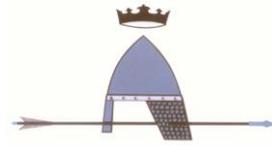




Battle Town Council



MINUTES of the EXTERNAL RELATIONS AND TOWN DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
held on TUESDAY, 26 SEPTEMBER 2017 at The Almonry, High Street, Battle at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs A Ratcliffe (Chairman), C Davies, G Favell, P Fisher and R Jessop.

In attendance: Mike Dawes advisor on Town Model project, Carol Harris (Town Clerk)

1. **Apologies for absence** – Cllr D Furness.
2. **Disclosure of interest** – None.
3. **Minutes of the meeting held on 25 July 2017. These were agreed by Members and duly signed by Cllr Ratcliffe.**
4. **Matters arising from previous minutes, not on this agenda**

The Clerk confirmed that:

- the grant application for a British Heart Foundation **defibrillator for Netherfield** had been successful and payment for the remainder of the cost had been issued. She reported that training is being arranged that will take place at Netherfield Village Hall;
- the order for the **Community Award Board**, to be sited at the Memorial Hall, has been placed with a local sign-writer.

The Chairman welcomed Mike Dawes to the meeting and asked him to report progress on the **Town Model** project. MD reminded Members of the background and confirmed that his proposal remains to install the Model at the Market Square in an adapted 'bandstand' which would also comprise a tourist information point. This would be called the TIME Hub: Town Information and Model Exhibit. MD highlighted the need for a constituted body to apply for funding to take the project forward. He asked that Members consider where the Model may be stored until a permanent site is obtained. The Clerk was asked to contact RDC to query ownership of the bandstand.

5. **Town Improvements**

The Clerk reported that the **notice board** at Market Square had required urgent repairs that had been carried out in-house. Further notice boards around the town are now being refurbished over the autumn/winter period.

6. **Events sub-Committee meeting held 12 September 2017**

The details for Remembrance Sunday were noted. **Members considered the recommendation that future budgets should include waiting staff for hosting events.** The Clerk was asked to obtain quotations for this and bring to the next meeting for further discussion.

7. **To agree a Working Group to investigate interactive information boards**

Cllr Ratcliffe reported on an informal meeting held with Olivia Post, Paul Baker, Cllrs Furness, Jessop and Field to discuss the provision of interactive information boards to replace the existing Cityscape Maps. An indicative cost had been obtained of approx £18k. **Cllr Ratcliffe proposed that a TIME Working Group be formed to take forward both the provision of interactive information boards and the Town Model. This was seconded by Cllr Favell and agreed unanimously.** The Clerk was asked to contact the interested parties, including Mike Dawes. Terms of Reference would be brought to the next meeting.

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8. Battle Visual Arts Development Committee

The Clerk reported that there had been no meeting of the Committee although the Finance sub Committee had met earlier in the week. The work is progressing well although the costs of items had increased significantly since the bid had been made. This has resulted in 3, rather than 5, stone markers being ordered. Sponsorship is being sought and the suggestion of a further grant application is being considered.

9. Christmas Lights

The Clerk advised that a meeting with the Contractor, Mike Clarke and Simon Lawrence has been arranged for Tuesday. This will include an inspection of the areas covered and a viewing of the lights. She confirmed that Lights-On is being arranged by the Christmas Committee and Santa will only be switching on the Abbey Green tree lights this year. The Clerk also confirmed that the remittance advice from RDC for £1500 donation towards the lights had been received.

10. Writing Competition

Cllr Favell had circulated notes from the Working Group meeting and confirmed that the winner of the adult's competition will be notified by 30 September. The (t)DTC was asked to request the return of the trophies. Cllr Favell asked Members to consider an appropriate title for next year's competition.

11. Plans for gun powder mortars

Cllr Jessop reminded Members that the mortars had been delivered free of charge Jewsons. He confirmed that both mortars require a stand and covers; the smaller one is by the Museum entrance and he will be discussing possible future plans with Battle Museum; there is possible sponsorship available for the larger mortar sited close to the Cricket ground, although wording is yet to be agreed. **Members agreed that the mortars should be added to the Action Plan to be considered for budgeting purposes at the next meeting.**

12. Marketing groups

There had been no meetings.

13. Financial matters

The budget report to 31 August 2017 was noted.

14. Matters for information / future agenda items

Cllr Favell reported that at the **South & South East in Bloom Ceremony** the Town Centre attained a Silver Gilt Award. The Council's other entries: Cemetery and Almonry Garden also achieved the Silver Gilt.

Cllr Davies expressed concern at the number of **shops now closed in the High Street** and asked how the Council may be able to encourage small businesses to the Town. Members acknowledged that efforts are being made to forge greater links with the Chamber of Commerce to identify any assistance that may be offered. It was suggested that RDC be asked to accept a rate free period. This would be discussed at the next meeting with the President of the Chamber of Commerce.

15. Date of next meeting: Tuesday 28 November 2017

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.35pm.

CLLR A RATCLIFFE
Chairman