



Battle Town Council



MINUTES of the COUNCIL MEETING held on TUESDAY, 15 AUGUST 2017 in The Almonry, High Street, Battle, at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs D Furness (Chairman), J Boryer, C Davies, G Favell, P Fisher, J Gyngell, R Jessop, M Kiloh, A Ratcliffe, J Reeves and A Russell.

In attendance District Cllr K Dixon and Carol Harris (Town Clerk)

1. **Apologies for absence** – Received from Cllr M Howell.
2. **Disclosure of interest** – Cllr Ratcliffe declared an interest in item 16 as a tenant of The Almonry.
3. **Minutes of the Council meeting held on 18 July 2017** subject to the clarification under item 8 that Cllr Favell advised she did not feel that *a section of Caldbeck Hill* was an appropriate site, the minutes were agreed and duly signed by Cllr Furness.

5. **Future of the Town Model**

The Chairman welcomed Mike Dawes(MD) to the meeting. MD presented the background of the Town Model to Members and reported on the work carried out to refurbish and update the display with the assistance of John Gowland (originator), Battle Abbey School and the previous Yesterday's World for providing accommodation. He confirmed that his 3 stage project is now at the final stage and that a permanent visitor site needs to be identified. MD suggested that the Model should be placed with a tourist information point close to the Market Square. He had started initial communications with Jempsons in relation to the 'band stand' and, whilst supportive, it had been highlighted that agreements would be required from several sources to create a secure, modern 'building for community use'. MD also highlighted the need to raise funds to facilitate this proposal. Members fully endorsed this scheme and agreed that MD should work with the ER&TD Committee to take this forward.

4. **Reports from County Councillor and District Councillors**

Cllr Field had given her apologies but indicated there was nothing to report from the County Council

Cllr Dixon(KD) reported that: a **Working Party** has been created to discuss **Civil Parking Enforcement**; the **TIP services** is currently out to tender, a site for leaflets at the south of the town is being researched; the four options for **governance in Bexhill** are still being considered; and the **Planning Committee** will be discussing the two Netherfield applications with recommendations to approve Darvel Down and reject the proposal by Netherfield recreation ground. In response to a query, KD advised that there is no further news on the Blackfriars site.

6. **Correspondence and communications**

The Clerk reported:

- the offer of a meeting with **Cityscape Maps** to discuss the out of date map. The Clerk was asked to confirm the agreement with Cityscape Maps and to liaise with Cllr Ratcliffe to consider how best to take this forward in conjunction with work that 1066 Marketing are undertaking;



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- three expressions of interest in **Councillor vacancies**;
- an invitation to attend the **East Sussex Resilience Conference** in Hailsham on 21 November. Any Members interested should contact the Clerk.

7. Minutes and recommendations from Committee meetings:

- Cllr Ratcliffe presented the **External Relations & Town Development** minutes for 25 July. He highlighted the attendance of the Chamber of Commerce President, Alan Deeprise, to help improve relationships with businesses in the town. Unfortunately, the 2 businesses that had requested information on the provision of a TIP are no longer interested. AR reported that touch screen information points will be investigated. He confirmed that the Christmas lights contract had been let and the provision of defibrillators at Netherfield, Marley Lane and Telham are proposed;
- Cllr Favell presented the minutes of the **Environment** meeting on 1 August. The Committee recommended that the Oak tree bed continue to be excluded from the proposed new Agreement with Beautiful Battle(BB) due 1 April 2018 and that maintenance be carried out in-house. Members acknowledged that the area is difficult to cultivate due to the overshadowing of the Oak tree and suggested that the area should be reconsidered. **Council agreed to invite BB to the next Environment Committee to discuss the future of the Oak tree bed.** Cllr Fisher expressed her concern at the cost of the chipper to be purchased. It was highlighted that this would provide bark from trees felled for use around the Council's estate. This will generate savings and be environmentally friendly.
- Cllr Russell presented the **Events** sub Committee minutes from 8 August and highlighted a meeting with Capt Darrington Slegg on Thursday to confirm the agenda for the Signing of the Covenant Event. **The Committee recommended that the unspent £100 from the Battle in Bloom event be vired to the Welcome Reception for Battle Twinning Association/St Valery sur Somme. This was agreed.**
Please note that the Parish Assembly is planned for 24 April and all Councillors are asked to confirm availability.
- Cllr Jessop presented the **Planning & Transport** minutes from 8 August and these were noted.

