



## MINUTES of the EXTERNAL RELATIONS AND TOWN DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE held on TUESDAY, 5<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2021 at 7.30pm via Zoom

**Present:** Cllrs H Sharman (Chairman), V Cook, G Favell, M Howell, M Kiloh, C Would.

In attendance: Carol Harris (Town Clerk).

### Public Question Time

None.

#### 1. Apologies for absence – None.

Cllr Hartley was absent.

#### 2. Disclosure of interest – None.

#### 3. Minutes of the meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2020 were agreed and duly electronically signed by Cllr Sharman.

#### 4. 1066 Walk interpretation panels

Representatives of 18 Hours had sent their apologies and hoped to attend the next meeting.

#### 5. Clerk's report

- All the real **Christmas trees** had been sponsored and funds received at the agreed rate of £200 for the one at Abbey Green and £100 for each of the others.
- The **Newsletter** had been received before Christmas and had been distributed for collection at Jempsons, Battle Railway Station, Tesco Express and the Almonry. It is also published on the website.
- The **Christmas cards** had been hand-delivered or posted, as appropriate.
- The **defibrillator** missing from **Hastings Road, Telham** had been recovered, checked and replaced on site.

#### 6. Correspondence and Communications received post agenda publication

Notification from Monsieur Bocquet that he did not run for election and had passed the proposal for a **Declaration of Intent** to the new Council.

#### 7. Working Groups:

- **Heritage Charter** – Cllr Kiloh reported that there had been no further meetings as the Heritage Charter and List had been completed. Members agreed that the Group should be thanked and invited to disband.

*Cllr Cook joined the meeting.*

- **Resilience Plan** – Cllr Sharman reported that tasks had been issued to take this project forward and a further meeting will be held shortly. Notes attached.
- **Writing Competition** – Cllr Favell confirmed that Alex Hutton had, again, won the adult competition with Enyd Ford and Olivia Matthews the senior and junior winners, respectively. All winning entries feature in the Newsletter. It was confirmed that two of the trophies had been engraved but not yet presented due to the Covid restrictions. Unfortunately, one of the trophies had not been returned by a previous winner and this is being pursued.

## **8. Forums**

- **Town** – Cllr Favell reported that a Forum had been held on 2<sup>nd</sup> December via Zoom. Six organisations had attended with a discussion on “How can we help Battle Civil Parish residents in need of support”. It was felt that members of our community who needed help were receiving it. However, the need of financial support for Battle Area Community Transport was identified. Members suggested more promotion of the BACT services to encourage further use. Notes attached.
- **Youth** – nothing to report at this time.

## **9. Beautiful Battle Committee**

No further work would be carried out until Government restriction allow.

## **10. In Bloom competition**

Information received from South & South East in Bloom had been circulated to Members. The Chairman of Beautiful Battle suggested that no entry be made for the current year although the intention would be to keep the town looking good for both residents and visitors. It was highlighted that works to the Almonry would also have an effect on its garden. Members agreed not to enter the Town category of the S&SE in Bloom competition. It was agreed to discuss a revised Battle in Bloom competition at the next meeting.

## **11. Report from Post Covid Recovery Group**

The Christmas leaflet had been published, thanks to the Council’s Post Covid-19 Recovery grant, and Find a Star competition had taken place. A joint venture with the Chamber’s Christmas Committee had seen Santa tours throughout Battle and Netherfield. These had been extremely well received and thanks were expressed to Council’s staff, Adrian Blunden and Stephen Chilton for driving the ‘sleigh’. It was suggested that this should be a regular event; possibly to raise funds for a charity such as the Foodbank. The Rother District Council’s Opening High Streets Safely fund had provided “Open for Christmas” banners. A “We are backing Battle” campaign will commence as soon as permitted. It was agreed that a further meeting with MP Huw Merriman and County Cllr Field would be arranged.

## **12. Chamber of Commerce Marketing Group**

No meeting.

## **13. Town Clock**

Members were reminded that the Town Clock sited on the new Costa building is owned by the Council but is included within the legal purchase of the building to ensure the clock is correct powered and timed. A reminder has been issued to the owner of the building. A letter from a local resident had suggested that the clock be re-sited on the Abbey Green. It was noted that English Heritage own the land and Council has a 10yr Agreement for its management. Any structures must be authorised by EH. Members discussed the options and agreed that the current location is appropriate. The Clerk was asked to remind those responsible for the three clocks in the town to ensure times are correct.

## **14. Action Plan**

Members discussed the documents, as attached:

- The festive lighting was felt to be completely satisfactory;

# Battle Town Council

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- Battle in Bloom to be discussed at the next meeting;
  - The new residents pack was reviewed and agreed, as attached.
- It was noted that work to the Annual Report will need to commence shortly.

## 15. Finance

- The budget report at 30<sup>th</sup> November 2020 was noted, as attached.
- The budget for 2021/22 as agreed by Council was noted:
  - Defibrillators £1300
  - Information signage £1000 to be placed in an Ear Marked Reserve to plan and cost for next year.
- No Post Covid-19 Recovery Grant applications had been received. It was noted that previous grants would be taken into account for any new applications. The new Deputy Town Clerk & Town Development Officer would be asked to promote this again.

## 16. Matters for information / future agenda items

The Clerk confirmed that the new staff member will start on Monday. In accordance with Government instruction, the Clerk will have a regular one hour walk with DTC&TDO to ensure that communication and knowledge is shared.

The Asst to Town Clerk will be asked to spread any requests for deliveries to several volunteers, although regular contact between volunteer and recipient would be maintained.

It was noted that the success of the Cycle Skills Area is a regular feature on social media.

- Accessibility Audit – visually impaired – to be carried out post Covid restrictions
- Battle in Bloom competition
- Remembrance Sunday to be discussed at the May meeting

## 17. Date of next meeting: 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2021

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.33pm.

CLLR H SHARMAN  
Chairman

Minutes agreed & signed electronically 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2021 – *HS Sharman*