



# Battle Town Council



**MINUTES of the ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING  
held on Tuesday, 6 December 2016  
at The Almonry, High Street, Battle at 7.30pm**

**Present:** Cllrs G Favell (Chairman), J Boryer, C Davies, P Fisher, D Furness, M Howell, M Kiloh and J Reeves.

In attendance: Carol Harris (Town Clerk)

**1. Apologies for Absence** – Cllr J Gyngell.

**2. Disclosure of Interest** – None.

**3. Minutes of Previous Meeting held on 25 October 2016**  
These were approved by Members and duly signed by Cllr Favell.

**4. Matters arising from previous meetings, not on this agenda**

The Clerk reported:

- There had been no response from proposed donor of an **additional memorial seat** at the recreation ground/cricket pitch and she suggested no further action unless instruction is received. Members agreed to this;
- That £200 had been received from **Southern Water** as a goodwill gesture for the inconvenience and time expanded on the waste water issues at **Watch Oak allotments**.

**5. Correspondence & communications** – None.

**6. Allotments**

Cllr Davies **reported** that the work staff are carrying out **tree work** and that she will provide an **article for the Observer** highlighting the value of working an allotment. She confirmed that a further inspection had been carried out at **Watch Oak** as a result of concerns raised. Cllr Davies asked that: “no tipping” signs be provided; the broken glass behind the grass area be removed and work to overhanging trees be arranged.

Cllr Favell reported the **sad news that Christopher Coleman had passed away**. She confirmed her attendance at the funeral on behalf of the Council and that it had been a moving service during which the prized allotment cup had been mentioned. The Clerk advised that the **play area** previously maintained by Mr and Mrs Coleman would now be maintained by another allotment holder.

The Clerk confirmed the **current vacancies** on allotments are: Cherry Gardens – 7; Netherfield Hill – 1; Virgins Croft – 5; and Watch Oak – 10.

The minutes from the **Senlac Allotment Association’s AGM** had been circulated and noted. Members agreed that Cllr Davies would represent the Council at future SAA meetings.

**7. Cemetery**

Cllr Favell reported on research into cemetery websites to establish recommendations for the Council to consider now that the **extension is complete** with only the planting outstanding. She confirmed

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that the **memorial post** will be erected shortly and then the scattering area will be developed. Cllr Favell said that at the forthcoming **Cemetery Working Group** the CR tree planting scheme for the lower cemetery will be discussed. She highlighted the lack of residents' awareness of the cemetery extension and recommended a grand opening to rectify this.

Cllr Kiloh reported that the majority of the quoted for work at the **Chapels** have been completed with scaffolding due to be removed the following day and the skips thereafter. She advised that the pews have been removed and the prayer book rests will follow to be replaced by chairs. It was agreed that Gary Champion may be offered one and Burstow & Hewitt asked to look at the others. Cllr Kiloh advised that the bier has been removed and is now stored in the new store and suggested that this should be returned to St Marys Church or donated to a Funeral Director. As discussed at the previous meeting, the **floor in the Chapel is in a poor condition** and suggested that the Working Group discuss this and bring a recommendation to the next meeting. An informal enquiry had been made by the Museum about the possibility of storing archives in the meeting room as an appropriate area to view them. Members agreed that this should be discussed by the Working Group.

The Clerk reported that the contractor working on the Chapel had advised that the **opening windows** are not in a satisfactory condition to be refurbished. They had suggested replacing two openers with fixed panes and refurbishing the better two, although it was acknowledged that this would not result in an 'as new' condition. **The Committee agreed that 4 opening windows should be provided and, if necessary, at an additional cost of up to £1700.**

*8pm Andy Garlick and Gary Walsh of Battle Baptist Football Club(BBFC) joined the meeting.*

The Clerk reported on a generous donation from **Battle Abbey**, English Heritage of **40 padded chairs** with book holders that can be joined together and **tables** that will be used in the Chapels.

## **8. Recreation Ground, Play and Games Facilities**

The Clerk confirmed that the **annual play inspection reports** had been received with no high risk items identified. She had met with Adrian Blunden, lead work staff for the recreation grounds, who had carried out various remedial work including painting the entrance gates to the children's play area. Cllr Furness reported that Battle Rotary Club welcomes **grant applications for community projects** and suggested that the Council should request support for the planned new play area.

Cllr Boryer expressed concern at the **condition of the recreation ground** if the workstaff continue to access their workshop in the Mule over the winter months. As a result of discussions with the workstaff, **Cllr Boryer proposed that a hard surfaced route from the corner of the car park and behind the activity play area to the workshop should be provided. This was agreed** and asked that Cllr Boryer produce costs to the next meeting.

