



Battle Town Council



MINUTES of the ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING held on TUESDAY, 6th APRIL 2021 via Zoom at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs V Cook (Chairman), C Davies, G Favell, C Hartley, M Kiloh, H Sharman and C Would

In attendance: Two members of the public, Battle Health Pathway Coordinator Mrs Burton, Member of Battle Civil Parish Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group Mr Marks, Carol Harris (Town Clerk)

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Public Question Time

On behalf of the Battle Civil Parish Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group (Battle CP NP SG), Mr Marks presented a recommendation for the Council, as land owners, to request East Sussex County Council to designate the recreation grounds at North Trade Road and Telham as Local Green Spaces (LGS) to ensure protection from future development and should therefore remain as Green Spaces for public access and enjoyment. It was also suggested that requests for the same designation be applied by land owners of Coronation Gardens, Kingsmead, both Rother District Council, and Darvel Down, owned by Optivo.

1. **Apologies for absence** – None.
2. **Disclosure of interest** – Cllr Would disclosed a pecuniary interest in item 13c).
3. **Minutes of previous Meeting held on 2nd February 2021** were approved by members and duly electronically signed by Cllr Cook.
4. **Report from Town Clerk**
 - Three quotes had now been received for the relaying and repair of the **main pathway between the two entry/exit points at St Mary's Churchyard**. As not received in time for the agenda, this will be an item for Full Council to consider.
 - Following a discussion with an Officer at Rother District Council, the Asst to Town Clerk and Clerk had agreed to carry out the welfare training to enable the **Lawn Tennis Association booking system** to proceed.
 - The **chicane at the north-west entrance to the recreation ground** has been repositioned at a cost, from contingency, of £250.
 - The **gate for the Telham playing field** had been ordered and is due shortly.
 - **Three new benches** had been ordered and will be delivered next week. The bench at the junction of Wellington Gardens/North Trade road has been repaired.
5. **Correspondence & Communications** - None.
6. **Allotments**
 - a) The **report from the Asst to Town Clerk** had been circulated, as attached. It was noted that all allotments are tenanted and there is a waiting list.
 - b) Members agreed to the usual annual **provision of skips** at 3 allotment sites
 - c) Members agreed that an **allotment competition for 2021** should be judged by Cllrs Sharman and Cook together with the Asst to Town Clerk and grounds staff responsible for allotments.
 - d) The **detailed action plan** for allotments was noted, as attached.

Battle Town Council

7. Cemetery

- a) Two quotes to **replace the broken surface at the turning point** in the new area at £2,500 and £5,500 had been circulated. Subject to confirmation that the proposed surface is appropriate for the type of vehicular use at the cemetery, **the Clerk was authorised to contract the work at a maximum cost of £3,000 from the PWLB Ear Marked Reserve.**
- b) Cllrs Cook and Kiloh agreed to visit a local Council in Kent that had provided **digitising of cemetery records** to report to the next meeting.
- c) Although **repairs to the ceremonies room** have been completed, excluding the painting of the rear wc wall due to awaiting the drying out process, it was suggested that damp could remain an issue until the rear wall is repointed. Members agreed that this should be monitored over the next few months and quotes to carry out the work to rake out and tuck point the south west wall in hydraulic lime should be obtained.
- d) A document from the Battle CP NP SG had been circulated, as attached, with a recommendation to designate a further part of the **cemetery as a Site of Nature Conservation Importance (SNCI)**. This was agreed.
- e) The detailed **action plan** for the Cemetery was noted, as attached.

8. Recreation Grounds

- a) The notes from the last meeting of the **Battle Health Pathway Group** had been circulated, as attached. It was reported that the aims and objectives of the Group had now been completed. As Covid restrictions had not allowed an official opening, a video had been produced for the website and social media. With thanks to the Group for a successful project, it was agreed that this now be disbanded.
- b) It was reported that a meeting of the **Fit for Battle Working Group** will be arranged once the results of the Pavilion questionnaire had been analysed.
 - It was agreed to delay the discussion on the inclusion of **water fountain** and **bike charging facility** until the next meeting
 - The helpful presentation from Energise Sussex Coast on the provision of **Solar Panels** was reported. Members noted that the Pavilion planning permission includes the installation of solar panels.
- c) Following a discussion with the Battle Town Football Club(BTFC), it has been agreed that for this season's short competition (as a result of Covid restrictions) there will be 3 teams playing on the adult **football pitch**. For the next season there will again be two BTFC teams playing on a Saturday afternoon – generally alternate weeks. Pass and Move FC will use this pitch for an additional youth team to play on a Sunday. It is felt that this should not be too excessive to maintain a good condition of the ground. Information on training and match dates have been requested for publication on our website to attempt to prevent other Clubs clashing with authorised use. It was agreed not to permit teams with their own facilities to use the Council's pitches. Cllr Cook agreed to raise with Rother District Council the use of Coronation Gardens open space for a football pitch.
- d) Four quotations for a replacement **toddler and new accessible swing** had been circulated to Members at costs of £7,453.55, £8,201.55, £8,617.37 and £9,396.40. A member of the public had submitted a request to upgrade the younger children's playground, including the current woodchip surface which was felt to be inadequate. It was highlighted that the woodchip will shortly be replenished and that the proposal for a replacement toddler and accessible swing is to be positioned closer to the castle equipment to ensure all equipment for younger children is separate to that for older children. **Members agreed that, in keeping with the castle play equipment, to purchase the Eibe pine swing frame with toddler and mirage seat (the latter for use by toddlers**

