



# Battle Town Council



## Minutes of the COUNCIL MEETING held on TUESDAY, 15<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2021 at the Emmanuel Centre, Harrier Lane, Battle at 7.30pm

**Present:** Cllrs G Favell (Chairman), A Brown, V Cook, J Gyngell, C Hartley, M Howell, M Kiloh, A Russell, H Sharman and D Wheeler.

**In Attendance:** County/District Cllr Field, five members of the public, C Harris (Town Clerk).

### PUBLIC QUESTION TIME 7.30pm to 7.45pm

A long standing resident highlighted his concern at the **untidy appearance of the town**. Highlighted areas included the: weeds in the Abbey walls and pavements; the uncut grass surrounding the Diamond Jubilee bed at the Ambulance Station; Town clock on the Costa building not working; poor condition of the commemoration plaque on the ex-Martins newsagent premises.

Concern was raised at **item 7b)** that indicated a decision to spend **Community Infrastructure Levy** for the rebuild of the Pavilion was premature. The Chairman confirmed that the recommendation is for the sum of £100,000 to be the Council's contribution in order that the project can be put forward for inclusion in the list of possible schemes for consideration.

Confirmation of any change to expected funding for the **rebuild of the Pavilion** was requested. The Chairman confirmed that there had been changes in grants available following the Covid Pandemic but that all sources will continue to be explored and monitored.

*One member of the public left the meeting.*

**1. Apologies for absence** – Cllrs C Davies and C Would.  
District Cllr Dixon.

**2. Disclosure of interest** – None.

**3. Minutes of the Annual Council meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> May 2021** were agreed and duly signed by Cllr Favell.

#### **4. Report from the Clerk**

- The **Government's call for evidence for virtual meetings** had been completed by Members and submitted.
- The **Locality Grant application for Neighbourhood Plan expenditure** to Referendum had been submitted. Further information had been requested and provided.
- An invoice for the cost of the **replacement writing competition shield** had been sent to the school, as agreed at the previous meeting. No response has been received to date. The replacement, with engraving, has been received and arrangements for presentation are being arranged.

#### **5. Reports from County Councillor and District Councillors**

##### **County**

Cllr Field reported that most **meetings had been postponed** in anticipation of the lifting of restrictions, which has now been delayed. Some meetings to elect Chairmen had been held.

**Training** has been ongoing.

# Battle Town Council

## District

Cllr Cook reported that **Cabinet** and the **Overview & Scrutiny** had met. She highlighted discussions on car parks and on-street **parking** since civil parking enforcement and reported that an **anti-poverty strategy** is to be drawn up.

## 6. Correspondence and communications received post agenda publication

- Confirmation that **Rother District Council's Community Grants Scheme** is now open for applications of up to £30,000 from a £130,000 fund.
- An email exchange had been circulated to all Councillors following a weekend visit to the **cemetery** that found the **vehicular access gates** locked which had resulted in a failed visit by a wheelchair user. Members were reminded that the vehicular access gates are locked out of staff working hours following a burglary last year. The side gate (1200mm) remains permanently open. Members discussed this and the Clerk was asked to approach Pyke House for pre-arranged permission for physically disabled people to use its parking area when visiting the cemetery at weekends. This will be further discussed by the Environment Committee at its next meeting.
- Members noted the concern of one resident that the **Union flag** had been left flying at the Almonry after the death of Prince Phillip, which it was felt was a party political statement. The Clerk confirmed that, as the Almonry is not occupied, there is currently no flag flying.
- Members agreed to the erection of the **Battle Town Football Club banner** for the summer period at the recreation ground car park entrance to encourage new players.
- Members noted that **Rother District Neighbourhood Police Team Insp Chris Varrall**, has been awarded an MBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours List for his commitment to two local safeguarding projects. The Chairman will write a letter of congratulations on behalf of the Council.

## 7. Draft minutes and consider any recommendations from Committee meetings:

- a) Minutes of the **Finance & General Purposes Committee** held on 25<sup>th</sup> May 2021 were presented by Cllr Favell and noted. Members discussed the **Community Infrastructure Levy(CIL) Policy and agreed by a majority to adopt the Policy** as attached. Cllr Russell asked to record his objection as the Policy had only been published on the Council's website the previous day. Following a request to consider a more detailed **assessment form**, the CIL Working Group had met to discuss further. Notes of the meeting are attached. It was suggested that the assessment form could be trialed for a year and then adapted as necessary. **Members agreed by a majority to adopt the assessment form as attached.** Cllr Russell asked to record his objection to this.
- b) Minutes of the **Environment Committee** held on 1<sup>st</sup> June 2021 were presented by Cllr Cook and noted. The recommendations were discussed:
  - i. **to apply for Option to Tax the Pavilion.** The Clerk reminded Members that this is to allow for the reclamation of the VAT element on the cost of the project. All income related to the Pavilion will also be subject to VAT for a minimum period of 20 years. **Members agreed unanimously to make the application for Option to Tax the Pavilion;**
  - ii. **for the sum of £100,000 to be considered for allocation from Local Community Infrastructure Levy(CIL) funds towards the project.** Members discussed making a submission to the CIL funds for the Pavilion extensively. The Clerk was asked to obtain a formal indication of expected CIL funds based on the Battle Civil Parish Neighbourhood Plan (Battle CP NP) from RDC. **Members agreed to defer this item and 7 b) iii until this information is available.**
  - iii. **to make an application to Rother District Council for £400,000 Strategic CIL funding.**

