



Battle Town Council



**Minutes of the COUNCIL MEETING held on TUESDAY, 19 DECEMBER 2017 at
The Almonry, High Street, Battle at 7.30pm**

Present: Cllrs D Furness (Chairman), J Boryer, C Davies, G Favell, P Fisher, M Howell, A Ratcliffe, A Russell.

In Attendance: District Cllr K Dixon, County Cllr K Field, J Harmer, Mrs J de Garston ((t) Deputy Clerk), C Harris (Town Clerk)

1. **Apologies for absence** – Received from Cllrs J Gyngell, R Jessop and M Kiloh.
Cllr Furness reported that Cllr Jessop is doing well and hopes to be home for Christmas.
2. **Disclosure of interest** - None
3. **Minutes of the Council meeting held on 21 November 2017** were agreed and duly signed by Cllr Furness.

4. Reports from County Councillor and District Councillors

District

Cllr Dixon confirmed that RDC had agreed no change to the Governance of Bexhill by a majority of 18/13. The main points raised were the cost and that Bexhill functions well as it is. Cllr Dixon suggested that public opinion may be reflected at the next District elections in 18months.

Cllr Field reported that a Peer Review had confirmed that RDC is a “sedate” Council.

County

Cllr Field advised that figures are still awaited although it is known that Sussex Police are requesting a substantial increase in their precept.

5. Correspondence and communications

Confirmation from RDC that there will be no **Council Tax Reduction Scheme (CTRS)** grant with effect from 2018/19.

Advice from the National Association of Local Councils that the **Council tax referendum principles** have not been extended to Parish and Town Councils in 2018/19.

6. Rother District Council’s proposed Controls to be included in a Public Space Protection Order

Members confirmed that fly-tipping is an issue and asked that the procedure for enforcement of all Controls be clarified.

7. Reinstatement cost assessment of Council properties

The Clerk had circulated the report from Barrett Corp & Harrington and confirmed that the premium adjustment has been received at £72.19. She confirmed that, as per the agreement, all insurance values had been amended accordingly.

8. RBS closure of NatWest Bank

Members discussed the forthcoming closure of the last bank in Battle. Whilst all agreed this was disappointing in an area with an elderly population, it was acknowledged that this was a business decision. It was agreed by a majority that a letter should be issued protesting against the closure and requesting that the external ATM be retained. The District Councillors to receive a copy of the letter. Cllr Ratcliffe suggested that the TIME Working Group may be willing to incorporate the ATM facility as part of the project.

9. Minutes and agree any recommendations from Committee meetings:

Battle Town Council

- **External Relations & Town Development** on 28 November were presented by Cllr Ratcliffe and noted. He highlighted a meeting with Stephen Jempson to discuss proposals for the Market Square and confirmed that a further meeting is to be arranged to further the TIME WG aims.
- **Environment** on 5 December were presented by Cllr Favell and noted. The Clerk reminded Members that Council has agreed to work with Battle Baptist FC, Battle Health Pathway and Step up Sports Consultancy to provide a better Pavilion with community area (café) and support the Health Pathway scheme. Step up Sports Consultancy have been employed to seek funding for this project and has produced a proposal. To enable BBFC to obtain funding from Sport sources a long term licence or lease is required. **Members agreed in principle to grant a 10year licence to Battle Baptist Football Club for the use of the football pitch and pavilion, subject to confirmation of need.**
- **Planning & Transport** on 12 December were presented by Cllr Russell and noted. He highlighted the progress by RDC on Criminal Parking Enforcement and that the budget for Neighbourhood Plan has been reduced for 2018/19.

10. Precept for 2018/19

The Clerk had circulated a slightly revised income and expenditure budget for 2018/19 from the original F&GP proposal for a 3.75% increase. She highlighted that, although approval of planning and listed building applications for the Almonry restoration project had been received, there had previously been no Ear Marked Reserve agreed towards this. Cllr Favell reminded Members that the original request of the Environment Committee for the recreation ground project (café, pavilion and health pathway) had been £30k for 2 years but that, to keep the precept increase to a minimum, it had been agreed to adjust this to £20k for 3 years. **Members agreed to a Precept of £349,000, calculated as attached. It was also agreed to carry to EMR any unspent budgets as necessary for projects not completed.** This represents an increase of 57p per annum for Band D properties, or 2%.

11. List of payments and receipts for November 2017

The income of £13,209.16 and expenditure of £39,282.62 for November, excluding transfers between accounts, was noted as attached.

12. Reports from representatives of the Council

Cllr Jessops report had been circulated and included:

- Civil Parking Enforcement Working Party of RDC at Bexhill Town Hall – reported in P&T Committee minutes;
- Battle's Gala Night;
- Visited a bookbinder in Punnet's Town with Robert Emeleus and Roy Calthorpe to discuss and agree the type of binding to be used for the commemorative book about the town's statue at the top end of the High Street. The book will be displayed in the Museum and be of archive quality with a tooled calves leather exterior. It is expected to be completed by late spring / summer. Thanks are extended to both Robert and Roy for their input.

Cllr Furness asked that all reports be sent to the Clerk for inclusion at the next meeting.

13. Matters for information / future items for agenda

14. Date of next meeting: Tuesday, 16 January 2018

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.10pm

CLLR D FURNESS
CHAIRMAN