



Battle Town Council



**MINUTES of the COUNCIL MEETING held on TUESDAY, 17 FEBRUARY 2015 in
The Almonry, High Street, Battle, at 7.30pm**

PRESENT: Cllrs M Kiloh (Chairman), G Favell, D Furness, J Gygell, T Hall, M Howell, R Jessop, S Pry, and D Wilson.
County Cllr Field and District Cllrs Davies and Dixon, Trevor Houghton-Berry and four members of the public.

Public Question Time

1. **Apologies for absence** – Cllrs J Boryer, R Bye, J Eldridge, J Lay, M Palmer, A Ratcliffe and J Sydes. Members agreed to accept Cllr Palmer's long term absence until the election date in May.
2. **Disclosure of interest** – None.
3. **Minutes of the Council meeting** held on 21 January 2015. Cllr Wilson proposed approval of the minutes, seconded by Cllr Pry and agreed unanimously. These were duly signed by Cllr Kiloh.
4. **Matters arising from previous meetings** - None.
5. **To receive a report from the County Councillor**
Cllr Field reported that ESCC had now set their budgets, leading to a 1.95% increase in council tax. A new group called East Sussex Better Together had been set up to monitor and scrutinise spending on adult social care.
6. **To receive a report from the District Councillor**
Cllr Davies confirmed that RDC had agreed a 0% increase in council tax for the 5th successive year.
7. **Correspondence and communications**
Marbles Match – The Town Clerk reminded Members of the invitation to compete in the match on Good Friday. A Town Council women's team was already organised. Cllr Jessop stated he would try to arrange a men's team.
Battle transmission line meeting – The Town Clerk informed Members of a meeting scheduled for Tuesday 24th February to investigate the mitigating the visual impact of a section of transmission lines south of Battle. Cllrs Kiloh and Jessop agreed to attend the meeting.
Local awards scheme – The Town Clerk confirmed that the Town Council had successfully received the foundation status award of the new scheme. Members agreed that further discussion was needed as to whether it was worth the Town Council paying to apply for a higher award level, given the perceived lack of benefit of attainment.
8. **Minutes of the Environment Committee meeting held on 27 January 2015**
Cllr Wilson presented the minutes, and the recommendation of the committee with regard to the Health Pathway. Sue Burton was invited to speak, and confirmed the difficulties with the access at Asten Fields had been overcome by diverting the pathway to run on the grass alongside the nursery. Cllr Wilson thanked Sue Burton and the group for all their hard work on the scheme to date. **Members agreed unanimously to support the recommendations of the committee and approved the drawings.**

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Cllr Wilson added that a response had been received from the allotments association confirming that they did not want to take on responsibility for maintenance at the sites.

9. Minutes of the Planning and Transport Committee meeting held on 28 January 2015

Cllr Jessop presented the minutes, and pointed out the Herington's application which the Town Council had strongly objected to.

Two members of the public left the meeting at 7.50pm.

10. Minutes of the External Relations Committee meeting held on 2 February 2015.

Cllr Pry presented the minutes and raised the questions the committee wanted to discuss. Members discussed the possibility of including advertising on future newsletters, and while there was an acknowledgement that the additional income would be beneficial, concerns were raised as to how the Town Council would control the type of businesses being advertised. **Members were split on whether it was a good idea or not, and agreed that the committee should look at examples of other newsletters with advertising then return to Full Council with a proposal.**

Social media platforms were also discussed, and Cllr Pry updated Members with a report detailing a meeting with a web designer, which included recommendations regarding social media. The designer was preparing a proposal for consideration, and Cllr Pry and the Town Clerk were working on a site map as a starting point. A full report would be made to Full Council after the next committee meeting.

Cllr Dixon arrived at 8.00pm.

11. Update from 1066 working group

Trevor Houghton-Berry provided a verbal report to Members, outlining the various events planned for the anniversary in 2016. The working group aimed to maximise mutual co-operation and encourage groups to spread events over the entire year. A press release was to be prepared outlining the aims of the group, alerting any other organisations who may not have been aware of it to date. This would be released through the Town Clerk in due course.

Cllr Kiloh reminded Members that a previous discussion on the subject had raised the question that sending invites from the Town Mayor may place a financial burden on the Town Council. It had been confirmed this was not the case, and sending invites from the Mayor followed civic protocol, but at no cost to the Town Council. **Members agreed unanimously to allow invites to be sent out from the Town Mayor.**

Simon Alexander was invited to speak, and thanked the Council for the grant award. The brochure was developing well, and currently totalled 56 pages. There was also a plan to involve local school children in the parade.

12. The Almonry Project

Members had previously received a briefing outlining the background and plans for the Almonry. Cllr Kiloh provided further background information, highlighting the benefits of the idea and pointing out that the labels for the rooms were indicative only at this time. Three detailed proposals had been put forward for consideration by Members.

Cllr Furness proposed the Council approve the physical restructuring plan as a basis for obtaining planning permission and applying for external funding. This was seconded by Cllr Jessop and agreed unanimously.

Cllr Kiloh explained that due to the time constraints on the project and the target completion date of 2016, the second proposal was to empower the F&GP committee to undertake negotiations and further actions within budget. Cllr Pry asked what budget there was in place for the initial part of the project. Cllr Kiloh confirmed that there was none at this stage, as it had been agreed the works would take place with costs to be covered by external funding, rather than by increasing

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the precept. Cllr Jessop recommended a budget of £1,000 should be set up, taken from reserves to avoid impacting the precept, to cover initial costs. This could be recovered from any successful future grants. The Town Clerk was asked for advice, and agreed that an initial budget was a sensible option, although recommending a higher figure of £5,000, again to be replenished from any grant received.

Cllr Jessop proposed the creation of a £5,000 budget for the Almonry project. This was seconded by Cllr Kiloh and unanimously agreed.

Cllr Kiloh proposed the F&GP committee be empowered to undertake negotiations and further actions within budget. This was seconded by Cllr Furness and agreed by a majority of 8:1.

Cllr Kiloh proposed that any further major changes to the physical plan would be agreed by Full Council, who would be kept updated with progress reports from F&GP. This was seconded by Cllr Pry and agreed unanimously.

13. Cost of recording equipment for meetings

The Town Clerk informed Members of a digital audio recording system available for £70. Members agreed that it would be suitable, and the **Town Clerk was asked to purchase the system along with a laptop for use with the projector.**

14. List of payments and receipts

Payments totalling £21,708.08 and receipts totalling £7,709.54 for the period 15 January to 12 February inclusive were noted by Members.

15. Reports from representatives of the Council and other reports

Cllr Kiloh reported that as she had been away since the last meeting, she had not attended any events.

Cllrs Furness and Gyngell had attended the meeting of the Battle Arts & Music Festival.

Cllr Favell had attended the BLAP meeting.

Cllr Jessop had circulated a written report detailing the meetings he had attended.

Cllr Pry had attended a meeting with the Town Clerk and a web designer.

Cllr Wilson reported that due to work constraints, he had severed ties with the local scout group.

16. Matters for information / future items for agenda

Cllr Dixon pointed out that the Town Council are exempt from paying planning fees to RDC.

Cllr Jessop was thanked for circulating information regarding the forthcoming elections, including key dates. The Town Clerk was asked to ensure the office had a copy of the SSALC election support pack, and to publicise the elections where possible to encourage people to stand.

17. Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday, 17 March 2015

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.30pm

M KILOH, Chairman

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