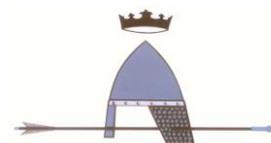




Battle Town Council



MINUTES of the COUNCIL MEETING held at 7.30pm
on Tuesday, 21 January 2014 at
The Almonry, High Street, Battle

PRESENT: Cllr R Bye – Chairman
ALSO: Cllrs J Boryer, P Fisher, D Furness, J Gyngell, M Howell,
R Jessop, M Kiloh, J Ormonde-Butler, M Palmer, S Pry,
J Sydes and D Wilson.

Public Question Time

No members of the public were present.

1. **Apologies for Absence** – Cllrs C Bishop, J Carter and J Eldridge.
2. **Disclosure of Interest** – Cllrs D Furness, J Gyngell and M Palmer declared a personal and prejudicial interest in item 8(ii) as members of the Battle Festival Committee.
3. **Minutes of the Council Meeting** held on 17 December 2013. Cllr Jessop proposed approval of the minutes, seconded by Cllr Fisher. This was agreed and they were duly signed.

4. Matters Arising from Previous Meetings

Cllr Bye reported that the co-option of a new **Councillor** agreed at the previous meeting could not be fulfilled due to a condition of the Local Government Act 1972 not being satisfied. This **vacancy** is therefore still being advertised.

Cllr Kiloh advised Members that the **loan application** had been unsuccessful as the amount was below the minimum allowed based on electorate. Trevor Leggo has confirmed that an application for the full loan, including fees, could be made prior to planning approval and that funds could be drawn down in phases as required. The alternative would be to pay for the Tier 2 Groundwater Survey from reserves. A meeting has been arranged with a cemetery development company on 30 January to discuss a complete service from surveys, preparation of planning application to completion of works. In response to queries, Cllr Kiloh confirmed that she had received high recommendation from Forest Row who had used this company for their own small cemetery extension and that she had found no other specialist, local organisation that offered the same complete service. Cllr Kiloh said that this will be discussed in detail by the Services Committee at an extra meeting on 11 February and a recommendation brought to Full Council at the next meeting.

5. Police Matters

Sgt Paul Masterson confirmed that **Community Contacts** are now being distributed regularly. He reported on recent appointments including Chief Inspector Warren Franklin as the new District Commander for Rother and the return of PCSO Sam Kemp at the end of February. Sgt Masterson reported that crime generally remains low but shed break-ins are still an issue. He also highlighted an increase in phone scams and said there is a Little Book of Big Scams available at the police station.

6. Report from County Councillor

Cllr Field reported that the need to identify how to reduce the budget by £78m over 3 years is still the main item of discussion. This would clearly be by the reduction of some services and a decision would have to be made by mid February. She confirmed that there has been no release made regarding the future plans for Battle Fire Station.

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7. Report from District Councillors

Cllr Davies confirmed that budget issues, including Council Tax, will be discussed at the Scrutiny Committee next week.

Cllr Dixon reported that Cabinet has made the decision to cut the tourism budget from £65k to £35k and Rye Town Council have declined to renew the Tourist Information Centre contract. Cllr Davies confirmed that this will go out to tender. Cllr Dixon advised that Government have not yet agreed the rate at which to cap Council Tax increases nor whether to implement a cap for Town or Parish Councils.

8. Correspondence & Communications

A **letter of thanks** for grant had been received from **Battle Methodist Church**.

Cllrs Furness, Gyngell and Palmer repeated their personal and prejudicial interest in the next item.

A **request from Battle Festival Committee for a grant of £500** towards the cost of providing transport for musicians to attend local schools in the Battle Area and provide master classes to children, venue hire and staffing costs at festival venues. It was noted that Battle Partnership had agreed a grant of £1000. **Cllr Jessop proposed a grant of £500 to the Battle Festival Committee. This was seconded by Cllr Fisher and agreed unanimously.**

The Council noted **confirmation from Rother of the tax-base figure on which the precept setting is made.**

A **list of Training Events throughout 2014 for Councillors, Chairmen and Clerks from Sussex Association of Local Councils** was circulated. Members were asked to confirm any event they would like to attend as soon as possible.

