



Battle Town Council



MINUTES of the COUNCIL MEETING held on TUESDAY, 20 JUNE 2017 in The Almonry, High Street, Battle, at 7.30pm

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

In attendance District Cllrs K Dixon and K Field, Carol Harris (Town Clerk)

- 1. Apologies for absence** – Received from Cllrs C Davies, P Fisher, J Gyngell, M Palmer and A Ratcliffe.
- 2. Disclosure of interest** – Cllr Furness declared an interest in item 8 as the Chairman of Battle Arts & Music Festival.
- 3. Minutes of the Council meeting held on 21 February 2017**
Subject to the amendment to the Council representative for Beautiful Battle being amended to Cllr John Boryer with Cllr Glenna Gyngell as reserve, these were agreed and duly signed by Cllr Furness.

4. Reports from County Councillor and District Councillors

Cllr Field confirmed that there had been one meeting at which **appointments** had been made. She reported that the Leader is now Cllr Keith Glazier and that Cllr Carl Maynard had moved from Transport & Environment to Adult Social Care.

Cllr Dixon reported that the **waste contract** is shortly due to be renewed with Lewes DC joining the agreement and Hastings BC declining to renew. In response to a query, Cllr Dixon confirmed that there was no further news on the building at **Blackfriars**; only that part of an unadopted road and woodland had been sold within the vicinity of the site.

5. Correspondence and communications

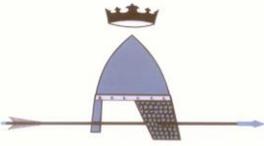
Members noted that the **Battle roundabout** is to be included in the Best of British Roundabouts 2018 calendar. Cllr Jessop reported that it was also likely to be included in the next edition of War Memorials by Dr Alan Brooks.

The Clerk reported on a meeting with Leo Cacciatore of the **East Sussex Fire & Rescue Service** and Cllr Furness to receive a request to support their recruitment drive for **retained firefighters**. She confirmed that the Battle Chamber of Commerce were also interested in learning how to assist with this initiative. Members agreed that **ER&TD should be asked to invite both Mr Cacciatore and the Chamber of Commerce to their next meeting**.

The offer of a **Picea pungens tree** had been received. Members asked that the Clerk ascertain how large the tree grows and whether it is a native variety.

6. To receive minutes and agree any recommendations from Committee meetings:

- Environment** - 6 June. Cllr Favell presented the minutes and these were noted. Cllr Kiloh emphasised that no changes can be made to consecrated land without permission from the Diocese and at a financial cost. **Cllr Jessop proposed that one half of the Children's Cemetery is consecrated now and that the data from the revised Application Form for**



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Interment is collected for a period of at least two years, in order that an informed decision can be made regarding the proportion of spaces that needs to be consecrated to meet the requirements of the residents. However, in the sad event that the plots in the consecrated areas of the Old Cemetery are unexpectedly used prematurely, the decision will be brought forward. This was seconded by Cllr Favell and agreed unanimously.

- **External Relations & Town Development** – 1 June. These were noted. Members discussed the proposal to assist in the provision of a **Tourist Information Point**. Cllr Jessop reported that at the recent Chamber of Commerce meeting it had been indicated that there were 2 businesses expressing an interest in this scheme. The Town Clerk was asked to request that these bids be brought to the Council for further discussion.
 - **Events** sub Committee 13 June were presented by Cllr Russell and noted.
- **Planning & Transport** – 13 June. Cllr Jessop presented the minutes which were noted. Cllr Boryer highlighted the 2 applications (one outline) for Darvel Down that had raised many comments and concerns surrounding infrastructure and services in the area. Cllr Furness congratulated Cllrs Jessop and Gyngell on the good management during the meetings of 3 recent contentious applications.

7. Councillor recruitment drive options

The Clerk highlighted the impact on Councillors' workload that having so many vacancies involves. It was agreed that: an article for the newspaper; networking with existing groups; a letter to community organisations; a brief and succinct A5 flyer; and an exhibition on the Abbey Green with photographs of all that the Council has achieved, should be undertaken. The Clerk was also asked to enquire from RDC about reducing the number of Town Councillors required for Battle Town.

8. Options for accessible toilet in light of recent vandalism

The Clerk reported that extensive vandalism had resulted in the closing of the accessible toilet. She confirmed that a quote had been received by the existing contractor to repair damage, including strengthening the section of wall that holds the hand dryer at a cost of £490. The Clerk confirmed that a specialist CCTV contractor had quoted for a wireless system, monitored 24/7 and that can either send out a security team or call police if there is cause for a fee of £200 per month. This can be contracted for a selected period of time. **Cllr Russell proposed that repairs are instructed immediately and that CCTV is supplied for a period covering the school holidays. This was seconded by Cllr Favell and agreed unanimously.**

10. Payments and receipts

The payments and receipts for April were noted as attached. The Clerk confirmed that, excluding internal transfers, income for the month was £4,172.50 plus precept and CTS Grant and expenditure £24,777.11 including the new Etesia mower at £8,000 which had been budgeted from the previous year's funds.

