



# Battle Town Council



**MINUTES of the ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING  
held on TUESDAY, 4 FEBRUARY 2020 at The Almonry, High Street, Battle AT 7.30pm**

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

In attendance: Mr Perkins (tennis practice wall), Carol Harris (Town Clerk)

## **Public Question Time**

Mr Perkins advised that he is attempting to raise funds towards the 'tennis practice wall' and that this would enable a lone player to practice.

- 1. Apologies for absence** – Cllr L Samms.
- 2. Disclosure of interest** – Cllrs G Favell and V Cook as members of Battle Health Pathway Group.
- 3. Minutes of previous Meeting held on 3 December 2019** were approved by members and duly signed by Cllr Cook.

## **8. Recreation Grounds**

### **e) 'Practice wall' for tennis courts**

A proposal had been circulated prior to the meeting. Members discussed the benefits of this facility and agreed this would enhance the use of the tennis courts. It was agreed to put the provision of a tennis practice fence, the width of a court on to the medium term Action Plan.

## **4. Report from Town Clerk**

- Three contractors have now produced advice in relation to works to resolve the **damp issue in the Ceremonies room**; one with different solution to the others. Only two provided a quote for the work. A contract has been placed with Limeworks Building Preservations Ltd at a cost of £2,610. This does not include replacement to the lead valley. The Clerk was asked to speak with St Mary's Church who had also suffered a similar issue with damp. It was also suggested that earth be moved away from the building.
- Extensive research has been undertaken to find an **environmental solution for grass cuttings**. We are awaiting a response from Hastings Borough Council on the possibility of combining our, relatively small amount of arisings, with theirs at Hastings Country Park.
- As reported at Full Council, Sussex Police had been advised of a potential conflict at the Boxing Day Hunt meet on the Abbey Green. A good, positive response had been received with many comments of a successful event.
- The current cost to **convert street lights to energy saving** is £14,070. This is in addition to essential works already agreed. Members recommended that £5,000 per year be considered at the next budget setting meeting.

## **5. Correspondence & Communications**

Authorisation to appoint an independent surveyor to ascertain ownership of the **boundary wall at Tills Courtyard/George Meadow** is requested by the Council's appointed surveyor. It was agreed to the survey subject to the cost being shared with the other party.

A request by a local Anglo-Saxon and Viking re-enactment group to use the recreation ground for a training session on 5 April, midday to 3pm was agreed. The Clerk was asked to agree a suitable location.

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Battle Baptist Football Club had been invited to submit an application for a Pitch Improvement Grant. This would provide funds over a six year period to cover a works programme to the main pitch for ten years. There would be no cost to the Council for the submission of the application. Members approved the request for BBFC to apply for a Pitch Improvement Grant.

## 6. Allotments

- a) The **report from Assistant to Town Clerk** including current allotment vacancies was noted, as attached.
- b) The **allotment inspection report** from December 2019 was noted, as attached.
- c) The minutes from **Senlac Allotment Association** Annual General Meeting were noted, as attached.
- d) Members noted that the **padlock at Watch Oak** side gate has again been broken; the main double gate remains padlocked. It was agreed to monitor the situation.
- e) The detailed **action plan** for allotments was noted, as attached. The annual dates will be reviewed in May. Members agreed that data on tenancy activity at each site be produced for the next meeting.

## 7. Cemetery

- a) A request for ashes to be interred with a **memorial Oak tree** had been received. Following a discussion on the appropriate type of tree to be encouraged at the cemetery, Members agreed to suggest that an existing young Oak tree be offered.
- b) Members agreed to a request for a **memorial bench on EB section**, under the tree. The seat will be purchased from the Council's usual supplier and a fee of £200 towards maintenance will be charged.
- c) Following advice from the Council's ground staff, Members agreed a request for a **flat memorial tablet, on a raised plinth, in CD** (burial) section.
- d) Members considered a request for **single interment fees for a former Battle resident**. It was noted that the deceased moved out of Battle in 1992 to live near family in Ireland. In accordance with the Council's Policy, this request was refused.
- e) Cllr Favell agreed to review the **Cemetery Regulations**.
- f) Although Sussex Coast College had now been in contact, they had not confirmed availability to refurbish the **old mortuary building**. Members agreed that should SCC not be able to carry out the work, the security of the structure should be included within the annual memorial inspection and monitored.
- g) The detailed **action plan for the Cemetery** was noted as attached.
  - It was noted that funds raised from the previous year's walks should be used for the purchase of **wildflower seeds in the natural burial area**.
  - Further **nature walks** to be arranged. Cllr Favell agreed to contact Hastings Botany Group to request a wildflower walk in May.
  - Members agreed **not to enter the cemetery separately into the South & South East in Bloom** competition this year but to include it into the Small Town entry.
  - It was felt that the **lights in the Ceremonies Room** are not appropriate. Designs and costs to be brought to the next meeting.

