



# Battle Town Council



**MINUTES of the EXTERNAL RELATIONS AND TOWN DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**  
**held on TUESDAY, 7<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2021 at 7.30pm in The Emmanuel Centre, Harrier Lane,**  
**Battle**

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

**In attendance: C Harris (Town Clerk).**

**Public Question Time - None.**

- 1. Apologies for absence – None.**
- 2. Disclosure of interest – None.**
- 3. Minutes of the meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> July 2021** were agreed and duly signed by Cllr Sharman.
- 4. Clerk's report**
  - The Rother District Council Regeneration Officer is considering appropriate use of the Cityscape Maps equipment for a revised information map with no advertising. To remove equipment at Abbey Court will require an excavation licence from East Sussex Highways at a cost of £399.61; an approved contractor will also be required to carry out the work. The Clerk was asked to arrange the removal or closing of the money boxes.
  - There has been no response from St Valery sur Somme and a request to the Twinning Association for appropriate contact details has been made.
  - Confirmation that the replacement plaques for the Town Trail are available for erection is awaited.
  - The Council's wreath for the Sunday Remembrance Service has been ordered and received.
- 5. Correspondence and Communications.**
  - Members agreed that an entry to the **Christmas tree festival, with a theme of "Lights, Camera, Action at the Movies"**, should be discussed at the next meeting. It was noted that Cllr Sharman has a suitable tree for decoration.
  - Chairman of Council had been invited to assist the Rother Voluntary Action with a **Poverty mapping exercise**. Members noted that with the rules of General Data Protection Regulations it was difficult to ascertain this data.
- 6. Working Groups:**
  - **Resilience Plan** – Cllr Sharman reported a meeting with the Rother District Council Emergency Planning Officer. Data had been populated as far as possible and volunteers will be written to shortly to confirm agreement and to appoint co-ordinators for each ward.
  - **Writing Competition** – Cllr Favell confirmed that local head teachers will be provided with printed copies of the junior competition criteria and flyers for both will be published on the website and in notice boards. The RDC Alerts will also promote the competition. It was agreed that the rules for entrants will be considered for next year's competition.
- 7. To receive updates from Forums:**
  - Town – will take place tomorrow, 8<sup>th</sup> September.

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- Youth – the Principal at Claverham Community College had agreed to invite the Chairman of Council and Clerk to attend a new School Council meeting and to look at the building works currently being undertaken.

## **8. 11<sup>th</sup> November observance event**

Members noted that the Lord Lieutenant had agreed to attend the event on the Abbey apron to be followed by a reception at the Almonry. Battel Bonfire Boyes have a meeting this week and will consider our request to assist with the 'cannon' and traffic halting. Chris Bexhell had agreed to help with advice and at the event and will ask Dean Pelling to provide a bugler service. Schools had been invited and Netherfield had already accepted the invitation. It was agreed that the event should be published on the new BattleEastSussex website. Members noted advice from Mr Bexhell that the event should conclude with the 2 minutes silence to allow participants to be 'dismissed'. It was agreed that a practice to ensure timing will be required.

## **9. Almonry's role in relation to town development/tourist information point**

Postponed to the next meeting.

## **10. Council petanque competition**

Bexhill and Rye Town Councillors had been invited to a match on the rec on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> October at 10.30am. District Councillors will be invited and short games will be played.

## **11. Newsletter**

Several suggestions for the next edition were agreed to include: Open days for The Almonry; articles from local charity support groups; a report from Police; Referendum result; local community groups; new gym equipment and toddler swings; Councillor vacancies.

## **12. Battle in Bloom 2021**

The Clerk reported that some photographs had been received. She was asked to re-publish the initiative.

## **13. Christmas 2021**

- Two quotes for the **Town trees** had been received at £1519.72 and £995. A third provider could not supply the Abbey Green tree. Another enquiry had not produced a quote. It was noted that Littledown Christmas Tree Farm at Westfield had provided the previous year's trees and maintained the same cost. As the trees had been very satisfactory, **Members agreed unanimously to place the order with Littledown Christmas Tree Farm at a cost of £995.**
- **Members agreed unanimously to promote the tree sponsorship rates at £200 for the Abbey Green tree and £100 for the smaller trees,** as last year.
- Members agreed to use previous supplies of Town Council **Christmas cards** for this current year.
- The Clerk confirmed that Gala Lights will install and assist the Chamber's Christmas Committee for the Lights on event on 27<sup>th</sup> November and that Father Christmas will be hosted at the Almonry for Late Night Shopping on 9<sup>th</sup> December. Cllrs Favell and Sharman agreed to decorate the Grotto and act as Santa's helpers. Cllr Cook also volunteered to help Santa. The Clerk was asked to seek assistance from Mr Mills and Cllr Russell for Santa and additional help, respectively.

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## 14. Requests from Beautiful Battle

- Members agreed to purchase two additional High Street planters. Cllr Kiloh kindly offered to donate a further two planters to allow for the four requested. It was highlighted that the planters in the Twitten need attention.
- Subject to workload, it was agreed that grounds staff would water barrier baskets once a week over the winter period.

## 15. Town Clock

Requests from the Clerk and MP for the owner of 16 High Street to ensure that the clock is working have been unsuccessful. The clock has now been cleaned on the north side resulting in the loss of black and gold paintwork. Following a discussion, the Clerk was asked to contact English Heritage to seek permission in principle to the re-siting of the clock to the Abbey Green at the 1066 end.

## 16. Webinar facility

Members agreed that Zoom should be trailed and the Clerk was asked to approach Cllr Field for a session on Climate Change.

## 17. Mortars on 1066 Pathway

A response from RDC's Regeneration Officer is awaited and it was acknowledged that it may need to be explored with East Sussex Footpaths Officer and landowners.

## 18. Bus Services survey

Completion of the survey will be undertaken on 13<sup>th</sup> September. It was noted that the MP had mentioned this at the previous day's meeting as a matter of high interest. The consultation for residents had been published on the social media page.

## 19. Chamber of Commerce Marketing Group July 2021

The Minutes from July were noted as attached.

## 20. Action Plan 2021-22

- *Prepare plan for further development of Battle to recommend to Council.* This will be discussed with the proposed new Deputy Town Clerk when in place.
- *Annual review of Rother District Council barrow person* It was noted that RDC still have a barrow man in Battle although staffing issues due to COVID and the summer holidays had an adverse effect on the service across the district. The excess of cigarette ends dropped was highlighted.
- *Disability Audit* Cllr Cook agreed to seek a volunteer partially sighted person to assist.
- *Review policy on communication issues* It was noted that this has been completed.
- *Agree steps to improve communication with residents* Members felt that this has been improved and would be discussed with the proposed new Deputy Town Clerk when in place.

## 21. Finance

- **The budget report at 30<sup>th</sup> July 2021** was noted, as attached. The Clerk highlighted that although there had been virtually no income or expenditure, the first newsletter cost of £225 had recently been paid and the cost of plants and compost purchased for the Town Tubs had not been allocated.

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

- Budget 2022/23
  - Accessibility Audit – visually impaired

## **23. Date of next meeting: 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2021**

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.00pm.

CLLR H SHARMAN  
Chairman

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