



Battle Town Council



Draft Minutes of the COUNCIL MEETING held on TUESDAY, 21 NOVEMBER 2017 at
The Almonry, High Street, Battle at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs D Furness (Chairman), J Boryer, C Davies, P Fisher, J Gyngell, M Howell, A Ratcliffe, A Russell.

In Attendance: District Cllrs K Field, K Dixon, Carol Harris (Town Clerk)

1. Apologies for absence – Received from Cllrs G Favell and R Jessop.
Cllr M Kiloh was absent.

2. Disclosure of interest - None

3. Minutes of the Council meeting held on 17 October 2017 were agreed and duly signed by Cllr Furness.

4. Matters arising from previous meetings, not on this agenda - None

The Clerk had circulated her report that included:

- Jempsons' confirmation that of ownership of the **Market Square area** is almost complete;
- the **TIME Working Group** had met and will work towards the provision of interactive information boards and display of the Town Model. The group will report to ER&TD;
- a 5yr licence for the **Amenity Field** had been received for a 'peppercorn rent';
- RDC had responded that staff shortages at their **Community Help Point** is unavoidable;
- a majority of responders to the RDC **Bexhill Governance consultation** have indicated a wish for a Bexhill Town Council;
- a letter had been sent to the owner of **Tills Yard** as no legal reference has been found in relation to responsibility of their boundary wall. Cllr Fisher suggested that there may be some local knowledge available and she would pass this to the Clerk;
- confirmation from the owners of **Coultershaw** that the access land to **Mansers Shaw** will be transferred to the Council in return for all professional fees being charged to the Council. Quotes for legal services are being obtained.

5. Reports from County Councillor and District Councillors

Cllr Field reported that there had been few meetings but indicated that a cut of £1m for **Adult Social Care** is anticipated. She confirmed that the result of the consultation on **library provision** is awaited.

Cllr Dixon advised that the **Council Tax** is likely to be raised by the maximum amount permitted without referendum.

6. Correspondence and communications

The District Council is implementing a new **Public Space Protection Order** (PSPOs) which will replace some of the current byelaws relating to dog fouling and consumption of alcohol in the street, with instant fines being imposed.

7. To receive minutes and agree any recommendations from Committee meetings:

- **Finance & General Purposes Committee** and **Personnel sub Committee** minutes of 7 November were presented by Cllr Ratcliffe. **Members agreed unanimously to offer the permanent position of (t)Deputy Town Clerk to Jane de Garston.**

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- **Planning & Transport Committee** minutes of 14 November were presented by Cllr Russell. He highlighted the reasons for the recommendation for refusal of applications RR/2017/2384 and RR/2017/2308 and support for RR/2017/2390.

Cllr Boryer reported his personal interest in application RR/2017/2308 and reminded Members that this area of land had been identified in the SHLAA but with a recommendation that the land go through the play area. This had been found to be difficult and the proposal was therefore reverted to the original access point.

8. Abbey Gatehouse print

Members were advised that the Museum have been gifted a copy of the Print that will be placed on permanent display. *(Post meeting note. On examination the Clerk had identified that the Council does not have a Power to purchase items of art).*

9. Resignation of Cllr J Reeves - Recruitment drive

Council noted with regret the resignation of Joanna Reeves for personal reasons. The Clerk confirmed that an article has been put to the Observer, notices have been erected around the town and the next Newsletter will also be publicising the current vacancies. Cllr Russell asked that other authorities be asked for strategies on recruitment of Councillors as this is an integral requirement for becoming a competent authority.

10. 2018 Parliamentary Constituency Boundary Review

Members noted that there is no amendment to the Battle boundaries and felt no comment necessary.

11. Action Plans for each Standing Committee

These were noted and it was agreed that Committees must review and amend these regularly.

12. Reports from representatives of the Council

Cllr Gyngell attended

- a meeting of the Battle Memorial Hall Committee;
- the consecration of half the children's cemetery area;
- the Emergency First Aid Course;
- both the Remembrance Services.
- Battle Festival events which had been the most successful to date.

Cllr Howell attended

- a SALC Planning Update training event;
- Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group meeting;
- the consecration of half the children's cemetery area;
- the Remembrance Day on the Abbey Green

Cllr Russell attended

- the SALC Planning Update training event, which had not included Neighbourhood Plans and the Clerk was asked to request SALC to consider training on NHP;
- a Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group meeting which had confirmed the appointment of Donna Miles. An application submitted by Cllr Jessop had been successful and should cover most of the costs to completion;
- meeting of the BVADC Finance sub group: the second tranche of grant has now been applied for; only 3 Portland stone markers have been purchased and an alternative option for the theatre is being considered as costs have been identified far higher than initially costed;
- both the Remembrance events.

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- Cllr Ratcliffe attended - the inaugural gathering of the TIME Working Group where Olivia Post had been appointed Chairman;
- Chairmanship training.
- Cllr Boryer
- assisted in installing 3 sleeper bridges at Mansers Shaw;
 - attended a meeting of Beautiful Battle. Concern had been raised at the lack of information on the Wildflower areas had been raised;
 - had an information discussion with Plumpton College regarding the possibility of providing opportunities for the Woodland Skills Course and a response is awaited;
 - a meeting with Keith Datchler, Cllr Favell and the Clerk to discuss options for managing the Amenity Field;
 - the Remembrance Service;
 - P&T in relation to Darvel Down;
 - Netherfield Village Hall AGM at which major changes had been made to the Constitution resulting in the Town Council no longer having a representative.
 - Coppicing work at Mansers Shaw.
- Cllr Davies attended
- the consecration of half the children's cemetery area;
 - both the Remembrance Services;
 - a SALC Planning Update training event.
- Cllr Fisher attended
- the consecration of half the children's cemetery area;
 - both the Remembrance Services;
 - SLR where the problem of Japanese knotweed had been discussed and she was pleased to report that the pothole identified had been repaired.
- Cllr Furness
- Battle Festival events
 - the Remembrance Service
- Cllr Jessop had submitted a written report:
- inspected the works of Battle Building Company – improvements required;
 - Chaired a meeting of the SLR group;
 - attended the Remembrance Service;
 - attended the Battle Museum of Local History's AGM.
- Cllr Favell had submitted a written report:
- met with a representative of Step up Sports Consultancy, Battle Health Pathway Chairman and the Clerk;
 - the consecration of half the children's cemetery area;
 - a meeting with Keith Datchler, Cllr Boryer and the Clerk to discuss options for managing the Amenity Field;
 - Battle Health Pathway meeting: fundraising is continuing in order to raise 10% of the cost in order to apply for grant funding. A joint meeting between BTC, BHP and BBFC to discuss the proposed joint project (to provide modern changing facilities and the pathway and a café) is pending
 - Site meeting with Keith Datchler at the Amenity Field;
 - Tour of the Chestnut Tree House with Huw Merriman MP, Cllr Kathryn Field and Cllr Lin Clark (Wealden District Cllr for Pevensey and Westham) by Libby

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Hannelle. It is suggested that a representative could be invited to speak at the Parish Assembly;

- attending the East Sussex Community Resilience Conference this evening and will report to ER&TD next week.

13. To receive list of payments and receipts for October 2017

The income of £8,747.18 and expenditure of £54,305.02, net of account transfers, for October was noted, as attached.

14. Matters for information / future items for agenda

- To consider precept recommendation from F&GP for 2018/19

15. Date of next meeting: Tuesday, 19 December 2017

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.30pm