



# Battle Town Council

## MINUTES of the EXTERNAL RELATIONS AND TOWN DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE held on TUESDAY, 2<sup>nd</sup> MARCH 2021 at 7.30pm via Zoom

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

In attendance: 2 members of the public, Naomi Robinson & Mandy Curtis (18 Hours), Nicola Boarer (Deputy Town Clerk/Town Development Officer), Carol Harris (Town Clerk).

### Public Question Time

None.

1. **Apologies for absence** – None.

2. **Disclosure of interest** – None.

3. **Minutes of the meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> January 2021** were agreed and duly electronically signed by Cllr Sharman.

### 4. **1066 Walk interpretation panels**

Mandy Curtis and Naomi Robinson(NR) of 18 Hours were welcomed to the meeting. An update report on the installation of the statues on the 1066 Country Walk had been circulated. A short presentation with images to highlight relevance was shown. It was confirmed that interpretation panels are in progress and Members were asked to provide appropriate historical facts to be included. NR advised that these can be updated as necessary. It was highlighted that the gunpowder link, with the 2 artefacts owned by the Council, should be included. MC reported that the panels will contain activities for children and it was suggested that QR codes and hashtags for Instagram may encourage youth interest.

The Chairman thanked Ms Curtis and Ms Robinson for their attendance.

*Representatives of 18 Hours left the meeting.*

### 5. **Clerk's report**

- Confirmation has now been received from **Cityscape Maps** that their **redundant equipment** will be removed as soon as possible. An appropriate timeframe is being sought.
- East Sussex County Council had confirmed that the **clock on the library building** will be repaired during roofing works. There had been no response from those responsible for the **clocks at Costa or the Abbey Court**. These had been emailed again.

### 6. **Correspondence and Communications**

Following an informal meeting with Rother District Council on the provision of **Electric Vehicle Charging at Rother District Council's car parks**, a proposal will be submitted to its Cabinet recommending that this scheme is taken forward.

### 7. **To receive updates from Working Groups:**

- **Heritage Charter** – following the discussion at the previous meeting, an email had been circulated to members of this group thanking them for their work on this task that had now been completed. A majority had acknowledged this.
- **Resilience Plan** – Cllr Sharman reported that there has been positive communication with two residents that had expressed an interest in the role of Co-ordinator and Deputy Co-ordinator. This will be pursued.

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- **Writing Competition** – Cllr Favell had circulated a draft selection of title names for the 2021 competition. It was agreed that both a children's and an adult competition should be arranged and that the Working Group should agree titles for both children and adults. It was suggested that a meeting for the winner with a local author or journalist may encourage entries.

## 8. To receive updates from Forums:

- **Town** – Cllr Favell and the Deputy Town Clerk/Town Development Officer(DTC/TDO) are in the process of arranging the next meeting.
- **Youth** – No plans at present.

## 9. Post Covid Recovery Group

Cllr Favell reported that the group met with the MP, County and District Councillors to discuss how Battle will move forward. The "I'm backing Battle" campaign with banners and bags funded through the Government's Reopening High Street Safely Fund, administered locally by Rother District Council, will be ready for the 12<sup>th</sup> April re-opening of non-essential shops.

## 10. Chamber of Commerce Marketing Group

The Minutes of the recent meeting had been circulated, as attached. The production of a new website was highlighted.

## 11. Battle in Bloom 2021

It was agreed that a 'virtual' competition with photographs of gardens should form a reduced competition to focus on the positivity of increased activity in many gardens during the past year. The DTC/TDO is asked to promote a "Battle is Virtually in Bloom" competition. Cllr Hartley agreed to organise the competition.

## 12. Annual Report

The final draft was shared with the meeting for noting. Although word heavy, attempts to encourage readers had been made with highlighted paragraphs and words. It was reported that this will be presented to printers the following day to allow for the circulation to all residents week commencing 22<sup>nd</sup> March. The document will be published online and reported as news to all those that had registered for updates on the Council's website.

## 13. Action Plans

These were noted as attached.

Members were asked to forward to the Clerk suggested content for a **risk assessment** for discussion at the next meeting.

## 14. Finance

- The **budget report at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020** was noted, as attached.
- Members discussed **virements and transfers to Ear Marked Reserves** from this year's budget and agreed:
  - To retain the Christmas Lights EMR (425) for potential future use;
  - To vire funds from Newsletter (4455) £300 and hospitality (4475) £400 to Finance & General Purposes Stationery (4055) budget following the production of two Covid information leaflets;
  - To facilitate the upgrade or replacement of the website, £1000 from the Social media and Marketing budget (4460) be transferred to a Website Ear Marked Reserve;

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- As agreed at Full Council, the Mortars (4495) budget of £2,000 be added to the existing EMR (470);
  - Not to transfer the Remembrance Day (4496) £1000 to the Remembrance Day Event Ear Marked Reserve (485);
  - Due to the restrictions this year and a kind contribution from Beautiful Battle, the full budget for Town Tubs (4497) was not required. This is to be placed into a Britain in Bloom Ear Marked Reserve
  - £750 put aside for the Town Model (4800) should return to General Reserves.
- **No Post Covid – 19 Recovery Grant applications** had been received.

## **15. Matters for information / future agenda items**

- Accessibility Audit – visually impaired – to be carried out post Covid restrictions
- Remembrance Sunday

## **16. Date of next meeting: 4<sup>th</sup> May 2021**

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.03pm.

CLLR H SHARMAN  
Chairman

Minutes agreed and electronically signed 4<sup>th</sup> May 2021 – *H Sharman*