



Battle Town Council



Minutes of the COUNCIL MEETING held on TUESDAY, 19 FEBRUARY 2019 at
The Almonry, High Street, Battle at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs G Favell (Chairman), J Boryer, A Brown, V Cook, C Davies, G Favell, P Fisher, M Howell, M Kiloh and D Wheeler.

In Attendance: County Cllr K Field, Cllr K Dixon, C Harris (Town Clerk), M Kendall (ESCC), Insp J Hartley, S MacDonald and eight members of the public.

Public Question Time

Three members of the public expressed consternation at the plans to obtain a loan of £600k to refurbish and extend the Almonry. It was acknowledged that the building required extensive repair and maintenance but suggested that the extension work was unnecessary. It was requested that this project and the Pavilion/Café be discussed at the Parish Assembly, prior to funds being drawn. Cllr Kiloh confirmed that the Almonry project is featured in the forthcoming Annual Report and an Agenda item at the Parish Assembly. The Clerk reported that a Quantity Surveyor had produced the figures but this could change upon receipt of tenders. She emphasised that no funds would be drawn down unless required.

4 members of the public left the meeting.

1. **Apologies for absence** – Cllrs Dass, Furness, Gyngell, Ratcliffe and Russell.
2. **Disclosure of interest** – None.
3. **Minutes of the Council meeting held on 15 January 2019** were agreed and duly signed by Cllr Favell.

4. Traffic legislation issues

The Chairman welcomed Mr Kendall(MK) and Insp Hartley(JH) to the meeting. MK reported on incidents of illegal placement of traffic cones on the highway in Mount Street and High Street. He confirmed that this is an offence and any cones used in an unlawful manner will be removed.

JH confirmed that enforcement of parking restrictions remains a police matter and is taken seriously. However, resources will continue to be considered on a threat/harm/risk basis which results in parking as a lower priority. JH encouraged problem areas to be reported to officers. Cllr Brown advised that dangerous parking at Marley Lane had been significantly improved since enforcement instigated.

Mr Kendal and Insp Hartley left the meeting.

5. Presentation from the Battle Health Centre Patients Participation Group

The Chairman welcomed Mr MacDonald(SM) to the meeting. SM reported that all doctors' practices are required to have a PPG. The remit of the group includes raising health awareness and acting as intermediaries for patients and staff. SM highlighted the need for more volunteers, full members and virtual, to ensure all groups are represented and to improve the services provided. He suggested that one Councillor representative would ensure communication of amenities is shared.

It was suggested that the PPG could have a stand at the Parish Assembly.

6. Clerk's report

The consultation had been promoted in the Observer newspaper, Council's website, all notice boards, facebook and twitter. The Battle Museum had also circulated the information to the 366

Battle Town Council

Battle District Historical Society and Museum members. As a result, eleven responses had been received. All but one supported the refurbishment. Four of these suggested a phased programme and two of which also requested discussion at the Parish Assembly. Eight queried the need for an “education centre”. The Clerk confirmed that this represented a 0.21% response rate. As a result of the consultation a meeting has been agreed with Sussex Association of Local Councils for 5 March to complete the Public Works Loan Board application.

Confirmation that Rother District Council will be considering the agreement to share office space at the Almonry at their meeting on 11 March 2019.

7. Reports from County Councillor and District Councillors

County

Cllr Field(KF) reported that a one-off fund from Government will be used for revenue expenditure and there will not be as many cuts to services as feared. However, the subsidy for “meals on wheels” service has been withdrawn. She confirmed that Ofsted had awarded the Council “outstanding” for Children’s Social Care; only five Local Authorities had gained this grade. KF highlighted the hope that budget cuts to preventative services will not threaten this service.

District

Cllr Dixon confirmed that the budget will be agreed next week. He reported that research into land at Kingsmead, rear of Watch Oak and Market Square car park (in part) had been approved at a cost of £250k.

Cllr Field confirmed that the Planning Committee would be considering the outline application for 20 houses at North Trade Road (RR/2018/2666).

