



Battle Town Council



MINUTES of the EXTERNAL RELATIONS AND TOWN DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
held on TUESDAY, 31 JANUARY 2017 at The Almonry, High Street, Battle at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs A Russell (Chairman), G Favell, P Fisher, D Furness, R Jessop and M Palmer.

In attendance: John Harmer, Jonathan Durrington-Slegg and Carol Harris (Town Clerk)

1. Apologies for absence – Cllr A Ratcliffe.

Cllr M Palmer was absent

2. Disclosure of interest – None.

3. To approve and sign the minutes of the previous meeting held on 13 December 2016.

These were approved by Members and duly signed by the Chairman.

4. Bronze Level Recognition Award and an Armed Forces Covenant

The Chairman welcomed Jonathan Durrington-Slegg (JD-S) to the meeting. JD-S advised Members that his role is to engage with communities; particularly in relation to employment. He reported that his work includes strengthening links with youth Cadets: promoting the skills that Cadets obtain. JD-S highlighted the benefits of a joint agreement between the Armed Forces and the Council, an example of which had been the unveiling of the War Memorial event. He suggested that the Council's support via noticeboard and website could include:

- promoting the fact that we are an armed forces-friendly organisation;
- aiming to actively participate in Armed Forces Day;
- promoting Regional Reserve Forces and supporting individuals who choose to be Reservists;
- assisting the Local Cadet Forces to find an area to hold their Detachment training nights;
- establishing a Mayor's Cadet to accompany the Town Mayor during Civic Engagements;
- promoting the Armed Forces Covenant to other organisations;
- signposting Veterans to Service Charities and providing assistance to ensure that they can access the services;
- supporting Service Charities in the Local Area, such as the Royal British Legion;
- assisting to deliver ceremonial Remembrance activities;
- encourage Volunteering to support Service Charities through fundraising activities

Cllr Russell proposed that the Council be recommended to: agree to sign an Armed Forces Covenant; support the Bronze Level Recognition Award; and support a Town Mayor's Cadet. This was agreed by a majority with one abstention.

Jonathan Durrington-Slegg was thanked for his attendance.

5. Links with the Battle Chamber of Commerce

The Clerk reported that the President of the Chamber of Commerce had sent his apologies. It was agreed that he should be invited to the next meeting.

6. Concerns from local resident

John Harmer (JH) was welcomed to the meeting. JH reminded Members of the closure of Yesterday World, the TIC, 2 banks and several retail outlets. He also identified the reduced hours of the police station and the library. JH highlighted the great efforts made by Concorde 1066 and several other

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groups within the town and asked that the Town Council make representation to reverse the present trend of the demise of facilities and amenities. Members confirmed that the Council recognises and shares these concerns and is doing what it can to strengthen links with the Chamber of Commerce; implement a TIC; and lobby Rother District Council to improve the parking situation in the town.

John Harmer was thanked for his attendance.

7. Heritage Arts Trail

Cllr Russell reminded Members that there are 3 new representatives on the Battle Visual Arts Development Committee(BDAVC). He confirmed that a meeting had been held with the Chairman of BVADC at which it had been agreed:

- Lesley Samms (Chairman of BDAVC) would provide a general statement of justification and a few lines on each service provider listed in appendix 1 (page 5) of the grant acceptance notification;
- The Clerk would then seek advice from Heritage Lottery Fund(HLF) in relation to a time extension (to being March) and validation of procurement;
- The structure of BVADC group would be revised with a sub-committee put in place to approve works, agree finance and evaluate the successful completion of works before paying invoices. This sub-committee would not have members on it that would or could have a pecuniary interest. The Chairman of BVADC, however, would attend the sub-committee meeting but withdraw when items of personal financial interest were discussed. It is envisaged the sub-committee would meet prior or after the main BVADC;
- The proposal (in the form of the application made to HLF) to be resubmitted to the BVADC group for approval at their first meeting in 2017;
- All agendas and minutes to be full and available for scrutiny.

Cllr Furness requested that the placement of the two historical mortars be added to the Trail proposal, agreed previously by BDAVC. Cllr Jessop confirmed that agreement to move them free of charge had been received. **Members agreed to include a proposal for the siting of the mortars on F&GP and Full Council agendas.**

8. 1066 Writing Competition

Draft competition rules had been circulated to Members and were agreed. It was noted that the presentation at the Battle Arts Festival had been well received and that the children's awards at the school had both promoted the individual's achievement to peer groups and the Council's profile at the schools. It was agreed to continue with this format for presentations for the 2017 competition.

Cllr Favell requested that the website be updated to include the writing competition.

9. Defibrillators

The Clerk confirmed that the shop owner at Netherfield was happy to support the provision of a defibrillator at her premises.

A request from a local resident in Virgins Lane (member of the Neighbourhood Watch scheme) to support the installation of a defibrillator in their road. It was proposed that the group would purchase the item but asked that the Council to provide a suitable structure for it to be installed at the Virgins Croft allotment site. Members noted that the Environment Committee had discussed this and felt that a Community First Response unit would be more appropriate. This suggestion was supported by the Committee.

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10. Battle Card

The Clerk confirmed that she had met with Chris Beveridge of TownCityCards who had raised concern that there had been very little interest in the Battle Card in the Council office to date. He had suggested that retailers could be sold the card at a small increase which may help local businesses and enable the Council to recoup some of the expenditure incurred. **Cllr Favell proposed that the cards be sold to retailers at a cost of £5 each. This was seconded by Cllr Russell and agreed unanimously.**

11. Civic Award

Members were reminded that Civic Awards are presented at the Parish Assembly. It was agreed that nominations be requested via the Observer and the Council's website. The Clerk was asked to research previous winners in light of a suggestion of a Civic Award board that, subject to appropriate permission, might be placed at the Memorial Halls.

12. Marketing groups

No report.

13. Financial matters

The latest budget report was noted. The Clerk confirmed that the Post Office have a minimum charge of £500 to deliver information material to households. **Cllr Jessop proposed that the next Annual Report, with newsletter if cost not prohibitive, be circulated to all residents via the Post Office service at an approximate cost of £500. This was seconded by Cllr Furness and agreed.**

14. Matters for information / future agenda items

The Clerk was asked to remind all Chairmen of Committees to produce a written report of achievements over the past year and plans for the forthcoming period for the next Newsletter and Parish Assembly and to ask District/County Councillors and the MP for their reports. Cllr Favell agreed to assist with the production of the next edition.

- Great British High Street Competition – to receive an update – Cllr Ratcliffe

15. Date of next meeting: Tuesday 14 March 2017

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.55pm.

CLLR A RUSSELL
Chairman