9. Presentation by Jan Jung for Netherfield Hill Community Speedwatch Group/Community Speedwatch Online

Jan Jung was welcomed to the meeting. He circulated information literature and explained that there are now 27 groups of volunteers in the Rother area that monitor speed activity and how they work with the police. Mr Jung highlighted the need to educate people regarding speed and also the importance of ensuring that the efforts made by the volunteers is rewarded by action being taken to calm traffic in specific areas of concern. He advised that East Sussex County Council (ESCC) would contribute 50% of the cost of any road safety initiative and that the Town Council would shortly be consulted for its views. Mr Jung reported that since the implementation of the Speedwatch Group the average speed on Netherfield Hill has reduced by 2mph and the general killed or seriously injured figure has dropped by 10%. His main concern is that volunteer numbers will be affected if there are no visible results such as road traffic calming schemes. The Council were happy to support the scheme. The Chairman thanked Jan Jung for his presentation.

10. Minutes of the Planning Committee meetings held on 18 December, 8 and 15 January and were reported by Cllr Jessop and noted.

11. Minutes of the Services Committee meeting held on 9 January and were reported by Cllr Kiloh and noted. **Cllr Kiloh proposed that Cllr Wilson be appointed as the Council's representative on the Senlac Allotment Association. This was seconded by Cllr Bye and agreed unanimously.**

12. Minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting held on 145 January and were reported by Cllr Bye and noted.

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In relation to the recommendations made:

- Cllr Bye proposed a grant of £200 to Netherfield Church towards the cost of repairs and new flooring to the Church toilet and pipes. This was seconded by Cllr Jessop and agreed unanimously;
- Cllr Bye proposed that the Assistant Clerk be promoted to Deputy Town Clerk and that every effort shall be made by that post holder to sit and pass the CILCA exam within an 18 month period. This was seconded by Cllr Wilson and agreed unanimously;
- Cllr Bye proposed that the newly appointed Deputy Clerk be delegated Responsible Financial Officer in the absence of the Town Clerk. This was seconded by Cllr Fisher and agreed unanimously;
- Cllr Bye proposed that the newly appointed Deputy Clerk be appointed acting Town Clerk until a replacement full time Town Clerk is employed. This was seconded by Cllr Wilson and agreed unanimously;
- Cllr Jessop proposed an assistant administration person to assist the acting Town Clerk be employed temporarily on a casual basis following the statutory SSALC code. This was seconded by Cllr Fisher and agreed unanimously;
- Cllr Bye proposed a new business debit card be arranged for the newly appointed Deputy Clerk. This was seconded by Cllr Wilson and agreed unanimously.

13. Update on Loan Application, Tier 2 Groundwater Survey and Cemetery Plans

Covered under Matters Arising.

14. Staff Recruitment

As a result of the recent resignation of the **Town Clerk**, a proposal to assist with the recruitment of a replacement together with a timetable had been received from SSALC. This had been circulated to all Members. It was agreed that this should be accepted with a view to a new Town Clerk starting on 1 April 2014.

It was agreed that the recruitment of a full time **grounds/maintenance person** should now be advertised in accordance with conditions for Manual Workers. The post to commence on 1 April 2014, as approved at the F&GP meeting on 5 November 2013 and Full Council on 19 November 2013.

15. List of Payments and Receipts was noted.

16. Reports from Representatives of the Council

Members had attended:

Cllr Jessop

- a meeting of **Sussex Association of Local Councils**;
- a **Rother Association of Local Councils** meeting;
- a meeting of **Battle Partnership** at which grants had been awarded to Battle Festival and Battle for Tennis. Jo Stewart had confirmed that the re-enactment would take place this year;
- a **Battle and District Chamber of Commerce** meeting;

Cllr Kiloh

- meetings of **Beautiful Battle** and **Battle in Bloom**;

Cllr Furness

- a **Battle Partnership** meeting;
- a meeting of **Battle Arts Festival**;
- a 1066 Concorde meeting which although in its early stages is looking very encouraging;
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- CLlr Wilson
- a local **Scouts Executive Committee** meeting where it was noted that the Cubs and Scout numbers remain very good but that the Beaver numbers are down;
- CLlr Fisher
- **Chichester Cathedral** for the appointing of the Dean as an Honorary Canon of Chichester
- CLlr Boryer
- a **Darvel Down Association** luncheon;
 - a meeting of **BLAP** where the poor distribution of the newsletter was highlighted;
- CLlr Pry
- a **Battle in Bloom** meeting;
- CLlr Bye
- a meeting at **Bexhill Town Hall regarding parking in Battle**. A report prepared by Battle Chamber of Commerce was circulated to Members.
 - a recent **Memorial Hall Committee** meeting.

17. Mayor's Engagements

CLlr Bye had awarded the prizes for best individual and best group fancy dress from the late night shopping event.

18. Matters for Information/Future Items for Agenda

19. Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday, 18 January 2014

The meeting closed at 9.25pm

CLLR R BYE
Chairman