8. Business Plan

This had been circulated in draft form. Cllr Reeves highlighted the importance of including how the Council considers crime reduction in every policy and what action should be agreed. Other comments will be sent to the Clerk for consideration at the F&GP Committee meeting on 7 November.

9. Armed Forces Covenant

The draft Covenant had been circulated to members. **Subject to the amendment of support assist the Local Cadet Forces to secure an area...." the Armed Forces Covenant was agreed, as attached.**

10. Remembrance Day Parade

Cllr Furness reminded Members that there is no longer a Battle Royal British Legion to arrange the Remembrance Day Parade. Members agreed that this is a significant event for the town and therefore asked that the Events sub Committee undertake this action. Cllr Russell agreed to arrange for a meeting in September to discuss this. **Members agreed that the Clerk should arrange a Road Closure Order to facilitate the Remembrance Day Parade.** Cllr Dixon suggested



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that Tracy Dixon, Parish Church Administrator may be able to provide information to assist with this.

11. Netherfield Recreation Ground & Village Hall

Cllr Boryer reported on the background to the acquisition and formation of the Netherfield Village Hall Committee and documents had been circulated to Members prior to the meeting for information. Cllr Boryer highlighted his concerns in relation to:

- Trustees: Mr Paul Deering and Mrs G Slack had resigned from the Village Hall Committee some considerable time before the 31st March 2017 and when contacted recently, both were under the impression that their names had been removed from the list of Trustees. Therefore their inclusion on the Hastings Voluntary Action report of 4th August 2017 is misleading. Sue Leeves resigned as Chair on 3rd May 2017;
- Receipts and payments account. Item: "Grant from BTC" does not state the purpose of the grant (grass cutting) and there is not any reference to it under Payments, so presumably it has been used for other purposes. The Cricket Club has been mowing the pitch outfield and is in dispute with the Committee about this item. In addition, a neighbour, Harold Cloutt has assisted cutting by using his tractor. A similar state exists for the donation for 2017 to 2018. A substantial area of the football pitch has not been mowed.

JB confirmed the current Village Hall Officers as at 4th August: Chairman, Marrassa Stepanek; Treasurer, Maurice Holmes; Secretary, Richard Everton. The Clerk was asked to send a letter to the new Committee requesting confirmation on how grants/donations from the Council for grass cutting have been spent. She was also asked to communicate with the Voluntary Action Group to clarify the Council's involvement.

12. Souvenir Normand

Cllr Russell reported that the Souvenir Normand group have refurbished the wording but are asking English Heritage to carry out further renovations. **Members agreed to write to English Heritage in support of the request to carry out the specialist work to the stone.**

13. Wildflower meadows project

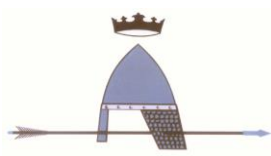
Cllr Furness reported a positive meeting of the volunteers highlighting the progress to date. Maps of the areas agreed for wildflower meadows are attached. The area at Caldbec Hill had been identified as requiring cutting and removal of arisings. Unfortunately, ESCC do not have the equipment to carry out this procedure. The local farmer that currently cuts and bails the Kingsmead site has agreed to add the Caldbec Hill area to his schedule. Cllr Furness confirmed that any cost will be covered by volunteers.

