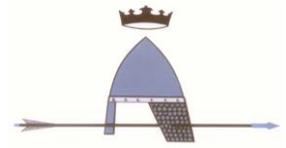




Battle Town Council



Minutes of the COUNCIL MEETING held on TUESDAY, 16 APRIL 2019 at
The Almonry, High Street, Battle at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs G Favell (Chairman), J Boryer, A Brown, V Cook, M Dass, C Davies, P Fisher, J Gyngell, M Howell, A Russell, D Wheeler and C Would.

In Attendance: County Cllr K Field, Cllr K Dixon, C Harris (Town Clerk) and three members of the public.

Public Question Time

The Council were asked to defer taking any further action on the **Almonry project** until the new Council has an opportunity to reconsider.

- 1. Apologies for absence** – Cllrs Furness, Kiloh and Ratcliffe.
- 2. Disclosure of interest** – Cllr Gyngell declared an interest in item 10 as a member of the Battle Festival Committee.
- 3. Minutes of the Council meeting held on 19 March 2019** were agreed and duly signed by Cllr Favell.
- 4. Report from the Clerk**
 - Rother District Council confirmed that **no additional bin collections** may be considered until the new contract has been established. They will then consider adding a litter bin at **Netherfield Village Hall & Recreation Ground**. Members agreed that this should be pursued with RDC in due course.
 - Further investigation had revealed that **questionnaires** can be accommodated within the existing website. This had been used for the recent pavilion/café questionnaire. The **survey monkey** had therefore not been necessary.
 - The **Rother Valley Railway** project has been delayed, at the request of the group, until 2020.
 - Any questions for **Chief Constable Giles York** should be emailed to the Clerk by 1 May 2019.
 - As a result of the uncontested election, suggested dates for the **induction day** will be circulated shortly.

5. County Councillor and District Councillors

County

Cllr Field confirmed that the **budget** had been set and there will be a Cabinet meeting next week at which **integrated working with the NHS** will be part of the discussions.

District

Cllr Dixon(KD) reported that: Audit & Standards Committee had met - **investments** will be made in **commercial properties** to increase revenue; Licencing & General Purposes – **Rye Foreign Parish Council are inquorate** and a District Councillor will be appointed to serve; Planning will be discussing **Marbat, Marley Lane**, recommended for refusal, and **Chain Lane**, recommended for approval: both against Town Council comment.

6. Correspondence and communications received post agenda publication

An email request that the Council publish a full **business plan for the Almonry project**. It was noted that this is in progress.

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An invitation from the **Rother Voluntary Action** to attend a **Rural Rother Marketplace Event** on Friday 3 May at the Emmanuel Centre, Harrier Lane between 10.30-11.30am. This would usually be attended by the Council's representative.

A request for sites in Battle to **metal detect**. Members considered this and agreed to allow this at Guild Shaw subject to strict conditions on depth of dig, return to neat condition and found objects to be reported.

A request from **East Sussex Highways** that the Council support the **installation of wooden posts around the road side at Caldbeck Hill**, excluding the area customarily used for parking. This would involve the Council workstaff installing the provided posts at a reduced rate charge to ES Highways. Members agreed that, on safety grounds, this should be supported. The Planning & Transport Committee to agree the detail.

A suggestion that the Battle Mayor write a letter of support and commiseration to the Mayor of Paris following the devastating fire at **Notre Dame**. This was considered unnecessary.

7. Almonry project

An email had been received thanking the Council for the presentation of the Almonry proposals and presented suggestions including that any further decisions on loan application be delayed until the new Council is in place.

The Clerk recommended that:

- **the Terms of Reference for F&GP are revised to include the care of the fabric and structures within the Almonry site are undertaken on a regular basis. This was agreed;**
- **that the Action Plan for F&GP should include a professional inspection of the fabric and structure of the Almonry every 5 years. This was agreed;**
- **a full structural survey is also undertaken in conjunction with the revision to the Quantity Surveyor's Cost Plan (as item 8 below).** She confirmed that the Architect had indicated an approximate cost of £3,000 for a condition, roof and structural survey to be carried out. **This was agreed.**

8. Minutes and agree any recommendations from Committee meetings:

- The **Events sub-Committee** minutes of 19 March 2019 were presented by Cllr Russell and noted. He highlighted the launch of the Heritage Arts Trail on Sunday 12 May at 3pm. This will include an opportunity to walk the short trail circuit.
- The **Personnel sub-Committee** minutes of 26 March 2019 were presented by Cllr Favell and noted;
- The **Finance & General Purposes** minutes of 26 March 2019 were presented by Cllr Favell and noted. **Members considered recommendations:**
 - **that the necessary revision to the Quality Surveyor's Cost Plan be authorised prior to the application for loan from the PWLB being submitted. This was agreed;**
 - **the existing office become the Council Chamber with formal table and space for members of the public; open plan reception for Town and District Council staff and Tourist Information Centre; existing meeting room as wedding venue and private hire; reinstated area (currently courtyard by the kitchen) a further area for hire, particularly for intimate meetings. This was agreed by a majority. Cllr Fisher recorded her opposition to this proposal;**

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- **that the play equipment at Telham playing field be removed and the area be promoted for bee keeping within a wild flower meadow.** Members discussed this and a further proposal **to remove the dangerous equipment, leave the remaining area maintained as currently and accept that this site is not a destination facility was agreed unanimously.**
- The **Environment** minutes of 2 April 2019 were presented by Cllr Favell and noted.
- The **Planning & Transport** minutes of 9 April 2019 were presented by Cllr Gyngell and noted. A further suggestion to consider rear timber parking markers at the overflow car park was made.