11. Reports from representatives of the Council

- Cllr Furness
- visited both Claverham Community College and Battle & Langton Schools talking about being a Councillor, with much interest from CCC pupils;
 - meetings of the Battle Music Festival;
 - met with ESFR's Leo Cacciatore, as reported;
 - a meeting with Sussex Police;



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- CLlr Russell
- meetings of the Battle Neighbourhood Plan Group: maps showing green spaces, SHLAA and land offered during the consultation period would soon be available. The grant application should soon be made;
 - a meeting of BDAVC which is making good progress with packs being sent out to schools and organisations to gather histories of the town. A unique email address has been set up and insurances for Public Liability and Professional Indemnity are being arranged. A Finance sub group meeting will take place on Thursday. There was concern that the cost of stone for the plinths had increased. The group had agreed to add the mortars to items for sponsorship.
- CLlr Favell
- a meeting of the Battle Health Pathway group where it was confirmed that fundraising will now proceed;
 - the Polish War Memorial service.
- CLlr Boryer
- the Battle Health Pathway group meeting.
- CLlr Kiloh
- the Polish War Memorial service;
 - unveiling of the Battle Tapestry at Battle Abbey.
- CLlr Howell
- Battle Neighbourhood Planning Group at which the provision of an email address had been discussed.

CLlr Jessop had circulated his report which included:

- Neighbourhood Plan Group meeting at which a consultant had been appointed but later withdrew; a further approach had been made to a suitable person; new members introduced; a data protection procedure agreed;
- A meeting with the Sussex Police's Chief Constable and other District Associations at which it was announced that Acting Inspector Dan Russell has passed the Promotion Board; Sussex policing area is 13 out of 42 in the county despite some of the lowest funding; 24,000 firearm licences issued in the county, fingerprinting for Surrey and Sussex forces are being shared; an inspection had resulted in a 94-95% approval rating; speeding enforcement is to be increased and 75% of 101 calls are answered within 72 seconds;
- The Scouts' AGM;
- A meeting with a retail developer interested in finding a site in the Battle area;
- Battle Abbey Explanatory Board;
- Remembrance service at the Polish War Memorial;
- Battle Chamber of Commerce meeting that included a presentation by the Federation of Small Businesses; a new constitution was discussed and the financial position noted.

CLlr Fisher had submitted a report of attendance at the:

- Remembrance Service at the Polish War Memorial at Netherfield;
- AGM of Battle for Tennis at the home of Tony Perkins at which it was reported that there had not been a great progress with Tennis tuition with young people but that a game of pickleball, which is played at Claverham Sports Centre seems to be very popular. Tony Perkins was elected as Chairman and herself is Vice Chairman;
- Battle Twinning Association held a successful open day on 3 June resulting in a few new members joining. Refreshments and the Garden were enjoyed by all, including the Cycle Club, on a very pleasant Summer Day.



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13. Matters for information / future items for agenda

The Town Clerk confirmed that all photographs are now available for the Councillors board which will be re-erected in the foyer area. **Members agreed that Councillors photographs should be included on the Town Council's website.**

Cllr Furness suggested that the (T)Deputy Town Clerk be asked to research how to apply for Battle to become a **World Heritage site**.

Cllr Boryer reported that the **Sussex Lund** report for the Mansers Shaw grant is being finalised.

Cllr Furness reminded Members that the **photographic exhibition** opens on Saturday and encouraged all to attend.

Cllr Kiloh proposed that, in light of the emphasis on Councils to respond to local emergencies, the Resilience Plan should be revisited. This was agreed.

Cllr Furness reiterated his interest in the following item and left the meeting.

Cllr Jessop took the Chair for this item.

9. Battle Festival's grant application to Heritage Lottery Fund

The Clerk reported that the Battle Arts & Music Festival had requested support for an application to the HLF to enable the commissioning of only the second painting of the Abbey. The artist will invite local children and groups to see the work in progress to gain knowledge of the techniques, materials and methodology behind the painting. The Clerk confirmed that there was no financial contribution or other liability to the Council and a statement of endorsement had been sent. Council raised no objection to the request but had some concern at the retrospective nature of this. The Clerk was asked to produce a procedure for approval detailing how proposals which were deemed to be of an urgent nature between Council meetings should be handled within 3 months.

14. Date of next meeting: Tuesday, 18 July 2017

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.40pm