



Battle Town Council



MINUTES of the ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
held on TUESDAY, 2 APRIL 2019 at The Almonry, High Street, Battle AT 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs G Favell (Chairman), D Furness, M Dass, J Boryer, J Gyngell and M Howell

In attendance: Carol Harris (Town Clerk), 2 members of the public

Prior to the commencement of the meeting, the Chairman invited Mrs S Burton(SB) to speak. Mrs Burton thanked Cllr Favell and the Clerk for the huge amount of work carried out to date on the Fit for Battle project, and in particular the Battle Health Pathway and Cycle Skills areas. She suggested that the surface of the tennis courts is not adequate for league tennis. SB highlighted the huge environmental benefits of the reduced lighting scheme throughout the town.

1. **Apologies for absence** – None.
2. **Disclosure of interest** – None.
3. **Minutes of previous Meeting held on 5 February 2019** were approved by members and duly signed by Cllr Favell.
4. **Town Clerk's report**
 - The proposed wording for the **statue information sign** has been sent to the designer. The Clerk was asked that the roundabout and statue be cleaned.
 - The planting of the **replacement trees for the natural burial area** has been delayed due to the excessive water logging. A moling procedure is awaited to help resolve this issue.
 - A meeting with a Muffin representative to discuss location and size of **petanque court** had resulted in an agreement of practical assistance and potential financial help by the Battle Muffins.
 - The concrete base for the **arbour at the cemetery** has been completed. The "Betty" shelter will be installed 16/17 April.
 - Further requests for **contribution toward the resurfacing of the cemetery road** had been sent.
 - **Tree work at Virgins Croft** will be undertaken this week.
 - The removal of the **water tank at Watch Oak** and re-siting at **Netherfield** has been completed.
 - The **replacement basket swing** is now in place.
 - The license received and **bench** fixed to the **bus shelter** close to the Memorial Halls.
 - **Natural seats** have been installed close to the **castle play equipment**.
5. **Correspondence & Communications** – None.
6. **Cemetery**
 - a) The detailed **action plan** for the **cemetery** was noted as completed.
 - b) Dates of the two further Nature Walks: **Butterfly Walk** on 8 June and **Bat Walk** on 3 August, both to be conducted by Edwin Malins, were noted. **Members agreed reimbursement of travel expenses at approx. £25 per event (200/4205)**. It was suggested that a small gift be presented. The Clerk was asked to ensure that Crowhurst Parish Council and Battle Wildflower Meadow Group be invited to the wildflower walk on 18 May.
7. **Allotments**
 - a) The detailed **action plan** for the **allotments** was noted as completed.

Battle Town Council

- b) The **minutes from the SAA Committee** meeting held on 7 March were noted. The issue of chickens on allotment plots was highlighted and the Clerk confirmed that this is being monitored.
- c) A request for **steps at entrance to Watch Oak allotment site** had been received. It was noted that the land appears to be owned by Optivo. The Clerk was asked to request that Optivo consider making the slope safer.

