



# Battle Town Council



**MINUTES of the COUNCIL MEETING held on TUESDAY, 11 OCTOBER 2016 in  
The Almonry, High Street, Battle, at 7.30pm**

**PRESENT:** Cllrs D Furness (Chairman), J Boryer, C Davies, G Favell, P Fisher, J Gyngell, M Howell, R Jessop, A Ratcliffe, J Reeves and A Russell.  
Cllr Kevin Dixon, Cllr Kathryn Field, Andy Beams (Town Clerk), Ted Kemp and Chris Ashford (Rother Neighbourhood Watch)

Cllr Furness welcomed Ted Kemp and Chris Ashford from Rother Neighbourhood Watch, who gave a verbal report on what the group had been doing, and on their efforts to expand and improve the scheme in Battle. They acknowledged that previous focus had primarily been on Bexhill, but they were now hoping to expand to Battle, Rye and the rural areas. They were in need of additional co-ordinators, and were happy to attend any community group events to explain the role to anyone who might be interested.

Cllr Furness thanked them for their presentation and offered space in a future town magazine to publish information and requests for volunteers.

Cllr Furness also asked for thanks to be recorded in the minutes to the Town Clerk for his work over the last two years, following his appointment to the Town Clerk role at Crowborough Town Council.

**1. Apologies for absence** – Received from Cllr M Kiloh, M Palmer and District Cllr G Curtis.

**2. Disclosure of interest** – None.

**3. Minutes of the Council meeting** held on 30 August 2016. Cllr Jessop proposed approval of the minutes, seconded by Cllr Howell and agreed unanimously. These were duly signed by Cllr Furness.

**4. Battle Visual Arts Development Committee (BVADC)**

Members noted the written report provided by BVADC. Cllr Jessop questioned why the Council no longer had representatives on the committee, and Cllr Reeves explained that both she and Cllr Kiloh had felt a conflict of interests had arisen, particularly in relation to the roundabout statue. Members agreed that greater involvement with the group was needed to ensure the Council objectives were being met. Cllr Reeves agreed to arrange a meeting with the group to discuss how a better working relationship could be established.

**5. Report of County and District Councillor(s)**

Cllr Field reported that following today's ESCC cabinet meeting, 200 posts were to be lost due to budget cuts, with 55 of these in Adult Social Care. Following a failed appeal, Pells School in Lewes was scheduled for closure. There was still no clear government guidance for the future of faith and academy schools. The Better Together programme, which is set up across the two local CCG's, continues to work well and it is hoped that the other CCG's in the county will consider joining to look at different models to help streamline services, save money and give better care.

Cllr Dixon reported that RDC were still debating the potential future perishing of Bexhill, a differing views had been expressed about it.

**6. Correspondence and communications**

None

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## **7. To receive minutes and agree any recommendations from committee meetings:**

- Environment – 13 September
- External Relations & Town Development – 20 September
- Finance & General Purposes – 27 September
- Planning & Transport – 7 September and 21 September

Members received the minutes from the committee chairmen. There were no recommendations for Full Council to consider.

## **8. Changes to membership of the Planning and Transport Committee**

Cllr Jessop explained the recent difficulties in achieving a quorum at meetings, due to other commitments of existing Members and asked for any additional Councillors who wanted to join the committee. Cllr Davies volunteered and Members agreed to add her to the committee with immediate effect.

## **9. Statue unveiling**

Cllr Furness informed Members that it had not been possible to find a suitable time slot to unveil the statue on 14 October, so it was now scheduled for 11 November. There would be a small ceremony involving local schoolchildren and Members were encouraged to attend if possible.

Cllr Jessop reported that all of the necessary planning and licensing permissions had now been obtained, and he had managed to get agreement for ESCC to complete the safety audit a few months after installation.

Cllr Furness thanked Cllr Jessop on behalf of the Council for all his work in making the installation possible.

## **10. Insurance renewal**

The Town Clerk explained to Members that the Council was now entering the last year of a three year deal with the existing insurance brokers. A discount on this year's premium had been offered if the Council agreed to extend the agreement, but the Town Clerk recommended that a full review of insurance requirements and pricing should be completed next year, and the best value obtained thereafter. Members agreed with the Town Clerk's recommendation.

## **11. Payments and Receipts**

Payments and receipts (including internal transfers) for August and September were noted by Members. Payments were £43,624.04 for August and £276,882.08 for September, and receipts were £75,710.75 for August and £264,127.50 for September.

## **12. Reports from Councillors**

Cllr Jessop's report had been circulated prior to the meeting.

Cllr Furness had attended the opening of Route 100 at Hastings Pier on 10 September, Battle cricket club's match against an invited French side on 25 September, the Museum welcoming its 10,000<sup>th</sup> visitor on 27 September, a dinner with the subject of the Festival opera on 29 September, the Royal Mint for the making of the first commemorative 50p coins for the anniversary on 10 October, and he will be attending the tree planting on Caldbec Hill on 13 October to which all Members were invited.

Cllr Furness also informed Members that he had been offered the loan of some robes for the events on 14 October, if Members agreed it was appropriate. Members agreed to the loan, and to discuss at the next meeting improvements to the civic regalia of the town.

Cllr Ratcliffe had attended the Battle Marketing Group meeting on 22 September and the 1066 Executive Board meeting on 28 September.

Cllr Boryer had attended meetings of Beautiful Battle and SLR on 21 September, made two visits to the cemetery to assist with tree felling works, a Health Pathway meeting on 6 October and the Neighbourhood Plan site visits on 8 October.

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Cllr Russell had attended the Museum meeting as a substitute for Cllr Kiloh on 27 September, the charity dinner on 2 September, Neighbourhood Plan meeting on 14 September, Neighbourhood Plan visits on 8 October and a Chairs training event on 5 October.

Cllr Fisher had attended the charity dinner on 2 September.

Cllr Favell had attended the Health Pathway meeting on 6 October.

Cllr Gyngell had attended 2 meetings of the Memorial Hall, Battle Festival meetings and the writing group meeting, where the winners were decided.

Cllr Howell had attended the charity dinner on 2 September and the Neighbourhood Plan meeting on 14 September.

## **13. Matters for information/future agenda items**

Cllr Favell requested clear instructions were obtained for the Remembrance Parade, as there had been a lack of clarity at last year's event.

## **14. Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday, 22 November**

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.50pm

**Cllr D Furness, Chairman**