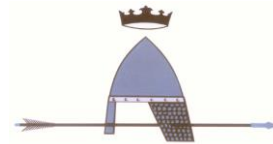




# Battle Town Council



## Minutes of the COUNCIL MEETING held on TUESDAY, 18<sup>th</sup> MAY 2021 at the Emmanuel Centre, Harrier Lane, Battle at 7.30pm

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

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

### PUBLIC QUESTION TIME 7.30pm to 7.45pm

None.

1. **Apologies for absence** – Cllrs C Davies, C Hartley and C Would.
2. **Disclosure of interest** – None.
3. **Minutes of the Annual Council meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> April 2021** were agreed and duly signed by Cllr Favell. It was noted that the amendment to the reference of Town & Village Greens on minutes of 20<sup>th</sup> April had not been updated on the website.

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

- It had not been possible to respond to **questions raised** by a member of the public as information from the Quantity Surveyor is awaited.
- The **Public Works Loan Board loan** of £500,000 had been received at a fixed rate of 2.35%; an annual repayment of £17,052.26. Although contractors will be paid from these funds on a monthly basis, research is ongoing for appropriate banks to distribute funds.

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

##### **County**

Cllr Field reported that **induction for the many new Councillors** has been held and a new Director of **Child Services** appointed.

Members congratulated Cllr Field on her re-election.

##### **District**

Cllr Dixon had nothing to formally report.

Cllr Field confirmed that **training** had been provided on **carbon neutrality**.

#### **6. Correspondence and communications received post agenda publication**

- Members noted that the **Queen's Platinum Jubilee** next year will include a UK wide "Queen's Green Canopy" to plant a tree and Town Mayors are being asked to support the project. Members were encouraged to send suggestions to Cllr Favell.
- Announcement that Andrew Blackman DL, of Fairlight will succeed Sir Peter Field, KCVO as **Lord Lieutenant of East Sussex** on Sir Peter's retirement in July.
- Notification that changes to local **Police Community Support Officers** will result in the return of Emma Phillips and Daryl Holter to the Battle area. They will join PCSO's Sam Kemp, Rachael Scott and Laura Harrison.

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## **7. Draft minutes and recommendations from Committee meetings:**

- a) Minutes of the **External Relations & Town Development** Committee meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> May 2021 were presented by Cllr Sharman and noted. The changes to Remembrance events were highlighted. The amended **Terms of Reference** were agreed as attached.
- b) Minutes of the **Planning & Transport** Committee meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> May 2021 were presented by Cllr Howell and noted. Clarification of item 9 was provided. Members agreed the amended **Terms of Reference** as attached.

## **8. Public Spaces Protection Order**

Rother District Council has provided information on the renewal of this Order which relates to the consumption of alcohol and nuisance behaviour for the whole of Rother and invited the Council to remain included. Members agreed to the renewal of the Public Spaces Protection Order.

## **9. Letter from Huw Merriman MP to Rt Hon Robert Jenrick regarding virtual meetings**

Council noted the letter, as attached, and reiterated its support.

Subsequent to this, information for a Government call for evidence in relation to virtual meetings had been received. The Clerk was asked to circulate a doodle poll to agree a response.

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

The applicant was unable to attend this meeting due to annual leave and Members agreed to invite for a final time to the June meeting.

## **11. Councillor training**

Members acknowledged the importance of training and noted recent information on formal courses that has been circulated. It was agreed that brief informal training should be provided prior to Council meetings and Members were invited to submit appropriate topics. The first session will be prior to the next meeting at 6.30pm.

## **12. Finance matters**

- a) The provisional list of **income and expenditure for April 2021** was noted as attached. The Clerk was asked to agree a date to apply for a further Locality grant for the expenses related to the Battle Civil Parish Neighbourhood Plan to successful Referendum.
- b) Members noted that it had not been possible to recover the previously awarded **Children's shield** for the Council's writing competition and it had been promised to the winner of the 2020 competition. Members agreed that, in accordance with the competition rules, the school should be invoiced for a replacement. The Clerk was authorised to purchase a replacement shield at a cost of £130.32.
- c) There were no **Covid-19 Recovery Grant applications**

## **13. Reports from representatives of the Council and other reports**

- Cllr Howell - **Battle CP NP SG**. She reported that Rother District Council suggested that the Referendum may not be held until September, after school holidays.
- Cllr Wheeler - **Battle CP NP SG**;  
- **Rother Association of Local Council**, minutes attached;  
- **Police & Crime Commissioner's Forum**;

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- **Cycling & Walking Working Group** which will report to P&T Committee.
- CLlr Brown - **Battle CP NP SG.**
- CLlr Russell - **Battle CP NP SG.** A reminder that the applications for Town & Village Greens had been approved and asked the Clerk to confirm this had been done.
- CLlr Gyngell - **Battle Memorial Hall** now have a new website. It had agreed the purchase a new projector and screen in readiness for a film for 60 people on 19<sup>th</sup> June. It was noted that the Deputy Representative is not a Trustee and therefore has no voting rights.
- CLlr Cook - reported on a meeting attended as a District Councillor on **Blackfriars**;
  - **A Tree webinar** on ancient woodland;
  - **Battle Chamber of Commerce** as a District Councillor;
  - The **Post Covid Recovery Group** had produced I'm Backing Battle bags and a banner that has been erected at the lower end of the High Street.
- CLlr Favell - a **Tree webinar** on ancient woodland;
  - **Town Forum** which will report to External Relations & Town Development;
  - **Chamber of Commerce** meeting. Minutes to be circulated when available. It was noted that: there are marketing funds which will be discussed at the Marketing Committee meeting in June, ideas welcome; the website is operational but requires more work; the marbles event in August will be a practice rather than a tournament; the re-enactment will take place 9-10 November;
  - **Police & Crime Commissioner's Forum.**

## 14. Future agenda items / matters to note

- Frequency of Council meetings

## 15. Date of next meeting: Annual Meeting, Tuesday, 15<sup>th</sup> June 2021

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.10pm

CLLR G FAVELL  
CHAIRMAN