



Battle Town Council



MINUTES of the ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING held on
TUESDAY, 21 MAY 2013 in
The Almonry, High Street, Battle, at 7.30pm

PRESENT: Cllrs C Bishop, J Boryer, R Bye, J Carter, J Eldridge,
Mrs P Fisher, D Furness, Ms J Gyngell, R Harris, R Jessop,
Mrs M Kiloh, Ms J Ormonde-Butler, Mrs S Pry and D Wilson.

Public Question Time

No members of the public were present.

1. Election of Chairman

Two nominations were made - **Cllr Bye proposed by Cllr Bishop, seconded by Cllr Mrs Pry; Cllr Jessop proposed by Cllr Carter, seconded by Cllr Boryer.** A vote was therefore necessary and **Cllr Bye proposed, seconded by Cllr Jessop, that Standing Order 10 be adopted to enable this to be done by signed ballot. This was agreed.** The result of the ballot was 9 votes for Cllr Bye and 4 for Cllr Jessop with 1 abstention. **Cllr Bye was therefore duly elected** to serve as Chairman for a further year. He thanked Members for his re-election and undertook to serve the Council to the best of his ability.

2. The Chairman's Declaration of Acceptance of Office was duly signed by Cllr Bye.

3. Election of Vice Chairman

Cllr Bye proposed the nomination of Cllr Mrs Pry, seconded by Cllr Bishop. With no other nomination all present supported this proposal. Cllr Mrs Pry was therefore duly elected to serve as Vice Chairman for the ensuing year.

4. Apologies for Absence – Cllrs Mrs M Howell, Ms M-L Neill and M Palmer.

5. Disclosure of Interest – Cllr Carter said that, as an allotment holder, he would have a personal and prejudicial interest should there be a discussion about allotments under item 16.

Cllr Jessop declared a personal and prejudicial interest under item 8 as a Director of the East Sussex Associations of Local Councils Ltd.

6. To Approve the Formation and Membership of the Standing Committees

Suggested Committee Membership had been circulated. **Cllr Mrs Fisher proposed, seconded by Cllr Wilson, that the existing Standing Committees should continue and that the Membership should be as circulated. This was agreed unanimously,** as set out in the attached list.

7. To Appoint Representatives of the Council to Other Bodies

A list of the bodies to which appointments need to be made had been circulated. Cllr Furness agreed to fill a vacancy on the Battle Partnership. The complete list for the year is attached.

8. Annual Subscriptions

Cllr Jessop repeated his personal and prejudicial interest and took no part in the discussion or vote.

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Cllr Bye suggested that the Council continue membership of the Sussex Association of Local Councils and the Rother Association of Local Councils, the 2013-14 subscriptions being £1434 and £45 respectively. He also recommended that a provisional sum of £200 be agreed to enable the new Town Clerk to join the Society of Local Council Clerks. **This was formally proposed by Cllr Carter, seconded by Cllr Wilson and agreed unanimously.**

9. Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 16 April 2013. **Cllr Mrs Fisher proposed approval of the minutes, seconded by Cllr Mrs Kiloh. This was agreed and they were duly signed.**

10. Matters Arising from Previous Meetings

All covered under main agenda items.

11. Correspondence & Communications

A further letter had been received from **Gregory Barker MP**. This had focussed on the issue raised at the last Council meeting relating to the possible relaxation of the requirement to get **planning permission for extensions**. The reply had reassuringly confirmed that the proposals will include safeguards but, perhaps more important, that any extension of permitted development rights will not apply in conversation areas or AONB's.

The Clerk reported **invitations** to:

- the **Annual Parish Conference** at the Memorial Hall on 25 June beginning at 1.45pm;
- the next **Chairmanship Briefing Session** on 2 July at East Horsley Village Hall. Several Members expressed concern that these events often fall at inconvenient times;
- the launch of the **'Visit Battle' promotional film** at Battle Abbey on 22 May at 6.00pm.

Requests for grant had been received from:

- the **Chamber of Commerce** to help with the cost of the **Medieval Fayre**. **Cllr Bye proposed that a grant of £100 be made. This was seconded by Cllr Mrs Fisher and agreed by a majority;**
- the **Scarecrow Festival** seeking £75 towards the cost of artwork and printing. It was noted that the Festival organisers hope that the event will raise funds for a Battle based charity. That being the case some Members felt that it would be inappropriate to subsidise the event. Others felt that it had become something to which residents and visitors look forward and that Council support could be justified. After some discussion **Cllr Mrs Fisher proposed that a grant of £75 should be paid to help with printing costs. This was seconded by Cllr Boryer but the proposal resulted in a tied vote. It was lost on the Chairman's casting vote.**

12. Report from County Councillor

Cllr Field confirmed that the recent elections had re-shaped the Council and that no party now has overall control. However, the **Conservatives will run a minority administration** negotiating where necessary with other groups. Cllr Field will chair the **Children's Services Scrutiny Committee** and be a Member of the **Planning Committee**.

