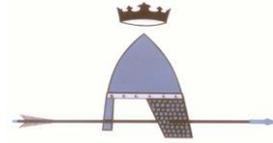




Battle Town Council



MINUTES of the EXTERNAL RELATIONS AND TOWN DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE held on TUESDAY, 6 OCTOBER 2015 at The Almonry, High Street, Battle at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs A Ratcliffe (Chairman), G Favell, D Furness and M Kiloh

In attendance: Andy Beams (Town Clerk)

1. Apologies for absence – Cllrs M Palmer and A Russell.

2. Disclosure of interest – None.

3. To approve and sign the minutes of the previous meeting held on 11 August 2015.

These were proposed by Cllr Favell, seconded by Cllr Kiloh and duly signed by Cllr Ratcliffe.

4. Matters arising from the previous meetings

Newsletters – these had now been printed, but no further distribution source had been found. The Town Clerk agreed to follow up with the local newsagents about the potential of using their delivery staff, and he also reported that distribution to key information points around Rother could be arranged through Brochure Connect. Cllr Favell would provide a list of distribution points and numbers of copies to the Town Clerk, who would arrange delivery to those points.

5. Website

Cllr Ratcliffe informed Members of the website working group meeting that had taken place. A number of amendments to the content of the website were made and it now looked good, but there were still problems accessing it using the www address. The Town Clerk explained the problem appeared to be with the company who we had purchased the domain name from, and they had not responded to emails to date.

Members discussed the use of social media, primarily as an information source and sharing of events throughout the town, with the potential to develop further in the future. Concerns were expressed about the impact of the workload of the office staff in regularly updating the information, although the Town Clerk reassured Members that once the social media channels were set up, they would not take much time to update regularly.

RESOLVED: The Town Clerk was asked to contact by telephone the company to attempt to resolve the issue with accessing the site. Committee Chairmen would be asked to review the relevant content of the website for their committee, and provide any amendments or additional material to the Town Clerk.

The Town Clerk to attempt to resurrect the existing unused Twitter account and set up a Facebook page which would be closed to comments from the public initially.

6. Tourist Information Point

The Town Clerk informed Members that the TIP was to be set up in the porch of the Almonry, with the initial visit from Brochure Connect due tomorrow (7 October). The porch had been rubbed down and agreement reached with a qualified contractor to repair and repaint it in keeping with its listed building status. The old tourist information sign which was removed from the High Street has been retained by RDC, and will be reinstated pointing to the Almonry once the TIP is set up.

7. Resilience plan

Cllr Favell reported that she had spoken with AiRS and had offers of support from the Emergency

Battle Town Council

Planning officer at RDC, both of whom confirmed that Sussex Police actively encouraged all communities to complete a plan.

RESOLVED: Members agreed for Cllr Favell and the Town Clerk to work together to expand on the initial work completed by Cllr Favell.

8. Budget

Members noted the budget report.

RESOLVED: Members agreed to propose no increase in the budget for 2016/17, retaining a total expenditure budget of £5,750.

9. Defibrillators

Members discussed the existing defibrillators in the town and agreed there were insufficient numbers. Various locations were discussed as potential sites, including approaching Network Rail to fund their own defibrillator at or near the station.

RESOLVED: Members agreed to install two new defibrillators, with sites to be agreed at the next meeting. The Town Clerk was asked to obtain quotes and to contact Network Rail regarding one for the station.

10. Occupancy Letter

Members reviewed the draft as prepared by the Town Clerk.

RESOLVED: Members agreed the content of the letter and for it to be sent to all named on the occupancy list updates, once the website address issue had been resolved.

11. Ground Workers

Members had previously discussed the provision of fluorescent jackets including the Town Council name and logo for the groundsmen, to make it clear to residents who was completing the work carried out around the town. The current workwear supplier, was unable to provide these, but other suppliers were available.

RESOLVED: Members agreed to the purchase of a fluorescent jacket with name and logo for each of the groundsmen.

12. Marketing Groups

Cllr Ratcliffe reported on a meeting of the Battle Marketing Group, where a presentation from GeoTourist about a tourist app had been received, copies of which would be forwarded to all Members. There had been discussion about funding the app from the 1066 budget.

At the 1066 Marketing Group meeting, a rebranding exercise had been proposed as there had been the threat of withdrawal of funding due to the 'tired' look of the brand.

There was further discussion about the alternate logo being proposed by a trader for adoption by the businesses in the town. Members confirmed the previous decision that the Town Council logo was not going to change, but there was no objection to businesses using an alternate logo if they chose to, and the Town Clerk was asked to confirm this in writing to the trader proposing the alternate logo.

Members agreed to adopt the strapline 'the site of the battle in 1066' and for this to be added to the town entrance gates. Cllr Ratcliffe would prepare a design using the existing logo and the strapline for consideration to add to all Town Council literature.

13. Matters for information and future agenda items

The Town Clerk asked Members for a final decision on the Red Arrows display proposed for next year. Given the cost and the tragic accident recently at Shoreham, Members felt this was no

Battle Town Council

longer appropriate, although a request would be made to fly over Battle during the Eastbourne air shows in August 2016.

Cllr Kiloh felt that the Chamber of Commerce representative should be part of this committee, and this should be considered in future years when making appointments.

14. Date of next meeting: 1 December 2015

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9pm

CLLR A RATCLIFFE
Chairman

