

Rother District Council

Cabinet – Monday 30 July 2018

Agenda Item: 7.1 Refers

Responses to the Battle Community Governance Review Consultation

1. I would like the town council ward boundaries to remain the same as at present but the number of town councillors reduced.
2. We support the proposals which would seem to have benefit in enabling our Town Council to carry out its functions in an effective manner, and we have no objection to this going forward.
3. The Council needs to be completely dissolved, all current councillors to be withdrawn and elections held for a new Battle Town Council. This process to be planned, organised and executed by Rother District Council.

Candidates for nomination to stand in an election for the new council of ten members to be encouraged via some local publicity. Large adverts in the local papers, large banners around the area, radio and if possible local TV publicity organised by Rother District Council, e.g., appearances by District Council representatives on news and current affair programmes to explain the role of the Town Council. The District Council to determine the qualifications required to be accepted as a nominee. Every Household in the Battle Town Council area to receive an easily understood explanation of what is happening and why, also to ask for nominations and how to become a nominee. Claverham School to be invited to supply two observers to attend each full council meeting aged 16 plus. These representatives could be elected at an election process organised and run by the school and to serve a one year term of office.

The new council to have no sub committees.

All business to be discussed at monthly council meetings which are to be open to the public and at which any attendee can speak upon being invited to do so by the meeting chair. The reps from the school should be encouraged to take an active part in the monthly council meeting and their views openly sought.

Extraordinary additional council meetings can be called with sufficient notice to discuss any major, and they must be major, issues arising in the council area and which the council has an active role to play or advise upon.

The chair of the council to be elected annually by the town councillors and not to be also mayor of the town whilst serving as chair of the council. A part time secretary to be appointed who may be a councillor or can be any interested and competent person.

Other rules and regulations can largely be the same as those already applying to the current town council and its members. Appointments such as that of town mayor can be nominated to the council then voted upon by the councillors to encourage as many people as possible to become involved in their town.

The Town Council to be dissolved and elections held every three years. At any time there should be no more than two councillors appointed by co-option and co-

options should only take place when a resignation of an existing councillor has been received or personal matters, illness or death create the vacancy without a formal resignation.