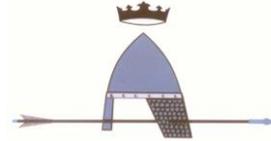




Battle Town Council



MINUTES of ESTATES COMMITTEE MEETING held on Tuesday, 7 October 2014 at The Almonry, High Street, Battle at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs J Boryer, G Favell, R Jessop and D Wilson.

1. Election of Chairman

Cllr Wilson was proposed by Cllr Jessop and seconded by Cllr Boryer. With no other nominations Cllr Wilson was duly elected unanimously to serve as Chairman.

2. **Apologies for Absence** – Cllrs D Furness, M Kiloh, A Ratcliffe and J Sydes.

3. **Disclosure of Interest** – Cllr Wilson declared a personal interest in item 6; use of Amenity area by Kier, as an employee of Battle & Langton School.

4. **Minutes of the previous meeting** held on 13 August 2014. Cllr Boryer proposed approval of the minutes seconded by Cllr Jessop. This was agreed and they were duly signed.

5. Matters Arising from Previous Meetings

The Acting Town Clerk (ATC) confirmed that both Battle Abbey School and the Chairman of Battle Local Action Plan group had received a hand delivered letter advising of the Council's decision on the **use of land at the recreation ground**.

Cllr Wilson reported that there still appears to be an issue of **excess water** close to the **football pitch**. Some investigations had been carried out and the indications are that it could be a natural spring. This will need to be explored further.

6. Correspondence & Communications

The Committee noted:

- email confirmation of previously agreed **use of Amenity area** by Kier during extension works to Battle & Langton School during period 10 November to 15 August 2015. This included copies of relevant certificates and insurances together with an assurance that all health and safety risk assessments would be carried out and the land reinstated.

The ATC confirmed that ESCC have been advised of the Council's interest in retaining the **lease** for this land. She was asked to ensure that this included leisure use;

- the agreed **autumn bulb planting** scheme for the town's tubs as ordered by Beautiful Battle;
- the usual request from the Chamber's Christmas Committee to use the Abbey Green for **Lights On** (29 November) and **Gala Night** (11 December) and the placing of a **Christmas tree** on the 'Bull Ring'.

It was agreed that the **electric supply** on the Green should be checked and that location of the key for the supply box clarified.

Members requested that all **use of the Council's land** be advertised on the website for to enable Councillors to note if unauthorised activities are taking place;

- a **letter of appreciation** for the equipment and memorial seat purchased with the bequeath from Pamela Harrison had been received from her family.

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An enquiry from **Concorde 1066** to allow **English Vineyards** to have a stall on the Abbey Green during the event and possibly the entire weekend in return for supporting the Vin d'Honneur. The Committee felt that this would be in contradiction to Council Policy and therefore inappropriate.

7. Footpath Matters

A report is awaited from ESCC Rights of Way Officer.

8. General Tree Work at Mansers Shaw

Cllr Boryer highlighted the outstanding work identified in the Tree Hazard Survey dated 14/06/2013. The ATC confirmed that all Priority 1 items had been carried out together with any number 2 trees close by. It was agreed that general coppicing is required at Mansers Shaw and that this should be carried out over a period of time. The ATC will identify which items can be carried out by the Council's workstaff and arrange for quotes for the remainder. Cllr Boryer volunteered to help with any clearance.

9. Use of Car Parks

Cllr Favell reminded the Committee that letters had been left on vehicles inappropriately parked and indicated that there appeared to be less overnight parking as a result; although there had been some negative responses by users of the car parks. The Committee discussed the reasons for the parking limitations and agreed that a quarterly reminder of the parking conditions should continue. It was recommended that Fire Brigade locks be fitted to the height barriers at both car parks. The Committee thanked Cllr Favell for her efforts on this issue.

10. Feedback from Councillors on their lead areas

Cllr Favell highlighted outstanding work at the **recreation grounds** and raised particular concern at the amount of **Japanese Knotweed** around the town. The ATC will bring this to the attention of the workstaff. She was also asked to notify RDC of the **blocked drain** at the entrance to Mount Street overflow car park.

11. Budget Report 2014-15

The ATC confirmed that invoices have been issued for rents due. The additional expenditure forecast is due predominately to: drainage work at the cricket ground (£4.5k); purchase of chain saw and associated equipment and 3 seats for the recreation ground.

12. Zero Based Budgeting

The Committee discussed items both in relation to the budget for 2015-16 and for future projects including ongoing repairs, maintenance and replacement fund. In relation to the latter it was felt that £9,000 per annum should be allocated to play equipment (101/106), £1,000 to the Pavilion (138) and £600 to the Mount St overflow car park (105). The labour costs are essential at £50,000. At the recreation ground: upgrading of the toilet facilities; the provision of a youth shelter and a hard surface toddler play area; a gate and step access to the town edge of the car park (suggested at £1.5k), further drainage work on the sloping bank and hollow spiking and infill of sand to the football pitch, contribution to the health pathway, footpath maintenance and tree work at Mansers Shaw are urgent items. A provision for a vehicle parking area at Telham, outside exercise equipment and levelling of the top area at the recreation ground for multi-use are items to be included for the future.

13. Matters for Information/Future Agenda Items - None.

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14. Date of Next Meeting: Provisionally, 4 February 2015.

The meeting closed at 9.30pm.

Cllr Wilson
Chairman