8. Correspondence and communications received post agenda publication – None.

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

- **Finance & General Purposes** meeting on 22 January 2019 were presented by Cllr Favell and noted.
 - **External Relations & Town Development** meeting on 29 January 2019 were presented by Cllr Kiloh and noted.
 - **Environment** meeting on 5 February 2019 were presented by Cllr Favell and noted.
 - **Planning & Transport** meeting on 12 February 2019 were presented by Cllr Brown and noted.
- Members agreed the recommendation to dedicate footpath at Mansers Shaw as a public footpath in accordance with terms set by the Rights of Way Officer.** It was noted that wheelchair access is not possible on the bridge at the northerly start point of the path.

10. 2019 Marbles competition

Members agreed to enter both a men and ladies team in this competition:

- Cllrs Davis, Favell, Howell and Kiloh agreed to represent the Council. Cllr Gyngell will be asked to join. Cllr Howell to coordinate the team.
- Cllrs Boryer, Brown and Wheeler agreed to represent the Council. Cllrs Ratcliffe and Russell will be asked to join. Cllr Brown to coordinate the team.

11. Battle skateboard ramp

The Clerk reminded Members that she had met with Cllr Field and ESCC to discuss the future of the closed skateboard ramp. ESCC had confirmed that there is no provision to repair and maintain this facility and a cost to remove of £1480 had been received. The Clerk had established that the Council

Battle Town Council

would be offered a lease agreement on the skateboard ramp, with no legal fees applied, and £1500 towards the cost of repair. An indicative cost of repair had been provided by ESCC at £4280. It was suggested that 'crowdfunding' should be undertaken to raise the cost of repair of this important piece of equipment. Members agreed that F&GP should add this to the Action Plan to take forward as soon as possible.

12. School's litter picking initiative

Cllr Fisher agreed to coordinate a volunteer group to join the local school's initiative on 21 May between 3.45pm and 4.45pm. All Councillors interested in helping with the project should contact Cllr Fisher by 30 April.

13. Rother District Council's Public Realm consultation

Members were reminded of the importance in providing comments to the Clerk by 4 March 2019. The Clerk will collate and circulate a proposed response by 7 March. Once agreed, this must be submitted to RDC by 8 March 2019.

14. Future High Street Fund

The Chairman highlighted that there was a lack of information from residents and businesses of the town to enable an application in March 2019. She proposed that this be added to the Action Plan of ER&TD for the next round in 2020. It was emphasised that an order of priorities for the Council should be considered before further commitments are undertaken.

15. Payments and receipts for January 2019

The income and expenditure report, as attached, had been circulated. Members noted income £9,961.24 and expenditure £30,891.83; both net of account transfers.

16. Reports from representatives of the Council

- Cllr Boryer - **Battle Health Pathway** meeting;
- Cllr Howell - **Battle Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group**. A full report had been made to P&T;
- Cllr Kiloh - reported that at the forthcoming meeting of the **Battle Museum**, the gunpowder mortars will be discussed. Members agreed that Council should take the project forward but encourage assistance with the interpretation boards;
- Cllr Favell - **Battle Health Pathway** meeting. Minutes will be presented to the Environment Committee;

Several Members had attended the **RDC Blackfriars consultation** event. Cllr Boryer highlighted the omission of the railway line and access to station on the map produced.

Cllr Russell had circulated his report:

- Heritage Charter Working Group at which: identification of potential nominations for local listing had been made; a draft letter produced for residents of these properties; a request for the cost of posting letters to be approved. He confirmed that a presentation will be made at the Parish Assembly together with a display of potential properties;

Battle Town Council

- **Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group.** Subgroups have met to clarify status and delineation of the strategic gap, respond to the RDC Public Realm consultation, comment on policies document from the external consultant.

17. Future agenda items / matters to note

CLlr Fisher reported the revival of the **Friends of the Almonry** group on 16 March at 11am in The Almonry. All are invited.

CLlr Cook reported the peaceful **Walk of Witness** to take place at midday on Good Friday.

18. Date of next meeting: Tuesday, 19 March 2019

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.50pm

CLLR G FAVELL
CHAIRMAN

DRAFT