Cllr Favell welcomed Gary Walsh and Andy Garlick from **BBFC** to the meeting. The Clerk reported that BBFC had emailed a request for the Council to consider the reconfiguration of the existing shower room and part of one changing/store room to enable **separate showering facilities** for both home and away teams. This was in light of plans to apply to be promoted to the Combined Counties League which enforces strict requirements prior to acceptance. BBFC proposed having the work carried out at no cost to the Council, although a contribution would be gratefully received. Mr Walsh thanked the Council for working with them to provide a greatly improved pitch and acknowledged that the Committee has a medium term plan to improve the Pavilion facilities. He highlighted the urgency for the Club to obtain support for this work to allow an application for promotion to be made by the end

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of December and the work to be completed by September. Mr Walsh confirmed that the plastic barriers had not proved to be suitable and that metal ones are now being explored, although they are aware that these must be temporary. **The Committee agreed to delegate the provision of showers and storage facilities to Cllr Favell and the Clerk.**

*8.15pm Cllr Reeves joined the meeting. Mr Walsh and Mr Garlick left the meeting.*

Cllr Reeves confirmed that she is in the process of forming the **Working Party** to take the **Café project** forward, beginning with a public consultation to enable funding sources to be approached. It was agreed that the scheme could be featured in the January newsletter.

## 9. Street Furniture & Lighting

Cllr Howell reported on the refurbishment to the **bus shelter at Uckham Lane**. The Committee thanked Michael Deboick for his excellent work on this project.

The Clerk was asked to request the **Kebab Shop** not to lean their **A-board** against the newly refurbished fingerpost base. She was also asked to establish when the scaffolding will be removed from the 1066 Butchers; to enable the final fingerpost to be installed.

## 10. Remainder of BTC's Estate

Cllr Boryer reported that he had carried out 7 work sessions at **Mansers Shaw** to cut away/pollard Hornbeams to reveal the old boundary and clear undergrowth to enable Oak trees space. He asked for volunteers to help with clearing and control bonfires. An email will be circulated when dates are arranged for this work. **The Committee agreed for flail work to be arranged for half day** to cut back brambles to allow access to the trees that require cutting. Members thanked Cllr Boryer for all his efforts.

Cllr Fisher reported that the **new bollards** are awaited and that, once installed, the **surface will need attention**. She expressed concern at the condition of the **new trees** and suggested these be monitored. In relation to **St Mary's Churchyard**, Cllr Fisher confirmed the general condition is very good although the War Memorial is in need of attention. She highlighted the painting work that BLAP had undertaken to the **twitten** between High Street and Mount Street car park but that this has not been completed. She advised that Battle Abbey School had provided 4 murals to brighten the area and asked that **the Council workstaff be asked to finish the painting to enable these to be erected. Members agreed to this.** The Committee discussed the **use of bollards to prevent vehicles parking illegally and it was agreed to ask the Planning & Transport Committee to consider this.** Members expressed their thanks to Adrian Blunden for his help in the implementation of the repositioning of the tubs and seats on the Abbey Green.

Beautiful Battle had reported the **planting scheme** ordered for the **Abbey Green** as: Fuschia Koralle, Salvia Victoria Blue, Rudbeckia Tiger Eye, Ipomea Green and Scopia White. Members requested a proposed planting scheme for comment prior to future orders being placed.

Cllr Furness reminded the Committee that discussions had been undertaken previously in relation to the **poor condition of the War Memorial in St Mary's Churchyard** and that the issue of names not included had also been raised. He confirmed that the War Memorials Trust offers grant schemes for the repair and conservation of war memorials up to 75% of the cost, to a maximum of £30,000. The Clerk was asked to consult the Dean and Royal British Legion to establish ownership and legal

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obligations for the Memorial. Cllr Boryer agreed to make enquiries in relation to the Netherfield War Memorial. Members agreed to discuss this further at the next meeting.

Cllr Favell confirmed that work to **risk assessments** is ongoing.

The Town Clerk was asked to investigate land cost in relation to **George Meadow** and bring to the next meeting for consideration. Concern was raised at the possibility of rag wort and the Clerk was asked to bring this to the attention of the tenant farmer.

Members agreed that **Town Improvement Working Group's** remit is now complete and should be disbanded. It was agreed that a further group may be necessary but should be formed in collaborations with ER&TD. Members were reminded that ER&TD's Events sub Committee were being asked to accept the Battle in Bloom competition and awards event.

## 11. Budget report

Members noted the **budget report** and asked that the water supply costs at both the cemetery and Watch Oak allotments be taken up with Southern Water.

The Clerk was asked to obtain advice and quote for work to a **large Hornbeam** close to the path at the recreation ground entrance to **Mansers Shaw**.

A query was raised in relation to the number of **PWLB budget** headings and the Clerk agreed to query this with the previous Town Clerk.

## 12. Matters for information / future agenda items

Cllr Furness reported on a suggestion by **Fergus Garrett at Great Dixter** to turn verges into **wild flower meadows**. Cllr Furness felt that this should be suggested to ESCC and might also be appropriate for the roundabout, beneath the statue. Members agreed that this should be explored with ESCC. In relation to the roundabout, the Clerk advised that ESCC had been in contact requesting replacement of the sponsorship signs. **The Committee agreed that it was inappropriate for the sponsorship signs to remain and asked that the Clerk negotiate their removal with ESCC.**

## 13. Date of next meeting: 24 January 2017

Cllr Favell  
Chairman

