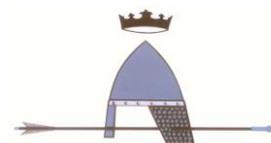




Battle Town Council



MINUTES of the COUNCIL MEETING held at 7.30pm
on Tuesday, 20 August 2013 at
The Almonry, High Street, Battle

PRESENT: Cllr Mrs S Pry – Chairman
ALSO: Cllrs J Boryer, Mrs P Fisher, R Jessop, Mrs M Kiloh,
Ms J Ormonde-Butler, M Palmer and D Wilson

Public Question Time

No matters were raised.

1. Apologies for Absence – Cllrs R Bye, C Bishop, J Carter, J Eldridge, D Furness, Mrs J Gynnell, Mrs M Howell and Ms M-L Neill.

The Chairman reported Cllr Harris's retirement as a Battle Town Councillor and thanked him for all he had done. He would be sorely missed. Cllr Harris wished to record his gratitude to all fellow Councillors who had supported him so well in his periods both as Council Chairman and Chairman of the Planning Committee. The necessary arrangements for filling the vacancy are in hand.

2. Disclosure of Interest – None.

3. **Minutes of the Council Meeting** held on 16 July 2013. Cllr Jessop proposed approval of the minutes, seconded by Cllr Wilson. This was agreed and they were signed duly signed.

4. Matters Arising from Previous Meetings - None

5. Police Matters

No representative from the police was present. The Chairman read the report from Cllr Furness. He was still pursuing the objective of a Member of Battle Town Council (BTC) attending Rother Crime and Disorder meetings as an observer. Sussex Police had agreed to send a senior officer to the full Council meetings on a quarterly basis. Members felt it would be helpful to know which meetings Police representatives would be attending in an advance schedule and for Members to raise matters of importance other than parking and traffic, upon which Cllr Furness could advise.

6. Report from County Councillor

Cllr Field had sent her apologies.

7. Report from District Councillors

Cllrs Davies and Dixon had sent their apologies.

8. Correspondence & Communications

A Council representative had been invited to East Sussex County Council Parish and Town Council Conference on 18 October 2013 to look at working together on road safety throughout East Sussex. It was agreed that Cllr Jessop would attend for BTC as he would be there as Chairman of Rother Association of Local Councils.

Help from Councillors was sought in preparation for and welcoming **Twinning Association** members and visiting guests from St Valery-sur-Somme at a short reception at 1715 for 1730 hrs on **Friday 23 August** at The Almonry. The £100 budget for refreshment was been endorsed under correspondence of the previous meeting. This is by provision of section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972.

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BBC Radio Sussex would be sending a reporter and staff to arrive at the Abbey Green at 0700-1000hrs Tuesday 3 September as part of an **anniversary 30 day tour** across Sussex. They were keen to hear of any particular stories or events that will be relevant in or around the time of their visit.

Councillors were warmly invited by the **Royal Air Forces Association** to attend the **Battle of Britain Anniversary Service** at 3pm on 15 September at St Mary the Virgin.

In Cllr Furness' absence, Cllr Palmer reported on the beginnings of plans for a **classical music festival in Battle** in August 2014. The Battle Marketing Group were helping with organisation and the idea was positively received by Councillors.

The pay settlement of an **increase of 1%** in relation to the new **Town Clerk's salary** was **proposed by Cllr Mrs Fisher and seconded by Cllr Jessop. All were agreed.**

The Chairman reported that **Battle Partnership** had offered a grant of £4000 towards the total cost of £4555 plus VAT for the **proposed gateways** and sought agreement for letting of the contract. The supplier, SLR Environmental Maintenance, were one of few who could supply the gates and were known to Highways at County Council for their work. It was agreed that no further quotes therefore need to be obtained. Given that they would be street furniture, the remaining cost would be allocated to the Services Committee budget and the grant credited to it. **Cllr Jessop proposed acceptance, seconded by Cllr Mrs Kiloh and all were agreed.** Cllr Fisher suggested that thanks to the Partnership be recorded.

Cllr Jessop reported that the **Battle Partnership** were proposing a motion at their AGM to close and might look to distribute remaining funds. It could therefore be worth putting forward any worthwhile projects.

9. Minutes of the Planning Committee meetings held on 17 July, 31 July and 14 August were reported by Cllr Jessop and noted.

