



# Battle Town Council



## MINUTES of a PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING held on Wednesday, 28 August 2013 at The Almonry, High Street, Battle at 7.30pm

**Present:** Cllr R Jessop - Chairman  
Cllrs D Furness, Mrs J Gyngell, Mrs M Howell, Mrs M Kiloh and Mrs S Pry.

1. **Apologies for Absence** – Cllrs R Bye and M Palmer
2. **Disclosure of Interest** – None
3. **Minutes of the previous meeting** held on 14 August 2013. Cllr Mrs Pry proposed approval of the minutes, seconded by Cllr Mrs Gyngell. This was agreed and they were duly signed.

#### 4. **Matters Arising from Previous Meetings**

**Land at Caldbec Hill** - The Clerk outlined research on the relevant planning policies and Rother District Council (RDC) Cabinet Resolution, which applied to the site, for those Councillors who were not present at Council. Summary note attached herewith. The site was reasonably well protected in policy terms and by the Resolution, though Councillors agreed that they would like control of it, in ownership terms. The Clerk was asked **to contact East Sussex County Council (ESCC), explaining that Battle Town Council (BTC) would like to take on liability for it and ownership.** This was to keep it as an open space, in the spirit of localism. Council's approval would be sought if ESCC was willing and able to treat and at no cost to the Council, excepting legal costs.

The Clerk reconfirmed that she had submitted the Committee Members' **query to RDC Enforcement Team as to whether the development at 28 Virgin's Lane was compliant** with the planning permission granted and awaited a response. The Chairman confirmed that he had visited the site and studied the grant and that it explained the impression of the extensive rebuild at the last meeting. Cllr Furness asked if **RDC could be asked again for a response.** The Clerk confirmed that one had not been received to date.

#### 5. **Correspondence & Communications**

The updated **enforcement cases** list was noted. The Clerk had not yet written to the Enforcement Team, on Councillors' behalves, requesting swifter and firmer action in following up cases, as she would have the opportunity to meet the planning team on 9<sup>th</sup> September and could raise it then to best effect. In the meantime she had studied both the **Enforcement Policy and Management Plans (for Councillors' reference, to be found on RDC website) with the purpose that the effectiveness or otherwise of enforcement action could be seen in context of existing RDC policy and therefore to maximise effect of lobbying.** It was agreed that where action was not being taken, Councillors would like a clearer idea from RDC as to the criteria for the reasons.

The latest **list of decisions** was noted as attached with no further decisions notified at the time of the meeting.

#### 6. **To Consider Planning Applications Received to Date**

**RR/2013/1645/L**

**34-35 High Street. Battle**

Internal Works to resolve ongoing water penetration to basement floor and ceiling.

**Comments: No objection.**

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## **7. Matters for Information/Future Agenda Items**

The Chairman asked the Clerk to contact Mr Brian Banks at County Highways for an **update on how the legalities for the management agreement for the new pathway around the front and side of Battle Abbey** were progressing.

## **9. Date of Next Meeting: Wednesday, 11 September 2013**

The meeting closed at 8.10pm.

Cllr Jessop  
Chairman

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**Land at Caldbec Hill, Battle** – Summary notes for information following some research into the planning policy factors at play on this site:

Note that there is some provision/capacity through the new National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) to designate local green space.

The site is not within the development boundary in the current saved version of the Local Development Document.

It is within the High Weald AONB although this in itself does not mean that it has automatic protection given the Inspector has called for more site allocations to meet specified needs.

Additionally, to some extent, local protection provisions already exist given the fact that the site was not a site considered suitable and allocated for potential development in the SHLA Strategic Housing and Land Availability document 2010 or recently published version for 2020. This was therefore not a site that was considered recently to be suitable and the land to the west which was looked at was also at this last stage, deemed to be too exposed /open in character to be suitable to allocate for potential suitability for development in the SHLA.

The Battle Town Study Working Group (Cllr R Jessop and S Pry? part of) is involved in the update of the Development Plan Process, that is, the 2<sup>nd</sup> part of the LDP (Local Development Plan) and which forms the site allocations study, Core Strategy being the first, more broad brush document of the two parts of the LDP. So these Cllrs will have the opportunity of monitoring the site through this process as well. This process will effectively assess sites and their uses and open spaces are included within a Site Allocation Study and plan for early in 2014.

Note also that a Rother Cabinet Resolution effectively protects the site as it is included in the Site Allocations Study. RDC commissioned consultants to make a list of open spaces as part of the Council's 'Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study' 2007 and the plan attached to the link below in the email, from Roger Comerford at RDC, evidences this.

Julia Cuppini  
Town Clerk  
20.8.13

# Battle Town Council

## Planning Application Decisions

The Town Council has been notified by Rother District Council of the following planning application decisions:

| Location   | Proposal  | Decision     |
|--|---|--------------|
| Timbers<br>RR/2013/1315/P  | Replace post and rail fence across front of site with 1.8m high close boarded fence. Hedge planting provided in front of new fence.                                       | Granted      |
| Croft Cottage & Hopcroft, Lower Lake<br>RR/2013/1382/P<br>RR/2013/1499/L | Planning and Listed Building:<br>Proposed alterations to dormer windows, rooflight, ground floor windows, double glazing and rebuilding of previously demolished chimney. | Granted<br>√ |
| Adanac, Whatlington Road<br>RR/2013/1427/P                               | Proposed rear extension.  | Granted<br>√ |
| 31 Virgins Lane<br>RR/2013/1438/P  | Erection of single storey detached annexe.  | Granted<br>X |

