



Battle Town Council



Minutes of the COUNCIL MEETING held on TUESDAY, 18 DECEMBER 2018 at
The Almonry, High Street, Battle at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs D Furness (Chairman), A Brown, M Dass, C Davies, G Favell, P Fisher, J Gyngell, M Howell, M Kiloh, 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

1. Apologies for absence – Cllr J Boryer.

Cllr Cook was absent.

2. Disclosure of interest – Cllr Furness declared an interest in item 10 as the Council's representative on the Battle Wildlife Group.

3. Minutes of the Council meeting held on 16 October 2018 were agreed and duly signed by Cllr Furness.

4. Clerk's report

- Progress is being made on the report on options for the **War Memorial**.
- Confirmation of a meeting date to discuss the **Market Square** with Jempsons and Tiger Tees is awaited. The gates are still not being locked.
- The decision from Rother District Council on the **grass cutting** contribution for 2019-20 had been postponed and is now due 19 December. Details of County cutting areas had been received and research on costs and equipment required is ongoing.
- The **defibrillators** for Marley and Telham Wards have been received. The one for Marley Stores will be installed shortly. An appropriate site at on Hastings Road has been agreed with ESCC and confirmation of a licence is awaited prior to installation of the defibrillator.

5. Reports from County Councillor and District Councillors

County Cllr Field(KF) reported that the **scaffolding at Nationwide** is currently licenced until 24 December and is unlikely to be removed until the building has been made safe. She confirmed that RDC had agreed to waive business rates on a last, single **ATM** in a town centre. KF invited the Council to attend a meeting in the New Year to discuss the future of the **skate ramp**.

District Cllr Dixon(KD) reported that: bids for **Community Infrastructure Levy(CIL) funds** (£248K) will be invited from February; in response to 2 upheld complaints against **temporary housing allocation**, permission had been approved to use its own properties for this purpose; the **Council Tax Reduction Scheme** had been reviewed with changes agreed; and a new **waste contractor** had been appointed.

6. Correspondence and communications received post agenda publication

A **road closure** will be undertaken between **25 and 27 December** at 01.45 until 04.00 on **London Road** to facilitate maintenance works to the level crossing.

7. To receive draft minutes and agree any recommendations from Committee meetings:

- **Finance & General Purposes Committee** meeting on 27 November 2018 were presented by Cllr Furness and noted.

Battle Town Council

- Members were reminded of the recent unsuccessful application to the Heritage Lottery Fund. The state of the Almonry building was discussed: the extensive repairs and maintenance required; the proposals to improve accessibility and usability; and the extensive costs involved. **Members agreed, by a majority, that an application be made to the Public Works Loan Board for £600,000 to carry out the work in line with planning approval.**
- The Clerk reported that costs to put the 13 year old van through an MOT this year had been considerable and she had been asked to obtain comparative costs for the **purchase and lease of a replacement vehicle:**

Option	Information/details	Pricing
Purchase	On the road price, including plywood lining, tow bar, registration and road tax 3 year warranty.	£17,418.60
Ford Lease	3 year non-maintained contract 5,000 miles allowance (minimum available) Road tax included • Birchwood Ford have agreed to offer FREE service & tyres with this vehicle due to low mileage.	Total cost £8,974.46 Initial payment of £708.51 followed by 35 payments of £236.17 Year 1 = £3,306.38 Year 2 = £2,834.04 Year 3 = £2,834.04

Members agreed that the Ford Lease vehicle be agreed for a 3 year period at an overall cost of £8,974.46.

