.30pm

CLLR S PRY
Chairman

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The following items were discussed under Standing Order 3a confidential

16. Nominations for Community Awards. The nomination for the Young People category was considered and **Cllr Kiloh proposed that Grace Sheffield should receive it. This was seconded by Cllr Favell and unanimously agreed.** The adult nominations were considered and **Cllr Jessop proposed Vikki Cook. Cllr Eldridge seconded this proposal and it was agreed by a majority.** Councillors asked the Clerk to contact the residents who had nominated other candidates to thank them for their nominations and explain that there were very strong candidates this year and ask them to try again next year.

17. Councillor Vacancy. Both applications were considered and it was decided to hold a vote. Mr Piper received 7 votes and Mr Field received 5 votes, there were no abstentions. As Mr Piper received the most votes he was duly co-opted on to the Council.

