



Battle Town Council



MINUTES of the COUNCIL MEETING held on TUESDAY, 20 FEBRUARY 2017 in The Almonry, High Street, Battle, at 7.30pm

PRESENT: Cllrs D Furness (Chairman), J Boryer, G Favell, P Fisher, M Howell, R Jessop, M Palmer, A Ratcliffe and A Russell.

In attendance District Cllr Kathryn Field, 2 members of the public, Keith Robertson (Locum Clerk)

1. **Apologies for absence** – Received from Cllrs J Gyngell and J Reeves.
Cllrs C Davies and M Kiloh were absent
2. **Disclosure of interest** – Cllr Furness disclosed an interest in Item 13 Grant Request.
3. **Minutes of the Council meeting held on 31 January 2017** were considered and Members resolved unanimously to agree the minutes. The minutes were signed by Cllr Furness.
4. **Battle Muffins Funding Proposal**
Malcolm Gates presented a proposal from the Battle Muffins Charitable Foundation stating that £500 is available to Battle Town Council to fund suitable projects in the town. Mr Gates notes that projects supporting children or flower planting would be considered favourably and asked the Council to consider and present three ideas for funding to Battle Muffins by March 2nd 2017. Councillors resolved to do this and present ideas to the Clerk for consolidation.
5. **Report of County and District Councillor(s)**
 - 5.1. Cllr Field reported that ESCC will increase council tax by 5% to include the increases for funding adult social care in the next financial year and advances for the following year. Cllr Field also responded to a question of the cutting of grass verges and noted that with fewer cuts the level of complaints had reduced.
 - 5.2. Cllr Field also reported for the Rother District Council stating that Council taxes will rise by 3% and that at the next Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting on 20th March an item on Civil Parking enforcement will be discussed.
6. **Correspondence and communications.** None.
7. **Minutes and recommendations from Committee meetings:**
 - 7.1. The minutes from the **Environment Committee** meeting on 24th January were noted.
 - 7.2. Cllr Russell presented the minutes from the **External Relations & Town Development** meeting on 31 January. **Members resolved unanimously to agree to sign the Armed Forces Covenant, and to support a Bronze level Recognition Award; and resolved by a majority to support a Town Mayor's Cadet.**
 - 7.3. The minutes from the **Finance and General Purposes Committee** meeting on 7th February were noted.
 - 7.4. The minutes from the **Planning & Transport Committee** meetings on 11 and 25 January and 8th February were noted.



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8. Wild meadows and proposal for planting on the roundabout.

8.1. **Wild meadows.** Keith Datchler presented to Council a synopsis of the importance of wild meadows to our environment and the preservation of plant and animal species. He noted that 97% of our wild meadows have disappeared since 1940 with the increase of far less diverse use of farmland and that we can take action now to plant meadow grasses and flowers in spaces within our community help preservation. He noted examples such as the Coronation Meadows project at Ashburnham and the central reservation planting on some roads into Brighton. Councillors discussed some possible sites within Battle and the use of planting on verges. **Members resolved to approve the planting of meadow grass and flowers on verges and other places where appropriate and to ensure that this be effectively communicated to residents.** There will be no financial costs to the Council action associated by this decision. *Cllr Furness to lead actions on this.*

8.2. **Planting on the Roundabout.** Members discussed full or partial planting of meadow grass and flowers on the roundabout. **It was resolved by majority to plant the entire roundabout.** *Cllr Furness to lead actions on this.*

9. Site for historical mortars.

Cllr Furness reported that two historical mortars that have been kept by the Hastings Museum are now available to Battle if we choose to take them and at no cost. The mortars are a type of mixing bowl that were used to manufacture gunpowder and are relevant to the historical production of gunpowder in the local area. It was proposed that we do accept these mortars, that the smaller of them be placed in front of the Battle Museum and the larger at George Meadows. **Members resolved unanimously to approve the acceptance and placement of the mortars.**

10. Payments and receipts

Members noted payments (including internal transfers) totalling £40,230.47 and receipts (including internal transfers) totalling £38,352.82 for the period 1 to 31 December 2016.

11. Reports from representatives of the Council

Councillors all reported their attendance at meetings and other activities which included;

Cllr Jessop reported concern about the future of the **Battle Chamber of Commerce** who will consider this at their AGM in March.

Cllr Furness thanked Cllr Jessop for paying for the **Traffic Safety Audit**.

Cllr Russell reported that the **Neighbourhood Plan group** will present an exhibition of the plan progress at the Parish Assembly and that the exhibition will be available at the following weekend for viewing.

Cllr Ratcliffe stated he will introduce the meadows project to the **1066 marketing group**.

12. Matters for information / future items for agenda.

Cllr Russell reported that following the **break in at the Almonry office** any further incidences should use the crime report reference 416100217

13. Grant Request from the Battle Festival of Arts and Music.

Cllr Furness having declared an interest in this agenda item left the meeting at 8.40pm.

Cllr Jessop took the chair for the remainder of the meeting.



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Members considered that additional information was required to clarify the need for this grant in the context of reserves already available to the BFAM before a decision could be reached and **resolved to defer this item to the Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting on 21st March 2017.**

14. Date of next meeting: Tuesday 4th April 2017

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.50pm