8. Recreation Grounds

- a) The detailed **action plan** for the **Recreation Grounds** was noted. The zip-wire remains outstanding and will be for discussion at the next meeting.
- b) The minutes of the **Battle Health Pathway** were noted, as attached.
- c) The notes from the meeting of the **Fit For Battle Working Group** were noted, as attached. It was highlighted that a successful bid to RDC Community Grants had secured £25k towards the Health Pathway. Tender documents are ready for distribution, subject to appropriate publication. Quotes had been requested for the Pump Track (cycle skills area). The Committee had been requested to consider floodlights on the MUGA. This will be considered in the draft Action Plan at the next meeting.
- d) A meeting with the technical advisor from the **Football Foundation** had taken place with Cllr Favell and the Clerk to discuss the **internal layout of the new Pavilion**. To comply with the FF requirement for a toilet for Clubroom users, it had been suggested that the 2nd Official's changing room be removed and a wet room (suitable for use by Officials) be sited close to the Clubroom. Additionally, to allow for privacy lobbies in the changing facilities, the fourth toilet be removed to allow an extension to both areas. **This was agreed.**
- e) Although a comprehensive analysis of the **Pavilion Questionnaire** had not been completed, it was reported that 104 responses had been received. 4 had no definitive indication. 83 were in favour with 17 against the proposals. 11 of those 17 responders were in the highest age bracket.
- f) The draft outline **Business Plan for the Café in the Pavilion** had been circulated. Members were asked to forward any comments to the Clerk to enable final discussion at the next meeting.
- h) Following advice from the High Weald AONB officer on plans for **soft works and the open spaces** in relation to **Battle Health Pathway** and a proposed grant from Sussex Lund, a report had been circulated to Members. **Members agreed that:**
 - **conifers** between the **tennis courts and workshop/storage shed** be removed to a ground level and **screening using native-species hedging** be planted to encourage wildlife;
 - due to extensive cost, the **conifers on the west side** remain for the short term;
 - a request to **Battle Health Pathway** that, as the large wildflower meadow area in initial plans had been removed to allow heavy vehicle access, the **wildflower banks** be included within the grant application;
 - the **Estate Management Programme** be changed to allow for wildflower banks at the recreation ground;
- i) The Clerk was asked to provide a comparative fees and charges schedule for the hire of MUGA, senior pitch and junior pitch for discussion at the next meeting. A noticeboard would be required to promote the charges and times of booked hire;
- j) The contractor's report on the condition of the tennis courts and MUGA had identified some items that the workstaff could undertake, moss clearing and thorough clean. To assist with this, **Members agreed the purchase of a water pressure washer up to a value of £350. (240/4315). It was also agreed to repair to the tennis court fence at £480. (240/4340).**
- k) Three designs and costs for **outdoor gym equipment** had been received and were considered. After discussion, Members agreed that this style of equipment is appropriate for teenagers and many adults, but may not be suitable for use by older residents. The Clerk was asked to research

Battle Town Council

additional equipment similar to that provided in Robertsbridge and Egerton Park and obtain costs for a similar design for next meeting.

- l) Members noted **receipt of the cheque from Claverham Community College School Council** for the remaining £400 to enable BTC to use the RDC Community grant to install the youth shelter. Members agreed the purchase of the youth pod and asked that a letter of thanks be sent to CCC. It was also suggested that the School Council be invited to present their thoughts and views to the Environment Committee.
- m) It had been discovered that the request for a **memorial tree** is for the Cemetery, not recreation ground.

9. Street Furniture & Lighting

- a) The detailed **action plan** for **Street Lighting and Furniture** was noted as completed.

10. Remainder of BTC's Estate

- a) The detailed **action plan** for the **Remainder of BTC's Estate** was noted as completed.
- b) It was reported that two contractors had confirmed that the existing **skateboard ramp** is beyond repair. A quote for the replacement had been received at £16,995. **The Clerk was given delegated authority to seek additional quotes and seek crowd funding.** It was also suggested that RDC be requested to contribute.
- c) Due to the position and design of the existing **sign at George Meadow** it was not possible to add a directional sign for the Cricket Ground and Market Square. The Clerk was asked to obtain costs for a wooden fingerpost sign for the next meeting.

Members of the public left the meeting at this point.

11. Website

It was agreed that an introductory **paragraph of responsibilities and actions** the Committee undertakes should be posted; with photographs, if possible.

12. Financial Matters

- a) The **budget report at 28 February 2019** was noted. As there has been no invoice issued for **water supply at the cemetery it was agreed to open an EMR** for this purpose. **Members agreed to the continuation of the existing service provider for the cleaning, opening and closing of the public toilet at the recreation ground at a cost of £240.72 per month.**

13. Action Plan for 2019/20

A draft document had been circulated and, subject to the addition of the Battle skateboard ramp as a short term objective and consideration of installing floodlights on the MUGA, was agreed.

14. Matters for information / future agenda items

- Action Plan for 2019/20
- The zip-wire
- to consider floodlights on the MUGA
- outdoor gym equipment
- Direction fingerpost at George Meadow

15. Date of next meeting: provisionally, 7 June 2019

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.25pm.

Cllr G Favell
Chairman