



Battle Town Council



MINUTES of the ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
held ON TUESDAY, 3 APRIL 2018 at The Almonry, High Street, Battle at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs G Favell (Chairman), J Boryer, M Dass, P Fisher, J Gyngell and M Howell.
In attendance: Cllr D Wheeler, Carol Harris (Town Clerk)

1. **Apologies for Absence** – Cllr D Furness.
2. **Disclosure of Interest** – None.
3. **Minutes of Previous Meeting held on 6 February 2018** were approved by Members and duly signed by Cllr Favell.
4. **Matters arising from previous meetings, not on this agenda**
The Clerk reported:
 - a contractor has been appointed to carry out the **work to the Chapel door**;
 - a meeting had been held with the **external fundraiser** in relation to youth equipment at the recreation ground but no further advice had been received to date;
 - **sapling trees** had been donated and duly planted at the cemetery;
 - the cut and removal of arisings at the **Amenity site** had been completed;
 - **donation from the Rotary Club of Battle** in the sum of £350 had been received for the tree/tub near Abbey Green;
 - the **churchyard pathways** had been weed-sprayed.
5. **Correspondence & Communications** – None.
6. **Allotments**
 - a) The **current vacancies** were noted as: Cherry Gardens – 3/43; Netherfield Hill – 0/7; Virgins Croft – 3/15; Watch Oak – 12/26. It was noted that there is a general reduction in vacancies but that Watch Oak remains virtually half vacant.;
 - b) The (t) Deputy Town Clerk had produced a **report from inspections** carried out in February 2018, as attached. This was noted.
 - c) The detailed **Action Plan for Allotments** was noted.
7. **Cemetery**
 - a) The detailed **Action Plan for the Cemetery** was noted. It was highlighted that the annual service of remembrance remains outstanding and that the refurbishment of the mortuary will be carried over to the next year.
 - b) Suggested designs of a **flower tribute stand** for the Ashes scattering area had been circulated. Members discussed the options and asked that alternatives be investigated and brought to the next meeting.
 - c) Due to the space requirement for tree roots, a **re-design of the natural burial** area had been undertaken, as attached, and noted.
 - d) The Clerk reported that there had been no positive responses or **contributions from adjacent properties** towards the cost of resurfacing of the **cemetery access road**. The Clerk was asked to research rights of access and to advise residents of the agreed date of work.

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8. Recreation Grounds

a) The detailed **Action Plan for the Recreation Grounds** was noted.

The Clerk advised that a group of Claverham Community College(CCC) students had been recorded causing willful damage to the Castle equipment. On a further occasion the horse springer had been mutilated. The CCTV evidence for both incidents have been reported to the School and Police for further action. Cllr Favell agreed to draft a letter to students highlighting the limited funds for the provision of new youth equipment which may need to be spent on repairs. This will be circulated for agreement prior to sending to CCC.

b) The notes from the recent Recreation Ground Working Group meeting had been circulated, as attached. **Members agreed to the recommendation to obtain specifications of works to enable invitation to tender for the 3 parts of the recreation ground project: Pavilion rebuild to include suitable changing facilities, club room etc; community area and café; and Health Pathway with picnic area and cycle skills area.**

c) The notes from the recent **Battle Health Pathway** meeting were noted, as attached.

d) The Clerk reported that a Land Registry search had identified Optivo as the owners of the **access road and grass area at Asten Fields** to Recreation Ground.

e) A response from **Battle Pre-school Playgroup** had been received advising that they are a charity and therefore non-profit making. It suggests that legal advice confirms no provision is made for a change to ground rent and that their contribution to the town should be considered of value. Members noted this response and, following discussion, felt that Council should treat all leases comparatively. The F&GP Committee will need to agree a response.

f) Cllr Favell reported that a **successful grant application for £10k Lottery funding for the aeroskate** had meant that an order has been placed. This will be installed in the area currently occupied by the old equipment. Members agreed to remove the old, rarely used equipment and re-site the springers and whirly bird. The Recreation Ground Working Group were asked to agree a cohesive plan that ensures space for the youth equipment that does not encroach on the younger children's area.

It was agreed that further signage is required: to highlight the age limit of 12yrs for the new Castle play equipment; and fingerpost style directional signs close to the play areas highlighting toilet facilities etc. The Clerk was asked to circulate a design for consideration of the former via email.

9. Street Furniture & Lighting

a) The detailed **Action Plan for Street Furniture** and Lighting was noted. Cllr Fisher highlighted the poor lighting in the High Street by Towners Funeral Directors.

10. Remainder of BTC's Estate

a) The detailed **Action Plan for the remainder of BTC's Estate** was noted. Cllr Boryer agreed to review the Risk Assessments with the Clerk.

b) The management of the **Amenity Field as a wildflower meadow** was discussed. **Members agreed that an application for grant aid should be made to Sussex Lund.** This should incorporate: a flower survey at Amenity site; two cuts and removal of arisings at Amenity site (the summer cut to be undertaken in two halves - early and late summer); extension to footpath in Mansers Shaw; excavation of the pond at Mansers Shaw; and installation of a section of pathway on FP87 between the Amenity site and Mansers Shaw. It was suggested that Plumpton College may be willing to undertake a flower survey.

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11. Financial Matters

- a) The **budget report at 28 February 2018** was noted, as attached.
- b) The Clerk reminded Members that historically a grant/donation had been made to the **Netherfield Village Hall towards grass cutting**. There is now a newly constituted Committee that requests a **contribution of £250 towards grass cutting**. **This was agreed, subject to audited accounts being presented when available.**

12. Action Plan 2018/2019

This was circulated, as attached, and agreed.

13. Matters for information / future agenda items

Cllr Boryer(JB) requested that the **Beautiful Battle Committee(BB)** minutes are circulated to all Members to ensure that the effective voluntary contribution that the group makes to the town is recognized. He expressed concern at the increase in donation requested for watering cost and suggested that water readings are taken to ascertain actual expenditure. JB asked that the area at the entrance to the recreation ground car park, handed back to the Council, be regularly maintained. Members agreed that BB should be thanked for their contribution to the town at the Parish Assembly.

The **Committee agreed to recommend to P&T Committee**: that the twittens be cleared of weeds; Rother District Council be asked to clear their gulleys as this is having a detrimental effect on the overflow car park.

Cllr Howell raised concern at the poor use of Telham recreation ground. A further review of the use of the area is included in the Action Plan in order that recommendations are place for when the Power of Competence had been achieved.

- Recreation Ground: Signage/fingerposts

14. Date of next meeting: 5 June 2018 (to be confirmed)

There being no further business the meeting closed 9.15pm.

Cllr G Favell
Chairman