



# Battle Town Council

VC



## MINUTES of the ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING held on TUESDAY, 2<sup>nd</sup> FEBRUARY 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: Cllr M Howell, Carol Harris (Town Clerk)

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and reminded those present that the meeting will be recorded to aid minute taking. She congratulated everybody on the successful adaptation to virtually held meetings which has been almost a year.

**Public Question Time – None.**

1. **Apologies for absence – None.**
2. **Disclosure of interest – None.**
3. **Minutes of previous Meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2020** were approved by members and duly electronically signed by Cllr Cook.
4. **Report from Town Clerk**
  - A site meeting had been held with a representative of **St Mary's** and a contractor to identify **pathway repairs**. A quote has been received and a sample repair had been carried out free of charge. Other contractors have been invited to quote and these are being pursued.
  - Works are continuing to the **Ceremonies Room** as the accessible toilet area is proving difficult to dry thoroughly. The remainder of the room has now been repaired and repainted. The contractor plans further measures to attempt to dry the area but, if not successful, will place a temporary board over the wall to allow refixing of the toilet until the wall has dried. It has been suggested that repointing of the external mortar may be required, as previously indicated.
  - Confirmation had been received that a sculpture of a '**Gruffalo**' was permitted by the owner.
  - The **replacement lights** had been installed at the Ceremonies Room.
  - A meeting with the **Lawn Tennis Association** Officer to discuss the **booking system** had confirmed that casual use would be permitted with booked courts taking priority. The application will be completed once Welfare Officers have been agreed. These require DBS checks and training. The latter would be provided free of charge.
  - A site for the **Battel Bonfire Boyes memorial bench** had been identified close to the bullring and the bench ordered.;
  - **Larger, dual purpose bins** had been installed on the **Abbey Green**.
5. **Correspondence & Communications**
  - A suggestion had been received from the Battle Civil Parish Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group that the **designation of parts of the cemetery as a Site of Nature Conservation Importance (SNCI)** should be extended. This will be discussed at the next meeting.
6. **Allotments**
  - a) The **report from the Asst to Town Clerk** was noted, as attached. It was highlighted that the allotments sites are currently full with a small waiting list.

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- b) Following the **Senlac Allotment Association AGM**, a letter had been received highlighting that deer are accessing the Watch Oak site to eat chrysanthemums and that rats continue to be a concern at sites where there are chickens. It was noted that repairs to perimeter fencing has been carried out but that deer are able to jump average fence heights. The Policy for keeping Hens is being adhered to.
- c) The **detailed action plan for allotments** was noted, as attached. The allotment competition was discussed and it was agreed to consider this at the next meeting, when more information on the current Covid restrictions should be available.

## 7. Cemetery

- a) Members noted that contractors have not provided quotations for **works to the turning point** in the new area. This is being pursued.
- b) Members noted that some authorities had **digitised cemetery records** with specific photography equipment which then allows for the closed areas to be published online for the benefit of those seeking historic burials. It was agreed that digitising cemetery records should be pursued. Cllr Kiloh agreed to provide information on how another local authority had completed this task and St Mary's Church would be approached for advice.
- c) The recent tree survey, had identified a reduction to 3m of a **Chestnut tree**. Following intervention after some work had been undertaken, the tree surgeon had suggested that such extensive reduction was not necessary and could be beneficial to woodpeckers and the environment without causing any safety issues. It was agreed to leave the trunk as recommended by the tree surgeon and monitor.
- d) Members agreed that **entry to South & South East in Bloom 2021 competition** was not appropriate but that next year's competition must be entered and a timetable for actions should be implemented.
- e) It was noted that the **existing bins** are not suitable for green waste and agreed that these should be replaced within the reorganisation and purchase of new dual purpose bins.
- f) The **detailed action plan for the Cemetery** was noted, as attached.

