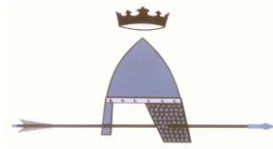




Battle Town Council



**MINUTES of a meeting of the FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE
held on TUESDAY, 28 MAY 2019 at The Almonry, High Street, Battle at 7.30pm**

Present: Cllrs G Favell (Chairman), V Cook, J Gyngell, M Kiloh and C Would.

In Attendance: Jane de Garston, Assistant Town Clerk, Cllr B Brown

1. Apologies for absence – None.

2. Disclosure of interest – None.

3. The minutes of the meeting held on 26 March 2019 were agreed and duly signed by Cllr Favell.

4. Clerk's Report

There has been no response from **ELF** following their grant application and the equipment requested has therefore not been purchased.

The **Co-op** no longer offer local authorities a bank account; further research is being undertaken

5. Correspondence and communications received post agenda

An offer for advertising the wedding venue had been received. Members agreed this would be a matter for a new wedding venue working party to review as part of the marketing strategy required.

6. Comments from Friends of the Almonry

Comments and suggestions were noted by members. **Members requested an email of thanks be sent to the Friends group.**

7. Almonry

i) The building surveys are taking place tomorrow.

ii) Members considered responses to the comments made at the Parish Assembly and agreed to recommend to Full Council responses as attached.

iii) Members agreed to support the work to ensure the town and The Almonry look their very best for judging. The Town centre includes a 1km radius from a point chosen by the Council.

The judging criteria for the town includes a significant percentage of community points rather than just being judged on horticulture. Local community events will therefore be included in the information portfolio provided to the judges. Cllrs Kiloh and Favell will review the 2 areas for judging and will then meet to create a preparation plan. All Councillors will be invited to assist Beautiful Battle with the preparation of The Almonry gardens.

8. Personnel sub committee

Cllrs Gyngell and Kiloh were appointed to the Personnel Sub Committee along with Cllr Favell who is automatically a member as Chairman of Council. Cllr Gyngell was proposed and seconded as Chairman.

9. Working groups

i) Members agreed to disband the current Wedding Venue and Beyond the Battle working groups.

ii) It was agreed formation of a **new Wedding Venue working party** be recommended to Full Council with new Terms of Reference. This new group will suggest marketing and ongoing development of the wedding venue.

iii) Members agreed the formation of the **Almonry Development Working Group** to take the

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Almonry project forward. Aims and objectives were agreed, as attached. The group will initially comprise Cllrs Favell, Kiloh and B Brown. It was agreed further members could be invited at key stages. These invitations would be made to those who can support with relevant experience. The first meeting will be on or after 17th June.

10. Action Plan

For the benefit of new Councillors, Cllr Favell explained the Action Plan is compiled from the Committee's Terms of Reference and the Detailed Action Plan sets out how these actions will be achieved.

The Action Plan was agreed, as attached, and members recommended the grant scheme terms be amended to allow grants of up to £1,000 be approved by F&GP. The Grant Awarding Policy will need to be amended accordingly.

11. Minutes from Beautiful Battle Meetings of 17 April and 15 May

Minutes, as attached, were noted.

12. Request for visit to The Almonry Gardens

Members were delighted to have been asked by Battle Rainbows and Brownies for a formal visit to the gardens, with a guest speaker, to support their Growing Wild in the Garden badge. This was approved for 13th July.

13. Letters from Battle Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

Letters had been received requesting areas, owned/managed by the Town Council, be considered for designation as Green Spaces within the Neighbourhood Plan. Members discussed the areas in question; advice was requested from the Town Clerk for Watch Oak allotment site as this area is leased to BTC as to whether BTC could respond to this request.

Recommendations will be made to Full Council for all other areas, except Virgins Croft allotment site, to be considered for Green Space designation. The sites are: North Trade Road Recreation Ground (agreed subject to completion of current redevelopment plans); Cricket Ground and George Meadow; Guild Shaw; Mansers Shaw; Telham Playing Field; Cherry Gardens allotment site; Netherfield Hill allotment site and Battle Cemetery.

14. Financial matters

- i) Provisional budget report was noted, as attached.
- ii) Bank reconciliation to 31 March 2019 was approved.

15. Date of next meeting: 23 July 2019

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.55pm.

**CLLR G FAVELL
CHAIRMAN**