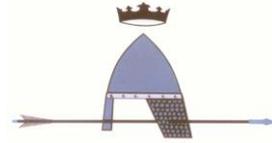




Battle Town Council



MINUTES of the EXTERNAL RELATIONS AND TOWN DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
held on TUESDAY, 25 JULY 2017 at The Almonry, High Street, Battle at 7.30pm

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

In attendance: Alan Deeprise, President Battle Chamber of Commerce, Carol Harris (Town Clerk)

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

5. Town Improvements

The Chairman welcomed Alan Deeprise(AD), President of Chamber of Commerce to the meeting. AD reported that the 2 proposed suitable premises for the **Tourist Information Point** had been in touch with Council and this would be reported later in the meeting. In relation to the Council **Award for Business**, AD advised that businesses felt reluctant to suggest criteria but would be happy to see this implemented. The Clerk was asked to forward details of the **Battle Loyalty Card** originator to AD to enable promotion at a Chamber meeting. He highlighted the improvement in the number of cars parking illegally in the High Street. AD asked that a discussion on **Battle's car parks** be a future agenda item. It was agreed that this be recommended to **Planning & Transport Committee**.

The Clerk reported that whilst weed-killing throughout the High Street area is carried out by ESCC twice this year and once the following, weeds are not removed and often looks untidy. **Members agreed that weedkilling of the High Street should be included in the maintenance schedule for twice a year.** The Clerk was asked to remind RDC that the Twitten requires regular clearing. Cllr Fisher also asked that P&T consider including a further section of Western Avenue to the Council's schedule of works.

6. Events sub-Committee meeting held 13 June 2017

The minutes of the meeting were noted. **Members agreed the recommendations in relation to budget for events as follows:**

- **Battle Twinning Association - £175;**
- **Signing of Armed Forces Covenant - £50;**
- **Battle in Bloom awards ceremony - £250.**

7. Christmas lights

Cllr Ratcliffe confirmed that both proposed contractors had been contacted for clarification on points raised at the previous meeting. In light of the responses and quotes received, as delegated by Committee, he and the Clerk had agreed to award this year's contract for the installation of Christmas lights and trees to Alpha Electric. This work will be carried out after the Bonfire night celebrations and in time for the Chamber's Christmas Lights switch-on: 25 November. The Clerk reported that the existing insurance value for the lights is £22k and this will remain on the Chamber's policy until the end of September. The lights will be included in the

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Council's insurance from that point. The Clerk was asked to contact previous sponsors for donations. The Christmas Committee are happy to include any sponsors within their Christmas leaflet.

8. Tourist Information Point

Cllr Jessop reported on a meeting with 2 groups that had requested information on the provision of a TIP and Cllr Furness and the Clerk. One had since confirmed that they would not be progressing this and there had been no further communication from the other. There has, however, been a proposal that a TIP could be combined with the updated and refurbished Town Model. This will be discussed at the Full Council meeting. The success of a tourism interactive sign in other large towns was suggested for consideration.

9. Battle Community Award board

The Clerk reported that, whilst the cost of the agreed Community Award board is with the £500 budget, to incorporate the town logo is an additional £50. Members felt that this is crucial to the board and **agreed unanimously to increase the budget by £50 to incorporate the logo.**

10. Defibrillators

The Clerk confirmed that a grant application has been completed for the defibrillator at Netherfield.

11. Battle Visual Arts Development Committee

The minutes from recent meetings the Committee and Finance sub Committee had been circulated to Members and noted. BVADC will be reminded that press releases must be approved by the office prior to publication.

12. Writing Competition

Cllr Favell reported that there had been a disappointing response from schools and felt that this could be due to timing and this year's title. These issues could easily be corrected in future. **Members agreed to continue with the competition for a further year.** Cllr Reeves suggested that structured workshops could be encouraged.

13. Oak tree bed

It was agreed that planting in this area should be discussed by the Environment Committee.

14. Charges for advertising in Newsletter for 2017-2018

The Clerk reminded Members that it has been agreed to reduce the number of editions from 6 to 4 per year. There will, however, be more copies distributed throughout the town and the spring/April newsletter will be delivered to every household in the Battle area. **Members agreed that the costs for the forthcoming year will be £30 for a one-off advertisement or £100 for the 4 publications.**

15. Marketing groups

The minutes from the 1066 Marketing Group meeting had been circulated. Cllr Ratcliffe highlighted the increase in tourist numbers and 'hits' to the website. He also reported that Members of the group represent an area and not a business.

16. Financial matters

The budget report to 30 June 2017 was noted.

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17. Matters for information / future agenda items - None

18. Date of next meeting: Tuesday 26 September 2017

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.50pm.

CLLR A RATCLIFFE
Chairman