



Battle Town Council



MINUTES of the EXTERNAL RELATIONS AND TOWN DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
held on TUESDAY, 5 MARCH 2019 at The Almonry, High Street, Battle at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs M Kiloh (Chairman), C Davies, G Favell, V Cook, D Wheeler and C Would.

In attendance: Carol Harris (Town Clerk)

1. **Apologies for absence** – None.

2. **Disclosure of interest** – None.

3. **Minutes of the meeting held on 29 January 2018** were agreed and duly signed by Cllr Kiloh.

4. **Clerk's report**

- A meeting had been held with Mr Jempson to discuss the **Market Square**. It is clear that Jempsons are attempting to make improvements to the area but this is complicated due to the ownership and lease situation. They have agreed to put in measures to prevent vehicles parking in the area and are discussing options for the provision of markets. Jempsons confirmed their support for a lease to the Council for the bandstand and for direct access to the Museum from the Market Square. The Clerk was asked to monitor activity.
- The **Battle Treasure Trail** should be available for "testing" within the next 2 weeks.
- A '**new occupiers**' letter has been formatted and will be issued after the forthcoming Annual Report has been delivered to households.
- Three **festive lighting** companies have been contacted and appointments are being made for design proposals.
- The **Mayor of St Valery sur Somme** is delighted to agree to meet the Council during their visit in July. Confirmation of date and time is awaited.
- The **accessibility audit** will be undertaken with members of the Hastings and Rother Disability Forum tomorrow.
- A response from **Cityscape Maps** had simply provided the existing map with a cost for replacement trail plaques at a cost of £345 each. Members were reminded that Battle Marketing were in favour of the removal of these maps. The Committee agreed that Cityscape Maps should be advised that a new agreement would not be forthcoming. The Clerk was asked to contact Battle Marketing for an A3 Battle Town Map for laminating onto the existing machines.

5. **Correspondence and communications received post agenda publication**

A local resident had suggested that schools be asked to raise awareness, through pupils, of the need to educate **dog owners to pick up dog faeces**. The Clerk had responded that this had been broached with the local school but no response had been received. The resident will pursue.

Several complaints of an abandoned **black bin and refuse outside Costa Coffee** had been reported to various agencies. The bin has now been removed and the situation will be monitored.

The **1066 Country Marketing** Executive meeting minutes for 11 February had been circulated, as attached.

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6. To receive a report from Working Groups and receive any recommendations

- **Heritage Charter** Proposals will be presented to Committee in due course. A report will be provided for the next meeting.
- **Resilience Plan** Notes from the meeting on 23 January had been circulated, as attached.
- **Writing competition** Members discussed appropriate title for this year's competition and agreed "The ghost who came to dinner".

7. South & South East in Bloom

Members considered options for town improvements. It noted that Cllr Fisher is coordinating a litter clearance for 21 May and it was agreed that a further occasion should be carried out before judging. The Clerk confirmed that staff are undertaking a regular weed killing in the High Street; although this is not the responsibility of the Town Council. The removal of any dead weeds was requested. It was suggested that more engagement with property owners in the High Street to encourage improvements was required; perhaps via the Chamber of Commerce or a Conservation Society. Members recommended that more plant feeding be undertaken during the summer. Cllr Kiloh volunteered to liaise with Beautiful Battle.

8. Town Forum – it was agreed to postpone this matter until after May.

9. Youth activities

Cllr Would highlighted the relatively high number of youth within the town with very little activity or indoor facilities provided. She reported that many teenagers travel out of area. It was suggested that CIL funds may be available but that more thorough research is required. The Clerk was asked to circulate the results of the current Pavilion/Café questionnaire in due course. The possibility of a diary of events on the website is to be explored.

10. Heritage Trails leaflet

Members agreed that the routes should be incorporated onto a leaflet to encourage health walks throughout the town. Two quotes had been received: one from the artist involved in the children's activity book, at a cost of £750 for all artwork required; Images by Hand at £800 for the map design with limited wording. **Members agreed to fund £750 from Social Media (4460) for Aral Designs to produce a Heritage/Keane Trail map for printing in-house.**

11. Tourist Information Point

Cllr Kiloh reminded Members that alternative providers in the town had been approached but none had felt it was viable. It was hoped that a TIC and Town Model display within the Bandstand would be good for business but this requires funds and will take time. It had therefore been agreed that a Tourist Information Centre should be incorporated within the redevelopment of the Almonry as part of a Community Hub. As a short-term option, it was suggested that a pop-up TIP in the Bandstand should be considered but it was felt that not enough volunteers would be available.

12. Media and Communication Policy

Cllr Davies reported that she had looked at the existing Policy and, subject to minor revision, it fulfilled the Council's aims and objectives.

13. Action Plan

This was noted.

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14. Budget report to 31 January 2019

This was noted, as attached.

15. Matters to Note / future agenda items

The Clerk was asked to research the reasons for the loss of Pancake races in the High Street (adults) and Market Square (Battle & Langton School pupils).

16. Date of next meeting: 30 April 2019 (Please note date change due to May elections)

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.20pm.

CLLR M KILOH
Chairman

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