13. Report from District Councillors

Cllr Dixon had sent his apologies.

Cllr Davies said that at Rother's Annual Meeting **Cllr Jenkins** had been elected as **Chairman** with **Cllr Mrs George** as **Vice-Chairman**. **Cllr Maynard** continues to be **Leader**. Although the meeting had voted to support the recommendations relating to **senior staff restructuring** some

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concerns had been expressed about the practical implications of the 2 heads of service alternating to cover the previous Chief Executive role.

14. Report from the Police

The **Crime Reports** for April/May were noted. PCSO Daryl Holter said that criminal activity in the town remains very low though shed and garage break-ins continue to be a concern in the villages. Antisocial behaviour, shoplifting and scrap metal thefts have all declined recently. In the light of comments made at the Parish Assembly there will be a concentration on illegal parking and, already, a large number of tickets have been issued.

Cllr Bye, Cllr Furness and the Clerk had met with **Sgt Masterson** who had reinforced comments made at recent Council meetings, particularly the fact that the 'legal' **parking** in North Trade Road and Caldbec Hill cannot be classified as causing an obstruction. He had repeated those comments at the recent Parish Assembly.

15. Minutes of the Planning Committee meetings held on 25 April and 9 May were presented by Cllr Jessop and noted. Regarding the implications for housing requirements to be discussed further in the context of the Core Strategy, Cllr Jessop said that a meeting with Rother's planners had already taken place covering the Netherfield area. One to discuss the rest of the Town Council area is planned for 28 May.

16. Minutes of the Services Committee meeting held on 30 April were presented by Cllr Kiloh and noted.

17. Minutes of the Communication Committee meeting held on 7 May were presented by Cllr Bishop and noted. Cllr Harris congratulated the Clerk on the production of the Annual Report.

18. Report Back from Parish Assembly

There were no particular issues to report not least because the attendance had been significantly lower than in recent years. Cllr Bye confirmed that those present had welcomed the revised design and format of the Annual Report.

19. Clerk's Replacement

Cllr Bye said that the interviews had produced a preferred candidate and that the necessary references had been obtained. Terms and conditions had also been agreed. The post has therefore been offered to **Julia Cuppini**. Her official start date is 1 July but she will begin the handover arrangements from 17 June.

Cllr Harris felt that the change of Clerk should be acknowledged through a community event which would enable community leaders to network, meet the new Clerk and pay respects to the retiring Clerk. For this purpose **he proposed that expenditure up to a maximum of £1200 should be incurred under section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972. This would provide for an event for 80-100 people to take place in the Memorial Hall. This was seconded by Cllr Bye and agreed unanimously.**

20. List of Payments & Receipts was noted.

21. Reports from Representatives of the Council

Cllr Wilson - had attended a **BLAP Committee** meeting and **AGM**;

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- Cllr Jessop - had circulated a note covering a **Scarecrow Festival** meeting; the **BLAP Committee** meeting and **AGM**; the **Ticehurst Parish Assembly**; the **Netherfield meeting with Rother Planners** and the **Chamber AGM**;
- Cllr Mrs Kiloh - meetings of **Beautiful Battle** and the **Battle in Bloom group**. She alerted Members to the work in progress to expand the Oak Tree bed into an Acorn bed;
- Cllr Mrs Fisher - reported on a joint meeting between the **Museum and the Historical Socity** at which plans were discussed for a joint event to celebrate the 950th anniversary of the Battle of Hastings;
- Cllr Mrs Pry - had also attended the **Battle in Bloom group** meeting and a **reception** to mark the **Rother Chairman's** end of term;
- Cllr Bye - had chaired the **Battle Abbey Advisory Committee** meeting at which English Heritage had confirmed that visitor numbers are holding up well compared to other visitor attractions.

22. Mayor's Engagements

He had attended:

- The **Senlac District Scouts St George's Day parade and church service**;
- The **Rother Chairman's end of term reception**;
- **1st Battle Scouts AGM**;
- **Battle Choral Society Concert**;
- The gathering of the **Maidstone Historic Vehicle Group** and their guests from near Amiens on the Abbey Green prior to lunch at Battle Abbey.

23. Matters for Information/Future Items for Agenda – None.

24. Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday, 18 June 2013

The meeting closed at 8.30pm.

**R BYE
Chairman**

