



Battle Town Council



**MINUTES of a SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING
held on TUESDAY, 10 JULY 2012
at The Almonry, High Street, Battle at 7.30pm**

Present: Cllrs R Bye, J Eldridge, Mrs M Howell, Mrs M Kiloh, A Mitchell, M Palmer, Mrs S Pry and D Wilson.

1. Election of Chairman

Cllr Bye proposed that Cllr Mrs Kiloh be elected as Chairman. This was seconded by Cllr Wilson and with no other nominations Cllr Mrs Kiloh was duly elected as Chairman for the ensuing year.

2. Election of Vice Chairman

Cllr Mrs Kiloh proposed that Cllr Wilson be elected as Vice Chairman. This was seconded by Cllr Bye and with no other nominations Cllr Wilson was duly elected as Vice Chairman for the ensuing year.

3. Apologies for Absence – Cllrs C Bishop and R McDonald.

4. Disclosure of Interest - None.

5. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 1 May 2012. Cllr Bye proposed approval of the minutes, seconded by Cllr Eldridge. This was agreed and they were duly signed.

6. Matters Arising from Previous Meetings

Nothing other than agenda items.

7. Correspondence & Communications – None.

8. Allotments

The Clerk reported one **vacancy** at Cherry Gardens, two at Netherfield and three at Watch Oak. Offer letters have been sent to all those on the waiting list. With the exception one couple who have expressed a wish for a plot at Virgins Croft, if all the current offers are taken up there will be no waiting list.

The Committee considered Cllr Wilson's **latest reports** and identified plot 6b at Virgins Croft as one where the agreement should be terminated. The Clerk was asked to consider other plots which appear to be in poor **condition** and to write letters of concern other than in those cases where plots have been let in recent months.

Cllr Eldridge said that there had been no recent meeting of the **Senlac Allotments Society**. He is under the impression that the current Chairman may be leaving the area.

In the light of Cllr Wilson's inspection reports and a very recent site meeting by Cllrs Mrs Kiloh, Bye and Wilson the following recommendations were made:

Best Large Allotment	–	38 Cherry Gardens
Runner up	–	12 Cherry Gardens
Best Small Allotment	–	31 Cherry Gardens
Runner up	–	7a Virgins Croft
Most Improved Allotment	–	6 Netherfield Hill
Best Allotment at Watch Oak	–	19

Battle Town Council

The Committee endorsed these recommendations and thanked Cllr Wilson for the detailed records which had proved to be both immensely useful in reaching these decisions but also as a record for the future.

9. Street Lighting Issues

Following up the discussion at the previous Committee meeting several Members had met again to determine the precise aims and objectives of the street lighting review and the possible content of a report. At that meeting various research tasks had been allocated and Cllrs Bishop and Wilson were thanked particularly for their work to date. Reports from other local authorities contained positive evidence about similar exercises which they had undertaken in both cost and environmental terms. Cllr Mrs Kiloh reported that information had just been received from East Sussex County Council that they are embarking on a review of their street lighting throughout the Rother area as part of a scheme being rolled out throughout the whole county. Their approach will generally follow that adopted in other areas such as Heathfield and Uckfield. In those areas changes have been made to the street lighting depending on the specific local circumstances including dimming equipment for the street lights along the main roads; part night lighting controls in residential areas and a reduction of street lights on some of the secondary/estate feeder roads. Town and Parish Councils are being asked to join with the County Council both in commenting on the County Council's own street lighting regime as well as those lights for which they are responsible. It was agreed to participate in this exercise which could well save time and effort as well as producing economies of scale. In the interim, however, it was agreed that a meeting with the Town Council's maintenance contractor would be helpful to better understand the nature of all the Town Council's lighting columns and the implication of the various options for change. Ideally this should be in the week beginning 30 July.

10. Cemetery

Cllr Mrs Kiloh said that the Council's workforce had undertaken considerable work prior to the inspection of the cemetery by the **South and South East in Bloom judges** and that she, Cllr Bye and the Clerk had also spent time particularly in weeding the gravel areas. Reporting on the judges' inspection she felt that they had seemed enthusiastic about what they had seen but a better appreciation will be available when their detailed comments are received.

The Committee noted that the Estates Committee had recommended that the Council undertake **tree condition surveys** which should include the cemetery. There are clearly cost implications in this which may need to be discussed in the context of setting future budgets. In the meantime the Clerk was asked to discuss with the District Council what regime they have in place for such surveys.

11. Budget Report 2011-12 and 2012-13

The Clerk had circulated the attached report and in doing so highlighted forecast figures for cemetery fee and allotments income in excess of the 2012-13 budget. The former reflects the 2011-12 performance and the latter the fact that the Council will be receiving a full year's rent for the Watch Oak plots. Equally, the forecast figure for allotment maintenance covers the extra expenditure at the Watch Oak.

12. Matters for Information and Future Agenda Items – None.

13. Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday, 2 October 2012

The meeting closed at 8.30pm

CLLR MRS M KILOH
Chairman

