



# Battle Town Council



MINUTES of the COUNCIL MEETING held on TUESDAY, 15 SEPTEMBER 2015 in  
The Almonry, High Street, Battle, at 7.30pm

**PRESENT:** Cllrs M Kiloh (Chairman), J Boryer, G Favell, D Furness, J Gyngell, R Jessop, A Ratcliffe and A Russell.

District Cllr Dixon, 3 members of the public, Andy Beams (Town Clerk)

**Public Question Time** – A member of the public spoke to remind Members of the agreement at the Annual Parish meeting in 2014 that the Town Council would actively encourage people to increase the level of items recycled. The Town Council were asked to reconfirm their commitment, and encouraged to appeal to residents through the next newsletter. Cllr Favell agreed to take up the idea through the Environment committee, including looking at the possibility of alternate bins to encourage recycling and/or sorting of the existing bins.

Paula Fisher highlighted to Members the outcome of the BLAP survey, which Cllr Jessop had included in his report for Members.

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- 1. Apologies for absence** – Cllrs Howell and Palmer, and County Cllr Field.
  - 2. Disclosure of interest** – None.
  - 3. Minutes of the Council meeting** held on 21 July 2015. Cllr Jessop proposed approval of the minutes, seconded by Cllr Furness and agreed unanimously. These were duly signed by Cllr Kiloh. Cllr Kiloh asked the opinion of Members regarding the missed meeting in August. Members agreed that no urgent business had been missed, and that having a break during the summer was a good idea.
  - 4. Matters arising from previous meetings** – None.
  - 5. Co-option of new Councillors** – Claire Davies and Paula Fisher were introduced as prospective Councillors. Both had provided written applications, which had been circulated in advance of the meeting to all Members. Cllr Kiloh invited both applicants to speak if they wished to add anything to their written statements, but both felt they had covered everything in their applications.  
**RESOLVED:** Members were asked to vote on the co-option of the candidates, and both were unanimously accepted, and invited to join the Council for the remainder of the meeting.
  - 6. Appointments to committees** – Members discussed the current vacant positions on various committees, and allocation of newly co-opted Councillors to committees.  
**RESOLVED:** Chairman of External Relations & Town Development Committee – **Cllr Ratcliffe** was proposed by Cllr Jessop, seconded by Cllr Favell and agreed unanimously.  
Vice-Chairman of Planning & Transport Committee – **Cllr Gyngell** was proposed by Cllr Kiloh, seconded by Cllr Jessop and agreed unanimously.  
Additional Member of the Finance & General Purposes Committee – **Cllr Gyngell** was proposed by Cllr Kiloh, seconded by Cllr Jessop and agreed unanimously.  
Cllr Russell was confirmed as joining the External Relations & Town Development Committee. Cllrs Davies and Fisher were invited to attend any meeting they wished over the next month, and then at the October meeting their committee membership will be confirmed.
  - 7. To receive a report from the County Councillor**  
In Cllr Field's absence, there was no report.

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## **8. To receive a report from the District Councillor**

Cllr Dixon reported that the boundary review was proceeding, and gave projected figures for the wards within the Battle Town Council area. Netherfield Ward was projected to increase by 42 to 686, Watch Oak Ward by 500 to 2695, Marley Ward by 300 to 1912 and Telham Ward by 30 to 449. There would be an opportunity for comment on the proposals in due course.

Rubbish and recycling problems in Peppering Eye and Powdermills were now being sorted out, although problems continue in Netherfield where the collection date may be changing again.

Planning applications coming up for comment were highlighted, including two gypsy applications and an ambitious project in Telham. The application for the Tea Museum has been refused.

Rother District Council have agreed a £5,000 grant for the community bus.

**9. Correspondence and communications** – The Town Clerk informed Members that a letter had been received from the Twinning Association thanking the Town Council for hosting the reception on 28 August. The event had been greatly appreciated by those attending.

Confirmation had been received from HSBC that the branch in the High Street was to close on 4<sup>th</sup> December. Affected customers had been informed.

Members were reminded of the Concorde AGM on 28 September at 9.30am at The Almonry. Any Member with an interest was welcome to attend.

## **10. Minutes of the Environment Committee meeting held on 28 July 2015**

These were presented by Cllr Favell, with no questions from Members.

## **11. Minutes of the External Relations & Town Development Committee meeting held on 11 August 2015**

These were presented by Cllr Ratcliffe, with no questions from Members.

## **12. Minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting held on 8 September 2015**

These were presented by Cllr Kiloh, with no questions from Members.

## **13. Minutes of the Planning & Transport Committee meetings held on 29 July and 12 August 2015**

These were presented by Cllr Jessop, with no questions from Members. Cllr Jessop highlighted the upcoming meeting on 6 October with the police regarding community wardens, which he would be attending along with Cllr Kiloh and the Town Clerk.

## **14. To consider the recommendations of the Finance & General Purposes Committee regarding the PWLB loan and changing bank accounts**

Members were reminded of the recommendations of the committee and asked if there were any questions. The Town Clerk clarified some questions regarding the loan repayments, explaining the difference between the types of rate and payment terms.

**RESOLVED:** Cllr Furness proposed the recommendations of the Finance & General Purposes Committee of taking up the full £250,000 over a 25 year term on a fixed rate. This was seconded by Cllr Russell and agreed by the majority of Members, with one abstention.

## **15. To consider the proposed Staff Development Training Policy**

The Town Clerk had circulated draft policy outlining the criteria and process for when the policy would apply, based on the general principles agreed by the Finance & General Purposes Committee.

**RESOLVED:** Cllr Favell proposed the policy as prepared by the Town Clerk. This was seconded by Cllr Boryer and agreed unanimously.

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## **16. Mayor's Charity launch information**

Cllr Kiloh reminded Members of the event on 9 October, which all Members had been invited to. The idea was to use the Mayor's allowance to host the reception, and use the opportunity to inform attendees about the charities, and generate some publicity for future events.

## **17. List of payments and receipts**

Payments totalling £28,485.62 and receipts totalling £11,872.70 for the period 1 to 31 July inclusive, and payments totalling £15,243.65 and receipts totalling £3,237.36 for the period 1 to 31 August inclusive were noted by Members.

## **18. Reports from representatives of the Council and other reports**

Cllr Jessop had circulated in advance to Members a report.

Cllr Kiloh had attended meetings with the Museum and a Girl Guide camp.

Cllr Furness had attended meetings for the Festival, and presented the prizes for the Bonfire Boyes £10K run.

Cllr Boryer had attended a meeting of DDARA, and a meeting with the Town Clerk and representatives of the Ramblers regarding a diverted footpath in Netherfield.

Cllr Favell had welcomed the guests to the Twinning reception on behalf of the Town Council, and attended the awards ceremony for S&SEiB where the Almonry garden had received a Gold award and the Cemetery had been voted Cemetery of the Year.

## **19. Matters for information / future items for agenda**

Cllr Favell asked if any progress had been made with regard to a civic service. Cllr Kiloh confirmed she had spoken to the church, who did not want to combine it with the anniversary celebrations in September, and also advised against combining it with other events such as Harvest Festival. If it was decided to go ahead with a civic service, a separate date would need to be agreed.

## **20. Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday, 20 October 2015**

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.35 pm

**Cllr M Kiloh, Chairman**

