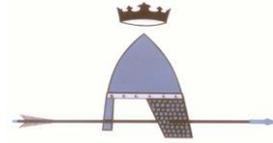




Battle Town Council



MINUTES of the EXTERNAL RELATIONS AND TOWN DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE held on TUESDAY, 5 APRIL 2016 at The Almonry, High Street, Battle at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs A Russell (Vice-Chairman), G Favell, D Furness and M Kiloh.

In attendance: Andy Beams (Town Clerk), 1 member of the public

- 1. Apologies for absence** – received from Cllrs P Fisher, M Palmer and A Ratcliffe.
- 2. Disclosure of interest** – None.
- 3. To approve and sign the minutes of the previous meeting held on 2 February 2016.**
These were duly signed by Cllr Russell.

4. Social Media

The Town Clerk reminded Members of the website and Twitter account which both were functioning well. Cllr Russell commented that it had been easy to find the supporting papers for the meeting on the website. Members agreed to defer a discussion on setting up a Facebook page until a later meeting, to allow time to consider what functionality the page would have.

5. Annual Parish Meeting

The Town Clerk confirmed the attendance of Huw Merriman MP as the main speaker, and Cllr Kiloh stated he had previously been asked to speak about parking and transport issues, suggesting the Assembly could be an opportunity to issue a questionnaire seeking attendees' views on parking and other issues in the Town. Cllr Russell suggested inviting a representative from RDC to attend to answer questions about parking, which Members agreed would be useful.

RESOLVED: Members agreed that those organisations who had received a grant in the previous financial year would be invited to attend and display information about how the grant had been spent. Also, committee chairmen would be asked to compile a report on their committee's activities and achievements during the year, for the Mayor to present as part of the Annual Report.

6. Writing Competition

Cllr Favell updated Members, informing them of the successful grant application to RDC to pay for one of the trophies. The competition had now been launched, with a closing date of 31 July. The Town Clerk had emailed entry details to all primary and secondary schools in the 1066 area, and placed information on the website and noticeboards. A press release had been issued, and a further one was planned once all the judges had been confirmed. The competition could also be further publicised at the Annual Assembly.

7. 950th Anniversary Events

The Town Clerk had circulated the updated list of events he had been informed of, which was available on the 950th anniversary page of the website. Cllr Kiloh requested the addition of entries for November and December for the 1066 mosaic, once details had been confirmed.

RESOLVED: Members requested the following events be added to the list:

- Unveiling of the tapestry at Battle Railway station on 7 April
- The community tapestry stitching days running from now up to October
- The 1066 dinner on 2 September
- The Festival dates of 1 to 31 October, with Cllr Furness to provide more detailed

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information when available

8. 'Better Battle'

The Town Clerk informed Members that following discussions with Cllrs Kiloh and Ratcliffe, it had been agreed to attempt to move forward with the project prior to any official launch at the Parish Assembly. A list of appropriate contacts had been compiled, asking some key questions about what 'Better Battle' could do to help the businesses and organisations in the town. The Town Clerk had made contact via email, to date receiving two responses indicating a willingness to meet to discuss the project and one response answering the questions in a less positive way.

9. GeoTourist app

Cllr Kiloh informed Members that the official Battle trail was now live on the app, although no feedback had been received to date. There had been some concerns over the availability of reception limiting the use of the app in the Battle area. Discussions had taken place with Jane Ellis regarding a launch and associated media releases, and Cllr Kiloh agreed to follow this up to get a date agreed.

RESOLVED: Members requested the Town Clerk place details of the app on the website to inform people of its availability.

Cllr Furness left the meeting at 8.15pm.

10. Marketing Groups

In Cllr Ratcliffe's absence, there was no report, but the previously requested details about the financial arrangements of the marketing group had been circulated to Members. Questions were raised about what the groups actually do to promote Battle, and whether the Town Council should consider giving money to the group on the understanding that it would be specifically used for promotion of Battle.

RESOLVED: Members agreed to discuss further at the next meeting when the Town Council representative on the marketing groups would be present.

11. Newsletter

The Town Clerk reported that despite requesting all Councillors to send in ideas or articles for the newsletter, only Cllr Favell had responded. Members debated who should be responsible for writing and/or editing the newsletter, with Cllr Kiloh stating she felt the chairman of this committee should take on this role. The Town Clerk stated that to ensure accuracy and political balance, it would be more appropriate for it to be done through the Council office staff. Cllr Russell suggested that given the short timescales and the upcoming Parish Assembly, the newsletter and Annual report requirements could be combined using the previously agreed committee chairmen's reports as the basis of the newsletter, and then adding promotional information about the Assembly, writing competition, etc.

RESOLVED: Members agreed Cllr Russell's suggestion and the Town Clerk was asked to contact each of the committee chairmen and ask for them to submit their report for drafting to the newsletter.

12. Budget

Members noted the report produced by the Town Clerk.

13. Civic Awards Scheme

This item was discussed in confidential session. Members considered the two nominations received, and agreed that both were worthy recipients of the award, especially as their

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contributions had been over a significant period of time.

RESOLVED: Members agreed to recommend to Full Council both nominations for receipt of the Civic Award.

14. Matters for information / future agenda items

None

15. Date of next meeting: Provisionally 28 June (to be confirmed)

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.50pm

CLLR A RUSSELL

Vice-Chairman