10. Cemetery Plan

The Chairman invited Council to consider agreeing to fund and submit a planning application in relation to proposed extension; to endorse proposals for a new building for groundsmen's facilities, freeing up the current area in the Chapel building for public toilets and vehicle storage and to endorse the principle of seeking a loan to enable this future development to the cemetery. Cllr Kiloh had brought the item to Full Council on behalf of the Services Committee, prior to the coming Finance and General Purposes (F&GP) Committee meeting, so that it could be fitted into the three year forward plan. The Government loan would be paid back over 20 years. The proposal for the cemetery extension had already been before Council which had approved the c.£3000 groundwater survey which had taken place and was inconclusive. The Environment Agency had been consulted and as a result, Services Committee now proposed going ahead with a Tier Two survey, for which the Clerk had chased the consultant for their awaited quotation, expected in the next days. Cllr Kiloh said that planning permission was confirmed not to be required for the first part of the proposal for the tractor store and groundsmen's facilities following a query to Rother District Council (RDC). This would come from the Council's budget. An initial quote from Skinners of £9180 inc VAT had been obtained. It would be located behind the fir trees in the area close to the old mortuary building, out of sight but in keeping with the cemetery. The existing shed was not nearly large enough for the new tractor and not suitable for the public to use for toilet facilities, therefore the work was needed. F&GP suggested that funding for the cemetery development came from a loan to

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be paid out of the precept, forecast figures for which the previous Clerk had given F&GP already. There was a statutory requirement for the Council to provide adequate grave spaces. **Cllr Wilson proposed the principle of funding the loan for the extension. Cllr Jessop seconded this and all were agreed. Cllr Kiloh proposed the recommendation for the extension and to undertake a Tier Two survey, for which the quote was awaited. Cllr Jessop seconded this and Committee agreed** there was no choice but to as there were only two to three years before the cemetery was to be full and without landscaping, terracing and draining, the land adjoining was not suitable. It was debated and agreed that the most secure and convenient location for the tractor store was at the cemetery rather than the recreation ground. The specification of the proposed new building was queried but it was agreed that this was a job for Services Committee and/or Estates. Cllr Jessop suggested researching the building specification further and Cllr Kiloh agreed.

11. Assistant Clerk's Contract of Employment

An amendment to provide for four day working was proposed by Cllr Wilson and seconded by Cllr Mrs Kiloh. All were agreed.

12. Tennis Development Centre at the Recreation Ground

Council was asked to consider this scheme by Mr Perkins at the last meeting and proposals had been subsequently circulated to Councillors by Mr Perkins. Members agreed in principle to the centre. Cllrs Boyer and Fisher would arrange to meet Mr Perkins on site to clarify the possibilities for the exact location in the recreation ground as there had been two different proposed sites amongst the discussions and papers circulated for consideration.

13. List of Payments and Receipts was noted.

14. Reports from Representatives of the Council

- Cllr Jessop - had attended **Battle in Bloom Awards, Rother Community Grants Panel, Battle and District Chamber of Commerce** meetings;
- Cllr Mrs Kiloh - had attended **Beautiful Battle (BB) Committee**. The Chairman had proposed that BB did not work on an entry to South East in Bloom (SEIB) with the Town Council but that it would probably put in an application for the Community Group category next year. Battle in Bloom (B in B) was the liaison group set up with three members from each BTC and BB. The Clerk noted that there were terms of reference for the B in B group which would need reviewing if they were not to be involved in an entry with BTC, as was currently provided. Councillors were grateful for Mrs Waughman's offer of help with an entry by BTC to SEIB to keep some continuity. Cllr Kiloh said that BTC needed to decide if it would wish to enter next year. Cllr Jessop said the Council needed to decide how it would fund and man it. Members were very concerned that there were not enough hours available for the BTC groundstaff to look after core areas of the estate as were necessary, added to which there was the problem of the large amount of watering and work involved in keeping the many beds and baskets watered and attended. A meeting of B in B had been arranged to take matters forward.

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Cllr Mrs Pry - had attended the **Battle in Bloom awards** evening and visited Mrs **Margaret Ashton** to celebrate her **100th birthday** with flowers presented on behalf of BTC.

15. Mayor's Engagements

No engagements due to holiday.

16. Matters for Information/Future Items for Agenda

Cllr Ormonde-Butler advised members that **Mrs Newson** had fallen and was in hospital. It was agreed that flowers would be taken to her by Cllr Ormonde-Butler. She would advise the Chairman when that was. It was suggested that Members might like to support her where possible on her return home.

The Clerk reported by way of some background regarding the **land at Caldbec Hill**, Rother District Council and Battle Town Council had exercised the right, after being consulted, to oppose the 'stopping-up' proposal under s116 of the Highways Act in 2008. Were it to have proceeded it would have enabled the County Council to sell the land now surplus to Highway requirements. This was on the grounds that it offered an amenity to local residents and its appearance as open land adjoining the carriageway contributed to the "sense of place". Members of the Planning Committee proposed investigating whether East Sussex County Council could consider a formal dedication of the land as a village green/open space as landowner for its future protection. The Clerk was thanked for her research in this matter and other work.

17. Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday, 17 September 2013

The meeting closed at 9.00pm

Cllr Mrs Sylvie Pry
Chairman

