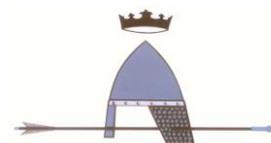




# Battle Town Council



MINUTES of the COUNCIL MEETING held at 7.30pm  
on Tuesday, 16 October 2012 at  
The Almonry, High Street, Battle

**PRESENT:** Cllr R Bye – Chairman  
**ALSO:** Cllrs C Bishop, J Boryer, J Carter, J Eldridge, Mrs T Farr,  
Mrs P Fisher, R Harris, Mrs M Howell, R Jessop, Mrs M Kiloh,  
Ms M-L Neill, Mrs S Pry and D Wilson.

## Public Question Time

No members of the public were present

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1. **Apologies for Absence** – Cllr Palmer.

2. **Disclosure of Interest** – None.

3. **Minutes of the Council Meeting** held on 18 September 2012. Subject to amending the date in item 4 to 22 September, Cllr Carter proposed approval of the minutes, seconded by Cllr Bishop. This was agreed and they were duly signed.

## 4. **Matters Arising from Previous Meetings**

The Clerk said that the reports from the **facilitators of the Parish Conference discussion groups** had arrived. Any Councillor wishing to have a complete set to contact the Clerk.

Cllr Wilson has spoken to Tracey Johnson, the member of staff at the **County Council** responsible for **youth matters**. She is happy to make a presentation to the Council putting forward ideas for greater involvement with young people. Rather than a separate meeting **Cllr Ms Neill proposed that the presentation should be made to the next meeting of the Communications Committee but, as with all meetings, an open invitation to all Council Members to attend. This was seconded by Cllr Harris and agreed by a majority.**

## 5. **Police Matters**

All present confirmed that they had received the **weekly Crime Updates** and there were no matters arising.

## 6. **Report from County Councillor**

Cllr Field reported on a meeting earlier that day which had included a demonstration by those **opposing the proposed link road**. There had been 2 discussions of particular interest. Firstly, how **proposed cuts of 15%** should be achieved. The debate had focussed on whether this should simply be a reduction against the total budget or applied to each individual activity. The second discussion had been about the future of the **fire station on The Ridge**.

Cllr Carter **congratulated the County Council** on the speedy action which had been taken following the loss of the **Countryliner Bus Service**. Cllr Field said that it is hoped that the interim arrangements will be maintained for the foreseeable future.

## 7. **Report from District Councillors**

As already reported to the Town Council's Planning Committee, Cllr Dixon confirmed that **Solar UK** have been asked to submit a planning application if they wish to retain the hoarding around their site in North Trade Road. All District Councillors had recently

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received training on the **new standards regime** and had been asked to brief their Town and Parish Councils on the main items.

Cllr Davies confirmed that a new **joint waste contract** has now been let and that the changed collection arrangements will be implemented in Rother in April 2014.

## **8. Correspondence & Communications**

Members noted that the **SALC AGM** will take place on **7 November** and that, regarding the introduction of **superfast broadband**, this has been delayed pending resolution of some technical points arising from EU rules about the use of public money to part fund joint projects with the private sector. However, it was hoped that this would soon be overcome, allowing contracts to be placed with the preferred supplier early in the new year.

A request had been received from the **County Council** for evidence of the **Council's policy** regarding which employees are able to join the **Local Government Pension Scheme**, and also various pension's discretions policy. The Clerk had circulated proposals prior to the meeting. Members confirmed that Council policy is to offer all staff the opportunity to join the scheme and, subject to minor drafting changes the majority of the discretions policies were agreed. The main change to the Clerk's proposals was the addition of a discretion to make payments under the injury allowances regulations. **Cllr Ms Neill formally proposed these amendments. This was seconded by Cllr Harris and agreed unanimously. The agreed policies are attached to these minutes.**

Finally, Members noted the invitation to the **Sussex Community Resilience Conference** to be held on **13 November**.

**9. Minutes of the Communications Committee meeting held on 25 September** were reported by Cllr Bishop and noted. Regarding the **web site** he confirmed that a brief has now been prepared which will shortly be considered by the Claverham School Council. Assuming that the College is willing to take on the task of revamping the website the necessary changes should be in place by next March.

