



# Battle Town Council



MINUTES of the COUNCIL MEETING held at 7.30pm  
on Tuesday, 18 March 2014 at  
The Almonry, High Street, Battle

**PRESENT:** Cllr R Bye – Chairman

**ALSO:** Cllrs J Boryer, D Furness, J Gyngell, M Howell, R Jessop,  
M Kiloh, S Pry, J Sydes and D Wilson.

## Public Question Time

John Harmer asked for confirmation that the Town Council would be supporting the retention of the essential services in Battle. He highlighted the changes that appear to be occurring to the Post Office, Tourist Information Centres, Police and Fire & Rescue Service. The Chairman confirmed that any consultation would be carefully considered. He highlighted the public meeting to be held on 7 April regarding the proposed changes to the Battle Fire & Rescue Service Station.

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**1. Apologies for Absence** – Cllrs P Fisher, J Ormonde-Butler and M Palmer.  
Cllr J Eldridge was absent.

**2. Disclosure of Interest** – None.

**3. Minutes of the Council Meeting** held on 18 February 2014. Cllr Jessop proposed approval of the minutes, seconded by Cllr Pry. This was agreed and they were duly signed.

**4. Matters Arising from Previous Meetings** – None.

## 5. Police Matters

There was no police representative present and no report received.

## 6. Report from County Councillor

Cllr Field reported that the County Council are investigating possible reasons for the **relatively low educational attainment bands** at some levels.

## 7. Report from District Councillors

Cllr Dixon confirmed that the District Council have approved a **Council Tax freeze** and that the financial position is therefore precarious.

## 8. Correspondence & Communications

A letter of **thanks for grant** had been received from **Battle Arts & Music Festival**.

Confirmation of a request from **Kier Construction** to use the **Amenity Area for access and as a site compound** during works to Battle & Langton School during the period 14 April to 9 January 2015. A condition survey will be carried out prior to occupation and copies issued so that the complete and effective reinstatement can be agreed upon completion. This was agreed.

The Chairman circulated a letter received from **Battle Abbey School** asking the Council to consider alternative sites for a proposed **sports hall**. **Cllr Jessop proposed that this should be an Agenda item for the next Estates Committee meeting. This was seconded by Cllr Bye and agreed unanimously.**

A request from the **Battle Chamber of Commerce** to use the **Abbey Green** between 24-26 May for **Mediaeval Fayre**. This was agreed.

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A request by the **East Sussex Morris Men** to use the **Abbey Green** on **24 May** for a dancing display between 10.30-11am. This was agreed.

A request by **Battle for Tennis** for the Town Council to make an **Application of Grant** to **Sport England (SE)** for a **practice tennis court** at the recreation ground in North Trade Road. The Deputy Clerk confirmed that SE would only consider the application from the land owner of where the facility would be sited. Cllr Jessop felt that administrative assistance should be offered. **Cllr Bye proposed that the Town Council make an application of grant to Sport England for the practice tennis court. This was seconded by Cllr Jessop and agreed by a majority.**

An offer from **Battel Bonfire Boyes** to make use of their **marque on Sunday 29 June** for a small contribution. Anybody wishing to take advantage of this should advise the Deputy Clerk.

A request from the resident of **The Barn in George Mews** to have **gated access** to the public footpath at the back of the property **onto the cricket ground**. It was agreed that this should be an agenda item for the next Estates Committee meeting.

**9. Minutes of the Services Committee meeting held on 25 February** were reported by Cllr Kiloh and noted.

**10. Minutes of the Planning Committee meetings held on 26 February and 12 March** were reported by Cllrs Jessop and Pry and noted.

**11. Minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting held on 4 March** were reported by Cllr Bye and noted.

**12. Minutes of the Minutes of the Communications Committee meeting held on 11 March** were reported by Cllr Bye and noted. **Cllr Bye proposed that the Twitter account be continued under the direction of Cllr Sydes. This was seconded by Cllr Furness and agreed unanimously.** The Deputy Clerk confirmed that 2 quotes had been received for the production and distribution of the Annual Report. Both companies have been successfully used previously. Council asked that the cost of distribution by the Post Office be investigated. **Cllr Bye proposed that, subject to best value being obtained, the production and distribution of the Annual Report be outsourced this year. This was seconded by Cllr Sydes and agreed unanimously.**

## **13. Battle Fire & Rescue Service**

Clive York was welcomed to the meeting. He emphasised the need for on line questionnaires to be completed. He confirmed that contact had been made with schools and businesses and posters have been distributed in an effort to publicise the concerns in relation to the proposed changes.

Cllr Bye reminded all present of the meeting in the Memorial Hall's Wynne room on 7 April to which all the Fire Authority Officers have been invited. This will be well publicised to encourage residents to attend and raise any questions regarding the proposed changes.

## **14. Staff Recruitment**

Cllr Bye confirmed that Michael Deboick has accepted the post of Grounds/Maintenance person and will be starting on 1 April. Anna Evett will commence as Town Clerk with effect from 7 April. She is already coming into the office for a few hours per week to familiarise herself with office procedures.

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## 15. Community Awards

One recommendation has been received. Council agreed to consider this at the next meeting to enable time for further suggestions to be received.

## 16. Councillor Vacancies

Two applications to fill vacancies had been received and circulated to all Members. **Cllr Bye proposed the co-option of Glenna Favell and Andrew Ratcliffe. This was seconded by Cllr Jessop and agreed unanimously.**

17. **List of Payments and Receipts** was noted.

## 18. Reports from Representatives of the Council

Members had attended:

- Cllr Jessop
- a meeting of the **Strengthening Local Relationships** group;
  - **interviews for Town Clerk;**
- Cllr Kiloh
- a meeting of **Battle in Bloom** at which the request from BT to give permission to dig up part of the Diamond Jubilee garden to provide a broadband cabling box had been highlighted;
  - **interviews for Grounds/Maintenance person;**
- Cllr Boryer
- the meeting of **Strengthening Local Relationships** group;
- Cllr Bye
- a meeting of the **Battle Memorial Hall Committee**. Subsequent to the meeting the sad news that the Manager had handed in her resignation was received. Advertising for a replacement is taking place;
  - **interviews for grounds/maintenance person and Town Clerk;**
  - the **Battle Abbey Advisory Committee.**

## 19. Mayor's Engagements

Cllr Bye had presented ex-Councillor **Jim Carter** with an engraved pewter goblet in recognition and with thanks of his long service to the Town.

## 20. Matters for Information/Future Items for Agenda

Cllr Furness reminded Members of the **Battle Arts & Music Festival event** on Friday 21 March at 6.30pm in the Memorial Hall. Everybody is welcome.

## 21. Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday, 15 April 2014

The meeting closed at 8.25pm

**CLLR R BYE**  
**Chairman**

