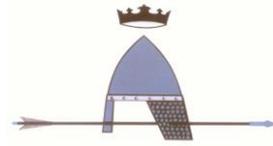


Battle Town Council



MINUTES of the EXTERNAL RELATIONS AND TOWN DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
held on TUESDAY, 28 NOVEMBER 2017 at The Almonry, High Street, Battle at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs A Ratcliffe (Chairman), C Davies, G Favell and D Furness.

In attendance: Mary Dass, Carol Harris (Town Clerk)

1. **Apologies for absence – Cllr P Fisher and R Jessop.**
2. **Disclosure of interest – None.**
3. **Minutes of the meeting held on 26 September 2017 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 **defibrillator had been installed at the Netherfield Local Store**. Training is being arranged.

5. **Town Improvements**

- The Clerk reported that the notice board at The Almonry had deteriorated and been removed for safety reasons. It can be repaired and refurbished by work staff which will take time and the original wording may be lost. Alternatively, a replacement could be purchased at an approximate cost of £1200. **Members agreed that the original notice board should be refurbished.**
- Members noted the comments from **South & South East in Bloom** judges and felt that these were not terribly helpful. The Clerk was asked to obtain the thoughts of Beautiful Battle prior to making an entry to the 2018 Competition.
- A suggestion to employ a **Town Development Manager** had been made. Members discussed the benefit of employing an ambassador to welcome visitors and highlight what is available in the Town. Cllr Furness reported that businesses in Hastings had been offered this service at an additional cost to their rates and had refused. He confirmed that Battle Abbey's Property Manager is meeting with coach representatives to encourage longer visiting times in Battle. Cllr Ratcliffe advised that this may be covered by the proposals of the TIME WG.

6. **TIME Working Group**

- Cllr Ratcliffe confirmed that an **initial meeting** had been held that had agreed Olivia Post(OP) as Chairman of the Group. Additional members had been agreed including Cllr Field. OP had agreed to investigate costings for the interactive information touch boards. The TC and Mike Dawes will be meeting with Stephen Jempson to discuss the situation with and options for the Market Square Bandstand. The next meeting of TIME WG has been agreed for Thursday 4 January 2018.
- Cllr Furness agreed to **representative** the Council on this Group.

7. **Battle Visual Arts Development Committee**

- The **minutes** of previous meetings had been circulated to Members. It was noted that the project is moving forward although costs have increased significantly since the original scheme was developed which has resulted in amendments to the scheme. The second tranche of the Heritage Lottery Fund has been applied for.
- Cllr Favell agreed to **represent** the Council on this Committee.

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8. Remembrance Service

The Clerk confirmed that the event had been well attended and served well by the local Air Training Cadets, Guides and Scouts. Battle Bonfire Boyes had controlled the road closures and Chris Bexhell marshalled the parade. The wreaths had been arranged by Don Fellows and were presented at the St Mary's Church Memorial by various representatives of the town. Cllr Furness reported that at the recent Battle Abbey Explanatory Group meeting it had been highlighted that next year will be a special commemorative year and that Battle Abbey would like to be involved. Members thanked the Events sub Committee for their work on making this a successful occasion.

9. Christmas Lights

The Clerk reported that Alpha Electric had worked hard to ensure that all was in place for the lights switch on event on 25 November. Some members of the group previously responsible for erecting the lights had kindly helped with choosing and erecting the trees. The contractor and Chamber volunteers had worked together to ensure that Santa was able to turn on all the lights simultaneously. Cllr Furness suggested that extra funds to replace the string lights should be included in the budget.

10. East Sussex Community Resilience Conference

Cllr Favell had circulated her report, as attached. Members agreed that the formation of a Resilience Plan should be added to the Action Plan.

11. Writing Competition

Cllr Favell reminded the Committee that this group is now reduced as a result of the recent resignation of Jo Reeves. Members agreed that next year's children's competition would be titled "Along the Twitten and through the Shaw". Cllr Favell reported that the rules would be updated including the presentation of awards at a Christmas meeting.

12. Action Plan

Members agreed to update the Action Plan to include:

- Distribution of new residents pack;
- Market Square
- Christmas lights
- Gunpowder mortars
- Town Information and Model Exhibit
- Resilience Plan

This is attached.

13. Marketing groups

- The **minutes** from the meeting of 1066 Marketing Group and the draft Battle Events guide had been circulated to Members.
- In light of increased costs, the 1066 Country Marketing Group had requested a **donation of £500**. Whilst Members acknowledged the benefit of the work this Group undertakes it agreed that a Grant application must be submitted in the usual way.

Mary Dass left the meeting at this point.

14. Financial matters

- The **budget report** to 31 October 2017 was noted, as attached.
- **Members agreed to recommend to F&GP a budget for 2018/19**

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Income:

- Marketing & Sponsorship – increase to £1000

Expenditure:

- Defibrillators: Marley Lane and Telham areas – increase to £2,000 plus carry over to EMR £300 unspent
 - Gunpowder mortars - £1,000
 - TIME hub/TIP - £6,000 (second year)
 - Christmas lights – additional £2,000 (the Clerk was asked to confirm contractor's quote for 2018)
 - Remembrance Day (marching band, bugler) - £500
 - Hospitality – reduce to £500
 - Competitions – reduce to £100
- All other items to increase by 3%.

15. Matters for information / future agenda items

16. Date of next meeting: Tuesday 23 January 2018

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.45pm.

CLLR A RATCLIFFE
Chairman