## 8. Recreation Grounds

- a) Notes from a meeting of the **Battle Health Pathway Group** had been circulated as attached. A further meeting is planned for next week. It was reported that the Opening Ceremony had been cancelled due to the current Covid restrictions. Members highlighted the constant use for a variety of activities and by all age groups. The Clerk reported a site meeting with the contractor is proposed to discuss the concerns with the north west chicane. The Clerk was asked to monitor the water running from the football pitch to the cycle skills area.
- b) Cllr Favell reported on the new **Fit for Battle Group** which will take forward the **Pavilion project**. Draft Terms of Reference and notes had been circulated, as attached. Members approved the Terms of Reference. It was highlighted that there had been many comments and requests on social media for a café at the recreation ground.
- c) The co-ordinator for the rebound wall had highlighted the inadequate **disabled access to the tennis courts**. Members agreed that this would be considered within the Council's strategy for accessibility.
- d) Three **outdoor gym proposals** had been circulated prior to the meeting. These were extensively discussed but Members felt that the schemes should be further consulted on by users and brought to the next meeting.
- e) Members agreed that the pedestrian **entrance gate to Telham playing field** should be replaced at an approximate cost of £335 from general maintenance 4205/210.

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- f) The **detailed action plan for the Recreation Grounds** was noted, as attached. The RoSPA reports had been circulated together with a summary of the recommendations. It was noted that there were no items of high risk and grounds staff had been asked to undertake minor repairs as necessary. It was noted that some items had not been progressed due to other projects and current restrictions taking priority.

## 9. Street Furniture & Lighting

- a) A comparison of costs and service provided for street light maintenance had been circulated to Members. **Members agreed a 3 year contract with Streetlights**, the current contractor, who had provided a very good service for several years and continue to be competitive at £9,677.92pa.

*Cllr Hartley left the meeting.*

- b) Members agreed to the **request for a memorial seat by the cricket ground**. The Clerk was asked to highlight the poor condition of the bench at the junction of Wellington Gardens/North Trade Road.
- c) The **detailed action plan for Street Lighting and Furniture** was noted, as attached.

## 10. Remainder of BTC's Estate

- a) The request for use of the **Abbey Green for Marbles Competition** 30<sup>th</sup> August 2021 and **Medieval Fayre** 2<sup>nd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> June 2022 were agreed.
- b) The Clerk was authorised to seek three quotes for the **replacement Skate Ramp**.
- c) The **detailed action plan for the Remainder of BTC's Estate** was noted, as attached. The Clerk was asked to circulate the list of land and property under the responsibility of this Committee for further discussion at the next meeting.

## 11. Financial Matters

- a) The **budget report to 31 December 2020** was noted, as attached. The Clerk highlighted:

- Cemetery
 

200	4190	Water – leaks at the cemetery
	4205	Gen maint – drainage works in the natural burial area; paid from EMR
- Recreation Grounds
 

210	1800	Other grants – grants received for the Battle Health Pathway and Cycle Skills Area. More to be recovered
	4900	Projects – as above
- Allotments
 

220	1260	Rents – this year has seen a great increase in take up of allotments
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- Street Furniture & General
 

240	1900	Misc income – insurance claim for stolen tools
	4390	Tree work – following the tree survey, work has now been undertaken and this has been paid from EMR

The inclusive overspend is due to the expenditure for completed work at the recreation ground, which is being reclaimed from funders

- b) The **budget for 2021/22 agreed by Full Council** was noted:

Battle Skate Ramp	-	£20,000 from BTC CIL Ear Marked Reserves
Outdoor gym	-	0 (£10k in EMR including £5k from 2020/21 budget)
Street light replacement	-	£15,000
Pavilion rebuild	-	£5,000 from BTC CIL Ear Marked Reserves
Litter bin replacement	-	£2,000

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Boundary wall repair	-	Use General Reserves as unexpected cost
Swings inc for disabled	-	£4,500 from BTC CIL Ear Marked Reserves
Abbey Green resurfacing	-	£500 into Ear Marked Reserves
Floodlighting of MUGA	-	0 Commit to 2022/23, install May 2022
Tennis court maintenance	-	0 Delay adding to EMR for 1 year

## 12. Date of next meeting: 6<sup>th</sup> April 2021

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.27pm.

CLLR V COOK  
CHAIRMAN

Minutes agreed and electronically signed 6<sup>th</sup> April 2021 – *V Cook*