- The Clerk confirmed that information relating to use and storage of proposed musical equipment for **Every Last Friday(ELF)** had been received from the applicant. Subject to confirmation that the equipment would be insured and available for Council and appropriate community use, **Members agreed to a grant of £331.98 for the purchase of 2 microphones with stands and 2 guitar amps.**
- **Environment Committee** meeting on 4 December 2018 were presented by Cllr Favell and noted.
- **Planning & Transport** meeting on 11 December 2018 were presented by Cllr Gyngell and noted.
 - **Members agreed that Rother District Council should be encouraged to work with East Sussex County Council on the alignment of fee paying parking provision in the town to prevent further traffic related issues when Civil Parking Enforcement is initiated.**

8. Precept 2019-20

A recommendation from F&GP had been circulated to all Members. Income and expenditure budgets had been calculated on a zero basis and Committee projects added separately, as attached. A discussion on the level of increase was undertaken, including possible postponement of projects considered. It was felt that all items proposed were of benefit to the town and **Members agreed a precept request to RDC of £374,644.** This represents an increase of 7.35%, which equates to a rise for Band D properties of £8.59pa, 71p per month or 17p per week.

9. External Relations & Town Development Committee

The 6 monthly report was noted as attached. Cllr Kiloh thanked Members of the Events sub Committee for their hard work on the various events throughout the year. The Action Plan will be presented to the next meeting.

Battle Town Council

ClIr Furness repeated his interest in the following item.

10. Wildlife/wildflower meadow signs

Members were reminded of the background to this group and the work carried out to date. Members supported the reinstatement of ESCC wildflower meadow signs in areas that had previously been approved and agreed that Council workstaff may assist in the installation of the new signage for a maximum of 3 hours.

The Clerk reported that ESCC's ecologist had approved the inclusion of the 2 areas at Darvel Down to the wildlife verge scheme.

11. Work experience placement

ESCC's Work Experience Team had requested Council to consider the placement of a pupil from New Horizons School in Hastings for one day per week for an initial period of 6 weeks. The Clerk confirmed that workstaff are supportive of this initiative and that the placement could be terminated should the student be considered unsuitable. Subject to confirmation that the student would be covered by the Council's insurance, Members agreed to the work placement.

12. Payments and receipts for November 2018

The income and expenditure report, as attached, had been circulated. Members noted income of £17,196.74 and expenditure £23,258.30; both net of account transfers.

13. Reports from representatives of the Council

- ClIr Furness
- turned on **Lights of Love** at St Mary's Church;
 - Attended a **Carol Service at Arundel Cathedral**;
 - Judged the fancy dress and best window display at **Late Night Shopping**;
- ClIr Davies
- was one of Santa's helpers at **Late Night Shopping**;
- ClIr Brown
- attended a **Battle Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group** meeting;
- ClIr Fisher
- attended a Christmas Lunch with the **Twinning Association**. The visit from St Valery sur Somme will probably be 10-12 July 2019;
- ClIr Ratcliffe
- **Neighbourhood Plan Forum** at Etchingham;
 - **Battle Neighbourhood Planning Steering Group** meeting;
- ClIr Russell
- **Battle Neighbourhood Plan** meetings:
 - o development site sub-group meeting. Beginning of allocations based on recommendations of external consultancy AECOM;
 - o site allocations sub-group. Continued deliberations on recommendations of external consultancy AECOM;
 - o steering group. Acceptance of AECOM report with amendments; acceptance of identification of site using local criteria based on AECOM recommendations; Local Green Space nominations accepted with amendments; amended declaration of interest form accepted subject to consultation with RDC; payments to consultant agreed subject to clarification of work completed and an undertaking to complete work by amended timeline;
 - Battle Heritage Charter Working Group. Continued considerations of nominations of buildings for local listing;

Battle Town Council

- Elf helper for Santa at **Late Night Shopping**;

CLlr Howell - attended a **Battle Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group** meeting;

- CLlr Gyngell
- **Recreation Ground Working Group** meeting. Approval of planning permission for the Pavilion had been noted;
 - **Memorial Hall** meeting. The joint Wedding Fair with the Council had been agreed

- CLlr Favell
- a **Beautiful Battle** meeting;
 - turned on **Lights of Love** at St Michael's Ninfield;
 - was one of Santa's helpers at **Late Night Shopping**
 - **Recreation Ground Working Group** meeting.

14. Future agenda items / matters to note

15. Date of next meeting: Tuesday, 15 January 2019

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.30pm

CLLR D FURNESS
CHAIRMAN

DRAFT