Battle Town Council

and disabled children) at a cost of £8617.37 including safety surfacing. It was suggested that the zip wire not be progressed at this time.

One member of the public left.

- e) As reported to Full Council, a resident at **Asten Fields** had submitted a request for **signage to prevent stopping, turning and parking in the road**. Members were reminded that this land is not in the Council's ownership. Whilst Members were sympathetic, it was agreed that it is not within this Council's powers to resolve this issue and the Clerk was asked to suggest that the resident pursue with landowners.
- f) As agreed at the previous meeting, discussions had been undertaken with Rother District Council Officers to confirm popular **outdoor gym equipment**. **Members agreed that the Streetscape Warrior Pod 3 equipment at an approved cost of £10,000 including Safamat surfacing should be purchased.**

Members of the public left.

- g) The detailed **action plan** for the Recreation Grounds was noted, as attached.
- To prepare a medium/long term plan for repair/replacement of tennis courts and multi-use games area. It was noted that Ear Marked Reserves are being maintained for this.
 - To research grant opportunities for play equipment suitable for users with disabilities. The Clerk was asked to investigate funding opportunities through Rother Voluntary Action.

9. Street Furniture & Lighting

- a) Members agreed to the request for a **memorial seat** from Mrs Wilkinson and asked the Clerk to suggest an additional seat by the bus stop at the Library to Beautiful Battle.
- b) Members noted **street lights damaged by non-traceable vehicles** at Starrs Mead and Netherfield Road that required repairs at a cost of £1,440.
- c) The detailed **action plan** for Street Lighting and Furniture was noted as attached.

10. Remainder of BTC's Estate

- a) Four quotes for **replacement skate ramp** had been circulated at £16,995, £18,290, £25,842.96 £28,965. These are of a similar design and size to fit the current footprint. Members were reminded that a budget of £20,000 was agreed from Battle Community Infrastructure Levy funds and East Sussex County Council(ESCC) had agreed a contribution of £1500. Subject to confirmation of satisfactory warranty, **Members agreed that Fearless Ramps be contracted to remove the existing ramp and install a half-pipe replacement at a cost of £16,995.**
- b) A resident at Western Avenue had expressed concern at dips in the **ground at Guild Shaw** which he feels are getting larger. It has been suggested that this could be as a result of the deterioration of roots from felled trees and the exceptionally wet weather. Members felt that this should be monitored for a period of six months prior to any further action to pursue a professional survey.
- c) The detailed **action plan** for the Remainder of BTC's Estate was noted as attached.
- Improve access to Mansers Shaw for pushchairs and wheelchair users. The Clerk was asked to research the possible widening of the access bridge.
 - Refurbish the surface of Abbey Green. The Clerk was asked to obtain likely costs for a replacement surface.

A report of the poor condition of the roadway by the Abbey to be made to ESCC.

11. RHS newsletter

This had been sent as a link for Members and information regarding Pollution reducing plants was noted for future information.

Battle Town Council

12. Adverse weather risk assessment

This was agreed as attached.

13. Financial Matters

a) It had not been possible to complete the **budget report** to 28 February 2021 and the position at **31st January 2021** had been circulated. This was noted as attached.

b) In accordance with the Action Plan, Members agreed **virements of unspent funds to Ear Marked Reserves for 2021/2:**

4340 Tennis Courts £600 repairs and maintenance

4345 MUGA £600 repairs and maintenance

4385 new play equipment £5,000 for the toddler/disabled swing purchase

4205 Street Lighting maintenance remaining budget to pay for replacement columns reported at item 9b)

c) **Post Covid-19 Recovery Grant**

Cllr Would left the meeting.

- Members discussed the application from Ad Astra for an employability workshop at a cost of £500. The proposal was supported in principle but further information in relation to how applicants would be selected and whether the service would be available for more than 10 students was requested. Once received, the application will be considered at the next available meeting.

Cllr Would returned to the meeting.

14. Matters for information / future agenda items

- Digitising of cemetery records
- To consider the inclusion of water fountain and bike charging facility at the proposed new Pavilion

15. **Date of next meeting:** provisionally, 1st June 2021

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10.00pm.

CLLR V COOK
CHAIRMAN