# Battle Town Council

- c) Minutes of the **Planning & Transport** meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> June 2021 were presented by Cllr Howell and noted. Notes to assist Members with the proposals received from the Battle CP NP Steering Group had been circulated, as attached. It was agreed that the crucial time constraints to allow RDC to make its decision on the report and move forward to Referendum was a significant reason to discuss:
- Proposal 1: **that Council adopts the Neighbourhood Plan Policies as amended by the Examiner's recommendations and subsequent discussion with RDC**, as fully detailed in "*Battle CP-NP Proposed Policies editing following Examiners Final Report\_v1.4\_20210615\_SentToBTC*".
  - Proposal 2: **following the meeting with RDC, that Council adopts the potential date range of the first 2 weeks in September for the Referendum**. [The date for Referendum should be 56 working days from the RDC Decision Statement which is planned for July 3<sup>rd</sup>; however the later date of September is recommended to avoid the school holiday season.]

**Members agreed these proposals unanimously.**

The Clerk circulated a copy of the draft Newsletter which features the Neighbourhood Plan on pages one and three, as submitted by the Chairman of the Battle CP NP SG. This had been issued to the Editorial Board for further comment. The final draft would be circulated to Members for information prior to publication. As the Referendum is now unlikely to be until September, it was agreed that this edition will be distributed throughout the town as other Newsletters and a separate document promoting the Referendum will be delivered to every household at the appropriate time.

Cllr Hartley agreed to assist with any promotion of the Referendum.

## **8. Co-option to Netherfield Ward**

Due to increased work commitments, the application had been withdrawn and the Clerk was asked to re-advertise the vacancy.

## **9. Chamber of Commerce of 17<sup>th</sup> May 2021**

The minutes of the meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> May 2021 were noted as attached.

## **10. Frequency of Council meetings**

Members discussed the benefits and disadvantages of reducing the number of Full Council meetings to bi-monthly and agreed to retain the existing programme of 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday every month.

*Cllr Field left the meeting.*

## **11. Police and Crime Commissioner**

Members were asked to submit any questions to the Clerk by the end of this week.

*One member of the public left the meeting.*

## **12. Phone box**

Members considered the suggestion to purchase a phone box and agreed that this was not an appropriate project at this time.

*Two members of the public left the meeting.*

## **13. Planning permission conditions on Almonry applications**

Members noted that the proposed actions relating to conditions applied to RR/2021/334/DC, RR/2021/331/DC, RR/2020/661/DC and R/2020/668/DC had been approved.

# Battle Town Council

## 14. Queen's Platinum Jubilee

- One suggestion for a Parish Picnic event had been received. Members felt that the Market Square and bandstand would be an appropriate location and it was noted that the Mediaeval Fayre will take place over the bank holiday period. Cllr Favell agreed to liaise with the Chamber of Commerce and report to the next meeting.
- A suggested colour scheme for Beautiful Battle to consider for next year's town planting to illustrate the Queen's long reign was agreed:
  - silver coloured leaves                      silver jubilee
  - golden flowers and leaves                  golden jubilee
  - Diphylleia grayi                              diamond jubilee
  - white flowers                                  platinum jubilee

## 15. Finance matters

- a) The confirmed list of **income £21,200.71 and expenditure £28,607.79 for April 2021** was noted as attached.
- b) There were no **Covid-19 Recovery Grant applications**

## 16. Reports from representatives of the Council and other reports

- Cllr Cook        -        opening of the **tennis rebound wall**;  
                         -        litter clearing with Brownies.
- Cllr Russell    -        **Battle CP NP SG** meetings and one with RDC to discuss the NP;  
                                     **Litter clearing** which appeared to be mostly discarded cigarette end.
- Cllr Sharman   -        CPRE **Planning training**;  
                         -        **litter clearing**;
- Cllr Brown     -        **Battle CP NP SG** meetings and one with RDC to discuss the NP.
- Cllr Wheeler   -        **Battle CP NP SG** meetings, one with RDC to discuss the NP and Editorial Board meeting;  
                         -        **Litter clearing**;  
                         -        **Tennis rebound wall** opening.
- Cllr Howell    -        **Battle CP NP SG** meetings, one with RDC to discuss the NP and Editorial Board meeting;  
                                     **Litter clearing**;  
                                     CPRE **Planning training**.
- Cllr Kiloh      -        advised that the **Battle Charities** are about to meet and suggested that other organisations should now be able to arrange meetings;
- Cllr Gyngell   -        **Battle Memorial Hall Committee** at which the Council's hire of Emmanuel Centre had been raised;  
                         -        **Litter clearing**;  
                         -        meeting with **RDC to discuss the NP**.
- Cllr Hartley   -        attempting to make contact with the **President of the Chamber of Commerce** to discuss marketing matters.
- Cllr Favell     -        **as attached**.

## 17. Future agenda items / matters to note

Members agreed to extend the 6 week booking for the Emmanuel Centre to 17<sup>th</sup> August 2021.

## 18. Date of next meeting: Tuesday, 20<sup>th</sup> July 2021

# *Battle Town Council*

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.20pm

CLLR G FAVELL  
CHAIRMAN

DRAFT