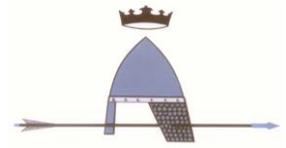




# Battle Town Council



Minutes of the COUNCIL MEETING held on TUESDAY, 20 NOVEMBER 2018 at  
The Almonry, High Street, Battle at 7.30pm

**Present:** Cllrs D Furness (Chairman), A Brown, V Cook, M Dass, G Favell, M Howell, A Ratcliffe, A Russell and D Wheeler.

**In Attendance:** County Cllr K Field, District Cllr K Dixon, C Harris (Town Clerk) and one member of the public.

## Public Question Time

The poor **lighting** in Western Avenue and Market Square was highlighted.

1. **Apologies for absence** – Cllrs J Boryer, C Davies, P Fisher and J Gyngell.
2. **Disclosure of interest** – None.
3. **Minutes of the Council meeting held on 16 October 2018** were agreed and duly signed by Cllr Furness.
4. **Clerk's report**
  - Cllr **Ian Williams had resigned** due to relocation out of the area. The Clerk confirmed that no request for election would be invited as we are within 6 months of an election. The Council may co-opt if appropriate.
  - Further communication had been exchanged with the solicitor for **Tills Yard**, although no further information received. The Council's insurer's legal team had confirmed no interest in the matter until proof of ownership of the wall had been received.
  - As reported to Finance & General Purposes, the External Auditors had confirmed successful completion of the **Annual Governance and Accountability Return** with no comments. All appropriate notifications had been displayed and the information is available on the website. Members noted this and thanked the Clerk for her work.

## 5. Reports from County Councillor and District Councillors

### District

Cllr Dixon reported that: there had been a meeting of **Licensing and General Purposes**; at the **Cabinet** meeting the substantial losses from the operation of the **Colonnade café** had been highlighted; the **Council Tax** will be raised by the maximum of 2.99%; a confidential meeting regarding **Blackfriars** had taken place.

### County

Cllr Field reported that **Cabinet** are seeking views on the priorities and services in a **Core Offer** between 14 November and 26 December at: <https://consultation.eastsussex.gov.uk/governance-and-community-services/a-core-offer-for-east-sussex/> She confirmed that a consultation on **Civil Parking Enforcement** will be in the Memorial Hall on 29 November between 2pm and 8pm.

## 6. Correspondence and communications received post agenda publication

Final minor change to one para on the **Beautiful Battle Agreement** had been recommended: "Should the Beautiful Battle *or Battle Town Council* wish to amend the terms of this agreement, or that part relating to the Almonry garden, then any request should be made in writing by 31<sup>st</sup> December ~~in any year~~ *for decision at the respective Annual General Meeting in the following year*". This was agreed.

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An invitation from Chairman of RDC, Cllr Jonathan Johnson to nominate any worthy recipient of the Rural Rother Trust. The Clerk reminded Members that Battle Charities offer this function locally.

## 7. Minutes and agree any recommendations from Committee meetings:

- External Relations & Town Development meeting on 6 November 2018 were presented by Cllr Favell and noted. The Clerk confirmed that an order has been placed for the 2 defibrillators to be sited at Marley Stores and Telham.
- Planning & Transport meeting on 13 November 2018 were presented by Cllr Brown and noted.

## 8. War memorial

The Chairman reminded Members of the 70 names that have been missed from those listed on the Memorial. The Clerk confirmed that to add the names, as existing, on the 2 blank sides would cost approximately £5,514 and require permission from the Church. Cllr Furness suggested that the existing names are hard to decipher and recommended that the **Deputy Town Clerk be asked to provide a full report on all options and costs to the next meeting. This was agreed.**

## 9. Market Square area

The Clerk reported that many concerns of safety in relation to cars accessing and parking within the Market Square had been received. Jempsons had indicated that a RDC Officer had suggested the gates should remain open. The Clerk was authorised to pursue this with RDC and request that the gates be locked other than Market days.

## 10. Grass cutting regime 2019-20

Members were reminded that East Sussex County Council had planned to reduce the number of cuts this year to 2. RDC had agreed to pay for the additional 4 cuts for one year (2018/19). ESCC had reiterated the options for 2019/20: accept 2 cuts; pay for additional 4 cuts at £5076; accept contribution of £2538 to carry out own grass cutting. On 3 December, RDC will be considering the recommendation to continue to fund the additional cuts for one further year. Members highlighted the failings of the current grass cutting regime. The Clerk had enquired whether there would be an option for the Town Council to receive the appropriate fund to instruct grass cutting in the Battle area but no response had been received. The Clerk was asked to research options including costs for appropriate machinery.

## 11. List of payments and receipts for October 2018

The income and expenditure report, as attached, had been circulated. Members noted income of £14,489.74 and expenditure £40,409.32; both net of account transfers.

## 12. Reports from representatives of the Council

All joined in expressing thanks to Cllr Allan Russell for a wonderful day of Remembrance.

- Cllr Favell
- a **Beautiful Battle** meeting which had identified ongoing queries on the Agreement, as discussed under item 6;
  - a meeting with **officers from RDC** to discuss the options for accommodating a staff member within the Almonry;
  - the **Senlac Allotment Association AGM** which will be reported to the Environment Committee;
  - **Battle Health Pathway** meeting which will be reported to the Environment Committee;

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- **Battle Chamber of Commerce** meeting. She had reported on the revised ER&TD Action Plan. Items raised included: no restriction on scaffolding in the High Street; the ongoing search for sites for an ATM; and CPE consultation;

CLlr Brown - **Battle Neighbourhood Planning Steering Group** meeting;

- CLlr Russell
- various meetings with members of ATC, St Mary's Church etc to agree arrangements for **Remembrance Day events**;
  - meeting of **BVADC Finance sub Committee** to discuss invoicing for final grant payment;
  - meeting of **Battle Heritage Charter Working Group**: presentation of nominations for local listing by Keith Foord; agreement on use of traffic light assessments;
  - **Battle Neighbourhood Planning Steering Group** meeting. AECOM draft report received. Preferred sites to be selected by group. Full report to P&T;

CLlr Ratcliffe - **Battle Neighbourhood Planning Steering Group** meeting;

- CLlr Furness
- **Whatlington Singers** event;
  - Meeting with **English Heritage**.

CLlr Gyngell had provided a written report

- **Memorial Hall** meeting. Paul Redwood spoke about possibly housing an ATM there and the new memorial board was discussed;
- **Community Network Day** at Peasmarsh Village Hall. An opportunity for various community groups to network;
- **Yard Signs** walk. An initial meeting in order to identify interesting yards which could be added to the Heritage Trail;
- Meeting at Bexhill Town Hall to discuss the possible **Blackfriars development** with Stephen Marsden, Developments Project Manager;
- **Wedding Venue working party**. Discussed how to set up/advertise the Fair and agreed to hold it on Sunday 17 February 2019 in the Wynne Room of the Memorial Hall and the Almony.

CLlrs Brown, Cook, Dass, Favell, Furness, Gyngell, Russell and Wheeler reported on attendance at the **Remembrance Day event** which had received so much positive feedback.

## 13. Future agenda items / matters to note

## 14. Date of next meeting: Tuesday, 18 December 2018

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8pm

CLLR D FURNESS  
CHAIRMAN