Regarding the **Town Crier** Cllr Bishop drew attention to the report in the minutes of the Committee meeting and **proposed that Mike Dawes be invited to act as Town Crier on appropriate occasions. This was seconded by Cllr Ms Neill and agreed unanimously.**

**10. Minutes of the Services Committee meeting held on 2 October** were reported by Cllr Mrs Kiloh and noted. An error relating to the potential income from the Watch Oak allotments will be corrected at the next Committee meeting.

**11. Minutes of the Estates Committee meeting held on 9 October** were reported by Cllr Ms Neill and noted. She expanded on the proposed **Battle Schools Greenway project** explaining particularly why the proposers are anxious to receive the Council's support in principle. In the light of this **Cllr Harris proposed that Council give its support in principle and, in doing so note the need for a small part of George Meadow to be used to enable the route to depart from the existing footpath behind the pumping station. This was seconded by Cllr Jessop and agreed unanimously.** Cllr Harris emphasised that in making his proposal there was no commitment for the Council to provide financial support for the project.

Cllr Ms Neill then moved on to the discussion about the **cordylines on the roundabout**. Leaving aside any horticultural issues Cllr Mrs Farr felt that they remain an attractive

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feature. This opinion was supported by Cllr Jessop and Mrs Fisher, the latter adding that she felt that replacement by a simple bedding scheme would be boring. On the other hand, Cllr Harris felt that the trees had now reached such a size and state of maturity that they had become unattractive. **Cllr Ms Neill then made the proposal recommended by the Committee that the cordylines be removed and replaced with bedding plants. This was seconded by Cllr Harris but lost by a single vote.**

**12. Minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 10 October** were reported by Cllr Jessop and noted.

## **13. Vacancies**

The Clerk confirmed that the appropriate procedures had been completed to enable the Council to co-opt to fill the vacant seats in Marley and Watch Oak wards. To date a single application had been received from a resident in Marley Rise, Jacqueline Ormonde-Butler. Details of her application had been circulated and **Cllr Ms Neill proposed that she be co-opted to fill the vacancy in Marley ward. This was seconded by Cllr Mrs Fisher and agreed unanimously.**

## **14. Remembrance Day Wreath**

**Cllr Harris proposed that the Council incur expenditure of £50, under Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972, for a Remembrance Day wreath. This was seconded by Cllr Bye and agreed unanimously.**

## **15. Meeting Dates 2013**

The attached list of proposed meeting dates had been circulated and was agreed.

**16. List of Payments and Receipts** was noted.

## **17. Reports from Representatives of the Council**

- Cllr Jessop
- had circulated his list of activities including attendance at the meeting relating to **Police Commissioner candidates**; the latest **RALC meeting** and the **Chamber of Commerce meeting** at which it had been confirmed that there will be free Christmas parking in the town over the 3 Saturdays prior to Christmas;
- Cllr Mrs Kiloh
- had attended the **Parish Conference**;
- Cllr Mrs Howell
- had also attended the **Parish Conference**;
- Cllr Mrs Fisher
- though not present reported that there had been a meeting of a **BLAP sub group** reviewing further potential for waste recycling arrangements;
  - at a meeting of the **Battle Charities** a citation had been presented to a retiring Trustee;
  - at a meeting of the **Claverham Sports Managements Committee** the issue of the swimming pool had been discussed. Confirmation had been given that it had been closed during the summer partly for safety reasons but also because of other operating problems. Work is being put in hand to carry out a survey of the facility to see what work might be necessary to make it safe for general public use;

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- Cllr Mrs Pry
- had attended the meeting relating to the **Police Commissioner candidates**;
  - had been present at the **DDARA AGM**;
- Cllr Bye
- had attended a **SSAFA event** at Bexhill;
  - represented the Council at the **Battle Big Event thank you reception**;
  - had also attended the latest **RALC meeting**.

In Cllr Palmer's absence the Clerk reported that the latest **Battle Marketing Group** meeting had focussed on the format and content of the Battle Guide 2013. Also at that meeting was Mike Dawes who had asked whether the Council would be willing to allow the flag poles, used to promote Battle's Big Event to remain on the Abbey Green after the flags had been taken down. Councillors felt that this would create an unsightly appearance in such a sensitive location and therefore asked that they be removed.

## **18. Matters for Information/Future Items for Agenda**

Cllr Jessop said that the organisers of the **closing event** of the **Battle's Big Event** programme would like to repeat the concert on the recreation ground. They will be writing to the Council to seek approval.

## **19. Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday, 20 November 2012**

The meeting closed at 8.30pm

**CLLR R BYE**  
**Chairman**

