



# Battle Town Council



## MINUTES of a SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING held on TUESDAY, 30 APRIL 2013 at The Almonry, High Street, Battle at 7.30pm

**Present:** Cllr Mrs M Kiloh - Chairman  
Cllrs R Bye, Mrs M Howell, Ms J Ormonde-Butler and D Wilson.

**1. Apologies for Absence** – Cllrs C Bishop, M Palmer and Mrs S Pry.  
Cllr Eldridge was absent.

**2. Disclosure of Interest** - None.

**3. Minutes of the previous meeting** held on 26 February 2013. Cllr Mrs Howell proposed approval of the minutes, seconded by Cllr Ms Ormonde-Butler. This was agreed and they were duly signed.

### **4. Matters Arising from Previous Meetings**

As already reported to the Estates Committee and as approved by Council a contract has been let to create a **tree data base and carry out an initial hazard survey**. An initial report will be available by the end of June.

Regarding **lighting in the Market Square** the Clerk has had a further meeting with the store manager at Jempsons and the problem now seems to be that no-one knows where the power supply comes from! Jempsons are pursuing this and have all the necessary replacement parts which will be installed once the power supply has been identified.

**5. Correspondence & Communications** – None.

### **6. Allotments**

Cllr Wilson had undertaken a further inspection and will produce a written report in due course. In the meantime the general **condition of many plots** remains poor. The Clerk confirmed that the Council groundstaff are beginning a programme of strimming the vacant plots which are in the poorest condition. It was agreed to review the situation again in early June with a view to writing to all those whose plots remain in a poor condition and, if necessary, invite them to a meeting of the Committee. Cllr Wilson was thanked for his continuing efforts to inspect all the plots. Regarding the **Watch Oak**, with one exception, all previous Rother tenants have transferred to a new agreement with the Town Council.

### **7. Street Lighting and Street Furniture**

In the light of the Council confirmation that the **street lighting regime** should change the Clerk had been in further discussion with the Highway Authority to confirm mutual understanding. This is to the effect that the Town Council will switch off all the lights for which it is currently responsible with the exception of those that form part of the main road network where the same policy as County will be applied. The exceptions are:

- those at the bottom of Netherfield Road towards the junction with the A2100 which the police have requested should remain on throughout the night;
- the 6 lights in Battle Hill which link with the County lights on either side and
- the 3 lights in London Road which are effectively a continuation of the County lights.

Bearing in mind that the lights in Battle Hill and London Road will be treated in the same way as the County lights the Clerk had invited the County to consider accepting responsibility for them.

In the light of these discussions the contractor has produced a slightly **revised programme of**

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**repairs and replacements.** In the main, this includes the most urgent work where the complete replacement of the column is required together with the replacement of various pole boxes and lanterns. The work to adjust to part-night lighting to these columns will be undertaken at the same time. The overall budget approved is £25,000 and the estimated cost of the work now proposed is £24,078. **The Committee therefore agreed that the Clerk be authorised to approve the programme.**

A recent **vehicle accident** had damaged street lighting equipment in Netherfield Road. The driver's insurers have been identified and requested to reimburse the repair costs of £622.

## **8. Cemetery**

Work on the **groundwater audit** is progressing. Boreholes and groundwater monitoring wells have been installed and an initial assessment made of the extracted soil. Early signs are that there should be no problems with the level of the water table but further monitoring visits will be undertaken and a final report submitted in several weeks time after the sample testing and environmental monitoring has been completed. The Clerk was asked to urge the consultants to expedite their final report as quickly as possible and ideally before 13 June (see item 10 below).

## **9. Budget Report 2012-13**

The final figures for 2012-13 were noted. These showed slightly better receipts from cemetery fees than previously forecast. Otherwise the position remained basically unchanged.

## **10. 3 Year Forward Plan**

It was agreed to hold a further informal meeting of the Committee on 13 June in order to establish an activity plan. This would need to focus on the future development and management of the cemetery with particular relevance to the outcome of the groundwater audit and a review of the take up of allotments and their prevailing condition. The plan should also pick up the question of replacement fingerposts touched on at an earlier meeting.

**11. Matters for Information and Future Agenda Items – None.**

**12. Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday, 9 July 2013**

The meeting closed at 8.10pm

CLLR MRS M KILOH  
Chairman

