



Battle Town Council



MINUTES of a meeting of the FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE
held on TUESDAY, 7 FEBRUARY 2017 at The Almonry, High Street, Battle at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs D Furness (Chairman), G Favell and R Jessop.

In Attendance: Carol Harris (Town Clerk)

- 1. Apologies for absence** – Cllrs J Gyngell, M Kiloh and A Ratcliffe.
- 2. Disclosure of interest** – Cllr Furness declared a personal interest in any discussion relating to the grant application made by the Battle Festival Committee as he is the current Chairman.
- 3. Minutes of the meetings held on 8 November 2016** – These were approved by Members and duly signed by Cllr Furness.
- 4. Report from the Town Clerk**
 - Letters of thanks for **grants** had been received from Battle Area Community Transport and Revitalise.
 - The new **tenant** is now in occupation. All office spaces are now let.
 - The current Agreement with **Beautiful Battle** expires on 31 March 2018.
- 5. Minutes of the Personnel Sub Committee meeting on 19 January 2017** were noted.

6. Asset review report

The report had been circulated to Councillors for consideration. The Committee discussed the contents and asked the Clerk to write to the valuer to express disappointment in the lack of information produced and request further advice.

7. Almonry

The Clerk reported that the **meeting with Mark Anderson of John D Clarke Architects and David Martin** was considered to be extremely helpful in obtaining clarification of mitigating evidence to support the Council's proposals for undertaking refurbishment and restoration work to the ground floor of the building.

As a result of this meeting, John D Clarke had produced a fee proposal for Council to consider to take the project to the next stage. It offered 2 stages: to planning or completion. The latter at a rate of 12.5% of the final construction cost plus expenses. **Cllr Furness proposed that this project should be taken forward and that the fees be taken from Almonry earmarked reserves that will be replenished from funds obtained to carry out the work. This was seconded by Cllr Jessop and agreed.** Members discussed the condition of the building in general and asked that the Clerk obtain quotes for outstanding essential repairs for discussion at the next meeting.

Cllr Furness reported that 2 **gunpowder mortars** produced at the Powdermill Lane site had been at the Hastings Museum for some years. **Cllr Furness proposed that the small mortar should be sited at the Almonry, near to the Museum. This was seconded by Cllr Favell and agreed.**

A request from Mr Calthorpe, on behalf of **Battle Museum**, to replace the existing **removable banners** with a more professional style. **This was agreed.**

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8. To consider grant requests

- **Alan Hunting Associates – Astronomy Exhibition - £500.** This was agreed in principle but, in line with Council policy, would be paid closer to the event in the next financial year.
- **Battle Festival of Arts and Music - £500**
Cllr Furness repeated his personal interest in this item and, as the Committee were then inquorate, it was **agreed to recommend this to the next Full Council meeting.**

9. Financial matters

- The **budget report** was noted with no questions raised.
- The Committee **agreed the engagement of Mulberry & Co as internal auditors for 2017-18**
- The Committee **agreed to install 2 telephone lines to the ground floor office, to include an extension to the Clerk's first floor office and a booster for better wireless broadband connection to the meeting room.**

10. Matters for information and future agenda items

- **Essential repairs to the Almonry building**

12. Date of next meeting: 21 March 2017

The meeting closed at 8.20pm

**CLLR D FURNESS
CHAIRMAN**