



Battle Town Council



MINUTES of the EXTERNAL RELATIONS AND TOWN DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
held on TUESDAY, 6th JULY 2021 at 7.30pm in The Emmanuel Centre, Harrier Lane, Battle

Present: Cllrs H Sharman (Chairman), G Favell, C Hartley, M Kiloh.

In attendance: Carol Harris (Town Clerk).

Public Question Time - None.

1. **Apologies for absence** – Cllrs V Cook, C Would.
2. **Disclosure of interest** – None.
3. **Minutes of the meeting held on 2nd March 2021** were agreed and duly signed by Cllr Sharman.
4. **Clerk's report**
 - No response has been received from **Cityscape Maps** and we are therefore pursuing the removal of the equipment. Council staff do not have the relevant skills and experience to do this work. East Sussex Highways and Rother District Council(RDC), as landowners, have also been consulted and a response is awaited.
 - No response to emails or a letter had been received from Costa in relation to the **Town Clock**. An email had also been sent to the selling agent for the previous owner, NatWest requesting confirmation that the clock maintenance Agreement had been included as part of the purchase of the building. A response is awaited. Cllr Favell, as Chairman of Council, agreed to make contact with the manager and the Clerk was asked to contact Cllr Fields to request assistance. It was felt that publicity of inactivity in the community by a prominent business should be considered.
 - The **newsletter** had been sent for publication and should be available for distribution by the end of the week.
 - The Chairman of the Battle Civil Parish Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group had received confirmation that the current Neighbourhood Plan article in the **Bexhill & Battle Observer** could be allocated to the Town Council as soon as appropriate. In the meantime, items are being submitted as frequently as possible, though articles are not always published.
 - There had been no response from the **St Valery sur Somme Mayoral Office** to date.
5. **Correspondence and Communications** – None.
6. **Remembrance Day, 11th November**

Members noted that, subject to approval by his line manager, the Fire Officer is happy to perform flag duties. Mr Bexhell had also agreed to assist and the MP will attend if he is not required in Parliament. The Clerk was asked to contact the previous year's bugler and Battle Bonfire Boys to invite participation. One pupil from each year group of all local schools to be invited with one representative to read a poem or a sing a collective hymn. The event should be a maximum of 15 minutes with invited guests to return to the refurbished Almonry for refreshments.
7. **Working Groups:**
 - **Resilience Plan** – Although a coordinator and deputy had been agreed, the Rother District Council Officer had not responded to assist with taking the Plan forward. It was agreed that Cllr

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Sharman ask the District Councillor to support.

- **Writing Competition** - notes from the recent meeting were noted, as attached. Cllr Favell highlighted the subject for this year will be ***And the birds sang again***. Schools will be invited to enter the competition in September.

8. Forums:

- **Town** - Due to the Covid restrictions, the meetings had not been held as intended. It was agreed to hold the next meeting on Wednesday 8th September.
- **Youth** – There had been no meetings. It was agreed that action for this should be a full discussion at the next meeting. It was agreed that the Principal at Claverham Community Council should be contacted to discuss stronger links with its Student Council.

9. Post Covid Recovery Group

It was agreed that a meeting to call this group to a close should be arranged.

10. Chamber of Commerce Marketing Group

Cllr Harley reported that he will be attending the meeting next week. It was noted that an events leaflet has been produced.

11. Wild About Battle Group

The draft minutes were noted. The concerns at the cancellation of the installation of chestnut fencing and the gap in double yellow road markings at Caldbec Hill were highlighted.

12. Battle in Bloom 2021

Cllr Hartley confirmed that he had been working with the Deputy Town Clerk/Marketing Development Officer(DTC/MDO) to agree a virtual “competition”. It was agreed that it could run until October to allow children to take part, as schools may be a more efficient means of communication. This will be promoted via the website, social media and a press release. The Clerk was asked to contact the Observer for photographs to be printed.

The Clerk was asked to contact previous winners of the trophies to request a return once Officers are back at the Almonry.

13. Buildings requiring improvement

A list of buildings with first floors in poor condition had been circulated to Members. It was agreed that this should be passed to the Chamber of Commerce and to the Planning & Transport Committee for consideration for Section 215 action by RDC. Grants available for this type of work should be explored.

14. Website review

The DTC/MDO had circulated details with her recommendation for a new website by Parish Council Websites at a cost of £877 plus an annual fee of £228. The DTC was asked to clarify the term one page, as it is implied that the current website has far in excess of the recommended number. It was agreed that one year's minutes should be published with a notification that older documents could be requested. **Members agreed unanimously that the website should be produced by Parish Council Websites at a cost of £877.**

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15. Town Trail plaques

Following the death of Mr Calthorpe, a wonderful offer from Mary Clarke to continue his legacy for providing replacement Town Trail plaques had been received. She will complete those already started and will supply any further plaques requiring replacement.

16. Market Square

A suggestion to provide a covered market area had been received. It was agreed that this is not a Council responsibility and asked the Clerk to approach Jempsons for an update on any proposals for the area.

17. GP surgery in Netherfield

It was noted that this had been submitted to the Battle Civil Parish Neighbourhood Plan Call for Need. At a recent meeting with a Doctor from Martins Oak Surgery, in relation to a proposal to extend the existing premises, the possibility of opening an additional, part-time surgery at Netherfield was raised with him. It was indicated that this would not be practical at this time. The Clerk was asked to ascertain need with the NHS Clinical Commissioning Groups.

18. Webinars

Cllr Kiloh suggested that to expand interaction with residents on matters of interest, the purchase of a webinar facility should be considered. The Clerk was asked to obtain the cost of this for the next meeting.

19. 1066 Pathway

- The **proposed text for information board** had been circulated to Members. The Clerk was asked to forward suggested amendments.
- The Clerk was asked to pursue an acceptable location for the **mortars**: near Powdermills Lake for the larger one; and the smaller one at Pepperingeye was suggested.

20. Tourist Information Point

It was agreed to discuss the Almonry's role in Town Development at the next meeting.

21. Petanque competition

Due to the ongoing Covid restrictions, it was agreed to discuss this at the next meeting.

22. Action Plan 2021-22

- The **Detailed Action Plan for 2021-22** was agreed, as attached.
- Cllrs Cook, Favell and Hartley agreed to **sound record the newsletter for the Council website**
- The **risk assessment** was agreed, as attached.

23. Finance

- The **budget report at 31st May 2021** was noted, as attached. The Clerk highlighted that the expenditure of the Writing Competition Shield is at 4070. An invoice had been sent to the School and a response awaited.
- There had been no **Post Covid 19 Recovery Grant applications**.

24. Matters for information / future agenda items

The DTC/MDO was asked to remove the "Battle in 3 words" from the website.

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It was noted that the Disability audit in 2019 had highlighted the poor access at Mount Street car park by Senlac Vets and it was agreed to discuss this at the next meeting.

It was highlighted that one of the disabled parking spaces at Market Road car park is now a trolley park for Jempsons.

Members noted that the Chamber of Commerce Christmas Committee Chairman had declined to arrange for Santa to tour roads in Battle this year but had suggested that Natasha Williams of Battle Abbey and Cllr Favell could arrange this under the umbrella of the Committee. Full Council will be asked to consider the use of the Mule and staff, if willing, to tour Battle roads over 4 week nights excluding late night shopping night. Cllr Hartley offered to assist.

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

25. Date of next meeting: 7th September 2021

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.30pm.

CLLR H SHARMAN
Chairman