## 8. Recreation Grounds

- a) The **notes from Fit for Battle Working Group** meetings held on 10 December and 28 January 2020 were noted as attached. Cllr Favell highlighted: the proposed change of Battle Baptist Football Club to Battle Town Football Club; the camber of the pathway may not be suitable for adaptive bikes but it was felt that drainage was a more important factor. Members considered and agreed recommendations:

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- i. to revise Battle Health pathway design at the top western corner to **provide cycle safety “triangular” training area with astro turf in the centre**;
  - ii. to **permit safety notice board** for protective headwear next to cycle skills (pump track) area;
  - iii. to **reconsider gym equipment to be youth appropriate**. Designs to be considered at the next meeting;
  - iv. to **revise directional arrows** for cyclists and bollard signage to deter cycling down the Asten Fields side of the pathway.
- b) Members considered the use of the **Multi Use Games Area(MUGA)/tennis courts for cycling practice**. It was agreed that this could set a precedent for others to take cycles into these areas that are specifically dedicated to ball games and refused the request. Members agreed that the wider top section of the Battle Health Pathway should be two-way for cyclists.
- c) Rother District Council had provided pre-application advice on the **potential of floodlighting on the MUGA** which had suggested further consideration of the height and light pollution. The Clerk was asked to research further options of floodlighting for consideration at the next meeting.
- d) Advice had been received that **planning permission is required for the cycle skills area** (pump track). Members agreed that an application should be submitted.
- f) As agreed by Full Council, a hold has been placed on the amendments to the planning application for the **Pavilion** to enable designs for the **external solar panels** to be submitted. Advice is awaited from a specialist solar provider. Once this has been submitted to RDC a decision should be made within five weeks. Members agreed that documents should be prepared for tenders to be sought by end March 2020. The Clerk was asked to research energy and environmental options for all Council projects.
- g) The detailed **action plan for the Recreation Grounds** was noted, as attached.
- The **zip wire** had been postponed due to the ongoing BHP project.
  - **Seats for the petanque court area and grassed space close to Asten Fields access**, similar to those by the castle play equipment should be provided.
  - The **matting by the castle play area** to be increased.
  - Further request at Strengthening Local Relationships for **improved signage at Telham Playing Field**.

## 9. Street Furniture & Lighting

- a) The detailed **action plan for Street Lighting and Furniture** was noted, as attached.
- The Clerk was asked to research whether the Council has a licence to replace a **bench at the Marley Lane bus stop**, opposite Norman Close. If so, to request that maintenance staff attempt to fabricate a seat for the area.
  - The maintenance staff member is requested to review the Council’s **benches schedule** for condition and priority of refurbishment.
  - The **bus shelters** are to be cleaned and checked for any maintenance requirement.
  - The influence of **street lighting on new developments** to be discussed at the next meeting.

## 10. Remainder of BTC’s Estate

- a) Members agreed the **use of the Abbey Green**:
- for **Battle Barks** to set off for their fundraising dog walk on Sunday September 6th in aid of Cancer Research UK;
  - a not for profit **Conservation Group** highlighting the plight of the **common swift** to have a stand to raise awareness and provide general information on Saturday mornings in February prior to a presentation at the Memorial Hall on 28 February. Then again intermittently between Spring and Summer. No ticket sales may be undertaken on the Abbey Green;

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- for the launch of **Battle Festival** on Saturday 3 October for a free event with street performers, puppets, drummers etc to include a marquee and staging.
- b) Members were reminded that the previous **tree survey** was undertaken approx. 7 years ago. Three quotes had been received of £500, £1280 and £1600. It was noted that the cheaper quote had several limitations and additional charges. It was agreed that an Arboriculture Survey be carried out by PJC Consultancy at a cost of £1280 (budget 4390 and Ear Marked Reserve 330).
- c) The detailed **action plan for the Remainder of BTC's Estate** was noted, as attached.
- The **Environment Risk Assessment** for 2017-18 to be reviewed at the next meeting.
  - **Friends of Battle Skateramp** are pursuing this project. Some consultation in relation to ramp design is being undertaken and discussion with ESCC Education Officers is ongoing.
  - It was noted that maintenance to the **Churchyard pathway** is required. The staff to investigate and report.
  - It was noted that the current waste contractor is able to provide a **separate recycling and waste collection**. This will be implemented once new bins have been purchased for the Abbey Green in the next financial year.

## 11. Financial Matters

- a) The **budget report at 31 December 2019** was noted, as attached. The Clerk highlighted that income at the cemetery is below budget and it was agreed that the Marketing & Town Development Officer should be asked to promote the beautiful facilities available at the cemetery.

## 12. Matters for information / future agenda items

- 13. Date of next meeting:** Tuesday, 7 April 2020  
(*Clr Sharman reported her apologies for this meeting*)

The meeting closed at 9.50pm.

CLLR V COOK  
CHAIRMAN