One member of the public left the meeting at this point.

9. Apprentice Grounds Worker

Cllr Favell reported that 6 applications had been received with 3 invited to interview. As two of the candidates showed great potential, the Personnel sub Committee recommend that **both are offered a 3 day work trial, as a second interview, with the current groundstaff to enable an informed decision. This was agreed.**

Cllr Gyngell repeated her interest in the following item.

10. Scarecrow competition

A request from Battle Festival that entry forms and completed forms with entry fees for this year's competition be collected/returned to the Council office. They have also asked that the workstaff assist with the erection of the scarecrow poles around the town. This has been undertaken in previous years and the staff are happy to support. This was agreed.

11. Strengthening Local Relationship

Members were asked to forward any items for the next meeting on 22 May 2019 to the Clerk by 30 April.

12. Ford Connect Van

The Clerk confirmed that the new lease vehicle is due for delivery on 16 April. The existing vehicle has been identified as requiring extensive work to pass an MOT. **An offer of £150 had been made for the Ford Connect Van YB04 WJM. Members agreed to this disposal.**

13. Statue information sign

Proposed wording had been circulated. Slight amendments had been made and agreed. Designs for the sign were discussed and a favoured concept agreed.

The Clerk reported a generous donation of £250 from Julie Jessop had been received towards the cost of maintaining the bench and statue. A letter of sincere thanks will be sent.

14. Payments and receipts for March 2019

The income and expenditure report, as attached, had been circulated. Members noted income £23,198.93 and expenditure £41184.72; both net of account transfers.

15. Reports from representatives of the Council

Cllr Russell - **Battle Heritage Charter Working Group:** nominations for local heritage listing of post 1910 buildings is almost complete; a display on work of the group, further nominations and the official launch will be at the Parish Assembly. An independent effort to begin a Conservation Group is being undertaken;

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- **Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group:** decision made on preferred sites for development; plan to go public on 4 May, after Council approval agreed for 30 April; documents to be available in Council office after 4 May; extra paid work to consultant agreed; design code consultancy with AECOM agreed;
- CLlr Howell - **Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group**, as reported above;
- **Rother Association of Local Councils:** requirements for on-line mapping facility was discussed for the 2019-20 period; presentations on wildflower meadows and domestic abuse awareness were made;
- CLlr Gyngell - **Battle Local Action Plan:** projects include yard signs and access for all (railway station). She asked that BLAP Chairman present proposed joint projects to Council in June;
- CLlr Cook - **Heritage Charter Working Group**, as reported above;
- CLlr Brown - **Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group**, as reported above;
- CLlr Boryer - **Heritage Charter Working Group**, as reported above;
Battle Health Pathway;
- CLlr Fisher - **Battle Local Action Plan;**
- CLlr Favell - **Fit for Battle Working Group:** minutes will be available shortly;
- **Battle Health Pathway:** minutes will be available shortly. Project is going well.

CLlr Fisher reported that the **Friends of the Almonry** propose to meet again on 5 May to discuss a potential open air concern in the Almonry garden. She also confirmed that the group to discuss schools litter pick will be meeting on 2 May.

CLlrs Boryer and Fisher attended the **Almonry open day** event for the planned refurbishment and reinstatement project.

CLlrs Boryer, Brown, Fisher and Wheeler attended the **Battle Museum of Local History** reception.

16. Parish Assembly

Members discussed and agreed recommendations from the **Events sub Committee:**

- Although no longer bound by the strict terms of Purdah, to continue with the decision to **respond only to questions raised prior to the meeting. All questions and comments will be recorded for response by the new Council;**
- **Seating of Councillors and guests to the right side of the hall, with the podium slightly off centre and Clerk/ Asst to Clerk at a table facing the audience to the left side;**
- **Chairman, as legally required, to manage the meeting;**
- **Responses to questions, subject to decisions made at this meeting.**

17. Future agenda items / matters to note

As a result of the installation of a barrier to prevent parking in the **Market Square, Beautiful Battle** were concerned at access during their work on Thursday mornings. The Clerk confirmed that an offer

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of assistance has been offered to BB but that no preferential allowances for parking in the Market Square had been considered appropriate.

In response to the question raised at **PQT**, the Clerk confirmed that no Council decision may be re-considered within a six month period without significant cause to do so.

CLlr Favell **thanked all Councillors and the Chairman** for their efforts over the previous year; particularly to those not standing in May.

18. Date of Annual Meeting: Tuesday, 14 May 2019

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.15pm

CLLR G FAVELL
CHAIRMAN

DRAFT