14. Recommendations for the Mortars

Cllr Furness reminded Members of the historic importance to the town of the gunpowder mortars. **Cllr Furness proposed that the Council:**

- **take the lead role in obtaining funding to exhibit the mortar to the public on Council land;**
- **take responsibility for the financial management of the project and any tendering process.**

These were agreed and ER&TD were asked to include the mortars within their Action Plan. It was felt that the mortars should include full information and be added on both the Keane and Heritage Trails.



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15. Mayoral Regalia

Cllr Furness reported that there had been 2 expressions of interest in taking forward the provision of new Mayoral Regalia. The Clerk was asked to arrange for both designs and cost information be presented to Council for decision.

16. First floor office

The Clerk reported that notification of vacation of a first floor office had been received. She confirmed that this was within the terms of the lease and that rent had been paid to the end of the period. **Members agreed that the office space should be advertised through a reputable letting agent.** The Clerk was asked to ensure conditions on the positioning and type of equipment are placed on any future agreement to protect the fabric of the building. She was also asked to check the soundproofing between the adjoining office.

17. Basic Parish Allowance

Forms of statement of intent to claim this allowance had been circulated. Members were asked to return these to the Clerk by 28 August 2017.

18. Membership of Committees and outside groups

The Committee agreed that Cllr Gynghell, as Vice Chairman of P&T should be added to the Finance & General Purposes Committee. In light of the interest in vacancies, and the workload of existing Members, it was agreed to defer adding a replacement Councillor to ER&TD and Deputy representative to the Battle Marketing Group (1066) until the next meeting.

19. Reports from representatives of the Council

Cllr Jessop had circulated his report which included:

- attendance at a **peer review of Rother District Council activities** at which he had expressed disappointment in the delays with Civil Parking Enforcement and planning applications being approved despite strong objections to the applications where they are not in line with emerging Neighbourhood Plans; although acknowledgement had been made of the constraints officers are working under;
- judging of the **Scarecrow competition** with Robert Emeleus and the Deputy Town Clerk and subsequent Awards evening. Alan Hunting Associates won best in Festival;
- attending the **East Sussex Association of Local Councils Board** meeting at Uckfield – the minutes were circulated to Members;
- a meeting with David Young of **Sustrans**, the cycling charity, to discuss possible routes to remove cycling from the Highways;
- the **Rother Community Grants Panel** at which the Council's application for play equipment was recommended;

- Cllr Furness
- attended the **50th celebration of Battle Preschool** in Asten Fields;
 - meetings with the **Fire Service and Police**;
 - led at the presentation of the **Scarecrow Awards**
 - presented awards to winners of the **Run on the Rec**;



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- Cllr Fisher - attended a meeting of the **Battle Twinning Association** where the events for the bank holiday weekend were discussed;
- Cllr Boryer - attended a meeting of **Beautiful Battle**;
- three meetings of the **Netherfield Village Hall Committee** attended;
- met with Ralph Smart, **ESCC**, and the Clerk to discuss options for the **Amenity Field** land;
- Cllr Gyngell - the **Battle Arts Festival** meetings that have produced the programmes which are now available;
- Cllr Ratcliffe - attended a **Marketing Group** meeting.

Cllrs Davis, Favell, Fisher, Furness, Jessop and Kiloh were present at the **Battle in Bloom Awards** evening.

20. Payments and receipts

The income £8,257 and expenditure £27,275.69 for July 2017 was noted, as attached

21. Matters for information / future items for agenda

The Clerk confirmed that research has been made into suitable **CCTV** equipment for the **Almonry** but no definite recommendation has been found due to lack of advice. She will contact both RDC and Hastings Borough Council for suggestions to take to F&GP.

Cllr Jessop reported unease at the apparent lack of action by the Treasurer of the **Battle Charities**. The Council agreed that Cllr Jessop should write a letter of concern to other members of the group.

- Amenity Field
- Street light conversion to LED lamps

Cllr Russell requested that the next in-house training be on the **accounts system** and how to read the documents.

22. Date of next meeting: Tuesday, 19 September 2017

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9pm